

## Paddington Ale House Sprint Series Pays Off

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Perth's Annual **Paddington Ale House** Cherub Sprint Series this year attracted 20 Cherubs from Mounts Bay Sailing Club, Perth Dinghy Sailing Club and Koombana Bay Sailing Club. The prize money was increased to \$1500 for the two day event ensuring there was plenty of cash to go around. Coupled with extremely short races and the use of an upwind and downwind gateway, the competition proved to be fierce and tight.

The first day saw a 18 to 25 knot southerly breeze, turning the races into a test of survival. The winning completion times for

each race were around 20 minutes, so starting well was critical. Capsizes and nosedives were commonplace, so being in front was often short lived.

The second day of racing saw a fresh Easterly and the spectator boat with the sponsors aboard were right amongst the action. The shifty conditions spread the fleet out, and also made it difficult to make the downwind gate for many boats.

Proving that the Sprint Series encompasses the social aspect of sailing as well as the competitive, the Cherub sailors joined the 101 beer club at the

**Paddington Ale House** on the Saturday night between race days. After the last race the sailors were greeted by the pulsing sounds of live DJ, and at presentation cash prizes were also awarded for quirky accomplishments, like best cartwheel as well as the final placings.

Overall *Cunning Linguist*, sailed by Cam Rule and Todd Montgomery from Mounts Bay Sailing Club won the event by finishing well consistently. *Fine Mess* skippered by Brennan Stead was in second, and *Serenity Now* sailed by Steve and Blake Vance picked up third.



**Right: Photographed on their way to the ale house are the winners of Perth's Paddington Ale House Sprint Series, Cam Rule and Todd Montgomery in *Cunning Linguist*..**

## Lake Macquarie Nationals Confirmed

At its AGM in January the Cherub National Council confirmed Lake Macquarie as the venue for the 46th Cherub National Championships. This will be the fourth time that the Nationals will have been sailed on the lake but the first time in nine years that the class has returned to what is unquestionably one of the world's top sailing venues.

### The Venue

Lake Macquarie is Australia's largest coastal saltwater lake, covering an area of 110 km<sup>2</sup>, near the city of Newcastle, about two hours drive north of Sydney. It is saltwater through being connected to the Pacific Ocean by a narrow but short channel located near the town of Swansea. The land separating the Lake from the ocean is only a few kilometres wide along most of its length and therefore the predominant summer sea breezes blow unimpeded across the lake. This provides a summer sailing environment characterised by moderate to fresh breeze, flat water and little tide flow, a magic combination for Cherub sailing. The protected nature of the waters also makes it an ideal location for anyone contemplating their first national championships.

### The Host Club

The long term home of Cherub sailing on Lake Macquarie is the Belmont 16ft Skiff Club which, in the Christmas to New Year week of 2008/09, will be hosting the A Class Catamaran World Championships, making it potentially very crowded around the club. This conflict in dates caused an initial dilemma for both the skiff club and the NSW Cherub

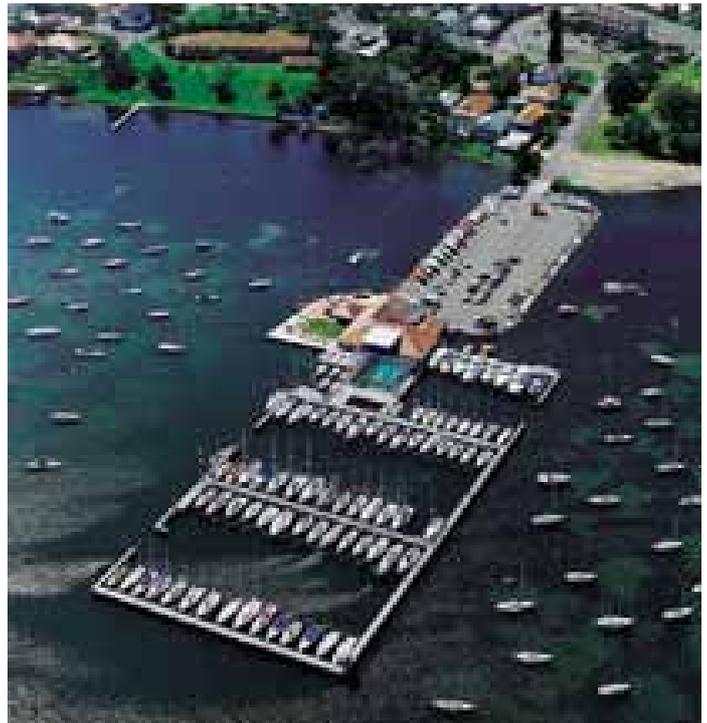
Class Association both of whom would have like the event to be based at the skiff club. Fortunately, their sailing colleagues at the nearby Lake Macquarie Yacht Club stepped in with a solution in the form of a generous offer to host the Cherub Nationals which they will do with the skiff club's support.

Lake Macquarie Yacht Club, just a kilometre across Belmont Bay from the skiff club, is located close to the heart of Belmont. The clubhouse and marina are built out over the lake with the car park and hardstand located on reclaimed ground on the lake's edge. It is a large, professionally run club with many years of experience conducting both yacht and dinghy regattas. In 2002/03 the Club successfully hosted the Sabot National Championships with over 200 boats and 800 visitors.

For the Cherub Nationals part of the Club's car park will be set aside to form a convenient, paved rigging and boat storage area.

### The Event

The dates for the Championships will be 27 December 2008 to 5 January 2009. The current intention is for the Cherub series to include a mix of long and short format races. Given that the Cherubs will be sharing the waters of the lake with the A Class Cats, the Organising Committee will be looking a varying the start time of races in order to minimise the degree to which the two fleets need to interact. Lake Macquarie is such a large body of water that the two classes will be able to co-exist easily.



### The City

Belmont lies within the "City of Lake Macquarie" local government area. Being a popular holiday destination in the summer months Belmont has a ready supply of accommodation, including some within walking distance of the Club. It has a significant shopping precinct, and a large supermarket complex, within easy walking distance of the Club. There is also a good supply of boating facilities in the town including two sailmaking lofts and a marine hardware shop. The

major centre of Newcastle is about 15 minutes drive north of Belmont.

### The Organisation

Organisation for the Nationals is being undertaken by a team led by the new President of the Cherub National Council of Australia Simon Blatchford and new CNCA Treasurer Nigel Hale.

With a significant number of entries expected from the strong NSW fleets the 2008/09 Nationals should be one of the biggest in recent years. One not to be missed.

## Jervis Bay round of NSW States

Varied conditions confronted a keen fleet of Cherubs at the Jervis Bay round of the NSW State Championships. The fleet included two boats, *Palpitations* and *South Park*, from the emerging Cherub fleet at Drummoyne, both making their debut at a Cherub inter-club event.

Saturday's long race was sailed in a steady 12kt south-easterly gusting to 18kts while Sunday's two short races were run in light 7-12kt breezes.

Heat 7 saw *Everything Zen*, with Andrew Stewart and reserve crewman James Birdsall on board, establish an early lead closely followed by Trevor Fay and Simon Young in *Wally*. These two boats were soon joined by *Pocket Rocket*, *Getya Cans Out* and *Thicker Than Water*, forming a lead group that dominated the race. *Wally* eventually edged past *Everything Zen* to take the win. *Heart Shaped Box*, who sailed one of their best ever State Heats, scored the handicap win by a massive 8 minutes.

Sunday's short format Heat 8 saw some very tight racing between *Camel Toe*, *Everything Zen*, *The Lairy Canary*, *Wally* and *Thicker than Water*. At the finish line it was *Wally* who prevailed over *Everything Zen*.

In the break between races the breeze swung to the east, increasing in strength slightly. Heat 9 saw *Alchemy* from Lane Cove slip to an early lead over *Wally* while *Thicker Than Water* was recalled following a chaotic start. In the comeback of the series *TTW* not only

caught the majority of the fleet by hitting the left side up the first work but then, flying their radical new bi-radial kite, passed all the frontrunners down the second reach to hit the lead. *TTW* held their narrow advantage for the rest of the race while *Wally* fought out a very close finish for second, beating *Alchemy* for second by just one second.

The series now has just two races remaining, to be sailed on the river courses at Lane Cove and Abbotsford next weekend. *Wally* has an unassailable lead in the Championship from *Thicker Than Water* and *Pocket Rocket*. The full progress pointscore can be found [here](#).

**Right from top: Amy and Nathan Carlson in *Fast Forward* lead Wayne Torpy and Nathan Chipchase in *Ricochet* down the reach in Heat 7 of the NSW States at Jervis Bay. *Thicker Than Water* leads the pack in a very tight Heat 9 using their new experimental kite. Part of the hot start line action in Heat 9 which saw *TTY (3158)* being recalled. (Photos: Greg Bolton)**



**2007-2008 NSW State Championships Jervis Bay Round**

	Sail No	Boat	Skipper	Crew	Club	7	8	9	Series Points
1	3144	Wally	Trevor Fay	Simon Young	B16ftSC	1	1	2	7
2	3158	Thicker Than Water	Adam Forbes	Kurt Warner	GRSC	3	5	1	14
3	3154	Pocket Rocket	Nigel Hale	Ben Schutz	B16ftSC	2	4	5	21
4	3100	Everything Zen	Andrew Stewart	James Birdsall, Amy Smith	GRSC	5	2	9	28
5	3147	Camel Toe	Ewan Duckworth	Ryan Clifton-Smith	GRSC	10	9	13	43
6	3145	Alchemy	Fiona Lunsmann	Rolf Lunsmann	LC12ftSSC	6	12	3	44
7	3095	Fast Forward	Amy Carlson	Nathan Carlson	B16ftSC	8	10	4	49
8	3070	Ricochet	Wayne Torpy	Nathan Chipchase	B16ftSC	9	7	8	52
9	3062	The Lairy Canary	Josh Doyle	Tom Drury	B16ftSC	7	8	10	59
10	3128	Rush	Flick Killoran	Mel Killoran	LC12ftSSC	12	6	6	60

## What a Classic: Two Old Cherubs Resurrected

Two classic era Cherubs have recently been rediscovered in Sydney with the current owners determined to restore them to sailing condition and get them back in the water.

**Left: Cherub 1029, at 42 years of age, still has style and elegance.**

The older boat is 1029 which would date from about 1966. Its current owner Iain Gorry of Hornsby in Sydney has cleaned up the old boat which is in remarkable condition for its 42 year old age.

The second boat is 1447.

It is now located at Carlingford. Its new owner is has a bit more work in front of them finding some appropriate period fittings to replace missing parts. The boat dates from about 1968.

If you know anything about the provenance of either of the boats the new owners are keen to learn more about the history of their craft. Have a look at their posts on the [Cherub Message Board](#).

## Cherubs at 12ft Skiff Nationals

Cherubs have been invited to enter the 12ft Skiff National Championships to be held at Lane Cove at Easter from 21 to 24 March. The Championships will feature a prize for the first boat racing under Cherub rules and Cherubs will be given competitive handicaps for the overall handicap prizes. Full details are available at [skiff.org.au](http://skiff.org.au)

## Cherubs Wanted

Do you have a Cherub that you rarely use? Do you know of someone with an unused Cherub in their garage? There is a significant demand for Cherubs at the moment and a shortage of boats on the Second Hand Boat List. If you would like to put your boat on the market contact [Wayne](#) at [Cherub Central](#). You could be helping a new pair of young Cherub sailors get started. Boats with sail numbers above 3050 are in particular demand.

## Nationals Photos

Photographer **Mike Cleveland** from **Marine Photography** has placed over 300 of his photos from the two days of racing at the Nationals on his web site [marinephotography.com.au](http://marinephotography.com.au). The collection includes many great action shots from Heats 4 and 5. You can order copies of any of the photos through his web site.



## 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.