

## ***Spiral 3.8 Sailing Dinghy***



**The Spiral is a low-cost, 'one-design' class administered by a very active class association.** This family-friendly boat offers great off-the-beach fun at all levels. The Spiral class is largely concerned with the cost-sensitive segments of the Sailing community. These include:

- families with children moving up out of training classes;
- newcomers to sailing who are cautious about expenditure as they engage with a new sport;
- experienced racing sailors who appreciate a change from the 'arms-race' associated with other classes;
- local club sailors who don't want to tie up large amounts of money in their weekend pass-time;
- clubs and training groups who are looking for a very effective training class, but want to use limited resources wisely.

**The Spiral offers great value** to these sailors and the Spiral Association of Australia strives to support their experience at all levels from entry-level training (for kids and adults) through to advanced coaching and organisation of competitions up to State and National Championship levels. One of the special attributes of the class is that sailors can be competitive across a body-weight range of 55kg to 85kg and the strength demands are moderate. This means that, in one fleet, we have teenage sailors and women and men of all ages. This provides a great context for younger sailors to develop their understanding of the sport, and it is attractive for families who often have multiple boats for husbands/wives/children (and grand children!). The Spiral is simple to rig and easy to sail so it is used by various clubs for training. Yet it has enough sail area to make it exciting to sail in a broad range of conditions.

**The Spiral Association seeks to make a significant contribution to the sport in NSW.** The elected representatives and other volunteers offer our members the benefit of extensive experience in the sport. We aim to provide exceptional value to our members by administering the reliable supply of high-quality boats and equipment at low cost; by supporting training and development at low cost; by managing high-standard competitions at low cost and by managing communications and social events at low cost. However, we note that good training is attractive to a wide age-range of sailors, particularly in the Spiral class which includes mature sailors who may have discovered the sport later in life or returned after a long period ashore with family commitments etc.

**We want to promote the Spiral as an excellent intermediate (14yrs upwards) class** which provides a good step up from the various junior classes. We also see opportunities in promoting the class among older sailors and potential late-comers to the sport. We advocate the promotion of classes of boat that suit people's needs at a local club/community level. We understand the attraction of the 'monoculture' of large fleets of international/Olympic classes and the drive for developing elite-level sailors. But we argue that the foundation of the sport is built on accessible, local sailing activities and the associated club, regional, state and national competitions.