

2022 IRC CONGRESS AUSTRALIAN REPORT

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Overview of IRC in Australia:

With racing back in full swing, the fleet numbers have risen significantly this year. There is still a way to go before we return to the 2018 fleet size, however things are looking good as we progress into 2022/23.

Table 1 - Revalidations and New IRC applications

Year	Number of IRC boats	Number of new boats	Percentage of change
2018	446	62	14%
2019	329	30	9%
2020	283	33	12%
2021	307	39	13%

The Australian Rating Office has been out around the country training additional measurers this year. With 15 new people able measure in Tasmania and Victoria. The training will continue this season with courses being conducted in NSW and later in Queensland.

The introduction of secondary certificates is having a positive effect with several boats taking advantage of this facility. The application process in Australia has now been transferred to be completely to online which is standardising processes by the Australian Office. The office has an addition staff member who is assisting with the increasing numbers of applications, welcome Melanie Peasey she can manage enquires and process applications.

Racing in Australia

Most the major offshore races and regattas were back running this year. The Sydney to Hobart had 60 fully crewed and 14 two-handed boats in the IRC fleet. It was a very tough first 36 hours with half the fleet withdrawing for a variety of reasons, I personally competed in the race and happily finished.

The two-handed division was introduced for the first time, with Jules Hall and Jan Scholten being crowned inaugural winners of this division.

The Ocean Racing Western Australia offshore series Farrawa Cup attracted 33 boats with the overall series won by Atomic Blonde. IRC fleets remain strong in WA.

Looking Forward

Looking at the current rating year (2022/2023) the applications, revalidation and new boats is showing a strong return where the numbers will be similar to those of 2018. The two-handed fleet is continuing to gain popularity with purpose-built boats popping up everywhere. The future for IRC racing in Australia is looking very strong.

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