

## 1997-98 Australian National Cherub Championships

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### Perth, Western Australia

Cherub sailors from all over Australia enjoyed WA's fresh breeze with the Fremantle Doctor putting in an appearance for a most races of their national titles. The Swan River's sharp, choppy waters made off the breeze sailing exciting and challenging with the new class rules allowing a powerful asymmetric-style spinnaker. impressing onlookers and competitors from other classes

Previous Flying 11 sailor and Manly Junior state and national champion. James Moor from Lane Cove 12ft Sailing Skiff Club, won the title at his first attempt. Although James and his crew Ben Stephens on *Ajax* had their nationals victory wrapped up before the last heat, they didn't get it all their own way. Previous Flying Ant national and state champion, John Jefferson. and his crew Craig Garnett on *Agro* were close for most of the series along with Queensland favourites Ben Kelly and Joel McDonald on *The Mass Debate*.

In the first heat *Agro* crossed the finish line in first place only to find they had been subject to an individual recall, leaving *Ajax* the winner. *Agro* lodged a protest and received average points due to improper procedure by the starting committee.

*Agro* went on to win the second heat with *Ajax* coming in a close second. After being disqualified in heat two, the Queenslanders on *The Mass Debate* had their turn, winning the third heat.

Unfortunately *Agro* had to retire from heat five with broken gear. Skipper John Jefferson then had to return home unexpectedly leaving crew Craig Garnett to skipper the remaining two heats, with 18ft skiff sailor David Ewing as crew.

Mount Bays Sailing Club who hosted a first class nationals which all sailors enjoyed.

- 1, *Ajax* (J. Moor, B. Stephens, NSW), 1-2-2-1-21-4, 9;
- 2, *Agro* (J. Jefferson, C. Garnett, D. Ewing, NSW), ave-1-4-5-dnf-7-2. 40.8,
- 3, *The Mass Debate* (B. Kelly, J. McDonald, Old), 12-dsq-13-1-8-3, 43.4
- 4, *Out of Date* (T. Date, M. Lewis, WA), 3-dsq-6-6-4-1, 47.1;
- 5, *The Lairy Canary* (T. Fay, M. Duggan, NSW), 5-3-3-2-5-17-11, 51 4,
- 6, *Ric-o-Shea* (R. Bridge, M. Willis.. NSW) 10-6-12-4-16-2-7. 69.7,
- 7, *Get Real* (G. Geddes, D. Geddes, SA), 6-10-9-17-4-5-12, 78.7,
- 8, *Dry Reaching* (L. Powesland, A. Powesland, WA), 4-4-5-14-30-9-16, 83;
- 9, *TNT* (M. Mathews, B. Mathews, Old), 9-dnf-8-5-7-3-12-13, 84.7,
10. *Deep Sea Racing Prawns* (P. Schnerder, M. Sale, WA), 29-18-10-11-dnf-5, 85.



Second placegetter *Agro* form NSW

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