



2015 2.4mR Australian Championship Melbourne

Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, 7-9 March 2015

by Peter Campbell

reprinted from <http://www.sail-world.com/Australia/Another-big-win-for-Tasmanian-sailor-Matt-Bugg/132291>

Another big win for Tasmanian sailor Matt Bugg



Matt Bugg retains the Kay Cottee trophy with Peter Russell, Peter Thompson and RYCV principal race officer David LeRoy (Photo: Richard Scarr)

Tasmanian sailor Matt Bugg has won his fourth consecutive Australian champion in the International 2.4 mR class as he prepares to head to Europe to consolidate his campaign for the 2016 Rio Paralympics. He was unbeaten in all but the first race last Friday and yesterday's final race on Melbourne's Port Phillip, placing third to another Tasmanian, Lisa Blackwood.

Bugg's two major regattas in Europe will be at Hyeres in France and at Weymouth in England and looks near certain to again represent Australia at the Paralympics next year. He finished seventh overall at the London Games and since then has greatly improved his sailing techniques and tactics in the single-handed, 2.4m keelboat particularly when you are sailing against him,' his father Ron Bugg, commodore of the Derwent Sailing Squadron and president of Yachting Tasmania, told 'The Mercury' yesterday after the national championships ended at Royal Yacht Club of Victoria.

Matt Bugg, 34, outsailed the fleet of disabled and fully-abled sailors, winning six straight races in the eight race regatta. He was forced to retire from race one on Friday after his rig was damaged in a collision with fellow Tasmanian Lisa Blackwood. However, the jury award him average points (1.3) as he was not at fault in the incident and this gave him a net total of 7.3 points, well clear of three times national champion Peter Russell on 23 points, Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 Paralympian Peter Thompson on 27.5 and Lisa Blackwood on 28 points.

Yesterday's final race, sailed in light and flukey winds, was an all-Tasmanian affair: Blackwood winning from Stephen 'Rowdy' McCullum and Matt Bugg.

Bugg and fellow Tasmanians will be back at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria in November to contest the International Federation of Disabled Sailors world championships, which includes the three Paralympic classes for Rio 2016, the 2.4mR, Sonar and Skud 18 classes.

In January 2016, the Royal Yacht of Tasmania will host the International 2.4mR open world championships on the River Derwent, expected to draw up to 60 boats from around the world.

The Class Association Point score winner was Lisa Blackwood (TAS), ahead of Peter Geeves (Vic) and Colin Brown (ACT).



Matt Bugg picket fences the fleet (Photo: Richard Scarr)

Overall Results (drops = 1)

Pl	Sail Num	Boat Name	Skipper	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Net Points
1	36	Moshi	Mathew Bugg	1.3G	1	1	1	1	1		3	7.3
2	28	Jeelka	Peter Russell	(6)	2	2	4	4	3	4	4	23
3	40	Morna VII	Peter Thompson	2.5	(9)	5	8	3	2	2	5	27.5
4	39	Smiley Face	Lisa Blackwood	(11R)	4	4	9	2	5	3	1	28
5	27	Octopod II	Michael Leydon	2.5	3	3	3	8	9	7.5	(9.5)	36
6	35	Speed Bump	Stephen McCullum	7	(8)	6	5	5	8	6	2	39.5
7	33	Supermodel	Ron Bugg	4	(10)	9	6	5.5	4	5	6	39.5
8	31	Cut Short	Peter Geeves	1	7	(10)	2	10	6	10	8	44
9	10	Lilla Babs	Colin Brown	5	5.5	7	7	7	7	7.5	(9.5)	46
10	38	Rocky	Neil Patterson	8	5.5	8	(10)	9	10	9	7	56.5

F=DNF, Q=DSQ, C=DNC, G=RDG, R=RTD