

2006-07 Australian National Cherub Championships

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Perth brothers David and Michael Von Felten won the 44th Cherub Nationals on count back after the first three boats finished tied on points. The Von Feltens went into the last heat needing to win and needing other results to go their way. In a dramatic final race the Von Feltens, sailing *Serenity Now*, fought their way past two former national Championship winning crews, Trevor Fay and Rohan Kelly from Belmont in *Wally* and Leigh Ashwood and Geoff Longwood from East Fremantle in *Thicker Than Water*, to record the win that they needed. The result left all three crews tied on 12 points with the title going to the Von Feltens based on their last heat win.



Michael and David Von Felten in *Serenity Now*

Thirty seven Cherubs contested the series hosted by Perth Dinghy Sailing Club on Melville Waters. The racing was spectacular in predominantly fresh conditions with very high speed downwind legs on the flat waters of the Swan River.

The three top crews stood out through their ability to climb back through the fleet from poor positions while in the rest of the fleet one mistake was costly due to the tight competitive racing.

The series demonstrated the current strength of the West Australian fleet which secured seven of the top ten places. The Junior Championship went to Steven and Blake Vance from Perth while the Cadet Championship went to Todd McVee and Steve Fryer. The Women's Skipper trophy was won by East Fremantle's Lisa Walters who finished seventh overall.

1. Serenity Now (D.Von Felten/M.Von Felten, WA), 1, DNF, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 12pts
2. Thicker Than Water (L.Ashwood/G.Longwood, WA) 11, 1, 3, 1, 2, 1, 4, 12
3. Wally (T.Fay/R.Kelly, NSW), 4, 2, 2, 3, 1, 2, 2, 12
4. Camel Toe (A.Forbes/K.Warner, NSW) 2, 3, 4, 5, 4, 15, 3, 21
5. Back In Black (J.Garnaut/C.McVee, WA) 3, 4, 9, 4, 6, 3, 8, 28
6. Up Skirt Sha-Bam (B.Lawrie/J.Henderson, WA) 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, DNF, 33
7. Redback (L.Walters/S.Walters, WA) 6, 7, 7, 7, 13, 5, 12, 44
8. Fine Mess (S.Vance/B.Vance, WA), 7, 5, 6, 13, 12, 7, 11, 48
9. Stomping Ground (P.Hamer/N.Banning, WA) 10, 10, 14, 9, 7, 19, 6, 56
10. Syncin' (S Blatchford/N.Blatchford, NSW) 9, 9, 19, 16, 10, 9, DNF, 72