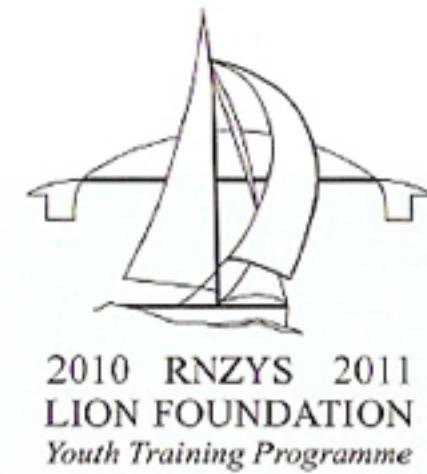




YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAMME REPORT by Guy Pilkington



They are FAST!

That's how our Youth Programme members are describing the new Elliott 7's.

After lots of hard work and planning, the new fleet was launched on Sunday 30th May.

They far exceed all my expectations and my first sail was a Rum Race on Friday 11th June with designer Greg Elliott and John Clinton from Southern Spars. We had a great race and definitely thoroughly enjoyed the first sail – plus we finished 1st on Handicap!

The first day of sailing for the Youth Training Programme was Sunday 13th June. I have to own up to being nervous, excited and relieved at the same time. We left the dock with a forecast of 15 – 20 knots, but once we got into our drills and sailing we were surprised by a couple of 35 knots gusts! All the trainees handled the boats very well and came out of day one with no damage and plenty of large smiles!

Having larger boats this year, we have deliberately limited the programme to eight boats with four crew, plus the chaseboat / reserve crew.

Some of the initial comments from the trainees;

Dan Pooley, Helmsman #1 International: "They really are a lot more exciting. You have a lot more on. We had our first harbour race and we came 3rd. They are a hell of a lot faster. Everyone is still working out their systems – but my crew are pretty good!"

Codie Banks, Helmsman #5. Whiting Power Systems: "They are a lot more powered-up and a lot more exciting! The helmsman can't do as much because everything is further away. We had good fun in the harbour race, but trawled the kite then came last – it was a REALLY good trawl!"

Danielle Bowater, Helmsman #3 Telecom: "I think the best way to describe them is

really FAST!"

Nick Oxborrow, Trimmer #3 Telecom: "The new Elliott 7's are well made, comfortable and surprisingly fast and manoeuvrable, planing readily. The small step up from the 6's makes for a challenging race boat. Probably the best youth training fleet in the world."

Jack Taylor, Bow #6 Western Mailing: "I feel like an astronaut because they go like rocket ships."

The Elliott 6's have now arrived in Noumea and I will be there from 24th – 29th June, working with the team at the CNC Yacht Club to assist with setting up the fleet and completing the final handover.

Once again our thanks to the Lion Foundation, all the boat sponsors and suppliers, Greg Elliott and Yachting Developments for this exciting new fleet, which will serve the Youth Programme well into the future.

Guy Pilkington

