

1969-1970 Australian National Cherub Championships and

1st Cherub World Championships 1970

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As reported in *Australian Seacraft* magazine, March 1970

SANDWICH TAKES A DOUBLE

Perth, Western Australia

The National titles for Cherubs attracted 61 boats; five from Tasmania, nine from Victoria, 15 from NSW, two from SA, two from Queensland and the remainder from WA. Competition was keen and a carnival spirit existed throughout a heavy program of two invitation races and five heats.

Perth's top skippers put in good performances (Gordon Lucas just missed his fourth Cherub crown.), but Interdominion 12-foot skiff champions, Russell Bowler and Peter Walker (although New Zealanders) were best. These boys came to the West and built a controversial foam-fibreglass-sandwich hull much lighter than previous hulls. And they taught everyone a sailing lesson, winning the National and the World titles.

The first heat was sailed in a piping sou' wester gusting to 35 mph, turning the Swan into five-foot seas. The race became a survival of the fittest, the fittest being Gordon Lucas and *Ace. Celeste* (M. Hall, WA) and NSW Cherub *GL III* filled the major places.

A week of easterlies followed the big blow. WA boat *Lovable* (M. Raphael) won the second heat, close pressed by *Jennifer Julian* and the unorthodox NSW boat *Jazzzer* (Jamie Wilmot). Jamie is the 16-year-old brother of Amanda Wilmot who won the Flying Ant Championship.

Third race went to *Shadrack* (M. Nash, NSW) from *Celeste*, *Ikara* (WA) and *Impact* (Tasmania) skippered by M. Cerutti.

Ace outmanoeuvred the fleet in the next two heats to narrowly win them from *Jennifer Julian*, *Pegasus* (Brian Wright, WA - son of world commodore Basil Wright), *Vengeance* (John Cassidy, WA - son of skiff man Jack Cassidy) and *Jazzzer*.

At first count the series went to Gordon Lucas, but after a check it was found that *Jennifer Julian* was the winner by one point. *Celeste* took third.

The crews had a lay day, one invitation race, and then knuckled down to five more heats for the World Series.

WORLD SERIES

This was the first time Perth has hosted a World Series. To boot, it was the inaugural Cherub World Series. Seven New Zealand teams competed unsuccessfully. The British entrants were completely outclassed in their four-year-old designs which were considerably heavier than the rest and also carried a much smaller jib.

Russell Bowler and for'ard hand Peter Walker had *Jennifer Julian* planing in all conditions, finally winning the World Series with 8007 points. *Jazzzer* (Jamie Wilmot, NSW) was runner-up with 7433 points. Jamie won the Cadet and Junior titles; his sister Jeanine (*Vaya*) won the Women's title convincingly.

Gordon Lucas, sailing a brand new untried boat in the world series said he couldn't get going in the light breezes, yet finished third.

The New Zealanders plan to build boats to *Jennifer Julian's* hull design. Team captain John Glenie took the plans home with him. Overseas boats, as mentioned, did not fare well. Best was *Kiwi Crescendo* (R. Martin) in 21st place and the top UK boat, *Thor Nogson* (R. Gregory) notched up 46th.

The series was so successful that next year's Interdominion may be cancelled to make way for another World Series to be held in New Zealand in 1972.