

2008-09 Australian Cherub National Championships

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Lake Macquarie Yacht Club

The 46th Australian Cherub Championships held at Lake Macquarie Yacht Club was won by Sydney sailmaker Andrew Chapman, sailing with crew Kurt Warner on *The Black Pearl*. The pair took the title in a nail biting final race in which they needed to beat their closest rivals Andrew Triggell and Chris Anderson from Brisbane in *Tradesman's Entrance* and the defending National Champions, Trevor Fay and Simon Young from Belmont in *Wally*. The final race was sailed in a 17-20 kt sea breeze and saw the lead changes several times with Chapman and Warner only getting to the lead on the final windward leg.

The dramatic finish tied *The Black Pearl* and *Tradesman's Entrance* on points with the series going to Chapman and Warner on count-back. It was the second time in three years in which the National championship has been decided on count-back.

Forty seven Cherubs contested the series which showcased some of the rising talent in the class with twenty three of the entries being in the Junior category, for skippers aged 18 to 21, or the Cadet category, for skippers under 18 years of age. Four different States were represented in the top ten placings.

Chapman's sister Alison, sailing with her brother Will, finished fourth overall taking the Junior Championship and the trophy for first female skipper. A broken rudder early in the series which led to two DNFs robbed them of a chance for overall victory.

The Cadet Championship was won in convincing fashion by newcomers to the Cherub class Brennan Stead and Josh Leslie from Perth Dinghy Sailing Club.

The Black Pearl is a new boat built over winter. The construction of the hull was a joint effort by Kurt Warner and Jim Buckland. The boat's mast is one of the new 46mm "High Modulus" series from CST. The sails were designed and constructed by Andrew Chapman, a sailmaker at the Sydney loft of MacDiarmid Sails.

- 1, *The Black Pearl*, (A Chapman/ K Warner), NSW, 8, 15, 2, 5, 2, 3, 2, 3, 1, 18
- 2, *Tradesman's Entrance*, (A Triggell/ C Anderson), Qld, 11, 1, 4, 2, 4, 2, 5, 2, 3, 18
- 3, *Wally*, (T Fay/ S Young), NSW, 4, 10, 1, 1, 7, 1, 4, 5, 4, 20
- 4, *Sparky*, (A Chapman/ W Chapman), NSW, 2, 8, dnf, dnf, 1, 8, 1, 1, 2, 23
- 5, *Fine Mess*, (B Stead/ J Leslie), WA, 6, 11, 5, 6, 5, 4, 3, 22, 5, 34
- 6, *Enough Rope*, (R Clifton-Smith/ N Blatchford), NSW, 32, 2, 3, 8, 24, 9, 8, 8, 6, 44
- 7, *Everything Zen*, (A Stewart/ A Smith), NSW, 3, 3, 9, 10, 10, 12, 9, 6, 7, 47
- 8, *Liquor in Public*, (J Warner/ G Moore), NSW, 10, 14, 23, 3, 9, 6, 6, 11, 48, 59
- 9, *Serenity Now*, (S Vance/ B Vance), WA, 1, 7, 10, 12, 11, 11, 20, 14, 12, 64
- 10, *Quick Spoon*, (G Emery/ G Edwards), SA, 12, 4, 7, 20, 6, 10, 13, 21, 13, 65