

## 1979-1980 Australian National Cherub Championships

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### Chelsea, Victoria

A seven-year winning run by NSW boats in the Cherub nationals ended when an ACT boat took out this year's titles. *Black Friday*, sailed by Scott Morphett and Phil McGilvray, won the series from the Queensland boat *Static*, sailed by David Mists and Warren Dawes. Third was NSW boat *Space Oddity* sailed by Robert and Michael Johnson.

Chelsea Yacht Club on Port Phillip Bay in Victoria played host to 49 Cherubs from all states except Tasmania. Conditions for the series varied, but were mostly light to moderate. In heat one, Morphett and McGilvray in *Black Friday* served notice they were the boat to beat when they won in a drifter from Victorians Stephen Fries and Jan Talacko in *Uptight*. NSW veterans Phil Smith and Vicki Weeks sailing *Next to Nix* were third.

Similar weather conditions in heat two saw *Space Oddity* win from *Black Friday* with *Uptight* third. All three boats showed excellent light-weather speed. Heat three started in light winds, changed when several 25-knot squalls came through and ended in a dying southerly. Victorian boat *Last Chance Power Drive* (Robert Keeley and Dale Collings) won by two seconds from *Uptight*, with NSW boat *Maiden Hong Kong* a further two seconds behind. Queenslanders dominated heat four when *Static* opened up a big lead to win well from teammates Craig Taylor and Brett Haywood in *Heart Attack*. *Last Chance Power Drive* was third.

Heat five, sailed in a 25-knot south easterly, was the setting for a number of spectacular collisions and wipeouts. *Last Chance Power Drive* and NSW boat *Spot On* (Matt Hayes and Peter Tinworth) staged a neck-and-neck battle around the course with the Victorian finally winning by 20 yards. *Black Friday*, which sailed its worst race of the series to finish 20th, was under a lot of pressure. But in championship-winning style Morphett and McGilvray won heat six from *Static*, their main rival, and *Spot On*. Then they repeated the dose in the final heat, beating *Static* and NSW boat *Nix*.

The major trend seen during the series was the increase in foam boats, from Victoria, NSW and WA. The homebuilt Victorian boats, which were minimum-weight and very strong, sparked a lot of interest.

1. *Black Friday* (S Morphett) 1-2-13-4-20-11. 30,
2. *Static* (D. Miers) 8-14-5-1-4-2-2. 38,
3. *Space Oddity* (R. Johnson) 4-1-12-5-314-5, 51 7,
4. *Heart Attack* (C. Taylor) 6-4-72-10-4-6. 55.4
5. *Uptight* (S. Fries) 2-3-2-12dsq-9-9. 597:
6. *Next to Nix* (P. Smith) 3-12-4-dns-13-5-4. 68.7
7. *Last Chance Power Drive* (R. Keeley) 18-dsq-1-3-1-1712, 71-7,
8. *Nix* (B. Smith) 7-1-3-6-17-12-103, 83.4,
9. *Spot On* (M. Hayes) 14-6-10-25-2-3-26. 87.4
10. *All So Brotherly* (S. Findlay) 5-5-16-14-17-8-13. 95.

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