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PIPE OPENER SERIES

NOTICE OF RACE

Including Race 2 Derwent Boat Sales Cove Cup & Race 3 Oyster Cove Marina Race



Friday 18 September to Sunday 20 September 2026

ORGANISING AUTHORITY:

DERWENT SAILING SQUADRON & KETTERING YACHT CLUB



The Pipe Opener Series, proudly sponsored by Ronald Young & Co. Builders, will be conducted by the Derwent Sailing Squadron in conjunction with the Kettering Yacht Club from 18– 20 September 2026. A firm favourite, this year's 58th Pipe Opener is an eagerly anticipated sailing event as we look forward to another successful sailing season in 2026-27.

1. INVITATION AND LOCATION

- 1.1. The Derwent Sailing Squadron Inc. (DSS) and the Kettering Yacht Club Inc. (KYC), as the Organising Authority (OA), invites owners and charterers of eligible boats to apply for entry to the 2026 Pipe Opener Series (the Regatta), to be conducted on the waters of the River Derwent and the D'Entrecasteaux Channel from Friday 18 September 2026 to Sunday 20 September 2026.
- 1.2. The Regatta Office will be located until 19:00 on 18 September 2026 at the Derwent Sailing Squadron, after which the Regatta Office will be located at the Kettering Yacht Club. The Official Noticeboard will be the Online Notice Board that can be accessed online [HERE](#).

2. RACES AND COURSE AREA

- 2.1. The Regatta shall consist of three (3) races:
 - 2.1.1. Race 1
 - i. Friday 18 September 2026 - Hobart to Kettering;
 - ii. Division 4 (Cruising) will start at Castray Box with the Warning Signal being at 14:55;
 - iii. Division 1, 2 and 3 will start at Castray Box with the Warning Signal for all Divisions being at 18:25;
 - iv. The race will finish at Kettering (unless shortened);
 - v. The course to be sailed will be in the Sailing Instructions (SI).
 - 2.1.2. Race 2
 - i. Saturday 19 September 2026 - Derwent Boat Sales Cove Cup;
 - ii. The race will start at Kettering with the 1st Warning Signal for the 1st Division being at 10:55;
 - iii. The race will finish at Kettering (unless shortened);
 - iv. The course to be sailed will be in the SI.
 - 2.1.3. Race 3
 - i. Sunday 20 September 2026 - Oyster Cove Marina Race;
 - ii. The race will start at Kettering with the 1st Warning Signal for the 1st Division being at 09:55;
 - iii. The race will finish in the vicinity of Dennes Point (unless shortened);
 - iv. The course to be sailed will be in the SI.

3. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions will be available online [HERE](#) by no later than 17:00 on Wednesday 16 September 2026.

4. RULES

- 4.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of World Sailing (WS), the Australian Sailing (AS) Special Regulations Part 1 and Part 2, the International

Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, and the current rating rules of each measurement rating category;

- 4.2. Races will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-28 (RRS) including:
 - 4.2.1. The IRC Rules 2026 Parts A, B and C;
 - 4.2.2. The ORC Rating System Rules 2026; and
 - 4.2.3. the prescriptions and special regulation of Australian Sailing ("AS Special Regulations") (a copy of which may be found at <https://www.sailingresources.org.au/safety/specialregs/>) Where Australian Standards are specified in the AS Special Regulations, equipment marked as satisfying a recognised equivalent international standard may be accepted.
- 4.3. The OA may amend any detail of this Notice of Race (NoR). Amendments made before 17:00 on Wednesday 16 September 2026 will be published on the event website [HERE](#) and posted on the Official Noticeboard. Entrants should check the site periodically to keep up to date with the latest information.
- 4.4. All boats shall comply with the prevailing Tasmanian statutory requirements, including Marine and Safety Tasmania requirements.
- 4.5. For protests involving an alleged breach of the rules of Part 2 of the RRS, an arbitration hearing may be held prior to a protest hearing. A boat that accepts fault at an arbitration hearing will be penalised by having its race score increased by 30% of the difference between the boat's finishing score and the score for DSQ in its handicap Class, rounded to the nearest whole number. All other boats' scores will remain the same. Once accepted, this decision is not subject to reopening or appeal. This alters RRS 63, 63.7 and Appendix A.
- 4.6. CHANGES TO RRS
 - 4.6.1. RRS 55.2 is changed to allow the use of fixed or retractable spinnaker poles and bowsprits for the purpose of setting spinnakers;
 - 4.6.2. RRS 52: the rule will be modified:
 - To allow self-steering equipment to be used by boats granted dispensation to sailing with 2 crew (refer rule 6.1)
 - To allow the adjustment of movable water ballast or canting keels on any boat and the use of stored power to do so; and
 - To allow the use of stored power for sail handling and sail trimming on any boat.
 - 4.6.3. RRS 63.1 and A5 are changed by adding the following to each; "The Race Committee may apply penalties without a hearing to boats that infringe the Sailing Instructions relating to keeping clear of start and finish lines. Penalties shall be as specified in the Sailing Instructions."
- 4.7. CHANGES TO THE IRC AND ORC RATING SYSTEM RULES
 - 4.7.1. IRC Rule 22.4.2 Crew Number/Weight is deleted and replaced by:

The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard a yacht shall be the number shown on the IRC certificate except that; when the crew consists of either:

 - at least two (2) females, or
 - at least two (2) youth sailors (23 or under on 17 September 2026), or
 - at least one (1) female and one (1) youth sailor (23 or under on 17 September 2026).

then the crew limit is certificate number plus one (1). There is no weight limit.

5. ENTRY

- 5.1. Entries are invited from keel boats registered with any Australian Sailing affiliated yacht club and which satisfy the safety regulations as required for each race of the Regatta.
- 5.2. The OA reserves the right to accept or reject any entry.
- 5.3. By lodging an entry the entrant agrees to be bound by the rules and conditions of the Regatta.
- 5.4. By lodging an entry the owner/charterer agrees that they will ensure that the entered yacht is covered by suitable public liability insurance of at least AU\$10,000,000, valid for racing and current for the duration of the Regatta.
- 5.5. Eligible boats shall enter online electronically through the event website [HERE](#) until 17:00 Wednesday 16 September 2026. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the OA, with the payment of a late entry fee.

5.6. Entry Fees

Series Entry PHS	\$90
Add Series Entry IRC	\$35
Add Series Entry ORC	\$35
Casual Race Entry PHS	\$45
Add Casual Race Entry IRC	\$20
Add Casual Race Entry ORC	\$20
Late Entry Fee	\$50

6. CREW

- 6.1. The minimum number of crew for Race 1 is three (3), unless dispensation has been applied for in writing and granted before close of entries. A minimum of three (3) crew on any yacht for this race shall be over the age of eighteen (18) years. Minimum ages are taken from the start date of the Regatta (Friday 18 September 2026).
- 6.2. The minimum number of crew for Race 2 and Race 3 is two (2).
- 6.3. For each race a boat shall submit a Crew Declaration inclusive of all persons on board that boat noting the specific requirements of NoR 6.4 and 6.5.
- 6.4. Crew Declaration - Race 1
 - 6.4.1. The Crew Declaration for Race 1 shall be submitted via TOPYACHT [HERE](#) no later than 17:00 on Thursday 17 September 2026.
 - 6.4.2. The Crew Declaration for Race 1 shall confirm that the boat intends to race and shall include required details of each person on board as follows:
 - i. Full Name;
 - ii. Contact phone number and email address;
 - iii. Emergency contact details; and
 - iv. Australian Sailing Number in accordance with NoR 6.6.

- 6.4.3. Boats that do not comply with NoR 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 will be scored DSQ without hearing for the relevant race. This changes RRS A5 (2025-28). A breach of this rule shall not be subject to protest or appeal by a competitor.
- 6.5. Crew Declaration - Race 2 and 3
- 6.5.1. For race 2 and 3 a boat shall submit a Crew Declaration via TOPYACHT [HERE](#) by no later than its Divisions Warning Signal for each race.
- 6.5.2. The Crew Declaration shall confirm that the boat intends to race and shall include required details of persons on board as follows:
- i. Name;
 - ii. Contact phone number; and
 - iii. Australian Sailing Number in accordance with NoR 6.6.
- 6.5.3. Boats that do not comply with NoR 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 will be scored DSQ without hearing for the relevant race. This changes RRS A5 (2025-28). A breach of this rule shall not be subject to protest by a competitor.
- 6.6. All crew members must comply with the AS Prescription to RRS 46. All participating crew members shall be a member affiliated to AS or hold a valid SailPass. SailPass is available at no cost through the following link [HERE](#).

7. DIVISIONS, HANDICAP CLASSES (CLASS) AND ELIGIBILITY

- 7.1. The fleet will be divided into Divisions, based on the number of entries at the close of entry and at the discretion of the OA. Regatta Divisions will be published and displayed online from 17:00 on Thursday 17 September 2026. Printed copies will be displayed on the Official Noticeboard.
- 7.2. A boat's entry will automatically enter it to its allocated Division's Performance Handicap System (PHS) class.
- 7.3. Boats wishing to enter IRC or ORC may be requested to provide a copy of their valid IRC and/or ORC Rating Certificate/s.
- 7.4. The OA may cancel any Division or class if fewer than three (3) entries have been received in that Division or class by the closing date. In this event boats that have entered may be reallocated to a different Division or class or will have their entry fee for that Division or class refunded in full.

8. SAFETY

- 8.1. The Safety Categories for each race will in accordance with AS Special Regulations, Part 1, Section 2, (effective 1 July 2024), as detailed below:
- 8.1.1. All boats competing in Race 1 of the Regatta must comply with the safety regulations for Category 5 (night) except that a fitted VHF transceiver is mandatory [this amends AS SR 3.25.1(b)].
- 8.1.2. All Division 1 boats competing in Race 2 of the Regatta must comply with the safety regulations for Category 5 except that a fitted VHF transceiver is mandatory [this amends AS SR 3.25.1(b)].
- 8.1.3. All other Divisions in Race 2 and all Divisions in Race 3 of the Regatta must comply with the safety regulations for Category 7 together with a VHF radio (this may be a hand-held unit).
- 8.2. All boats shall submit a completed AS Special Regulation Audit Form for the Safety Category in which it will compete. This may be self-audited and will be submitted by the entry closing time on Wednesday 16 September 2026.
- 8.3. All persons participating in the Regatta should be aware of the application of the Marine Safety (Misuse of Alcohol) Act 2006.

- 8.4. The Person in Charge is also reminded of the crew requirement for the wearing of a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) at night.
- 8.5. All crew on boats without lifelines shall always wear a PFD whilst racing.
- 8.6. It is recommended that entrants have a practised Man Overboard Procedure that all crew members have participated in.

9. HANDICAPS

- 9.1. Entrants will be allocated a PHS handicap by the OA. An allocated handicap shall not be grounds for protest.
- 9.2. Regatta Divisions will be determined by allocated PHS handicaps after the close of entries.
- 9.3. The OA reserves the right to adjust performance-based handicap values any time during the Regatta. Such adjustment shall not be grounds for protest.
- 9.4. Boats entering IRC must have a current valid endorsed IRC certificate. Except as a result of a rating protest, or to correct a rating office error, no changes to a boat's IRC rating will be permitted after 17:00, Wednesday 16 September 2026.
- 9.5. Boats entering ORCc must have a current, valid audited ORCc certificate or a current valid ORCi certificate. For the avoidance of doubt audited certificates are those where measurements have been supplied by an approved measurer meaning that certificates incorporating "owner" measurements are not used. Except as a result of a rating protest or to correct a rating office error no changes to a boat's ORC rating will be permitted after 17:00, Wednesday 16 September 2026.

10. SCORING

Races shall be scored based on the particular handicap or rating system. For IRC this will be the IRC Time Corrector (TCC) as printed on the certificate. For ORCc this will be the Single Number Scoring Option, All Purpose (AP) Time on Time as printed on the certificate.

11. TEAMS EVENT FORMAT

The Pipe Opener teams event will be incorporated into Race 2 of the Pipe Opener Series. Each team will include one boat from each of divisions 1 and 2, and one from either division 3 or 4. Teams will be assigned by the Race Committee and team lists will be posted on the Official Notice Board. Any boat not allocated to a team may be used as a substitute for a boat that does not start at the discretion of the Race Committee. Scoring will use the low point system (RRS Appendix A, 4.1) based on Race 2 results.

12. TROPHIES

- 12.1. Regatta trophies will be awarded to boats placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each handicap Division; Trophies will be awarded for Race 2 to boats placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each handicap Division;
- 12.2. The Pipe Opener Teams Event perpetual trophy will be awarded to the team with the lowest combined point score from Race 2.
- 12.3. The OA reserves the right to vary the number of trophies based on the number of starters in each handicap Division but not less than:
 - i. Three to Five 1st
 - ii. Six to nine 1st & 2nd
 - iii. Over 10 1st, 2nd & 3rd

13. PRIZE GIVING FUNCTIONS

- 13.1. Prizes for handicap Divisions winners of Race 2 the Derwent Boat Sales Cove Cup, will be presented at the KYC clubhouse on Saturday evening, 19 September 2026.
- 13.2. All other prizes will be presented at a prize night to be held at the DSS (date to be confirmed).

14. MOORING ARRANGEMENT AND CATERING

- 14.1. Accommodation for non-Hobart based boats competing in Race 1 of the Regatta will be available at no charge in the marina at the DSS from 09:00 Sunday 13 September 2026 until the start of Race 1. Boats requiring accommodation at the Squadron must complete the booking form found [HERE](#). It is a condition of entry that boats must moor as directed.
- 14.2. Accommodation for non-Kettering based boats competing in Race 2 and Race 3 of the Regatta will be available at no charge in the Oyster Cove Marina from 21:00 on Friday 18 September 2026 to the start of Race 3. Boats requiring accommodation at the Oyster Cove Marina must complete the booking form found [HERE](#). It is a condition of entry that boats must moor as directed.
- 14.3. Pre-Race 1 meals will be available at the Squadron from 12:00 on Friday 18 September 2026.
- 14.4. Breakfast will be available for purchase from the KYC Club House on the 19 and 20 September 2026. Dinner on the 19 September 2026 will be available to purchase from food and beverage vans located at the KYC and other local businesses near to the Oyster Cove Marina. We urge competitors to support local businesses.
- 14.5. Beverages will be served from the KYC licensed premises on the evening of Friday 18 September 2026 from 18:00 until 23:00 at the conclusion of Race 1 and on Saturday 19 September 2026 from 17:00 until 23:00.

15. MEDIA RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS

Participants at this event automatically grant to the OA and the sponsors of the event the right in perpetuity to make use and show from time to time and at their discretion any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or film television and other reproductions of them during the period in which they participate, and in all material related to the event without compensation.

16. RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is her's alone'.

By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden change of weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury.

Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.

17. INDEMNITY

- 17.1. All those taking part in races conducted by the OA and associates do so at their own risk and responsibility.
- 17.2. The OA is not responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat that's entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment.
- 17.3. The OA will not certify the suitability of a boat to race.

17.4. By lodging an entry, the owner/charterer agrees that:

- i. it is a fundamental condition of entry that he, she or they releases, holds harmless and indemnifies the OA and its associates, its office bearers, servants, agents and members and the sponsors of the 2026 Pipe Opener Regatta from all liability any of those persons has to the owner/charterer or any crew member on the owner/charterer's boat, or to any person claiming through or under any such person arising from loss or damage how so ever caused, including negligent act or omission, arising out of or relating to:
 - a. participation by the owner/charterer's boat or any other boat in a race;
 - b. the conduct or course of a race in any respect including, without limitation, any act or omission (whether reasonably foreseeable or not) causing or relating to loss of or damage to any boat or the death or injury of any person; or
 - c. any of the matters referred to in the paragraphs above.

17.5. Participation by the boat and by the crew in the Regatta is agreed by the OA on the basis that participation is entirely at the risk of the owner/charterer and each member of the crew on the owner/charterer's boat.

17.6. The owner/charterer will provide each crew member or proposed crew member with a copy of these Conditions of Entry.

18. FURTHER INFORMATION

Derwent Sailing Squadron – 23 Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7005

Tel: 03 6223 1977 Mobile: 0417 121 575

Web: dssinc.org.au Email: sailing@dssinc.org.au