

1968 1969 Australian National Cherub Championships

and 1969 Interdominion Championship.

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Parkdale, Victoria

Parkdale Yacht Club, Victoria, was the venue for the Australian Cherub championships, in which 60 boats from six States sailed in five heats on boisterous Port Phillip Bay. As the Inter-Dominion Cherub championships were held immediately afterwards, it was a tall order for club officials, but they stuck to their task and the races were well conducted, but not without a few incidents which may have had a bearing on results. With WA's ace, Gordon Lucas, three times Australian champion, now sailing in Flying Dutchmen, there had to be a new champion, and in the stiff conditions



The Australian Cherub champions, the Cerutty brothers of Tasmania, rigging Dai-Jo at Parkdale YC, Victoria.

at Parkdale it might well have been a WA boat. However, Parkdale's choppy seas in a southerly are always a big force, and in the white water, surfboard riding experience was very handy. Four out of the five races were held in winds over 15 mph and the Cerutty brothers in *Dai-Jo*, from Austin's Ferry YC, Tasmania, used their surfboard riding experience to adapt successfully to the conditions at Parkdale. It seems probable that their combined weight of 21 stone in a hull built by their father with maximum beam aft contributed to their success, as the boat flew off the wind in the good breezes. They took out the title by a good margin of points after dropping a retirement in the last heat.

Last year's runner-up, *GL II* (Ian Lindsay and Keith Barrow), from NSW, scored a second in the first race, but thereafter had a bad series through ill luck. They were holed at the start of the third heat, from which they had to retire when their foreward tank filled, and another mishap in the fourth heat caused their retirement for the second time. The second heat was won by WA boat, *Lovable* (M. Raphael), while the Cerutty boys finished second. Many books could be filled with hard luck stories about the third heat. In all races the finishing line was set up in view of the clubhouse, but on this particular occasion the receding tide and increasing wind (about 30 mph) turned the finishing line into a maelstrom over sand bars. To their credit, the Cerutty's won this race, while the consistent *Celeste* from WA (M. Wall) filled second place.

Many of the fleet went over right and left on the finishing line with resultant damage to masts and gear. In fact, only half the fleet finished this race, which was a disaster for many of them. The following day was a well used lay-day and most of the fleet got to the starting line for the fourth heat, which was sailed in milder conditions, with *Celeste* the winner, followed by *Dai-Jo*. Local star, Bill Vaughan, in *Jester*, took third place to chalk up the best Victorian performance of the whole series. The fifth heat went to *Drumbeat*, NSW (M. Green), in the only light weather race (5-10 mph), with *Quiver*, NSW (M. Nash), in second place.

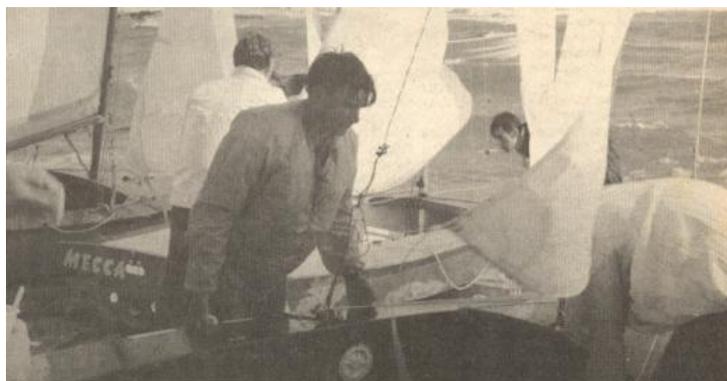
National Championship Results

1	<i>Dai-Jo</i>	(J. Cerutty, Tas.)	1-2-1-2-R,	6914 points;
2	<i>Celeste</i>	(M. Wall, WA)	5-3-2-1-11,	6039;
3	<i>Drumbeat</i>	(M. Green, NSW)	10-26-3-R-1,	4624;
4	<i>Sandy K</i>	(R. Swanson, WA)	3-8-R-6-9,	4404;
5	<i>Lovable</i>	(M. Raphael, WA)	15-1-8-15-27,	4261;
6	<i>Kite</i>	(P. Hicks, WA)	24-6-7-8-10,	3990;
7	<i>Ghengis Khan</i>	(B. Hewish, NSW)	8-7-R-9-8,	3911;
8	<i>Jester</i>	(B. Vaughan, Vic.)		3789;
9	<i>Saint</i>	(R. Fletcher, Qld.)		3756;
10	<i>Bacardi</i>	(C. Timbury, NSW)		3730.

Interdominion

The Inter-Dominion Cherub championships almost immediately followed the Australian championships, and though this was necessary as it was the only time the top boats from all over Australia could compete, the dozen or so aces proved to be a marathon for officials and Australian competitors alike. However, after sailing about six races in any

location, you start to get your eye in, and at Parkdale it was obvious that some of the visitors were improving their score as they went along, so that the results of the Inter-Dominion series showed the Australian boats in quite different places to the finishing order in the nationals. The weather also had an influence, and while it was still blowing steadily from the south - there were no really hard races - the wind strength never exceeded 20 mph, and two races were sailed in light winds.



Inter Dominion Cherub champion, Ian Lindsay, of NSW, skipper of GL II.

From the results, you could conclude that the NSW boats went better in the kinder weather of the latter series, while the WA skippers either got tired or were resting on their laurels, far they failed to gain a place in the first eight boats of the Inter-Dominion, whereas they took four of the first six places in the Australian titles. *Dai-Jo*, the Australian championship winner, was not sighted in the Inter-Dominion, possibly due to lighter weather, while the most consistent boat of both series was *Drumbeat* (M. Green, NSW), who got a third in the Australian titles and a second in the Inter-Dominion. The overall winner of the Inter-Dominion was *GL II*, sailed by Ian Lindsay and Keith Barrow, both

17 year-olds, who had a very disappointing Australian series, and who won with a few handicaps, the worst being a replacement mast which was hardly equal to the de Havilland they lost in the Parkdale Waters Regatta. *GL II* is a Ken Minter hull with rather forward sections.

The New Zealanders arrived in time to witness mayhem during the Aussie championships, and said they were very glad they were watching from the comfort of the clubhouse. Lack of pre-race practice in Parkdale conditions was a handicap as, apparently, they were unused to similar wave conditions. They had other real handicaps, too. Someone described their boats as being like Australian boats of five years ago.

Whether this is fair criticism, we don't know, but it was obvious that all the New Zealanders had other talents besides being able to sail a boat. All had built their own boats, all had improvised fittings, and made their own masts and booms out of straight section alloy. One Australian skipper described the best New Zealand skipper (S. Marten, George) as being a really clever skipper and a good competitor. He was remarkably consistent, and his results improved as the series went on, finishing with two thirds, and dropping only a ninth place in his final score. Victoria's Bill Vaughan in *Jester* improved on his eighth in the Australian championships to finish third in the Inter-Dominion with a win in the third heat and a second in the fifth heat. Jamie Wilmot in *Vayu* turned in a surprise performance in the fifth heat, with an easy win of five minutes, following It with a good second placing in the last race.

Interdominion Championship Results

1	<i>GL II</i>	(Ian Lindsay, Keith Barrow, NSW),	1-8-4-1-5-11,	6021 points;
2	<i>Drumbeat</i>	(M. Green, NSW),	4-1-21-14-4-1,	5875;
3	<i>Jester</i>	(Bill Vaughan, Vic.),	7-DNF-1-7-2-5,	5535;
4	<i>George</i>	(S. Marten, NZ),	9-6-7-6-3-3,	4870;
5	<i>Crescendo</i>	(I. Brown, NSW),	3-2-20-4-14-7,	4854;
6	<i>Jindivik</i>	(W. Downs, NSW),	21-7-3-2-11-9,	4607;
7	<i>Valhalla</i>	(P. Chatfield, NZ),	6-3-13-18-25-4,	3999;
8	<i>Vayu</i>	(J. Wilmot, NSW),	10-DNF-DIS-DIS-1-2,	3735.

The next Cherub marathon will be on the Swan next Christmas, when Australian and world titles will be held.