



The Mosquito has been around now for over 40 years and for all that time its performance has been shown to be consistently good for a 4.9 metre catamaran, often beating much newer designs around the course. The Mosquito is a restricted class rather than a strict one design, which has allowed the class to take advantage of developments in hull shape and sail design over the years. This continued development and the light hull weight combine to make the current Mosquitoes very efficient and competitive over a very wide range of conditions.



The Mosquito can be sailed cat (single-handed) or sloop rigged (with crew) on the same VYC handicap of 84. When raced with the spinnaker the VYC handicap is 80. The largest Mosquito numbers are currently seen in Victoria, South Australia, and South Africa.

In Victoria there has been strong growth in the class over the last few seasons with Mosquitoes now regularly outnumbering most other classes at open regattas. The South African fleet have been very active with the development of the spinnaker over the last five seasons (they are a 100% spinnaker class there) and the Mosquito is now the sole representative for the F16 class in that part of the world.

One of the big attractions of the Mosquito is the price. A brand new set of carbon or Kevlar composite hulls cost around \$8000. This combined with the low cost mast and beam sections supplied by the Association means a complete new boat with Mylar sails can be on the water for around \$15,000 (less if you want to do some of the rigging yourself). Alternatively a competitive second-hand boat can be obtained for under \$7,000. The standard Mosquito delivers price-for-performance but when you add the spinnaker and equipment, for just \$1500 more, there is no competition.

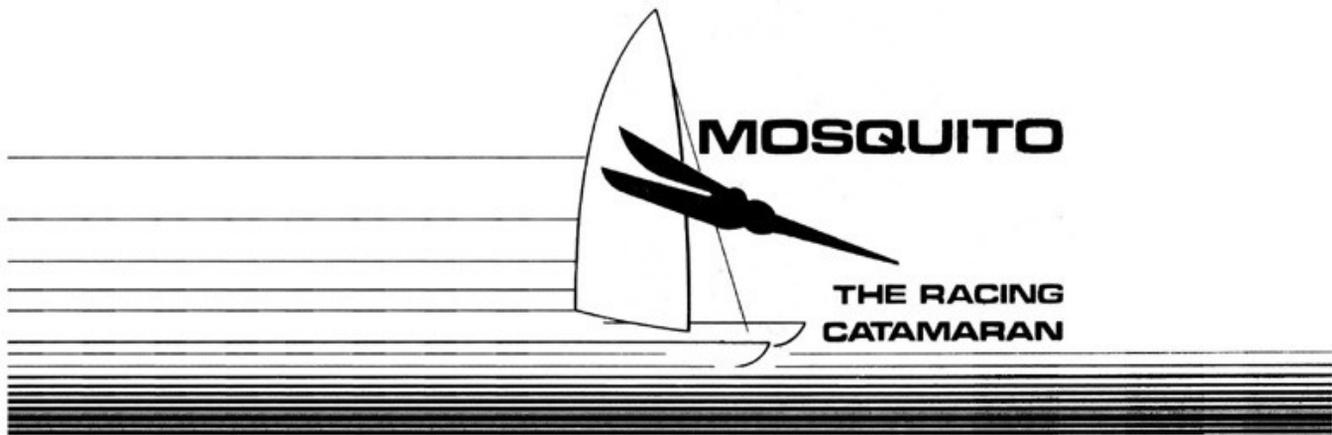
|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| VYC handicap (cat or sloop rigged) | 84          |
| VYC handicap with spinnaker        | 80          |
| Cost on the water, new             | \$14-18,000 |

## Platform and rigging

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Hull length       | 4.9m (16ft) |
| Beam              | 2.185m      |
| Weight (platform) | 55kg        |
| Weight (sailing)  | 90kg        |
| Mast height       | 7.36m       |

## Sails

| Sail      | Area m <sup>2</sup> | Area ft <sup>2</sup> |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Main      | 12.76               | 136.4                |
| Jib       | 3.34                | 35.99                |
| Spinnaker | ~14.2               | ~152.7               |



Mosquitoes can be home built from plywood but for most people a foam-sandwich boat is the preferred option. Foam Mosquitoes are typically built from glass with carbon reinforcement but other combinations are permitted including complete Kevlar and carbon hulls. New Mosquito hulls are currently being built from the Denholm mould and platforms and complete boats can be arranged through Peter Cobden and Philip Warren-Smith.

Over the last five seasons, seventeen new foam-sandwich Mosquitoes were launched, eight rigged with spinnakers.

| Contact                             | Phone                        | Options  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Peter Cobden<br>Philip Warren-Smith | 03 5441 1519<br>03 9898 6107 | Complete boat ready-to-sail, or any preferred combination of platform rigging and hulls. |

For those keen on woodwork it is possible to produce competitive, down-to-weight plywood boats from your own garage. If you have the time and inclination this is a rewarding and cost-saving way to obtain new hulls.

There are state Mosquito associations in Victoria, South Australia and a combined East Coast Mosquito Association in NSW and QLD. There are also national associations in Australia and South Africa. The Australian associations have been running state and national championships continuously since 1972 and are suppliers for mast sections, beam sections, tuning manuals, plans and assorted Mosquito clothing.

For comprehensive information concerning all aspects of Mosquito sailing go to the VMCA web site at:

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~mosquito>

## Spinnakers

The spinnaker has been under development on Mosquitoes since 2000. Whilst it is not yet used at State and National Titles, the spinnaker rig is being seen in action at more and more open events. The Mosquito is part of the growing F16 movement and is dispensated for being underweight according to the F16 box rule. Complete rigging details are provided on the VMCA web site.



|                                    |              |   |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---|
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