

2004-2005 Australian National Cherub Championships

As published in *Australian Sailing*, April 2005

Melbourne sailors Brent Frankcombe and Paul Newman became the first Victorians in the 42-year history of the Cherub class to win the national championship.

The series, sailed on Botany Bay and hosted by Georges River SC, attracted 40 boats from five states. For the first time, the championship featured a mix of long and short course racing, resulting in close competition, with all five states fielding a representative in the final top ten.

Veteran Belmont crew Trevor Fay and Michael Duggan showed good speed early, winning four of the first five races, losing one win through disqualification. At the halfway mark they looked the ones to beat, but the turning point came in heat six when Frankcombe and Newman sailed away from the fleet for a decisive win. With two days racing remaining, Frankcombe and Fay were on equal points. Frankcombe recorded then three straight wins to secure the championship, leaving Fay in second place.

Brothers David and Michael Von Felton from Perth Dinghy SC scored consistent top placings in all conditions to finish third and become the national Junior champions.

Former world Taser champion Russell Ford, with current Australian junior 12ft Skiff champion James Francis as crew, finished fourth. Top female skipper, Belmont's Caroline Phillips, sailed Snorkel, the most innovative boat at the regatta, featuring a boom vang that operates directly on the leech of the mainsail and showed outstanding speed to windward.

1. In God's Hands (B. Frankcombe / P. Newman, Vic), 7.5 pts;
2. Wally T. Fay / M. Duggan, NSW), 13.25,
3. Serenity Now (D. & M. Von Felten, WA), 18;
4. Laughing Sam's Dice (R. Ford / J. Francis, NSW), 28;
5. Moe's Tavern (J. Birdsall / J. Penney, NSW), 30,
6. Rush (R. & A. Menzies, NSW), 32;
7. Tradesman's Entrance (C. Anderson / A. Triggell, Qld), 48,
8. Camel Toe (A. Forbes/C. Booth, NSW), 60
9. Snorkell (C. Phillips /N. Hale, NSW), 64;
10. Dirty Sanchez (N. How / J. McLaren, SA), 69.



Cherub class winners Brent Frankcombe and Paul Newman on Botany Bay (Rod Vaughan/Labyrinth Photography picture).

Reproduced with the kind permission of *Australian Sailing* magazine
www.yaffa.com.au/mags/aslmag.htm