

Article - Doug Jeffkins' Experimental Skate
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NEW SKATE WINS

An experimental, wide version of the Skate won the Upper River Championship at the weekend. Named *Jo* and sailed by Doug Jeffkins from Speers Point, she scored two firsts and a fifth in the series.

Another northern waters boat, *Zephyr* (Peter Reilly) from Gosford, was second with local boat *Peta* (Rob Lowndes) third.

The championship was staged by Concord-Ryde club. Conditions ranged

from a dead calm to about 15 knots.

For *Jo* it was her first championship win. Until the weekend she had not proved as successful as had been hoped. *Jo* was designed to give the larger crews a chance against the more agile youngsters who perch precariously at the end of long swinging planks. She was originally designed with a trapeze,

but this was replaced with a short plank.

Peta's performance was disappointing. Rob Lowndes just couldn't find form. On Saturday he fell over the side, climbed back aboard and broke the tiller. Running repairs were made only just before the hull opened up and she began to sink. *Peta* scored two seconds in Sunday's races.

"*Peta*" sailed by Rob Lowndes and Les Dutton anchors to windward in Sunday's third heat of the Upper River Championship. "*Peta*" features quite full Hamilton sails and a stiff, deep boom. She finished third in the championship.

