

December News



As this year comes to an end, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you every happiness this Christmas Season and prosperity in the New Year.

Below you will find our latest news including stories of the launch our new J/122 demonstrator 'Jackpot', the J/80 Invitational Regatta in Xiamen China, and the release of two exciting new models – the J/95 and J/97

Have a great Christmas from Ray & Sandra at YachtSpot – home of J Boats in Australia.

The J/122 has arrived in Sydney

The J/122 'Jackpot' hit the water in November after a seamless commissioning at Noakes-Woolwich Dock. "The keel and keel bolts aligned perfectly with the keel sump and hull, the Grand Prix Sparcraft mast went together straight out of the box, and the BSI toggles on the rigging are an excellent feature, making rig tuning a simple task."

Ian Short has developed a beautiful set of carbon sails which were fitted late one Wednesday afternoon, just in time for a shake down sail with Greenwich Flying Squadrons twilight race. "We allowed 30 minutes to fine tune the sails and rig prior to the race, but it wasn't required. The sails fitted perfectly, and 'Jackpot' went on to win line honours just 4-up. "She sailed beautifully, with the conditions varying between 10-25knots, as they do on the west side of the harbour bridge. The non-overlapping jib makes for easy tacking, and allows the yacht to sail in a wide wind range with little adjustment. What a joy to finally have her sides wet, we could have sailed under the bridge and kept going – we were all loving it"



'Jackpot' joined in with RSYS Spring series race in mid December, and had an excellent race in blustery 20-25knot NW winds. "We held off the Sydney 60 for the first 3 marks, kept in front of the Jutson 52 for 2.5 hours until they retired, and the 20m Americas Cup yacht 'Kookaburra' only managed to sneak by on the last beat to the finish. It was a great race ziz-zagging all over the harbour, the ease of handling the kite during the gybes and low sheet loadings allowed the crew to stay on the ball for the entire race. We finished 3rd over the line behind 2 much larger yachts, and came in ahead of like 40footers by more than 20 minutes.

She is stunning to sail and handles like a dream. We had more than 13 knots of boat speed out of her on many occasions, and were able to carry the non-overlapping no.1 headsail up to 22 knots. We will have her competing on the race circuit in the New Year. She'll be joined by another Sydney based J/122 in March, being the 3rd to Australia and the 70th worldwide."

If you'd like to see the J/122 'Jackpot' then call or email and we'll gladly show her off.



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J/80 Regatta in Xiamen China

The Inaugural J/80 Regatta was hosted by J Boats Asia / J World in Xiamen, China in early November. The regatta was organised to celebrate the first J/80's to be built in the new factory and the opening of J World Sailing School in Xiamen.

The regatta was attended by 10 teams from around the globe. Jeff Johnstone (CEO of J Boats Inc) competed with Team USA, and also gave his time and experience to pass on some great tips for sailing this 8m sports boat.

Jeff Brown and his team at J Boats Asia/J World did a remarkable job of organising the regatta. The facilities and venue at J World were first class.



The J/80 is a lively, responsive yet simple to sail sports boat. It has been extremely popular world wide, with nearly 1200 built to date. The opening of the factory in Xiamen will allow the J/80 to become a stronger player in the southern hemisphere and provide the opportunity to build some great class racing.

The Xiamen factory is run by US management and quality control. The first 10 J/80's raced were a testament to the time and effort the team has put into producing a top-quality boat. The racing at Xiamen was excellent. The course was held in the Wuyuan Bay area, and each day had perfect breezes in the range between 10-20 knots.

The crews were of mixed skills and experience but everyone found the J/80 a boat which would perform and yet remain in control if pushed to the extremes, but also be easily manageable yet still exciting for those on the learning curve. "It was the first time on a J/80 for all of us, and when the asymmetric kite went up for the first time, and we hit 11.3 knots in 15 knots of breeze, it was a case of 'uh-oh what do we do now', but the J/80 just hopped up onto the plane and flew across the water. We couldn't wait to get to the top mark to do it all over again".

Congratulations to Team Belgium for winning the regatta.

In local news, congratulations to 'Aquaholic' a Sydney based J/80. 'Aquaholic' competed in the 24hour 'Heaven Can Wait' Race on Lake Macquarie over the October long weekend. The crew sailed the J/80 up the east coast from Sydney to Lake Macquarie (about 60nm) in order to compete in the charity event

The configuration of the J/80 allows for mixed crew of all ages and is the only sports boat which is rated Category B. (A pair of Swedes sailed one across the Atlantic this year!)

New Release J/97 – Cruiser Racer

		US (ft)	Metric
	LOA	31.63	9.64
	LWL	26.60	8.11
	Beam	11.00	3.35
	Draft	6.30	1.92
	Displmt	7,990	3,624
	Sail Area	501	46.6
	Engine	18 hp	18 hp



The "J/97" is the first J in over two decades under 32' to combine 6' headroom and family cruising accommodations in a high performance, easily driven hull. With the handling ease of an asymmetric spinnaker and non-overlapping headsails, the J/97 promises to be J Boats' most versatile design yet under 35' to fit the needs of today's sailing families, both young and old alike.

The key to creating a versatile sailboat is staying focused on the quality of the sailing experience, a trait shared by all J designs. Boats that are easily driven, easily handled, and genuinely fun to sail provide greater long-term "sailing value" to their owners than designs driven by the latest rating rule (remember....rules change) or designs that are over-compromised to meet the latest styling trends. Form usually follows function in good sailboat design, and the J/97 is no exception.

At first glance, the J/97 bears a family resemblance to the J/109 and J/122, two highly successful collaborations between the J Boats design team and J Europe of Les Sables D'Olonne, France. Like its larger siblings, the J/97 is all about delivering a fun and satisfying sailing experience, whether daysailing, single-handing, cruising or racing.

The cockpit features full length seats with back rests, tiller steering, and a unique, partially open transom that incorporates life-raft storage. All the key controls are within reach of the helmsperson. A retractable bow sprit with masthead asymmetric spinnaker allows great all-around performance without the need for numerous skilled crew. The low VCG keel provides exceptional upwind stability while being cruising friendly with a swept back leading edge and moderate draft.

The interior layout is designed for one or two couple cruising and includes a spacious main cabin with two settees, galley, forward-facing navigation station; plus an enclosed aft head, V-berth, and aft owner's cabin. Cruising stowage includes a large "garage" aft of the head (accessed through the cockpit seat locker).


J/97 hull #1 has just debuted at the Paris Boat Show (Salon Nautique) in early December.

New Release J/95... Sails in 3 feet of Water

This elegant 31 foot design offers a new level of sailing joy, and broadens the daysailing and weekend horizons of those living on the many shallow bays, lakes and rivers of the Australian waterways.

Because it's a J Boat, you know the J/95 will be a great sailing and seaworthy boat in any depth of water. The latest in modern hull design with long waterline is combined with a carbon fibre mast and low VCG (vertical centre of gravity) lead keel containing a fully retractable centreboard. The result is an exceptionally fast and stable boat capable of sailing in 3 feet of water. The J/95 will outperform existing, deeper-draft keel dayboats of the retro "pretty" genre by a wide margin and in many cases at a fraction of the cost. The J/95 offers the best of both worlds.

The J/95 features a comfortable T-shaped cockpit (the same size as the 40 foot J/122) with removable transom locker, wheel steering, a retractable bow sprit in a hidden housing for some downwind fun with masthead asymmetric spinnaker, two berths for the occasional overnight adventure, enclosed marine head, and a 15 hp diesel auxiliary saildrive to get you home if the wind dies. The J/95 is unique in that it's designed to sail well on all points whether in "shoal" mode with board up or in "deep" mode with the board down. If one does run aground, the centre board will pivot up creating potentially far less damage than what would be expected with a deep keel or vertical dagger board grounding. For those sailors who live near shoal water areas simply not reachable with most keelboats, the J/95 offers a solution that looks and performs beautifully.

		US (ft)	Metric
	LOA	31.20	9.51
	LWL	28.40	8.66
	Beam	10.00	3.05
	Draft	3.0'/5.5'	0.92/1.68
	Displmt	6,000	2,722
	Sail Area	450	41.8
	Engine	15 hp	15 hp

