



MUSTER 2006

What Is The Muster About?

- > Information; Building
- > Information; Products
- > Information; Boats
- > Sailing
- > Social
- > Racing
- > Fun!

Information; Style, Construction and Supply Day 1

Our 2006 Muster took on a slightly different format from previous years.

The inclusion of a Schionning Mini Trade Show was the biggest change and proved to be a winner. With most of our key suppliers setting up stands and

With the week preceding the Muster bringing bad weather from the south including 40kts off shore and a 3m swell, I spent a few sleepless nights wondering if we would have enough boats for the weekend.

As Friday the 17th rocked around, the sun broke through the clouds and the big man upstairs turned the tap off on the breeze, we had only lost three Schionning boats from the North to the week of weather and wind.

Some boats like the brand new and very good looking Batemans Bay Sailing Charters (Cosmos 1250s) and Power Zone (Cosmos 1220) battled through the seas and wind to still come join the fun.

With 5 beautiful boats on the marina including;

Le Tigre Wilderness 1480 Chris Watts

Wasabi Wilderness 930 Paul & Kirsty Pearce

Batemans Bay Sailing Charters Wandeeera Cosmos 1250S John Owens

Gee Whizz Cosmos 1430 Ross Raynor

Forza Waterline 1320 Charles & Sherrye Weston

There was plenty to look at and lots of ideas to gather for the potential builders

With all the boats late arriving due to the bad weather everyone headed around to our Supply Office first thing to check out what the suppliers had to offer.

CourseMaster Stand



being available to answer questions, the 130 people who came for information had everything boating at there finger tips.

Close Start Line Action



Got The Know How? Schionning Marine Muster

The building seminar starring Brett Schionning displayed some common techniques we use, and gave people the chance to get close up and hands on with constructing a centreboard case and the panel join we use in our designs. As you can see from the picture, a big crowd stood attentively to glean information from Brett.

As a break in the seminar (Brett needed some glue to go off) the group were treated to a tour of a build taking place. In a construction shed neighbouring the supply office, Rob Shenn (The Supply Manager) is

building an Alaskan 41.

The crowd where wowed by the quality of the project and the physical presence this boat has for just a 41 footer.



Brett Displaying Techniques

Rob has included some great ideas in this design and it also gave a good indication of what can be achieved using ATL materials and our techniques in construction. A beautiful set of Schionning lines and a launch date of early March keeps us all rubbing our hands together in anticipation.



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Got The Know How? Schionning Marine Muster



Back to the seminar and Brett was ready with some fine assistance from Randal Waugh (who is building a Wilderness 1100) to demonstrate coving techniques and laminating procedures.

They certainly had some fun in the hot sun!! This put the two laminators under the pump.

With the Schionning Marine office showing over 15 different suppliers and their products, all who came where treated to

some great one on one time getting to know some of the best products around for their build.

This aspect of the day proved to be a great hit with the suppliers doing fantastic business and everyone walking away with great product knowledge.

One of the most astounding things was Mike from Strong rope and his composite rigging. Everyone who picked up the rigging for a 1230 Wilderness he had brought was astounded at

the weight or lack of it!!!

To wind the day out everyone headed around to Tanilba sailing club to chat the afternoon away with food and drink in hand.

It was here we also saw the launch of Schionning Production Catamarans. Mike Smith (supervisor) gave a run down of the initiative and what we hope to achieve in the New Year to the assembled crowd. With the drinks and food flowing late into the night the sun set on a perfect Port Stephens day with everyone talking boats.



How Fast Can A Family Cruiser Go? Faster Than The Wind!

Saturday morning saw a fantastic sight with 11 proud boats moored in Tanilba Bay and the water giving its best impression of a glass sheet.

After the obligatory bacon and egg roll, crewing positions where organized and the briefing given ready for a day of racing!

The first race lined up in very little wind. This made for a close start with everyone lining up on time.

As we drifted away from the start in about 2-3kts, Aero made a little break, but surprise of the day went to the Cosmos survey Wandera that even with her extra survey weight started pulling away from the fleet.

By the top mark the sea breeze had steadily built to 8kts. Around the top mark an exciting reach across the bay waited. With screechers out, the boats raced towards North Arm cove.

The fleet was still very close together upon reaching the wing mark, with some great battles

between boats developing.

Wandera and Power Zone played cat and mouse along this leg with Wandera just hanging on to pip John Power and crew for 3rd near the line, behind Aero and Le Tigre.

The rest of the fleet finished within 10 minutes of the first boat, explaining just how close the racing was.

A quick crew change and some refueling of empty fridges after the first race saw race two kicking off early afternoon. The breeze had built to a steady 15kts from the nor-east.

A haphazard start from all of the boats saw an interesting first leg with Tim Allen on Christmas beetle charging to the fore closely followed by Le Tigre, Power Zone and Gee Whizz.

Screechers out and the flight across the bay began! Le Tigre jumped ahead with Aero close behind and Forza starting to pick its heels up.

The next two legs where a blur, literally!! In 16 knots of true breeze with 10 'crew' and Chris's 13 year old daughter Tallys at the helm Le Tigre clocked an amazing 23 knot top speed.

A family cruiser with all the live aboard comforts of home.... Hmmm!

The surprise packet on the next leg was the smallest boat in the fleet Wasabi a Wilderness 930. Paul and Kirsty unfurled their screecher and took off leaving the fleet behind in a plume of spray.

After the exhilarating ride, the finish ended up; Aero, Le Tigre, Christmas Beetle then Power Zone with Wasabi nipping at her heels.

"16 knots of true breeze with 10 'crew' and Chris's 13year old daughter, Tallys at the helm... an amazing 23 knots top speed!!!"



Dinner, Dance And Romance

With everyone having such a great day on the water, the nights festivities were sure to be a hoot.

A lot of thirsty sailors hit the bar to talk about the days action, to re-count top speeds and races won and lost.

Once again Tanilba Bay sailing club provided hospitality like non-other. A brilliant two course dinner for over 150 diners on a fantastic star lit night with music from the band "Two Up".

The prizes at the presentation where un-believable with incredible support shown from

all of our generous sponsors.

Results where:

Race 1

1st- Le Tigre Chris Watts

2nd- Wandeera John Owens

3rd- Power Zone John Power

Fastest Time: Aero

Race 2

1st- Wasabi Paul & Kirsty Pearce

2nd- Christmas Beetle Tin Allen

3rd- Gee Whizz Ross Raynor

Fastest Time: Endorphin

Overall:

1st- Power Zone John Power

2nd- Wasabi Paul & Kirsty Pearce

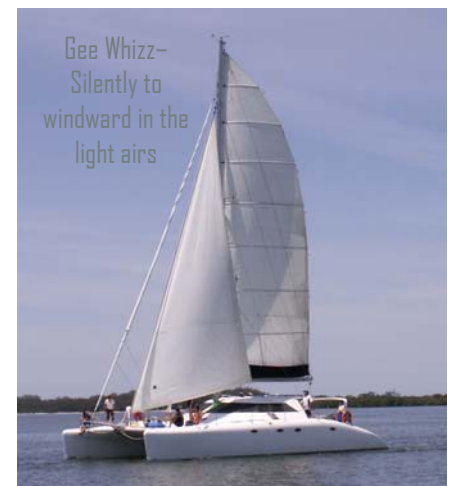
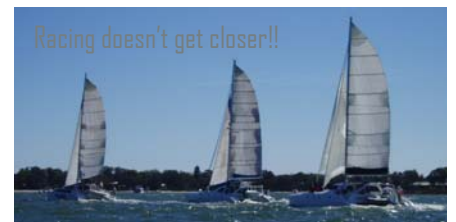
3rd- Forza Charles Weston & Sherrye Finglass

Fastest Time: Le Tigre Chris & Tallys Watts

A quick speech from Brett saw an apology and best wishes from Jeff and Lorraine who are in South Africa helping the business along there.

Winners are grinner Tim Allen Below

"Lorraine Duckworth (from ATL) and her trip up the mast to retrieve a lost kite halyard..."



After the formal presentations, a few funny stories from the sailing had to be rewarded most notably:

Lorraine Duckworth (from ATL) and her trip up the mast to retrieve a lost kite halyard on Aero after pulling the head of the kite apart.

Tallys Watts for getting booked speeding at the helm of Le Tigre. Those water police sure are cracking down!

Reiner the celebrity skipper taking Wasabi to the front of the pack without breaking a sweat.

My efforts running out of fuel 200m from Aero's mooring!! Woops.

Charles Weston on Forza for competing in his first set of races ever.

Endorphin's live aboard pirate parrot barking instructions to the haphazard crew was also quite comic.

A special thanks was given to:

Those who travelled quite some distance including Cairns, South Australia and Western Australia.

Randal Waugh for showing the superior laminating skills he has developed during the course of his Wilderness 1100 build and helping Brett with the seminar.

Paul & Jo Tyler for their incredible builders website www.mahnamahna.com.au which has created a world wide following through their build. They scored a transducer and gear from TackTick/Ocean Talk.

Bruce Opperman (who is building

A Waterline 1480) managed to jag the lucky door prize a Gineco Fry Pan Set and a Camec Sovereign BBQ total value close to \$1000.

When all the applause died down the band swung into full force. The dance floor exploded with an incredibly eclectic group of dancing styles. From those waltzing around with partners to Rick Zylmans disco moves, the party raged on to 2.30am in the morning.

Most had trouble finding their boats on the way out under the stars and I was glad we organized a courtesy bus for those that were land based!

The next morning there certainly where a multitude of down cast eyes and dark sunnies, some of our staff included!!

A Blessing From Huey.

Sunday brought a Muster first. This year the regatta was held in conjunction with the local Tilligerry festival.

As a special treat the festival organized a sail past and blessing of the fleet at the local Marina. So after loading the crews aboard off headed our flotilla of boats to get the nod from the man upstairs. Given the weather of the weekend I thought he had already done very well by us.

It was great to see all the boats in procession with flags flying, all the crew on deck and the local bishop blessing our fleet.

After our 'date' with Huey a start line was set in front of the marina for the annual passage race.

This race takes the fleet up through the beautiful waters of the main bay of Port Stephens.

We started off in a light 5 knot Nor-east breeze building quickly to a 12 knot perfect sailing day.

On the beat out to Pindima Aero managed to quietly slip away, with tight competition following in the pack. Le Tigre showing the way followed by Christmas Beetle, and Power Zone.

An exciting reach across Salamander Bay and we rounded a mark to head downwind back to the Sailing club and finish.

This is where things really started to heat up. Le Tigre with the absence of a spinnaker was very short on horse power this leg which ensured a great battle with Christmas Beetle. Both Chris and Tim have a very competitive streak in them and I can imagine the eyeing off that was occurring.

Behind this Gee Whizz was also under kite and quickly chasing down the spinnaker less Power Zone.

Wasabi just would not quit for the smallest boat and was giving Wandeera a real hurry up with Forza and Endorphin trading

blows behind this.

A close finish for all. Christmas Beetle just picking Le Tigre by 8 seconds and Gee Whizz stealing the show from Power zone by half a second!!! Not bad after over 1 hour and 40 minutes of racing.

The closeness of this final race really demonstrated to me how much better everyone was sailing after only 3 races. It was great to see.

This race was a real highlight for me. After the pressures of the weekend we filled Aero up with a lot of the Schionning staff and partners and really kicked back and enjoyed the sun and water as a group, great fun!

After the race everyone wound down with lunch and a chat. A lot of people swapped contact details helping strengthen our Schionning network of builders and owners who are always keen to give each other a hand.



Suite 8/91
Hannell St
Wickham 2293
NSW Australia

PH: (61) 02 4962 4288
F: (61) 02 4962 4122
Email:
info@schionningdesigns.com.au



Wasabi- top mark bound



Very close starts in the light airs!



A blessing from above



Power Zone- easing around the top mark



The fleet on the way to be blessed

Thanks

I would love to take this opportunity to thank all the owners who attended the weekend and gave their time to people thinking about starting the journey they have completed. I would also like to thank everyone who attended. As a business we really appreciate meeting the people behind the phones and emails, it also allows us to get on a lot more personal level with everyone we deal with from suppliers to clients.

A big thank you must go out to all of our very generous sponsors (those there for the presentations will testify to this) who continue to look after us and our clients with the best service and products including:

ATL Composites
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