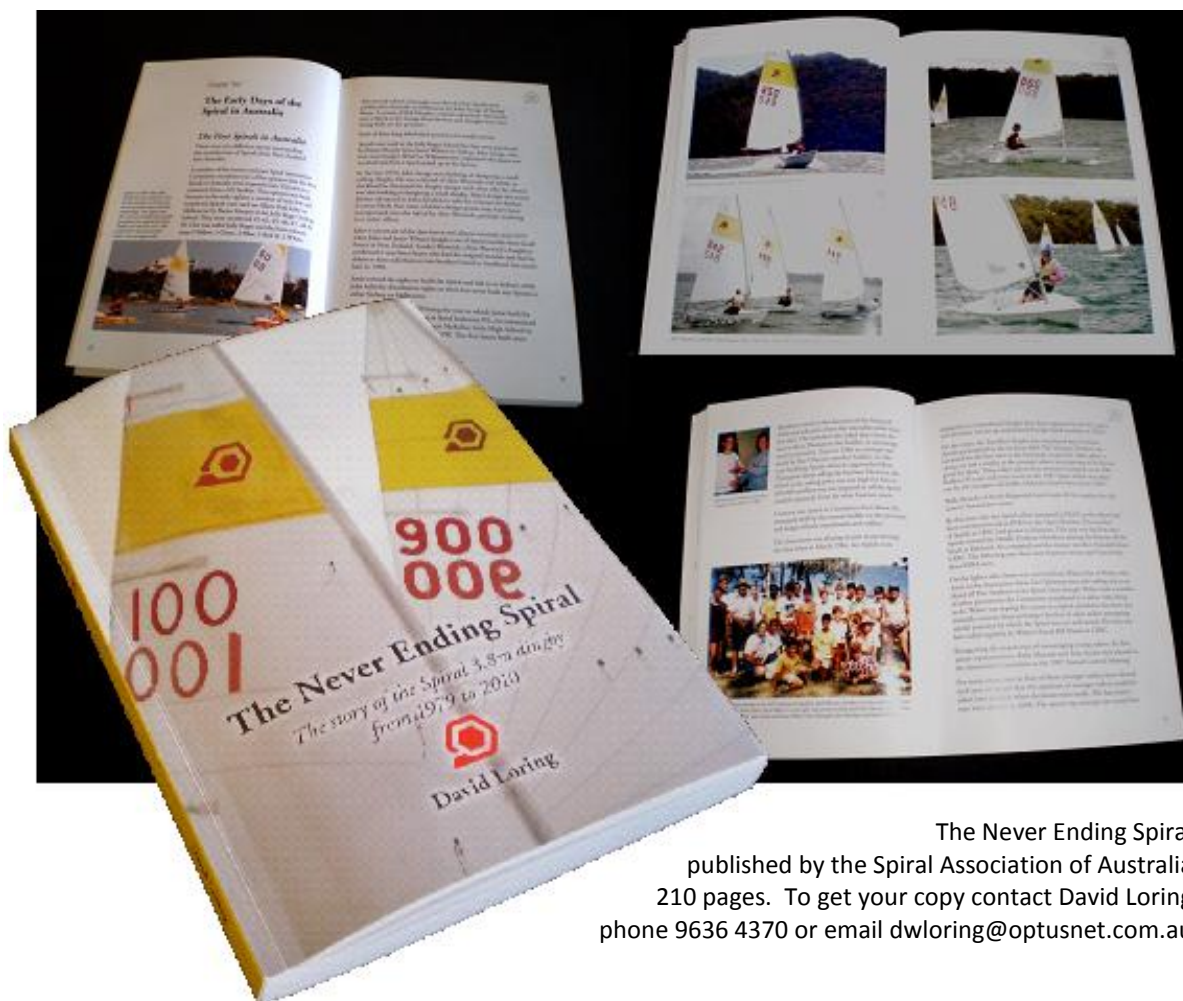


**Book Review: The Never Ending Spiral** the story of the Spiral 3.8 dinghy from 1979 to 2010



The Never Ending Spiral  
published by the Spiral Association of Australia  
210 pages. To get your copy contact David Loring  
phone 9636 4370 or email [dwloring@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dwloring@optusnet.com.au)

This book is a carefully-researched account of the first thirty years of the Spiral dinghy. The Spiral is a 3.8 metre single-handed, one-design class that has an enthusiastic following based mainly in New South Wales and the ACT. The Spiral community has been very fortunate to have the author, David Loring, embedded in its ranks since 1984 and he has provided a marvellous record of the 'who-what-and-where' of Spiral sailing. Every class of sailing boat has its own culture and folklore; developed through the shared experiences of hundreds of people over many years. One of the great pleasures of dinghy racing is to join with members of an active class and take your part in some of the stories of the boats, people and events that become the fabric of that class' culture. These stories are the fuel for future recollections, imaginings and arguments that will be revisited around the campfires and bar tables at regattas in years to come. In 'The Never Ending Spiral', David Loring offers much more than a mere chronology of Spiral events and activities. Yes, the facts are all there and they are presented clearly and logically so the book can easily be referred to in order to find out about a particular event or person. But Loring has also captured many of the tales and he tells us of the characters that have participated in the unfolding story of the class. Many of the names are well-known in the broader sailing community, but just as many are happy inhabitants of the 'Spiral Clan' and it is great to get a glimpse of their involvement in the sport and the enjoyment it has given them. In addition, Loring has painted a clear picture of the technical development of the Spiral dinghy, from designer Alan Warwick's original vision through to the current version of this delightful, one-design single hander. With more than one hundred photos, and a dynamic layout designed by Nicole Williams (another Spiral Sailor), this is a book that anyone who has a connection with the class will enjoy.

The 'Never Ending Spiral' provides a valuable record of information that should be recorded in the annals of every dinghy class. Just as valuable, it is an account of the collective effort of many enthusiastic and enterprising sailors who have shared in the first thirty years of a great sailing adventure.

*Jonathan Talbot. 05/07/2011*