

Wild Weather Nationals

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"Queensland: Gale warning one day, cyclonic the next".

It is only fitting that the headline story for the 2007-08 Cherub Nationals should go to the weather as crews from four states had to wait a full week for racing to start at the Nationals held at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron.

With a deep low pressure system parked off the Queensland coast, strong winds prevented all racing on the days scheduled for Heats 1 to 5.

The delays frustrated everyone,

race organisers, volunteers, competitors, supporters and spectators.

The Cherub's famous "Minister for Fun" was kept busy throughout organising alternative activities for the visiting crews.

When the weather pattern finally changed with just two days of scheduled racing remaining the Race Committee, after consulting with all competitors, changed the regatta courses to short race format races and scheduled six heats over the remaining two days so as to ensure that the Championships could be completed.

When the fleet finally faced the starter for Heat 1 it was at the unusually early hour of 6am. While the early start was a first for most competitors everyone was please to be on the water and finally racing.

The first day of racing saw the fleet battle strong breezes and a very steep Waterloo Bay chop in the first four heats.

In a strange twist, after a full week of gale force winds, the final two heats, sailed on the morning of the final day, were held in a very light westerly breeze.

Far Right: Wild weather, postponements and abandonments dominated the first week at the Cherub Nationals. (Photos: Rolf Lunsmann)

Right: Adam Bolton and Duncan Murray drive *Heart Shaped Box* to windward during Heat 4 of the Nationals (Photo: marinephotography.com)



Trevor Fay and Simon Young: New National Champions

When racing finally got underway at the Nationals in the very early hours of Friday morning it was twice former champion Trevor Fay, this year sailing with Simon Young, who set the early running with two decisive wins in the Heats 1 and 2 with WA's Phil and Andrew Vance in *Go* second in

Left: New National Champions Trevor Fay and Simon Young from Belmont 16ft Skiff Sailing Club in NSW sailed *Wally* to victory on Waterloo Bay. (Photo: Greg Bolton)



both races.

With the breeze freshening to over 20kts in the afternoon the Vances in *Go* and Neil How and Teila George in their new boat *Monster* lead the majority of Heat 3 only to be both passed by Ben Lawrie and Rohan Van Dongen in *Liquor in Public* on the last work. Fay and Young capsized in the tricky steep chop and finished only fifth, opening up the series.

Fay and Young hit back in Heat 4 flying in the fresh conditions to win by close to three minutes, a large margin in a short format race. *Liquor in Public* finished second to stay in contention with third going to *The Cunning Linguist* Cam Rule and Todd Montgomery. This race saw the Queensland crew Jason McLaren and Cassie Buckley in *Elegantly Wasted* lose their rig over the side effectively ending their series. With well placed Andrew Triggell and Travis White in

Tradesman's Entrance breaking gear earlier in the afternoon the day was a disaster for local crews

After the first day's racing six different boats had secured at least one top three place. The evening pointscore had Fay and Young leading the series by just two points from the Phil and Andrew Vance in *Go*.

Saturday's Heat 5 started in a bizarre fashion. A light south westerly breeze required a start well out from the boat harbour. Half of the fleet failed to allow sufficient time to sail to the start area and subsequently were late for the start or unable to start. Fay and Young in *Wally* showed that their winning ways carried over to light weather with a solid win. How and George also proved that they had the light weather speed to match their heavy air form by finishing second. Nigel Hale and Ben Schutz in *Pocket Rocket* finished third. *Liquor in Public*,

who had been late for the start, showed great light air speed to catch the majority of the fleet but was only able to recover to eight place, effectively handing the series win to *Wally*.

The breeze died even further for Heat 6 and swung to the north west. *Liquor in Public* showed what might have been in the earlier race when they drifted through to the lead at the end of the final heat.

The series demonstrated that each of the major Cherub fleets are very close in speed. All four States represented had a boat in the top ten and the NSW, Queensland and South Australian top boats have clearly caught up with the Western Australians who were so dominant at the previous Nationals in Perth. The competition looks strong for the next Nationals to be held at Lake Macquarie in NSW.

2007-2008 Australian Cherub Championships

	Sail No	Boat	Skipper	Crew	State	Club	1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	3144	Wally	Trevor Fay	Simon Young	NSW	B16ftSC	1	1	5	1	1	7	9
2	3159	Liquor in Public	Ben Lawrie	Rohan Van Dongen	WA	PDSC	7	6	1	2	8	1	17
3	3112	Go	Phil Vance	Andrew Vance	WA	PDSC	2	2	2	4	7	8	17
4	3161	Monster	Neil How	Teila George	SA	HSC	12	10	3	5	2	5	25
5	3148	Cunning Linguist	Cameron Rule	Todd Montgomery	WA	PDSC	6	3	4	3	DNS	11	27
6	3149	Quick Spoon	Glen Emery	Grant Edwards	SA	HSC	9	8	13	7	5	2	31
7	3154	Pocket Rocket	Nigel Hale	Ben Schutz	NSW	B16ftSC	8	9	8	8	3	10	36
8	3135	Serenity Now	Steven Vance	Blake Vance	WA	PDSC	3	7	9	14	10	23	43
9	3153	Tradesman's Entrance	Andrew Triggell	Travis White	Qld	RQYS	4	5	DNF	DNS	4	3	48
10	3100	Everything Zen	Andrew Stewart	Amy Smith	NSW	GRSC	15	11	10	9	DNS	4	49



Photos from the Nationals

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. The collection includes many great action shots



Above Left: David Mitchell and Rhese Goldsmith showing great downwind form in *Thrill Me...Tiger*.
Above: Glen Emery and Grant Edwards preparing to round the top mark in *Quick Spoon*.
Below Left: Alistair Standing and Daniel Cappy had a great series in *Juicy* finishing third in the Junior Championship.
 (Photos: marinephotography.com)

NSW Program Change Sydney Flying Squadron Race

The date for the popular Sydney Flying Squadron Race in NSW has changed as is now on Sunday **10 February** 2008. The race will be held in conjunction with the first round of the 12ft Skiff GARDE Series.

Constitutional Changes

The body that controls Cherub sailing in Australia is the Cherub National Council of Australia (CNCA). At the Council's AGM, held during the Nationals in Brisbane, a new Constitution was put to the vote, together with a number of proposed changes that were outlined in the December edition of Australian Cherub News. The new Constitution was passed as were the changes related to the organisation of the Nationals and the adoption of "Target Race Times" for setting course length at the Nationals.

The proposed change to the age qualification for the Veterans Trophy was voted down and so the

average age of 28 will remain in force.

The new Constitution, including all the amendments passed at the AGM, is now available on the web site at cherub.org.au



Feedback on the Nationals

The team that is organising the next Cherub Nationals, to be held at Lake Macquarie in 2008-09, is looking for feedback from Cherub sailors on recent National Championships.

In an effort to put together the best regatta possible, the CNCA would like to hear from you on your views on the best and the worst points of any of the most recent champion-

ships and any ideas that you may have for staging a better event.

You may wish to provide feedback on the scheduling of races, the events and entertainment associated with the Nationals, the rigging and change facilities, the prizes, accommodation, the on-water support, the race management, the costs, event merchandise or any other aspect of the event.

If you have a view on any aspect of the Nationals type up a message and send it through to info@cherub.org.au.

Your feedback will help to make the next Cherub Nationals a fantastic event.

National Championship Honours 2007-08

Open Championship

1st	Wally	Trevor Fay, Simon Young	B16ftSC
2nd	Liquor in Public	Ben Lawrie, Rohan Van Dongen	PDSC
3rd	Go	Phil Vance, Andrew Vance	PDSC
4th	Monster	Neil How, Teila George	HSC
5th	Cunning Linguist	Cameron Rule, Todd Montgomery	PDSC
6th	Quick Spoon	Glen Emery, Grant Edwards	LBSC

Junior Championship (Under 21)

1st	Serenity Now	Steven Vance	PDSC
2nd	Back in Black	Todd McVee	PDSC
3rd	Juicy	Alistair Standing	PDSC
4th	Alchemy	Fiona Lunsmann	LC12ftSSC
5th	Heart Shaped Box	Adam Bolton	BYRA
6th	XO	Telisha Crannage	PDSC

Cadet Championship (Under 18)

1st	The Lairy Canary	Josh Doyle	B16SC
2nd	Lick This	Natalie Jastrab	YBSC
3rd	Mercury Rising	Lachlan Frazer	YBSC
4th	Agro	James Wallace	YBSC

Women's Crew Trophy

1st	Monster	Teila George	HSC
2nd	Everything Zen	Amy Smith	GRSC
3rd	Elegantly Wasted	Cassie Buckley	RQYS
4th	Rush	Melanie Killoran	LC12ftSSC

Women's Skipper Trophy

1st	Alchemy	Fiona Lunsmann	LC12ftSSC
2nd	Fast Forward	Amy Carlson	B16ftSC
3rd	XO	Telisha Crannage	PDSC
4th	Lick This	Natalie Jastrab	YBSC
5th	Rush	Felicity Killoran	LC12ftSSC
6th	Scooby Doo	Poppy Moore	LC12ftSSC

Veteran's Trophy

1st	Wally	Trevor Fay, Simon Young	B16ftSC
2nd	Monster	Neil How, Teila George	HSC
3rd	Cunning Linguist	Cameron Rule, Todd Montgomery	PDSC
4th	Ricochet	Wayne Torpy, Nathan Chipchase	B16ftSC
5th	Wrong Trousers	Jason Dixon, Dan Agar	HSC
6th	Alchemy	Fiona Lunsmann, Rolf Lunsmann	LC12ftSSC

Handicap Results

1st	Ricochet	Wayne Torpy, Nathan Chipchase	B16ftSC	4th	Everything Zen	Andrew Stewart, Amy Smith	GRSC
2nd	Back in Black	Todd Mc Vee, Adam Fryer	PDSC	5th	Monster	Neil How, Teila George	HSC
3rd	Enough Rope	Ryan Clifton-Smith, Nigel Blatchford	B16ftSC	6th	Wally	Trevor Fay, Simon Young	B16ftSC