



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 21st December 2023

Canberra hosts the 63rd Australian Heron Championships in January 2024

Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin will be adorned with sailing boats this January as [the Y Canberra Region](#) Sailing Club hosts the 63rd Australian Heron Sailing Championships for 2024.

Taking place from 7th – 12th January, the Championship will be sailed on the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin, with the Herons launching from The Y Canberra Region Sailing Club in Yarralumla.

“Our Club is so excited to be welcoming around 50 families from around Australia to come and enjoy inland lake sailing in a Canberra summer,” said Chris Sant, The Y Canberra Region Sailing Club Member and Heron Sailor.

A Heron is a 3.4m long sailing dinghy that can be sailed by both adults and children, and Chris Sant explains that Herons are an ideal boat for newcomers to learn to sail from aged 8 to 80 years.

“What makes this event extra special, is that the four Herons our Club will enter as part of the Championships will be crewed by grandparent/grandchild teams. It's such a wonderful, family friendly sailing event,” Mr Sant continued.

The 63rd Australian Heron Sailing Championships will see sailing events take place across the six days, apart from 10th January when no racing is scheduled. The Canberra team will be led by Para-Olympic sailor, Peter Thompson. The Y Canberra Region is hosting and organising the events, with The Y Canberra Region Sailing Club members volunteering their time.

“Canberrans are invited to watch the sailing events with races started each day from 2pm when there are sufficient wind conditions. The best place to view the sailing is on Alexandrina Drive, directly south of Springbank Island. We welcome everyone to come and enjoy the racing spectacle from this area known as ‘Experts Point,’” Mr Sant concluded.

For more information on The Y Canberra Region Sailing Club, visit www.ymcacanberra.org.au

MEDIA CONTACT:

For more information, images or to arrange an interview contact Sam Duffy-

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MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

ABOUT THE Y CANBERRA REGION SAILING CLUB

- The Y Canberra Region Sailing Club was formed in 1963, one year before Lake Burley Griffin was filled in 1964.
- The original club members travelled across the border to sail on Lake George before relocating to their current home on Yarralumla Bay where they've been ever since.
- In September 2022, the club celebrated their 60th anniversary.
- The Sailing Club provides members with Learn to Sail courses and club racing for beginners right through to advanced sailors in an environment that is inclusive, fun and safe for all ages.
- The Club is youth and family orientated, and welcomes those with disability and a range of experience.
- The Club focuses on developing young sailors, providing mentorship and support.

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN HERON SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

- The Y Canberra Region will host the 63rd Australian Heron Sailing Championships for 2024.
- A Heron is a 3.4m long sailing dinghy that can be sailed by adults and children. It is an ideal boat for newcomers to learn to sail for anyone aged 8 – 80.
- The Championship event will be sailed on the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin from the Sailing Club in Yarralumla Bay on Alexandrina Drive.
- The event will be held from the 7th January to the 12th of January. There is no racing scheduled on January 10th.
- The Y Canberra Region Sailing Club is hosting and organising the event, with the Sailing Club members volunteering their time.
- The team will be led by Para-Olympic sailor, Peter Thompson.

ABOUT THE Y CANBERRA REGION

- Established in 1941, The Y Canberra Region, formerly YMCA Canberra Region, has grown side-by-side with the nation's capital.
- Today, the Y Canberra Region's vision and mission is to build a better world, with and for young people.
- The Y Canberra Region delivers services across Canberra and its surrounds in community health, recreation and fitness, before and after school care, early learning education and care, accommodation and youth services.
- The Y Canberra Region are a significant local employer providing employment to over 400 staff and volunteers.
- The Y Canberra Region assists many Canberra Region families each year, engaged through the Y's various business'.
- For more information on The Y Canberra Region, visit www.ymcacanberra.org.au, call (02) 6242 4040 or follow us on social media @YMCACanberra