

RS Quest 96th Stonehaven Cup Regatta (SCR)

6th – 10th January 2026

Story by Paul Woodman & Colin Burgess RSQAA v20260115 Draft

This year' 26 Quest dinghies from across Australia have contested the 2026 Stonehaven Cup Regatta hosted by RBYC.

The teams included, RMYS 3 dinghies, KIBC 4 dinghies, Lake Ginninderra Sea Scouts from Canberra with 3 dinghies and the Australian Navy Cadets (ANC) were back in force with a fleet of 8 dinghies. The ANC contingent consisted of crews from WA, SA/NT, Queensland, NSW, and Victoria, each ANC dinghy representing it's own state flotilla. ANC crews flew into Melbourne to compete in this, the Navy Cadets' third year of participation. The ANC makes significant contribution to fleet numbers. RBYC's team consisted of 8 Quest dinghies. Current Champion Skipper Oscar Waldron RBYC, was working alongside RBYC Training Coordinator Craig Cobbin, Colin Burgess, RBYC Boating Manager and RS Quest Association's Vice President is Regatta Manager.

The Trophies

The Stonehaven Cup Regatta, rich in history and today consisting of a nine race series was deeded in 1927 by Lord Stonehaven, Governor General of Australia, to encourage friendly interstate competition. The trophy recognises result from 1924 when the first series took place in Tasmania ending in a draw. RBYC has been the trustee for the Stonehaven Cup since 1945.

The Jock Sturrock Memorial Trophy First Invitation Race, in remembrance of Jock Sturrock, Victoria's first Stonehaven Cup Winner in 1931 and Australia's first Americas Cup skipper sailing the Gretel, taking one race from the Americans. First awarded in 1999.

The Andrew Linacre Memorial Trophy, second invitation race, in memory of Andrew, an RBYC dinghy boy who sadly passed away with leukaemia at the age of 15years. First awarded in 1974.

The Otto Meik Teams Trophy awarded to the lowest points scoring team for the SC series of races, deeded by past Commodore Otto Meik RMYS and was first awarded in 1969.

The RS Quest Association Australia was formed by the Stonehaven Cup support group to represent those clubs and sailing organisation that own and use RS Quest dinghies for training and or racing, and to promote the Stonehaven Cup Regatta.

Tuesday morning 80 contestants and their team leaders attended the race briefing day 1. L to R



Right - Race Officer (RO) Rod McKenna in the foreground addressing the competitors
Deputy RO Bill Potter foreground. Regatta Manager Colin Burgess centre and

Vice Commodore Peter Gebhardt far right



Race Day 1. Tuesday 6th January - Results

The Jock Sturrock Memorial Trophy Invitation Race 1

Conditions - light southerly breeze.

Course 3. triangle windward and return

Start time midday

Congratulations to RBYC

First place – RBYC Harmony 1059, Skipper Xaiver Spence, Will Hubbard, Alice Virtiser

Second Place – RBYC Katie Lou 998, Skipper Hugo Jarry, Michael Simopoulos

Third Place – RMYS 1023, Skipper Tomasz Tamowicz, Zoe Vlasic, Ava Sheehan

The Andrew Linacre Memorial Trophy Invitation Race 2

Conditions - Light Southerly breeze.

Congratulations to RBYC

First place - RBYC Harmony 1059, Skipper Xaiver Spence, Will Husband, Alice Virtser

Second place - RBYC Emma 1005, Skipper Tim Goussard, Zelie Goussard, Clovis Goussard

Third place - RBYC Kattie Lou 998, Skipper Hugo Jarry, Mark Gynesi, Micheal Simopoulos

RBYC indicating consistent team performance in the light air conditions

Stonehaven Cup 2026 series

Race 1.

Conditions, light southerly wind flat sea

Congratulations to RMYS

First place - RMYS 1036, Skipper Aristotle Rassias, Nolwenn Charret, Stephen Spencer

Second place - RBYC 1058, Skipper Aiden O'Connell, Eddie Barron, Edward Jukes

Third place - RBYC, Skipper Hugo Jarry, Mark Gynesi, Michael Simopoulos

Race Day 2. 7th January 2026

Race 2.

Light northerly wind, flat sea

Start time – 9.00am, early start to beat the heat, 38° C racing concluded at 10.30am

Congratulations to RMYS

First place - RMYS 1035, Skipper Josh Hall, Alex Zhao, Obi Munkley

Second place - RBYC Harmony 1059, Skipper Xaivier Spence, Will Husband, Alice Virtser

Third place - RMYS 1036, Skipper Aristotle Rassias, Nolwenn Charret, Stephen Spencer

Race 3.

Light northerly winds freshening to 18knot, flat water, waves building

Congratulations KIBC

KIBC crews train in the strong Bass Strait winds and showed the fleet how they can handle a building breeze.

First place - KIBC Oyster Catcher 1028, Skipper Charlie Stellmaker, Max Poulson, Elsey Pinfold

Second place - RBYC Tilt 1058, Skipper Aiden O'Connell, Eddie Barron, Edward Dukes

Third place - RBYC Emma 1005, Skipper Tim Gossard, Zelie Goussard, Clovis Goussard

A close tussell between RMYS and RBYC is emerging.

Image right, of Colin announcing the results and presenting the medallions for the morning's racing



26 dinghies heading to the windward mark after the start

Racing resumes Thursday 8th January with 4 races scheduled subject to weather.

Race Day 3.

Race 4. was abandoned due to high winds

Race Day 4.

Race 4. Resail was abandoned

Conditions - high temperatures and high winds

Race Day 5. Saturday 10th January

All racing abandoned
Conditions - Gale force winds

Presentation Saturday Evening



L to R the Otto Meik teams Trophy, The Stonehaven Cup and the Andrew Linacre Memorial Trophy being polished for Presentation Evening. Parents are encouraged to assist with program management.

Winners of the Jock Sturrock Memorial Trophy

RBYC Tilt 1058
Skipper Xavier Spence, Will Husband, Alice Virtser



L to R Rod McKenna RO, Will, Alice, Xaiver and Colin Burgess
Winners of the Andrew Linacre Memorial Trophy

RBYC Tilt 1058

Skipper Xavier Spence, Will Husband, Alice Virtser



L to R Rod McKenna RO, Will, Alice, Xavier and Colin Burgess

Otto Meik Teams Trophy

Won by the RBYC team

Stonehaven Cup - Final results was scored using races 1, 2, 3

Winner

RBYC Harmony 1059

Skipper Aiden O'Connell, Eddy Barron and Edward Dukes

Winning margin 1 point.

Congratulations to the crew of Tilt RBYC



L to R Paul Woodman RSQAA, Aiden O'Connell, Edward Dukes, Eddie Barron and Colin Burgess?

On Behalf of the RSQAA, Congratulations to our winners and place getters. Thank you to RBYC members and volunteers, Rod McKenna RO and Regatta Manger Colin Burgess and his staff for a

well-managed regatta. Thanks to all the team managers and participants who have travelled from all states of Australia to support the Stonehaven Cup Regatta now in its 97th year.

We say, thank you for your participation, to those youth sailors who will now graduate from their respective Quest programs to join adult sailing classes.

The RS Quest dinghy is now the national training class. Over thirty yacht clubs and sailing organisations around Australia have purchased more than 200 dinghies.

The Navy Cadets currently operate more than 45 Quest dinghies within their many Cadet training centres (flotillas) around Australia and have placed orders for another 100 dinghies. We anticipate 30 Quest dinghies will attend the 97th Stonehaven Cup Regatta to be hosted by RMYS next January 2027. The 100th Stonehaven Cup Regatta will be Hosted by RBYC in 2030.

For further information about the RS Quest Dinghy and the Stonehaven Cup Regatta could you please contact the association representatives listed below or visit the RS Quest Association Australia website at rsquestaa.com to learn more.

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