

## Billabong Brewing WA Sprint Series



Right: Brennan Stead and Josh Leslie on *Fine Mess* on their way to victory in the Billabong Brewing Sprint Series



With the biggest ever cash prize kitty of \$2000 and the largest turnout yet of Cherubs in the West this year, the 3rd **Billabong Brewing Cherub Sprint Series** was a fiercely competitive regatta.

The Sprint Series was held over 6 and 7 December and comprised of three rounds. Each round had three back-to-back short races, each race in the form of a windward return using a gate in the middle.

Conditions were a perfect 20 kt South Westerly for

the first round on Saturday afternoon with race sponsors **Synovate** watching the excitement from the spectator boat. *Serenity Now* sailed by Steve and Blake Vance put in a flawless act and won every race and consequently won that round. There were a fair few spills, but none more dangerous than Josh Leslie from *Fine Mess* falling off right between the gate. Lucky he had his hand up otherwise he would have been run over.

Following tradition the sailors decided to party it up

Saturday night, this time in Leederville. Most guys and girls were getting right into it knowing there was a cash prize for "Biggest Party Animal" presented on Sunday, subsequently won by Todd McVee from *Back in Black* but it's probably best we don't go into why.

Sunday morning's round kindly sponsored by **Rhiannon Fryer** was characterised by a very light indecisive breeze swinging from North East to South at around 5 kts.

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Heavy-weights Cam Rule and Todd Montgomery on *Cunning Linguist* dominated in the light weather helped along by their powered up rig. Luckily the courses were short so no one had to suffer too much.

A nice strong South West-erly blew again for the last round on Sunday afternoon and the boys on *Cunning Linguist* went into it two points in front, but spent too much time showing off around the spectator boat and missed the start of the first race. By the time the second and third race had completed the lead was shattered by some consistent top finishes by the closest competitor and a new winner had emerged.

Young Guns Brennan Stead and Josh Leslie on *Fine Mess* from Perth Dinghy Sailing Club took the honours in what resulted in a very tight contest between the top 3 boats.

Long time Cherub sailors and last year's winners from Mounts Bay Sailing Club, Cam Rule and Todd Montgomery on *Cunning Linguist* were runners up. Third place was taken by Steve and Blake Vance on *Serenity Now* from Perth

Dinghy Sailing Club, who could have won the series if they placed better in the lighter weather.

Go sailed by Matthew Jones and Daniel Lucas demonstrated their fast improving sailing skills by winning handicap. The best women sailor's prize was won by Renae Vance and Rachel Jones on *Who Made Who*. XO sailed by Telisha Crannage and Bronwyn Campell took out the "Best Stack" award by hitting a power boat.

Series sponsors **Billabong Brewing** had a fantastic time out on the river watching Cherubs fly past the gate in the last race. Many of the sailors were lucky enough to sample their gluten free range of beers that were left over from the spectator boat. Some even lucky enough to sail right up to the spectator boat and grab a beer for the ride back to the club.

**Right: Top: Cam Rule and Todd Montgomery in the *Cunning Linguist* show off in front of the crowd. Steve and Blake Vance in *Serenity Now* Bottom: A gluten free grandstand.**



## Nationals Entries Still Open

While the closing date for early entries for the Lake Macquarie Nationals is has passed. It is still possible to enter>

If you want to sail you just need to fill in the [ENRTY FORM](#) which can be found [HERE](#) and send it in.

This year's Nationals is going to be one of the biggest Cherub regattas in many years and it is being held at one of the best skiff sailing venues in the world. Don't miss this opportunity. The late entry fee is just \$300.



# Carnage at NSW State Championships Botany Bay Round

In one remarkable hour the plans of several NSW Cherubs were turned on their heads when a wild westerly breeze battered the fleet as it prepared for Heat 4 of the NSW State Championships at Georges River Sailing Club on Saturday 13 December.

The fleet set out for the race in a fresh but manageable westerly. While waiting for the start the breeze build rapidly to an average 25 kts with 39 kt gusts. While organisers were quick to respond and cancel racing for the day it was not before five boats had broken their masts and one had been damaged in a collision. Most of the mast breakages occurred when capsized boats had their masts driven into the shallow sandy bottom by the outgoing tide.

Instead of wrapping Christmas presents this week several crews will now be up to their elbows in epoxy

and carbon making repairs.

The weather was no better on the Sunday when racing was scheduled at the opposite end at Yarra Bay Sailing Club. Following the Saturday experience, the entire fleet keep their boats on their trailers with racing being cancelled from the outset.

**Right Top: James Warner and "Stretch" cruising in 30+ kts on *Liquor in Public*. Middle: Adam Bolton and Duncan Murray on *Heart Shaped Box* just before breaking their mast. Bottom: Fiona Lunsmann and Rolf Lunsmann plough through the chop. Below: Samantha White and Jake Mercer in *White Noise*. (Photos: Greg Bolton)**



## Preliminary Cherub Nationals Program



Date	Provisional Race Program	Time	Social Program	Time	Location
Sat 27 Dec	Registration and Measurement				
Sun 28 Dec	Measurement and Invitation Race	1:00 pm	Welcome Bar-be-que	5:00 pm	Lake Macquarie Yacht Club
Mon 29 Dec	<b>Heat 1</b>	3:30 pm	BBQ & Karaoke	6:30 pm	Lake Macquarie Yacht Club
Tue 30 Dec	<b>Heat 2</b>	3:30 pm	Bistro & Trivia Night	7:30 pm	Lake Macquarie Yacht Club
Wed 1 Dec	<b>Heats 3 and 4</b>	1:00 pm	New Year's Eve Party	7:00 pm	Lake Macquarie Yacht Club
Thu 1 Jan	Lay Day		Rest and Recovery	All day	Beach
Fri 2 Jan	<b>Heats 5 and 6</b>	1:00 pm			
Sat 3 Jan	<b>Heats 7 and 8</b>	12:30 pm	Watch This Space		
Sun 4 Jan	<b>Heat 9</b>	3:30 pm	Pub Games or Karaoke		
Mon 5 Jan	<b>Heat 10</b>	11:00 am	Presentation Dinner	6:00 pm	Lake Macquarie Yacht Club

While the Program listed above is accurate at the time of publication, Nationals participants need to be aware that changes may occur to the race Program and the proposed Social Program. Keep an eye on the Official Notice Board during the Championships for the latest information on the Programs.



Watch for 2008-09 Cherub Nationals Results [HERE](#)



## Australian Cherub News

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The Cherub is a 2 person 12ft high performance racing skiff with spinnaker and trapeze. Cherubs are very quick craft, offering exciting rides particularly downwind with their large asymmetric kites. The majority of Cherub sailors are in their late teens or early twenties but the flexibility of the class and the Cherub's great sailing qualities mean that there are also attractive to many older sailors. Many women sail Cherubs, both as skippers and as crews. Husband/wife, boyfriend/girlfriend, brother/sister and parent/child combinations of crew are common.