IFAV REPORT
Season 2025/26

The 2025/26 Season events were well attended, very competitive and had a warm and collegiate atmosphere off the water. It's particularly encouraging to see some new younger members in the class sailing competitively and enjoying themselves. Congratulations to Rain Forbes with Patrick DiStefano and Oscar Forbes with Bentley Conn for sailing some very competitive races and regattas this season.

CAIRN CURRAN REGATTA _ 29-30 November 2025

The number of Fireballs attending the Cairn Curran Regatta were fewer this season as the container from the Worlds had not yet been unpacked. Given this 7 entries was a very good number and the Class welcomed Oscar Forbes sailing with Bentley Conn and Rain Forbes sailing with Patrick DiStefano.

The conditions on the first day were challenging with the wind approximately 12 to 17 knots with hard gusts going well into the 20 knot range. Sunday morning was considerably lighter.

Congratulations to Heather and Chris Payne, who were the first Fireball across the line in all the races, however they were pushed all the way in one race by Oscar and Bentley, who most likely would have won if they hadn't unnecessarily gybed on the way to the finish line. Oscar and Bentley placed 2nd Fireball overall. Rain and Patrick spent the weekend sorting things out, which clearly paid dividends when the Nationals came around.

Thank you to the Cairn Curran Sailing club for a well run event, excellent hospitality and making the Class welcome.

NATIONAL TITLES

Congratulations to the Adelaide Sailing Club and the International Fireball Association of South Australia for hosting an excellent National Titles. All races were completed in a variety of conditions with a high level of competition among the 24 entries.

Congratulations to Chris Dance and Chris Payne for winning the Australian National Title. This is Chris Dance's first Fireball Title and regatta win and we hope to see him sailing Fireballs again.
Congratulations to John Heywood with Daniel George for placing second and Brendon Garner with Ben O'Brien coming third.

A special congratulations to Calin Went sailing with his father Chris for placing Fourth overall, winning a couple of heats and winning the first Youth Helm trophy,

Special mentions also to Rain Forbes and Patrick DiStefano for placing sixth overall, and previous Olympian Jeni Danks sailing the Peter Danks for winning a heat, and placing 7th overall in spite of being unable to compete on the last day.

It was wonderful to see the overseas competitors join us, Andy Thompson from the UK, Don White from Kenya, Matteo Bevilacqua and Elisa Ascoli from Italy and Olivier Burgaud with Florence Deveux from France.

We hope to welcome everyone to the next National Titles in Paynesville in late January.

STATE TITLES 25/26 _ FIREBALL YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS_INDENTED HEAD YACHT CLUB_ 21 - 22 MARCH 2026.

The IFAV Victorian State Titles were held at the Indented Head Yacht Club, in Association with the Fireball Australia Youth Championships and in conjunction with the OK Dinghy Victorian State Championships. Thank you to the Indented Head Yacht Club for hosting a very successful event, and thank you to the event sponsor Discount Yachting Sailing Supplies.

Four races were tightly contested in light moderate winds on the Saturday afternoon and light winds on Sunday morning, fading out to nothing. The fifth race was abandoned. There were fifteen entries, and thank you to Dom and Alex Brandon for making the trip from NSW to join us,

Congratulations to Heather Payne and Chris Payne for winning three out of four heats and successfully defending their Victorian State Title. Congratulations also to Addy Bucek with Peter James for placing second overall and to Josh Garner with Ben O'Brien for placing 3rd overall. Josh and Ben won the fourth heat

Josh and Ben successfully defended Josh's National Youth Champion title, and Ben Garner and Sam Williamson were the first places all Youth Team,

EASTER REGATTA 2025 - LAKE BULLEM MERRI

Fireballs have continued to support this regatta with a continuing good number of entries. The regatta is held in a relaxed atmosphere with good racing in classic lake winds and fun camping. This year there were 13 Fireball entries. Thank you to Jalina Pivetta with Nathan Stockley and Jess Overelle with James Gaskell for making the trip across from SA.

There were four races completed ranging from light conditions to very gusty. The wind disappeared completely for the last three races.

Congratulations to Ben Garner and Sam Williamson for being the first placed Fireball, Myles Gavin with Finn Buckley came second and it was great to see Jack O'Brien with Ben O'Brien come third.

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 Ben O'Brien for winning the IFAV Travellers Trophy for the 25/26 Season.

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

Rain Forbes and Patrick DiStefano can consider themselves unlucky not to have won the travellers trophy in their first season.

Notable events for next season include:

The Cairn Curran Regatta across the 28th- 29th November 2026.

The National Titles to be held at the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club in Paynesville in late January 2027.

The Victorian State Title in 2027 is currently proposed to be held in conjunction with the Easter Regatta at Lake Bullen Merri from 26 to 29th March.

TBC Coaching days.

To conclude, it has been a successful season overall while attendance at some regattas could perhaps have been a bit better, 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