

Dinghy Racing

470 World Championships

By Elise Rechichi and Tessa Parkinson

We have just completed our biggest event for the year, the 470 World Championships. The regatta was held on the city front side of San Francisco Bay and it definitely lived up to its reputation as a windy venue with very strong currents. The Australian 470 team finished the championship with outstanding results. We placed tenth out of a fleet of thirty-four which was a great achievement for us as this entitled us to a place in the Australian Institute of Sport. The men's team, Nathan Wilmot and Malcolm

Page, won the championship for the second time in a row with the other men's team, Mathew Belcher and Nick Behrens, finished a close fourth. The support we had from our coaches, Victor Kovalenko, Belinda Stowell and Eugeny Braslavets definitely contributed to our teams' high performances. The gold medal in the men's division was head coach, Victor Kovalenko's tenth win at a 470 World Championship!

This championship proved to be a challenging regatta for us. With the strong current ripping down the course with the strong wind it was important to sail towards the shallow water quickly so as the affect of the current would be lessened. After the start many of the races became a one-way track, which made it very hard to gain places after making a mistake. We experienced and learnt so much about how to sail in strong current. It was a difficult

concept because it changed your judgment over the entire course. For example you had to alter your lay lines depending on the direction and strength of the current. On the last day when the current was ebbing against a 20 knot wind the waves became very choppy and we managed to pull out in front and win the race! It was the first time we'd won a race at a 470 World Championships and the racing was very close. The winner in the women's fleet wasn't decided until the last race when the team from the Netherlands won on count back.

The media videoed the last two days of racing and it can be downloaded from this website, <http://www.470.org/index.php?pg=1> under 470 World Championships. It is really good footage of everyone sailing on the racing course which is right between the famous Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz island.



The RONSTAN 2006 International Contender Class World Championships & Australian Open Championships

Fremantle Sailing Club, Western Australia
January 2nd to 14th

The 2006 Ronstan International Contender Class World and Australian Championships are one of the most significant annual sailing



event in the Western Australian sailing calendar for 2006. If you are serious about your sailing then you cannot afford to miss it.

The Championships are held annually and it is Australia's turn this year. Previous World were in Germany and Italy

Includes up to two weeks of racing:

- Week one the Australian Nationals
- Week two the World Championships

The 2006 International Contender Class World and Australian Championships really are a celebration of sailing, attracting competitors,

supporters, media and public. We invite you to be a part of all the action!

It seems that we have all the pieces necessary to have an extraordinary Contender World Championship. Fremantle is terrific, the beaches marvellous, the water warm, very clear and beautiful. The organising committee seem to have thought of just about everything, and it looks like they're going to have 20 knots or more each afternoon.

It will be conducted form Fremantle Sailing Club on the Indian Ocean, one of the best sailing venues for style dinghies in the world.

