

## **2025 NSW State Championships**

### **Woollarha Sailing Club**

Day 1 of the NSW State Titles was held in some truly testing conditions. We were greeted at the club by a gentle nor'easter that didn't stay gentle for long - steadily building throughout the day and setting the scene for some fantastic racing.

Race 1 kicked off in a fresh 17-knot NE breeze. The course was a touch shorter than many expected, catching a few sailors out with some ambitious overlays at the top mark and shaking up the order early.

By Race 2, the breeze had climbed to around 22 knots with gusts pushing 25. The seaway became tricky, with shifting wave patterns keeping everyone on their toes - challenging, but also delivering some spectacular upwind battles and fast, lively downwind legs. With dark storm clouds gathering on the horizon, a few sailors decided they'd had their fill of excitement for the day.

The wind kept climbing into the afternoon. Race 3 began with a strong pin-end bias and breeze pushing into the high 20s. Traveller lines were eased right off, downwind rides were seriously quick, and the odd sheet of green over the deck water made sure the fleet stayed honest. Hiking was full effort, and the arms certainly got a workout.

After a full-on first day of racing, Ian McKillop lead the fleet, having put together a very consistent set of results.

The NSW State Titles wrapped up on Day 2 after two races sailed in a light to moderate mix of nor'easterly and easterly seabreeze.

Conditions were anything but straightforward, but they made for a entertaining finish to the regatta.

Race 4 got underway in a gentle breeze, and those who pushed out to the right picked up a lovely easterly shift. One boat was spotted near Bradley's Head looking a touch lost — rumour has it that may have been me...! Meanwhile, Chris Links put on a clinic, showing the fleet exactly how it's done. Nicely sailed.

The seabreeze never really settled, and Race 5 was just as tricky. With a bit of pin-end bias on the start, the fleet got away cleanly, but once again it was the right-hand side that delivered the goods. Nocka delivered a masterclass, leading from the front and never letting it go — a superb final race that secured him the overall win by a single point over Ian McKillop, with Marcus just a few points further back.

Huge congratulations to all!

A big thank you to everyone who helped out over the weekend — Debra was incredible on the ramp, somehow managing to juggle everyone's dollies with a smile. Thank you!

And thanks to all the sailors who made the effort to come down. Great racing, great company, and I'm already looking forward to catching up again soon.

James Bevis