

Fireball Australia Report to FI 2023

Preparation for the World Championships has been a focus in Australia at every level.

At the individual sailor level some sailors are finding new team combinations and getting their act together as a new pair while other long standing combinations of sailors are practising and tuning how they work together on their boat. There have been a number of training events held across the early part of the season in Victoria with several interstate visitors making the trip to join a combined training / sprint racing event held in October at the World Championship venue of Geelong.

At the organisation level the Fireball Australia Association Committee has been focused on finding quality charter boats to fulfil the requests from overseas. There are several additional charter boats available that have not been taken up. Contact me if you are interested.

The Organising Committee is in the final stages of event preparation. Sailors can see a lot of information at 2024.fireballworlds.com or access via Upcoming Events at fireball-international.com. Watch [this space](#) for sailing instructions to be released early January.

Maintaining momentum post Worlds is a challenge that the Fireball Australia Committee is concerned with. The discussions from FI meetings about new fireball design ideas have been received with interest as well as questions about how long such changes might take to ripple through to more remote NCAs like Australia. We are definitely keen to see more information about the ideas and increase the discussion among members in our fireball community. Association boat maintenance and training events are other avenues we continue to use to try to encourage broader participation and new members to the class.

The mainstay is the organisation of National Championships. These are the events that get sailors together from across the country. We have a 3 year program planned looking forward:

February 2025 : Twofold Bay, Eden, NSW

2026: Queensland - most likely around Brisbane

2027: South Australia - most likely a country club event.

International sailors are welcome at these events and we'd be happy to try to organise boats for your use should you be interested in re-visiting Australia in these future years and want to include a fireball competition in your vacation plans.

Heather Macfarlane
Rear Commodore Australia