**Fireball Australia Report – by John Heywood**

* The committee changed at the AGM last Christmas. I have taken over as president. Danielle Godden is secretary and Robin Inns Treasurer. Our contact details are on the Australia page on the FI web site.
* It has been very quiet here with only a couple of boats sailing through the winter.
* Our next national championships will be at Warrnambool in Victoria between Christmas and New years. We expect about 20 boats.
* South Australia still has a strong fleet with around 18 boats sailing. Victoria has 6 boats sailing regularly, Western Australia 4 boats sailing regularly and New South Wales 3 boats sailing regularly.
* One new boat is being built by Brett Young this year and about five boats have changed owners.
* We will send one container to Thailand for the worlds. Seven boats have committed so far. A lot of the older guys have been to Pattaya before so are giving it a miss.
* Yachting Australia has a real push towards Olympic classes and one man boats. They want a path of Optimists, Lasers 4.7 the bigger laser rigs. They have crippled the cadet and 125 fleets that fed the Fireballs so we are struggling to get new sailors into the class. Senior classes such as the 505s Sharpies and us have struggled as a result.
* We are looking at using Ben’s “Team Fireball” concept to get our class wider coverage with the youth and hopefully encourage some of them to come our way. We will start small with a couple of Optimist kids and see how it goes.
* Many of our sailors now have young families so they have to juggle between work, family and sailing. Most are happy to make it out every second week.
* Our aim over the next two years is to keep the current sailors on the water and hopefully pick up one or two new boats.