



OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

2026

Australian 13ft & 16ft Skiff Championships

JAN 4-11





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Welcome to the 2026 Skelcon Australian 16ft & 13ft Skiff Championships

On behalf of Belmont 16ft Sailing Club, we are delighted to welcome competitors, their families, and friends to the 2026 Skelcon Australian 16ft and 13ft Skiff Championships. It is a true honour for us to host this prestigious event, and we are confident you'll enjoy the exceptional sailing conditions here on Belmont Bay. As the largest saltwater lake in the Southern Hemisphere, Belmont Bay offers a vast expanse of deep water, perfect for racing, with steady sea breezes and no tidal influences, making it one of the finest sailing venues in Australia.

With over 100 years of sailing history, our Club is proud to offer world-class facilities and a thriving junior program that continues to nurture the next generation of exceptional sailors.



Located on the shores of Lake Macquarie, the Club features panoramic views, four bars, a café, and four distinct dining experiences, each designed to suit different tastes and occasions. It's the perfect place to relax and take in all the on-water action. (More information about these venues can be found on page 17).

Our state-of-the-art sailing facilities include advanced race control technology and a dedicated spectator deck with unbeatable lake views. Families will love the children's play area, and everyone can unwind on the foredeck, which offers breathtaking 180-degree views of the water.

We hope you have a truly unforgettable experience at this year's championships, both on and off the water!

PRO TIP

Join as a member before you arrive to enjoy exclusive benefits. Details on how to join can be found later in this handbook (see page 16).





Venue Arrival Information

The Belmont 16ft Sailing Club (B16ftSC) is located at The Parade, Belmont, NSW 2280. For the duration of the event, we have secured Laughlin Park, located directly across the road, for parking of 13ft Skiff and support boat trailers.

Upon arrival, all boats are required by the ASSA to complete the online event registration forms for boat and sail registration. Only boats that require weighing will need to reserve a time slot on Sunday, 4th January for weighing. This can be done through the online registration page.



As the Belmont 16s will be hosting the Flying 11 Nationals the week before, NO SKIFFS are permitted to arrive prior to Sunday, 4th January. This will allow the Flying 11 trailers and boats to be cleared out, avoiding congestion and overlap in the parking area.

Upon arrival, 16ft Skiffs will be directed to unload their boats before being guided by parking marshals to the designated trailer storage area. 13ft Skiffs will have the opportunity to unload their boats and equipment, before being directed to store their trailers in Laughlin Park across the road.

Please note that NO boat trailers are to be parked in the Belmont 16s car park outside the designated trailer parking zone. Boats may also rig and utilise the Western rigging area and public parking throughout the regatta.

If competitors wish to go for a practice sail prior to Sunday, 4th January, this will be possible. However, boats must use the Western rigging area and public parking for this purpose.

Trailer Parking

13FT SKIFF TRAILER STORAGE – LAUGHLIN PARK

We are grateful to the Lake Macquarie City Council for their approval to store boat trailers for visiting 13ft Skiffs in a designated, cordoned area of Laughlin Park from Sunday, 4th January to Sunday, 11th January 2026.

The allocated storage area is located in the northeastern corner of Laughlin Park, bordered by Evans Street, Tudor Street, Ross Street, and the concrete pedestrian pathway.

Please adhere to the following guidelines:

- The concrete pedestrian pathway through the park must remain clear of boat trailers at all times.
- Whenever possible, trailers should be manoeuvred by hand, not by motor vehicle, to maintain a smooth flow of traffic and avoid congestion.
- Access to the storage area is via Tudor Street only, through the designated entry point, to help minimise traffic congestion.



IMPORTANT

13ft Skiff trailers must not be left in the Belmont 16s Club car park under any circumstances.



Trailer Parking (continued)

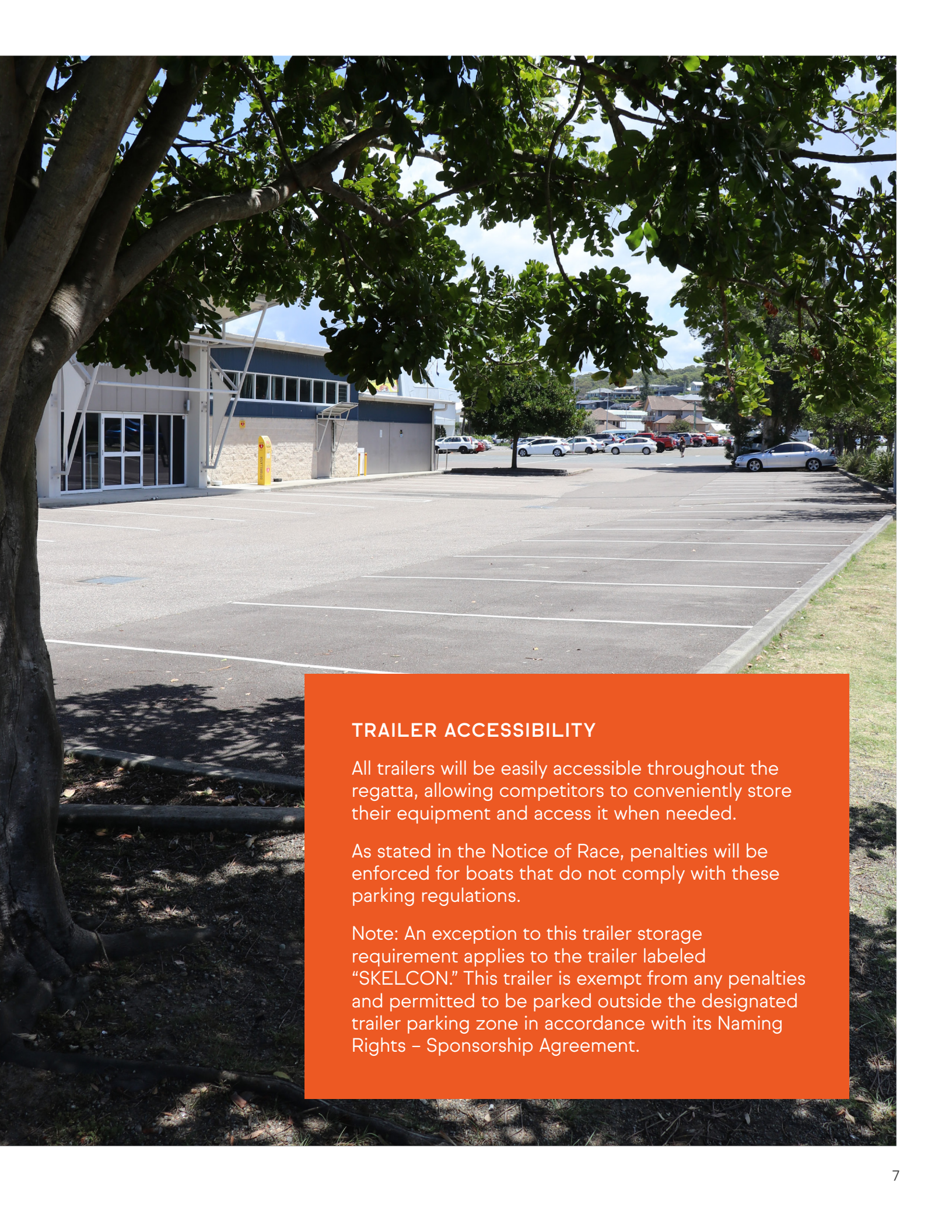
16FT SKIFF TRAILER STORAGE

A designated area will be cordoned off behind the Brian Ellis Boat Shed, within the 16s Car Park, for the storage of 16ft Skiff trailers.

All 16ft Skiff trailers must be stored in this section throughout the event week. The area will be available and clearly marked starting at 8am on Sunday, 4th January. No 16ft Skiff trailers are allowed in the Belmont 16s Car Park prior to Sunday, 4th January, as the club will be hosting the Flying 11 Nationals during that time. Parking marshals will be on hand to direct trailers and ensure they are parked correctly to maximize available space. Please refer to the diagram below for the parking layout.

Both 16ft and 13ft Skiffs are also welcome to store their trailers on the Western side of the club along The Parade. On the western side, please obey the parking signage instructions, unfortunately the parking cops are stringent.





TRAILER ACCESSIBILITY

All trailers will be easily accessible throughout the regatta, allowing competitors to conveniently store their equipment and access it when needed.

As stated in the Notice of Race, penalties will be enforced for boats that do not comply with these parking regulations.

Note: An exception to this trailer storage requirement applies to the trailer labeled "SKELCON." This trailer is exempt from any penalties and permitted to be parked outside the designated trailer parking zone in accordance with its Naming Rights – Sponsorship Agreement.

Support Boats Launching & Mooring

TRAILER PARKING & STORAGE

Support boat trailers must not be parked in the Club car park. Please do not drive into the car park or park across multiple spaces.

Where possible we ask that support boat trailers be stored at accommodation off site. Where this is not possible provision is made to store road trailers in a cordoned section of Laughlin Park, located directly across the road from the Club. Trailers may be left here for the duration of the regatta.



LAUNCHING

The Club's launching ramp is always busy during regattas with race management boats.

We ask that support boats be launched at one of the local public ramps listed below:

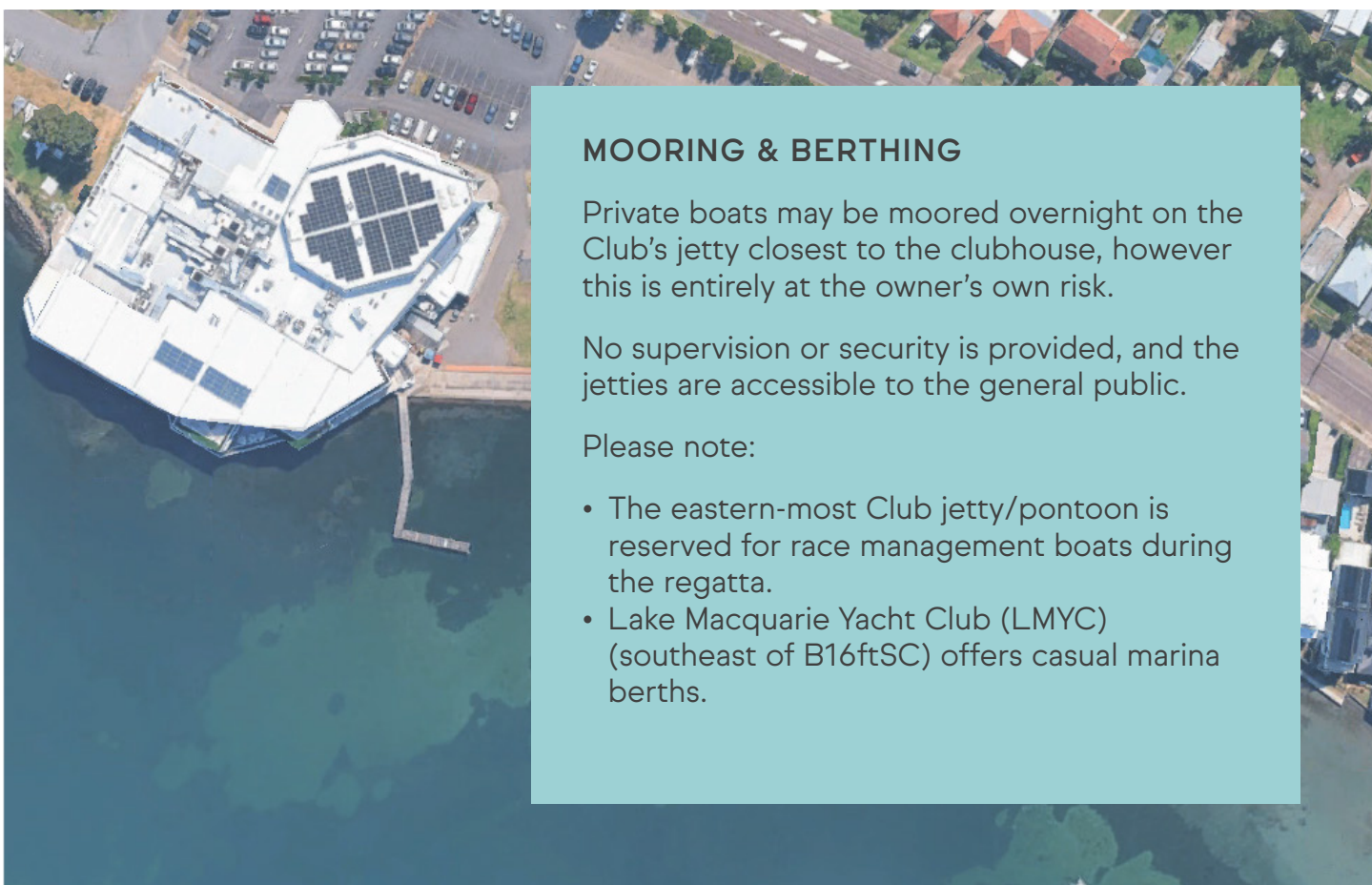
Public Launching Ramps:

- Pelican – End of Naru Rd (off Pacific Hwy)
- Pelican – End of Soldiers Rd (off Pacific Hwy)
- Swansea – Thomas Humphreys Reserve, end of Channel St (off Pacific Hwy)
- Valentine – Bennett Park, off Dilkera Ave
- Eleebana – NW end of Thomas Halton Park, off Bareki Rd (opposite Moani St)
- Eleebana – Warners Bay Lions Park, off Bareki Rd (opposite Glad Gunson Dr)

RE-FUELLING

Marks Point Marina (located directly south across Belmont Bay from B16ftSC) offers:

- Fuel
- Ice
- Chandlery supplies
- Mechanical and shipwright repairs



MOORING & BERTHING

Private boats may be moored overnight on the Club's jetty closest to the clubhouse, however this is entirely at the owner's own risk.

No supervision or security is provided, and the jetties are accessible to the general public.

Please note:

- The eastern-most Club jetty/pontoon is reserved for race management boats during the regatta.
- Lake Macquarie Yacht Club (LMYC) (southeast of B16ftSC) offers casual marina berths.

Rigging Area

We have two main rigging areas available: the larger area to the east of the main clubhouse, and the area in front of the Brian Ellis Boat Shed. Boats are also permitted to rig and launch on the Council land to the west of the main clubhouse.

RIGGING AREA RESTRICTIONS

Please note that no boats are permitted to rig in the Emergency Zone (highlighted in red on diagram below). This area must remain clear to ensure access for emergency vehicles and all club rescue resources.

Do not rig on paved driveways or in front of the loading dock. Trucks must have ample room to reverse into the loading dock, so please ensure the area is kept clear. Additionally, please avoid blocking any driveways.

Please rig on the concrete apron closest to the water and on the grey carpeted areas, and keep the boat ramp clear for launching and retrieval. Your cooperation helps keep everyone safe and operations running smoothly.





Racing Area

At Belmont 16s, we are fortunate to have direct access to the beautiful Belmont Bay, providing the perfect backdrop for all of our club and event racing. This unique waterfront location allows spectators, families, and friends to experience the thrill of the races while enjoying the comfort and facilities of the club. The positioning of the racecourse, just a stone's throw from the club, ensures that no spectator misses a moment of the action. Whether you're watching from the comfort of the club or cheering from the waterfront, Belmont 16s offers an unparalleled racing experience.

Schedule of Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME/FIRST WARNING SIGNAL	LOCATION
SUN 4 JAN	Measurement /Registration	08:00 – 11:00 hrs	
SUN 4 JAN	Briefing Conference and AGM	12:00 hrs 12:30 hrs	
SUN 4 JAN	Invitation Race	14:55 hrs*	Southeast View
MON 5 JAN	Race 1	Race 1 14:25 hrs*	Boatshed Bar
TUES 6 JAN	Race 2 Race 3*	Race 2 14:00 hrs* Race 3 15:00 hrs*	Boatshed Bar
WED 7 JAN	Race 4 Race 5*	Race 4 14:00 hrs* Race 5 15:00 hrs*	Southeast View
THURS 8 JAN	Reserve Day		
FRI 9 JAN	Race 6 Race 7*	Race 6 14:00 hrs* Race 7 15:00 hrs*	Southeast View
SAT 10 JAN	Race 8	Race 8 14:25 hrs*	Boatshed Bar
SUN 11 JAN	Race 9 Presentation Night	Race 9 13:30 hrs*18:00 hrs	Auditorium

* Warning signal, the race will not occur before the time indicated.





Social Events

SUNDAY, 4TH JANUARY – WELCOME FUNCTION

5:00pm in the Southeast View Room

WEDNESDAY, 7TH JANUARY – LADIES DAY

1:00pm in the Southeast View Room

Join us for an afternoon of canapes, cocktails and dancing, all while supporting and enjoying the racing action.

<https://www.trybooking.com/DGYCX>

FRIDAY, 9TH JANUARY – OLD BUFFERS DAY

1:00pm in the Southeast View Room

A Day dedicated to the legends of sailing. Join us for a laid-back afternoon of stories and laughs. While enjoying all the racing action.

<https://www.trybooking.com/DHJNB>

SUNDAY, 11TH JANUARY – PRESENTATION NIGHT

6:00pm in the Auditorium

Join Us for the 2026 Skelcon 16ft and 13ft Australian Skiff Championship Presentation! It's time to celebrate the highlights, honour the champions, and enjoy the week that was!

Come dressed in your best Hawaiian ensemble and embrace the island spirit — think aloha shirts, leis, and plenty of colour. Join us for an evening of fun, laughter, and celebration as we wrap up an incredible week of sailing at Belmont 16s!"

<https://www.trybooking.com/DGVTO>

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. WHAT IF I ARRIVE AT BELMONT EARLY & WISH TO GO FOR A SAIL?

- A. As noted above, the Flying 11 Nationals will be held at Belmont 16s the week prior finishing up on Friday 2nd January. Therefore, anyone wishing to go for a sail during this time we ask to utilize the lawn on the Western side of the club and do not use the club rigging lawn or car park. No trailers are permitted to be stored in car park prior to Sunday 4th January. Competitors that wish to go for a sail on Saturday 3rd January are asked to remove their trailer from car park.

Q. WHAT IF I NEED URGENT ACCESS TO SOMETHING IN MY TRAILER WHEN RIGGING?

- A. Your trailer will be within reach of your boat, designated trailer parking is within the grounds of the Belmont 16ft Sailing Club car park and a mere 100 metres from Eastern Rigging area and 200 metres from Middle rigging area.

Q. IS THERE A SAIL MAKER IN THE AREA FOR REPAIRS?

- A. Yes Belmont 16s is fortunate to have multiple sail makers in the area and are involved with Skiff sailing
- East Coast Marine and Sails
 - TSails
 - Ullman Sails
 - MEB Sails
 - Lake Mac Marine

Q. WHERE CAN I BUY BOAT PARTS & MAINTENANCE ITEMS?

- A. RTM at Bennetts Green is closest. In addition, Whitworths Marine is located at Lambton NSW, approximately 25-30 minutes away. Marine Outlet located at Morriset, NSW.

Q. ARE THERE ANY OTHER PUBLIC CAR PARK & BOAT RAMP FACILITIES THAT WE CAN USE FOR RIGGING?

- A. There are other public areas along the foreshore that may be suitable for rigging. However, we cannot guarantee security throughout the week and or parking availability.



Q. IS THERE A COURTESY BUS RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE WEEK FOR EASE OF PARKING AND EVENTS?

A. Yes. A courtesy bus will be available throughout the week, allowing sailors, spectators, volunteers, and supporters to leave their cars at home and help ease parking during this busy period. You can book the courtesy bus by texting 0418431731.

Q. WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION AND BUY TICKETS?

A. More information on the Presentation night, spectator boat and merchandise can be found on our event website. Tickets and regatta t-shirts can be purchased here.

<https://skiffs.org.au/event/2026-australian-skiff-championships/>

Regular updates regarding the event are also provided on the Belmont 16ft Sailing Club Facebook page and shared on the Aussie Skiffs page. We encourage you to follow these pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/AussieSkiffs>
<https://www.facebook.com/Belmont16ftSailingClub/>

Communication protocols for competitors regarding the regatta will be managed by the ASSA.



Canteen Details & Opening Times

The canteen is conveniently located next door to the Brian Ellis Boat Shed and offers a variety of drinks, coffee and lights snacks. The canteen will be open daily during the Championship.

CHAMPIONSHIP PERIOD DAILY HOURS

Sunday 4th January: 10:00am – 2:00pm
Monday 5th January to Friday 9th January : 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM
Saturday 10th January: 11:00am – 1:30pm
Sunday 11th January : 11:00am – 1:00pm

Note: The canteen will be closed on Thursday 8th January due to scheduled Reserve Day.





Club Information

Join our Club online before you arrive at www.16s.com.au/join to enjoy member benefits including 10% off food and beverages on the ground floor, exclusive meal deals, loyalty points that convert to dollars, and eligible entry into our the Thursday members' draws.

CLUB LOCATION

The Parade, Belmont NSW 2280 Located right on the shores of Lake Macquarie.

Opening Hours

Monday – Thursday: 9am till late

Friday – Saturday: 9am till late

Sunday: 9am till late

Club access hours may vary during regatta week.

DRESS CODE

Casual style is welcome, however:

- Footwear and shirts must be worn at all times
- Wet clothing or sailing gear is not permitted inside
- Standard Club dress codes apply in dining areas

MINORS

All minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult while in the Club at all times and must be offsite by 10pm.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Wheelchair access is available throughout the Club
- Ramp access is located at the main entrance
- AED (defibrillator) machines are located in the Brian Ellis Boat Shed and inside the Club

PETS

Please note, no dogs or other pets are permitted within the Club.

SMOKING

Designated smoking areas are provided, please ask our friendly team for directions.

Club Dining & Entertainment

The Club offers a variety of dining experiences for every taste, from casual lakeside eats to contemporary dining.

BLEND CAFÉ

A relaxed, walk-in café offering coffee, light bites, and sweet treats. No bookings required. Open 9am till late, 7 days.

THE BOAT SHED SPORTS BAR & BURGER BROS

Walk-in dining with family-friendly favourites. During peak times, bookings are recommended for groups of 6 or more.

Dinner Wednesday - Sunday
Lunch Saturday and Sunday

SALT KITCHEN & SAILS EATERY

A showcase of fresh local produce and modern Australian flavours. Perfect for larger bookings, up to 30 guests.

Lunch and Dinner, 7 days.



MARTHA

Casual Contemporary dining, Italian influence and classic cocktails.

\$49 pasta and cocktail special
Thursday dinner and Friday lunch!

Thursday - Saturday Dinner
Friday - Sunday - Lunch

To view menus
and book a table,
click here

[https://linktr.ee/
belmont16s](https://linktr.ee/belmont16s)



Weekly Entertainment

Join us for free live entertainment and Club events throughout the week.

LIVE MUSIC

Every Friday and Saturday night

TRIVIA NIGHT

Wednesday evenings (free to play!)

MEMBERS DRAW & RAFFLES

Thursday nights

SUNDAY VARIETY RAFFLE

1:30pm

View all the details here

<https://linktr.ee/belmont16s>



Local Information

NEARBY ESSENTIALS

Nearest Hospital: Belmont Hospital
(Croudace Bay Rd, Belmont)

Nearest Chemist: Priceline Pharmacy,
Belmont Central Shopping Centre

ATM: Located within the Club

Please be respectful of our neighbours by keeping noise and access clear when leaving the Club or surrounding areas late at night.





Our Club Legacy

Founded in 1922, Belmont 16ft Sailing Club has been a cornerstone of Australian sailing for over a century. As one of the nation's most respected sailing venues, the Club continues to nurture the sport through youth programs, world-class regattas, and a strong community spirit.

We invite visiting sailors and supporters to learn more about our sailing programs and the Belmont 16s Sailing Foundation, which funds youth development and racing initiatives.

Learn more or contribute here: Belmont 16s Sailing Foundation Page

<https://16s.com.au/sailing/foundation/>

Media Notice

Throughout the regatta, Club staff and official photographers will be capturing photos and video footage.

If you do not wish to be photographed, please notify Regatta Manager Nadine Steenson during the event.



Sponsors



Skelcon.

SKELCON

Skelcon is a leading Newcastle-based construction and fit-out company known for quality craftsmanship and innovative design. They specialise in commercial, hospitality, and architectural projects that blend functionality with style. Belmont 16s proudly partnered with Skelcon to deliver our 2026 Australian 13ft and 16ft Championships.

<https://skelcon.com.au/>

PIRTEK NEWCASTLE

Pirtek Fluid Systems Australia is proud to be a leader in innovative fluid transfer solutions, with a commitment to engineering excellence, combined with a strong focus on safety.



AJ McDONNELL ELECTRICAL

AJ McDonnell Electrical is a trusted Newcastle-based company delivering high-quality electrical services across residential, commercial, and industrial projects.



AIR EXTREME AIR CONDITIONING

Are you looking for a local residential and commercial air conditioning specialist that cares about your air? Hunter Based Air Extreme!

FRONTLINE SAFETY/MUSTO

Frontline Safety is an Australian-owned company with over 24 years of experience supplying high-quality, reliable equipment and apparel.



CJR CONCRETE CONSTRUCTIONS

CJR Group Pty Ltd is a licensed, family-owned concreting and steel shed construction company, known for quality, durable, and visually striking projects across the Northern Rivers of NSW and SE QLD.

ALLEN BROTHERS

Allen Brothers is a world leader in precision-engineered sailing hardware, founded in the 1950s by brothers Tony and Glenn Allen. Inspired by their passion for sailing and innovation.



