

1981-1982 Australian National Cherub Championships

by Robert Keeley.

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Henley Sailing Club, South Australia:

A NSW crew again clinched top spot in the Cherubs. *Colour Me Too*, skippered by Ben Lehmann and crewed by Andrew Wigan, won the title from *To-Go*, a veteran Tasmanian boat sailed by Chris and Fay Symonds. Third overall were Victorians Mark Elsworth and Andrew Robertson sailing their home-built foam boat *Big Yellow Taxi*.

The series was sailed in mostly light to moderate winds, but heat two was abandoned when a 40-knot squall wiped out most of the fleet. Heat six provided another extreme to the predominantly light conditions when a testing 35-knot front hit the fleet just before the start. Seas built up quickly and most boats couldn't handle the conditions, only nine finishing of the 40 starters.

Defending champ Phil Smith came to the series with a hastily borrowed boat and a scratch crew and failed to produce last year's form. He left after the third heat, frustrated by the persistently light conditions.

Former national champion Ian Boyle sailed *Stairway to Heaven*, the boat in which he won the nationals three years ago. After an average start, he won the sixth-heat blow by about 10 minutes. *Colour Me Too* is a McConaghy-built Murray design in foam, with Blue Peter One Design sails. *To Go*, a modified Bethwaite hull, used Tasmanian Walker sails. *Big Yellow Taxi* is a home-built foam boat, a modified Murray hull. It used Tru-flo jib and Elvstrom main.

Victorian boats edged closer to the title, taking third and fourth spots, and South Australia took sixth with *Unique*, a veteran performer. 44 boats from all states entered.

The Cherub Nationals and Worlds will be sailed at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron at Manly next Christmas.

- 1, *Colour Me Too* (Ben Lehmann, NSW) 3-2-3-1-1-dnf-2, 17.4
- 2, *To Go* (Chris Symonds, Tas) 2-3-1-2-3-4-5, 25.4
- 3, *Big Yellow Taxi* (Mark Elsworth, Vic) 15-1-2-3-5-dnf-1, 39.7
- 4, *Point Blank* (David Jeffreys, Vic) 6-14-5-4-4-2-7, 53.7
- 5, *Unique* (Geoff Reseigh, SA) 1-7-7-6-7-3-9, 56.4,
- 6, *Stairway to Heaven* (Ian Boyle, NSW) 14-8-13-5-17-1-3, 68.7
- 7, *Sexy Nix* (Bryan Smith, NSW) 7-5-8-9-2-dnf-10, 71;
- 8, *Tigress* (Robert Lyons, Old) 8-9-10-7-6-dnf-12, 87.7
- 9, *Remote Control* (Steven Stafford, SA) 12-6-4-11-13-9-13, 88.7
- 10, *Wings For Wheels* (David Crump, Vic) 10-12-14-16-8-6-6, 90.7.

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