

IFAV REPORT Season 2024/25

The 2024/25 Season was a successful season given the previous season hosted a Worlds. The usual post Worlds slump in the class did not happen, and there were a number of events well run and well attended.

STATE TITLES 24/25 _ Sail Sandy Regatta 19-20 October 2024

The IFAV Victorian State Titles were held at the Sandringham Yacht Club as part of the Sail Sandy regatta across the weekend of 19/20 October 2024. There were 10 Fireballs entered with 7 competing in the regatta. Eight races were completed across the weekend with windy and challenging conditions on the Saturday and light winds on the Sunday. Congratulations to Heather and Chris Payne for winning another State Title to add to the multitude they have won previously. Commiserations to Sophie Jackson and Andrew Perry who placed second on a count back. There may have been some gear failure that contributed to this, and congratulations to Brendan Garner and Ben O'Brien for placing third.

Thank you to the Sandringham Yacht Club for hosting this regatta. Sandringham have continued to invite us to the Sail Sandy Regatta and would like to see Fireballs present at future regattas.

The scheduling of the State Title this early in the season was not ideal and along with the weather probably contributed to the lower turnout than we had hoped. It's possible the venue contributed somewhat to this as well. In planning this regatta the criteria was to have it in the first half of the season, in an already organised regatta, and preferably on the Eastern side of Port Phillip bay. These criteria were somewhat dictated by other events this season and are not the same going from season to season.

CAIRN CURRAN REGATTA _ 23-24 November 2024

There were 9 entries in the Cairn Curran regatta. Congratulations to Phil Peverell and Bruce Shand for winning this regatta, closely followed by Will Garner and Brendan Garner who placed 2nd by 1 point.

Colac Yacht Club Regatta - 7-8 December 2024.

The Colac Yacht Club regatta was held for the first time in 10 years because of drought. Thank you and congratulations to Susannah Gillam, Andrew Butler, and Peter and Jen Russell for representing Fireballs at this regatta.

NATIONAL TITLES

Congratulations to all the participants and organisers at the National Titles held at Twofold Bay Yacht Club on the 14th of February 2025. 20 entries was good and hopefully we can build on this.

Congratulations to the Open winner Thom Gillard and Andy Thompson.

Congratulations to the Australian Champions Brendan Garner and Ben O'Brien.

Congratulations also to Heather and Chris Payne for placing second and Jalina Pivetta and Nathan Stockley for placing third.

EASTER REGATTA / INAUGURAL FIREBALL YOUTH NATION CHAMPIONSHIPS at Lake BULLEN MERRI at Easter 2024

The decision to combine the Easter regatta at Lake Bullen Merri with the inaugural Fireball Youth National Championships proved to be very successful. There were 18 entries which is the largest Fireball contingent we have had at that regatta. Competitors experienced a variety of conditions from light and shifty, to heavy, gusty and shifty. Sailing was tight, the weather was good and everyone enjoyed the event. Congratulations to all the competitors and especially the Youth competitors that made this event successful.

Results for the Youth Nationals are:

1st place: Josh Garner / Ben O'Brien,

2nd : Calin Went / Chris Went

3rd : Ben Garner / Sam Williamson - 1st Double Youth

4th : Ben Schulz / Matilda Schulz

5th : Charley Stevens / Will Farnell - 2nd Double Youth

6th : Imogen Farnell / Finn Buckley - 3rd Double Youth.

And the first Senior boat was Phil Peverell and Bruce Shand who placed 2nd overall. We encourage everyone to attend this regatta in future as it is a fun regatta with camping by the lakeside in a picturesque location.

IFAV Travellers Trophy.

Congratulations to Brendan Garner for winning the IFAV Travellers Trophy for the 24/25 Season.

The travellers trophy is awarded to the Fireball sailor who has competed in the most contributing events and placed best in those events.

Finally, congratulations to the 17 teams who represented Australia at the World Championships in Lake Garda in Italy in August. This was a record number of Australian Teams at a Worlds outside Australia and was a fantastic effort from all involved. Everyone who wasn't there wished they were. It was especially gratifying to see some past and new Fireball sailors competing in this event.

Notable events for next season include:

- The Cairn Curran Regatta across the 29th- 30th November 2025.
- The National Titles to be held at the Adelaide Sailing across the 2nd-6th Feb 2026.
- The Youth Fireball National Championship held in conjunction with the Victorian State Title at the Indented Head Yacht Club across the 21 - 22nd March 2026.
- The Western Region Easter regatta at Lake Bullen Merri from Fri 3rd April to Mon 6th April.
- TBC Coaching days.

To conclude, it has been a successful season overall while attendance at some regattas could perhaps have been a bit better, while other regattas were very well attended. There has still been encouraging and concrete interest in the class. Please continue to support the class by attending the events and engaging with new members.

Glenn Peverell
President, IFAV