

## **Sabre National Championship wrap-up.**

130 Sabres visited Blairgowrie for the National Championships. All boats started together on one start line for some spectacular photo opportunities. This number did cause delays with a number of general recalls and postponements of black-flag starts. Race management was very professional so there were no complaints with courses etc. Winds were varied from race to race, and given some predicted wind conditions we were lucky to eventually get all 9 races in. 18 juniors sailed in a fleet with an average age of over 40 years.

Safety Beach SC was represented by 5 boats including 3 generations of one family.

Natasha Martin sailed Michael Arcaro's old boat, and by the end of the series she was mixing it with the best Safety Beach could offer. She finished 66<sup>th</sup> in the last heat, 97<sup>th</sup> overall – a terrific effort in a boat and class she hadn't raced before.

Fiona Martin won the under 60kg weight division and finished 58<sup>th</sup> overall.

Tom McCullough was a very surprised winner of the Grand Veterans championship and was 81<sup>st</sup> overall.

Rick Potter had a 16<sup>th</sup> in the invitation race and 22<sup>nd</sup> in heat 5. He may have been unlucky to be deemed over the line on a black flag start, and this result may have spoilt his chance of a better overall score - 52<sup>nd</sup> overall, and Safety Beach SC honours.

I finished 64<sup>th</sup> and discovered how competitive the Sabre fleet is, despite taking advantage of experience with tidal effects in lighter winds.

Socially, Blairgowrie YC and the Sabre Association put on a great event, and the atmosphere was very friendly throughout.

Royal Queensland YC, in Manly, will host our next nationals Dec 29, 2012 to Jan 4, 2013.

Bill Manning