

1964 1965 Australian National Cherub Championships

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LUCAS HELD FIVE ACES

Perth's Gordon Lucas amazed everyone with his outstanding five heat victory. The international 12-foot is going places - fast.

Perth, Western Australia

Western Australia's Cherub Association conducted the Australian Cherub Championship from the Mounts Bay Sailing Club, situated at Crawly Bay on the Swan River. The carnival attracted 34 entries. Victoria nominated 6 boats; Queensland 2 and WA supplied the other 26 cherubs.

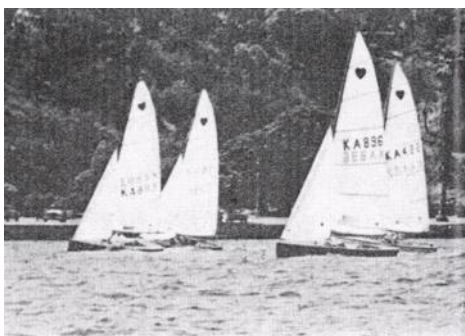
It was a successful carnival and produced a new champion, *Ace*, skippered by Gordon Lucas and crewed by Phil Arnold, who by winning five heats became the Australian Cherub Champions. The two boys combined very well and throughout the carnival, never appeared to make any mistakes. Their time to go about on the other tack seemed to take two or three seconds and the spinnaker hoist from 7 to 8 seconds. The two boys gave a polished exhibition of sailing, which allowed them to will the title from several other strong, top notch, junior combinations.

The carnival commenced with the invitation race, which was sailed in heat wave conditions, with the temperature over 100 degrees, and lack of wind made the unpleasant humid weather difficult to sail in. Many were unable to finish within the time limit, but a few managed to do so and on adjusted time the winner was *Sandra* (Ross Swanson WA) from *Cheetah* (Ian Yuther Vic) and *Shy-Anne* (Miss A. Ballantyne WA).

So Light

There was a light 4 knot sou' west breeze for the start of the first heat and out of the 30 starters only two failed to finish. The winner was *Ace* (WA) sailed by 16 year old Gordon Lucas, who crossed the finishing line with a 4 minute advantage over *Cascade* (John Cassidy WA) and *Schemer* (Errol Kilburn WA) third.

The heat wave was still going strong for the second heat and all the crews had to work hard for their placings in the hot humid conditions. From a good start Gordon Lucas quickly had *Ace* (WA) out in front to lead at the first mark by 55 seconds from *Cupid IV* (Gordon Wright WA), *Schemer* (Errol Kilburn WA), *Sandra* (Ross Swanson WA) and *Cascade* (John Cassidy WA). After passing the Heathcote and Deepwater Spits, *Ace* still held the 55 second advantage over *Cupid IV*, with the other leaders not far away. Reaching the top mark at Bricklanding, *Ace* had increased her lead to 1 1/2 minutes. On the run to Deepwater on the way home, *Schemer* surprised with a burst of speed, which displaced *Cupid IV* for second place and she began to close the gap on the leader. Back at King Buoy for the second time, Gordon Lucas jibed *Ace* (WA) neatly for the run to the Outer Dolphin and maintained her lead to Knott Spit and down to the Quarles Buoy. On the beat back *Ace* made good time to the finishing line to will the heat from *Schemer* (WA) and *Cupid IV* (WA).



Start of first heat. Thirty-one Cherubs from three States competed. These boats have international (KA) status.



Ace (Gordon Lucas and Phil Arnold) winners of Australian Senior, Junior and Cadet Cherub Championships. In this heat she was the only

Heat Off and On

The heat wave relented for the third heat and the yachts had to contend with a moderate sea breeze of about 20 knots. It was thought by many that the stronger conditions would not suit the consistent *Ace*, but this was not so, because she revelled in the heavier going. *Cupid IV*, however, led at the first mark

and was closely followed by *Ace*, *Schemer* and *Cascade*. But on the reach to the Heathcote mark, *Ace* passed *Cupid IV* and held the lead for the remainder of the race. On the way back to Deepwater, *Cupid IV* had spinnaker trouble and capsized twice, and not to be outdone *Cascade* also took a tumble at King Buoy. While all this was going on *Ace* quietly completed the course to win the third heat, which gave her the Australian Cherub Championship, although there were still two heats to sail. Frank Nathan sailed *Digeridu* (WA) very well to finish second ahead of *Schemer* and *Cupid IV*.

Full Gale

The fourth heat was sailed in winds over 30 mph and gusting up to 40. In these conditions the Victorians decided not to start and only 17 yachts faced the starter. Of this number only six completed the course. All capsized, some several times, except *Ace*, and needless to say no spinnakers were used by anyone off the wind. The six crews, who completed the course, accomplished a tough assignment. Gordon Lucas' handling of *Ace* with his crewman, Phil Arnold, was amazing, and at no stage of the race did *Ace* look like capsizing. The further *Ace* sailed, the further it went ahead to finally cross the line nearly 15 minutes ahead of *Schemer*, who filled second place in front of *Satan* (D. Cuthbertson WA), *Diacritic*, *Telstar* (P. Stanley WA) and *Sandra* (R. Swanson WA).

The breeze relented for the fifth and final heat and was on the light side. *Cupid IV* jumped out at the start of the fifth and last heat and led the fleet to the first mark at Heathcote. She did not hold it for long, because the slippery *Ace* moved out in front and amazed everyone by gaining a 5 minute lead when she reached King Buoy. With such a lead so early in the race, the result was never in doubt and left the placings to be fought out by *Schemer*, *Digeridu*, *Cupid IV*, and *Cascade*, who finished in that order.

To win all five heats is an exceptional performance and gave Gordon Lucas and Phil Arnold three titles -The Australian Cherub Senior, Junior and Cadet Championships, quite an armful for boys of 16 years. Others to sail well were runner up Errol Killburn (*Schemer*), Frank Nathan (*Digeridu*), Gordon Wright (*Cupid IV*), John Cassidy (*Cascade*) and Dave Cuthbertson (*Satan*).

The visitors did not have sufficient experience to seriously challenge the strong local crews, but learned a lot that will be useful in the future - particularly sailing in the short chop common to the Swan River.

FINAL POINTS

1	ACE	Gordon Lucas	WA	6628
2	SCHEMER	E. Kilburn	WA	5248
3	DIGERIDU	F. Nathan	WA	4521
4	CUPID IV	G. Wright	WA	4072
5	CASCADE	J. Cassidy	WA	3595
6	SATAN	D. Cuthbertson	WA	3461
7	SANDRA	R. Swanson	WA	3324
8	TELSTAR	P. Stanley	WA	3102
9	BORIC II	E. Connelly	WA	2674
10	KIAH	D. Underwood,	WA	2435
11	O'JOHNNY IV	J. Hurren,	WA	2402
12	WINDSONG	J. English,	WA	2073
13	CHEETAH II	I.Yuther,	Vic	1892
14	CUPID III	B. Wright,	WA	1887
15	GAZELLE	G. Swallow,	Vic	1784
16	EGRETT	B. Hart,	WA	1652
17	CHEROB II	R. Moat,	Vic	1470
18	KIA ORA	M. McCuller,	WA	1412
19	LOYOLA	D. Hyland,	Vic	1390
20	BOOMERANG 11	P. Tyrrell,	Qld	1390
21	FRAGMENT	D. Ohrt,	WA	1271
22	ROJEMAR MISS	D. Johnson,	WA	1257
23	ALOHA	B. Johnson,	WA	1084
24	SHY ANNE	Miss A. Ballantyne,	WA	982
25	IGUANA	K. Wallace,	WA	937
26	GLEE	D. West,	Qld	713
27	CHEERS	Miss P. Taylor,	Vic	602
28	CHEEKY	Miss T. Taylor,	Vic	588
29	ANGELIQUE	W. Marchetti,	WA	586
30	SCAMP	G. Collins,	WA	511
31	DAZZ	D. Kilburn	WA	457

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