



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008.**

Welcome all fellow Multi Hullers,

Taking over the helm of MANTA 12 months ago was big step for me. I found myself having to fill a fairly big pair of shoes, those formally filled by John Punch. I found this task a little daunting at first but thanks to John for his advice and support I found my feet and have grown to enjoy being at the head of this energetic association. I would also like to personally thank our Vice President David Beeby and rest of our great committee for all their efforts though out the last year, there also needs to be special thanks to our division reps, Brendon, Clint, Hugh and Cam, on race committee who have worked tirelessly to push MANTA's cause, this job can more often than not can be a thankless one, with out their efforts our sailing may not have been as successful as it has been.

2007 was an exciting year for MANTA it all started with Cam Hooper heading to Melbourne to compete in the Tiapan National titles where he won the 4.9 sloop title. Then it was up to the Tornados who were once again heading west to compete in national titles to be held in held in Perth. The titles saw 19 Tornados compete with 6 Territory Tornados in the fleet and 4 of them finishing in the top ten.

The start of local season saw the launch of division 81 our 4<sup>th</sup> division at Darwin Sailing Club, 81 is an off the beach unit primarily aimed to accommodate the A class & Tiapan catamarans. 81 has been the power house of off the beach racing at DSC through out 2007. 2007 saw the arrival of several new A class cats including a couple of noted defections from Tornados to A class and not to mention Brendon who gave up his much loved Fanger 16 to take on an A class called Shikira (it is rumored that he can wiggle like his boats name sake.) Among other boat changes I bought John's Tornado after a quite spectacular failure on my aging Nacra during the Shell Island race, we also saw Damien's updated Tornado arrive from down south. 2007 brought the return of Gary's Fanger 16 to race in division 9, it also bore witness to Sally take on a Tiapan 4.9, she teamed up with long time fellow Tasar sailor Lucille, it was great to watch the girls make the switch to cats, 2007 brought a truly new cat, the long awaited launch Hugh's new Mappas 40. The 2007 season culminated with Rowan Langworthy & Jack Punch Benson and Damien Ford & Mark Edmonds packing up their Tornados to head south compete in a series of regattas including the National titles where Rowan & Jack Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> even beating Bundock & Ashby in one race, Damien & Mark Placed 6<sup>th</sup> after breaking in the second last race. These two teams are now in New Zealand where they are flying NT flag and are about to compete in the world titles.

The 2007 year saw other changes with in MANTA, the most notable was the introduction of a complete new logo for MANTA, this new logo brings our image into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we now have a good quality digital image that can be printed or blown up from 2cm x 2cm to 2m x 2m, I feel that this new logo represents a modern multihull with out being off the beach or large multi specific which is important as MANTA represents all genders of multi hulls in the Territory. In 2007 we introduced the meeting and social BBQ which is held at 7pm after our normal monthly meeting, these BBQs are held every second month.

Once again MANTA's social days were a huge success starting early in the season with a sail to Mandorah to which I must say 3 or 4 large multi's attended as well as around 10 OTB, we finished up with BBQ back at DSC attended by approximately 60 people, we also had several other successful days including a sand bar day sponsored by Lion Nathan this day included a gen set and a large an inflatable Tooheys New man a great day was had by all or what we can remember of it ???????. Once again MANTA's social days greatly supported by our larger multi's for this support I truly thank all the owners who made the effort to come out, I would also like thank Bruce Panting for bringing Beers out to fill a short fall of boats in the junior helm race. Looking toward 2008 in an effort to bring the large multi's out racing we proposed a calendar with one race per month and please bear in mind if you find it hard to crew your boat let us know and we may be able to assist.

2007 was a great year for MANTA and it is my belief that with 2008 promising the launch of John and Ann's new cat, the arrival of yet another Tiapan and possibly a new A class or two, 2008 is shaping up to be even bigger and better than 2007.

Thank you all for making MANTA what it is today  
Simply a Great Association!!!!

Glenn Neaves  
President