

1963 1964 Australian National Cherub Championships

By Bob Ross

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FIRST CHERUB TITLES

Phillip Island, Victoria

Western Australia scooped the pool at the first Australian Cherub class championships conducted by the Newhaven Yacht Squadron, Phillip Island, Victoria. Each of the five heats developed into a close struggle between Westerners who took the first four placings on final points. Placings for the leaders were: Cupid III (Gordon Wright, helm, and Garry Bisdee), 5,146, 1; O'Johnny (John Hurren, Lindsay Oldham), 4,419, 2; Schemer (Erroll Kilburn, Trevor Jolly), 4,142, 3; Satan (Dave Cuthbertson, Rod Mahon) 4,016, 4; Jason II (Robert Broadbent, John Broadbent), 3,382, 5.

The first four boats were from Mounts Bay Sailing Club. Jason II was best of the Queensland contingent of seven boats. Best Victorian was Challenger Too (John Mitchell, Bruce Talbot) who finished seventh. Several of the West Australian boats were sold to Newhaven Yacht Squadron members. New Zealanders Russell Botterill and Wayne Dillon, who bought Wattie's Pride to Newhaven for the championships following their appearance in the 12ft. Interdominion contest on Sydney Harbour, won a special invitation race by seven minutes using regulation Cherub rig. Russell Botterill said the standard at the championships was higher than they thought it would be. All the Australians lacked was competition. He felt sure an Interdominion Cherub contest would be started next season and would probably be held in Perth in conjunction with the Australian championships.



The fleet gets away at Phillip Island for a heat of the Australian Cherub Championship.

Newhaven Yacht Squadron Commodore, Percy Fraser, an official observer at the championships, had this to say: "There were quite a few reasons for the superiority of the Western Australians over the Victorians and Queenslanders. Firstly their crews were better experienced and teamed better, having sailed together as crews in various classes for a much longer period than ours. Their boats were lighter (as much as 40 lbs.) and better rigged and tuned. "Gear was cut to a minimum; where such things as

spinnaker pole end fittings could be eliminated, they were. Our lads tended to use the heavier conventional s.s. fittings rather than employ ingenuity in saving weight. Their hulls were down to the minimum weight. Also, their spinnaker drill was a pleasure to watch.

"However, the Cherub is a development class and this is certainly all to the good. The series did provide our lads with terrific experience, and it was interesting to note the improvements in times each day."

1964 Australian National "Cherub" Championships. Final results (24 competing boats)

<i>Placing</i>	<i>Sail No</i>	<i>- Boat</i>	<i>Helmsman</i>	<i>Crew</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>State</i>
1	601	Cupid III	G. Wright	G Bisdee	5146	W.A.
2	413	O'Johnny	J. Hurren	L. Oldham	4419	W.A.
3	414	Satan	E. Kilburn	T. Jolly	4142	W.A.
4	411	Schemer	D. Cuthbertson	R. Mahon	4016	W.A.
5	780	Jason II	R. Broadbent	J. Broadbent	3398	Q'ld.
6	404	Didjeridu	F. Nathan	B. Bennett	3222	W.A.
7	755	Challenger Too	J. Mitchell	B. Talbot	2720	Vic.
8	754	Promise	A. J. Hollins	J. Wood	2648	Vic.
9	776	Loyla	G. Smith	J. Smith	2486	Qld.
10	777	Glee II	D. Champion	K. Stuart	2368	Qld.

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