

# Australian Cherub News



Right: 2009-10 National Championship winners Alison Chapman and Rhys Mara from Lane Cove 12ft Sailing Skiff Club sailing *Sparky*.

## Chapman and Mara Dominate Cherub Nationals

Alison Chapman and Rhys Mara dominated the 2009-10 Cherub National Championships, sailed at Mounts Bay Sailing Club, in a way the no Cherub crew has done in the recent history of the class. After a shaky start to the series which included running aground and capsizing in the second heat, they outshone their competitors with superior boat handling, tactical skills and mistake free sailing. With six wins in the first eight races they had the series wrapped up with a heat to spare.

Chapman became only the second woman to win Cherub National Championship, the other being Nicki Bethwaite who won the honour twice in the mid 1970s. The win was also the second in a row by the

Chapman family with Alison's brother Andrew having won the title last year.

While Chapman came into the series as the defending Junior Champion, she and Mara, who is a former member of the Australian Development Squad, had little sailing together and there were questions marks over their ability to gel as a crew in the expected fresh condition in Perth. The doubts built as Perth cousins Steven and Blake Vance from Perth Dinghy Sailing Club took the first two heats in fresh conditions. However Chapman and Mara fought back with straight wins in each of the next six heats in conditions that varied from 12 to 24kts.

Second overall were the Vances who may have

had a shot at challenging Chapman and Mara had the conditions stayed in their above 20 kt range. Third was the very consistent Cam Rule and Todd Montgomery from the host Club Mounts Bay who managed top level finishes across the full range of conditions. They also carried off the Veterans Trophy

With Chapman unable to win the Junior Championship through having won the Open, the Juniors went to Brennan Stead and Rob Burvill from Perth Dinghy Sailing Club who finished an excellent fifth overall.

Ashley Knighton and James Walters from Belmont won the Cadet Championship for Under 18 skippers.



Top left: Ashley Knighton and James Walters in *Rope City* took out the Cadet Championship for skippers under 18. Ryan Clifton-Smith and Nigel Blatchford in *Enough Rope* were consistent throughout finishing fourth overall. Above left: Jamie Hayes and Anthony Talbot in *Betty Boo* from Koombana Bay Sailing Club showing some serious downwind speed. Above right: The Veterans Trophy went to third placed boat overall *Cunning Linguist* sailed by Cam Rule and Todd Montgomery. (Photos: Fiona Lunsmann)

2008-2009 Australian Cherub Championships

Sail No	Boat	Skipper	Crew	State	Club	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1 3158	Sparky	Alison Chapman	Rhys Mara	NSW	LC12ftSSC	2	(6)	1	1	1	1	1	1	(DNF)	8
2 3135	Serenity Now	Steve Vance	Blake Vance	WA	PDSC	1	1	(3)	(6)	2	2	3	2	1	12
3 3148	Cunning Linguist	Cam Rule	Todd Montgomery	WA	MBSC	3	2	2	4	(5)	3	4	(5)	3	21
4 3152	Enough Rope	Ryan Clifton-Smith	Nigel Blatchford	NSW	B16SC	5	4	5	(7)	4	6	(8)	3	2	29
5 3130	Fine Mess	Brennan Stead	Rob Burvill	WA	PDSC	(7)	(8)	6	2	6	5	2	7	6	34
6 3145	Alchemy	Claire Lunsmann	Rolf Lunsmann	NSW	LC12ftSSC	(13)	(13)	12	3	3	4	5	4	13	44
7 3122	Rita's Garden	Matt Jahn	James Garnaut	WA	MBSC	4	5	4	(20)	14	(16)	7	10	4	48
8 3115	Dark Horse	Tom Batt	Chris Jahn	WA	MBSC	8	3	7	11	10	9	6	(12)	(DNF)	54
9 3160	Getcha Cans Out	Simon Blatchford	Liam Doyle	NSW	B16SC	10	10	(14)	10	8	(11)	11	9	9	67
10 3084	Black in Black	Todd McVee	Steve Fryer	WA	PDSC	(DNF)	7	8	(17)	11	12	15	14	5	72

## Nationals Heat by Heat Rundown

**Heat 1** 18-24kts SW .  
*Serenity Now* made it to the top mark first and held a slender lead throughout with *Sparky* pushing them hard. Many boats struggled to deal with the big holes in the breeze near the top mark that was laid close to the shoreline.

**Heat 2** 18-24kts SW  
In the building sea breeze *Sparky* headed hard left from the start only to run aground and capsize in the shallow water on the south side of the course area. Their demise allowed *Cunning Linguist* through to the lead which they held until a big nose-dive and capsize on the first run halted their progress. Meanwhile *Serenity Now* avoided all misfortune and, showing excellent boat handling skills in the big breeze sailed on to a comfortable win from *Cunning Linguist* who quickly recovered from their swim and *Dark Horse* who were enjoying the fresh conditions.

**Heat 3** 18-25 kts SW  
*Fine Mess* was well placed at the top mark the first time leading *Cunning Linguist* and *Sparky*. They held their lead to the bottom mark sailing well through the choppy seas at very high speed in the fresh conditions. On the second work *Sparky* passed them as did *Cunning Linguist*. These two had a race long battle for the lead. At the bottom mark the last time *Cunning Linguist* had the lead but *Sparky* showing excellent upwind speed passed them on the last work to win from *Cunning Linguist* and *Serenity Now* who had recovered from a poor start.

**Heat 4** 12-18kts ??  
After three heats in very fresh conditions some of the lighter crews were looking forward to showing off their skills in more moderate breezes. *Sparky* soon established clear air following the start and built a small lead at the top mark with a tight group of boats behind them including *Fine Mess*, *Rope City* and *Big Girl's Blouse*. *Cunning Linguist* and *Alchemy* closed on the top group down the first run and then as *Big Girl's Blouse* gybed into a lighter patch of breeze *Cunning Linguist* and *Alchemy* passed them into second and third respectively. Meanwhile *Sparky* had cleared out from the rest to win by over three minutes from a fast finishing *Fine Mess* and *Alchemy*.

**Heat 5** 15-18 kts ??  
The breeze freshened slightly for the second race of the day. On the first work the majority of the fleet split hard left or hard right. *Sparky* and *Alchemy* picked the shifts up the middle to round the top mark first and second. Behind them *Cunning Linguist* and *Serenity Now* were in close company. On the third work *Serenity Now* went further left than *Alchemy*, picking up the shift that they needed to move into second place. *Sparky* won by a comfortable margin from *Serenity Now* and *Alchemy*. Behind them *Enough Rope* pushed *Cunning Linguist* past the lay line to the finish allowing them to slip past into fourth place.

**Heat 6** 15-20 kts ??  
*Sparky* and *Fine Mess* got out of the start well and built a large lead over the

fleet at the top mark he first time. While *Sparky* progressively built on their advantage *Fine Mess* was slowly but steadily reeled in by their pursuers. They held on to their slight advantage to finish second from *Cunning Linguist* and *Alchemy*.

**Heat 7** 15-20 kts ??  
The fleet faced their first Easterly breeze of the series with the big pressure and direction changes. With the top mark set close to the southern shore of the river the managing the gusts on the approach to the top mark became critical. *Sparky* again got to an early lead and built a big advantage over the *Fine* e rest of the fleet. Behind them *Fine Mess* again looked fast in the moderate conditions. *Dark Horse* was also well positioned after picking up a big shift on the right. Again *Sparky* progressively built on their lead taking the heat from *Fine Mess*, *Serenity Now* who had sailed a remarkable race to recover after having been buried in the fleet on the first lap.

**Heat 8** 15-20 kts W  
By now everyone's expectation was that in anything less than 20 kts *Sparky* would simply sail away from the rest of the fleet, demonstrating good boat speed, superior boat handling, keen tactical awareness and mistake free sailing. Chapman and Mara's five heat wins meant that the Vance cousins in *Serenity Now* needed to win the next heat just to keep the series alive.

*Sparky* headed left from the start and set up their usual lead among the

boats that headed left. Meanwhile *Cunning Linguist* had headed right along with *Dumfounded Dipshidts* who managed to get as far right as possible at the top end of the first work. This corner paid off for them big time as they rounded the top mark close behind *Sparky* with a big gap back to the rest of the fleet. *Enough Rope* was third with *Serenity Now* nowhere to be seen. The race panned out as another close battle for second place between *Enough Rope*, *Dumfounded Dipshidts*, *Fine Mess*, *Alchemy* and *Serenity Now* who were again steadily and progressively sailing through the fleet.

*Sparky's* win gave them the series win with a heat to spare. It was a result that did not look likely after the first two heats but one that

**Heat 9** 19-24ks SSW  
Perth saved it best "full on" sea breeze for the final heat. The very fresh conditions had all the fleet getting air on the downwind legs and lots of thrilling capsizes for the spectators.

With *Sparky* having wrapped up the series Chapman and Mara took a low key approach to the race that saw them miss the start and fall well back in the fleet before retiring from the race.

*Serenity Now* again showed they superb heavy air for to win from *Enough Rope* and *Cunning Linguist* with *Rita's Garden* relishing the conditions to finish fourth.



Left from top to bottom: Tom Batt and Chris Jahn in *Dark Horse* excelled in the heaviest of conditions (Photo Fiona Lunsmann). Steve and Blake Vance in *Serenity Now* won the three toughest heats with excellent boat handling (Photo Fiona Lunsmann). The fleet gets away in Heat 3 (Photo Fiona Lunsmann). Cam Rule and Todd Montgomery put the nose down big time while leading Heat 3 (Photo Fiona Lunsmann).

Right Top: Alistair Standing and Daniel Cappy power to windward in *Juicy* (Photo Fiona Lunsmann). Justin Smith and Lewis Glenister in *Bitch* smash their way upwind (Photo Fiona Lunsmann). Overall Handicap Trophy winners were Luke Coppens and Peter Kneale in *Dumbfounded Dipshidts* (Photo Andrew Burvill)



Above: The day trip to Rottnest Island proved a big with most of the Nationals crew spending a great day enjoying the sun, snorkelling and other joys of the island while acquiring hangovers that they did not really need.

## Social Program

Mounts Bay Sailing Club and the WA Cherub Association set themselves the goal of running the best Social Program seen for years. They achieved that and more. Every night of the regatta there was some form of well organised fun, social event with something for everyone.

To get a real picture of the carryings on you will need to tune into Facebook to check out some of the photos of partying.



## Largs Bay Next Year

The AGM of the Cherub Council of Australia held in Perth confirmed **Largs Bay Sailing Club** in Adelaide as the venue for the 2010/2011 Nationals.

The Club has experience running big regatta having hosted the Australian Youth Championships this year. They also have a keen Cherub group headed by Club President "Dr Cherub" Duncan Groome. New CNCA President Glen Emery

promised that the Club would build on the excellent organisation undertaken by the last two National host clubs to stage an unforgettable carnival.

Many crews have already expressed the fact that they are gearing up for Adelaide. A new Matthews shell is already in the hands of dual National Champion **Leigh Ashwood** ready to be built into a new boat for next season.

## Nationals Photos CD

Some great photos taken during the Nationals are available from the [Cherub Web Site](#).

A CD of the best shots of your boat is available from official photographer Andrew Burvill for \$45.

An order form can be found on the [Cherub Web Site](#) [Cherub Central](#)

## Nationals Videos DVD

Peter Kneale (and friends) shot some fabulous video footage during the Nationals which Peter has put together in a series of short videos on [YouTube](#). Included is the great video shown at the Presentation Night featuring all the boats and crews.

Further footage is currently being edited and when it is ready there will be an order form on the Cherub Web Site. Estimated price is \$30. Look out for it!

## Tribute to Nationals Organisers

The great success of the Perth Nationals could not have been achieved without the fantastic job done by all the volunteers at **Mounts Bay Sailing Club** who were terrific throughout the regatta. Also, the WA Cherub Association team led by **Cam Rule** and **Telisha Crannage** put in a mountain of work to organise the sailing. The fantastic social program only came about because the "Minister of Fun" **Todd Montgomery** proved to be a master at his trade.

A big thanks to all of you from all the Cherub Sailors.

## Next Month

This edition of Australian Cherub News has been dedicated to the Nationals regatta in Perth. Next month we will be covering progress in both the:

- Western Australian State Championships including the racing at Mandurah and
- New South Wales State Championships including Round 3 at Toronto

Together with our normal mix on technical articles and news of people and other comings and goings in the class.

Look forward to catching up with you then.

# National Championship Honours 2009-10

## Open Championship

1	Sparky	Alison Chapman and Rhys Mara	LC12ftSSC
2	Serenity Now	Steve Vance and Blake Vance	PDSC
3	Cunning Linguist	Cam Rule and Todd Montgomery	MBSC
4	Enough Rope	Ryan Clifton-Smith and Nigel Blatchford	B16SC
5	Fine Mess	Brennan Stead and Josh Leslie	PDSC
6	Alchemy	Claire Lunsmann and Rolf Lunsmann	LC12ftSSC

## Junior Championship (Under 21)

1	Sparky	Alison Chapman and Rhys Mara	LC12ftSSC*
2	Fine Mess	Brennan Stead and Josh Leslie	PDSC
4	Alchemy	Claire Lunsmann and Rolf Lunsmann	LC12ftSSC
5	Back in Black	Todd McVee and Steve Fryer	PDSC
6	Juicy	Alistair Standing and Daniel Cappy	PDSC

\* Championship to **Fine Mess**

## Cadet Championship (Under 18)

1	Rope City	Ashley Knighton and James Walters	B16SC
2	Flying Fanny	Ryan Smith and Nigel Smith	PDSC
3	Green Apple Splatter	Brendan O'Dea and Kate Hill	KBS
4	Big Girl's Blouse	Monique De Vries and Danielle	PDSC
5	Bucket	Michael Olsen and Simon Olsen	MOFSC
6	Betty Boo	Jamie Hayes and Anthony Talbot	KBSC

## Veteran's Trophy

## Women's Skipper Trophy

1	Cunning Linguist	Cam Rule and Todd Montgomery	MBSC	1	Sparky	Allison Chapman	LC12ftSSC
2	Alchemy	Claire Lunsmann and Rolf Lunsmann	LC12ftSSC	2	Alchemy	Claire Lunsmann	LC12ftSSC
3	Rita's Garden	Matt Jahn and James Garnaut	MBSC	3	XO	Telisha Crannage	PDSC
4	Dark Horse	Tom Batt and Chris Jahn	MBSC	4	Queen of Hearts	Noelene Snelling	KBSC
5	Brave Sir Robin	Matt Harskamp and Jamie Harskamp	PDSC	5	Big Girl's Blouse	Monique De Vries	PDSC

## Handicap Trophy

## Women's Crew Trophy

1	Dumbfounded Dipshidts	Luke Coppens and Peter Kneale	MBSC	1.	XO	Conor Keating	PDSC
2	Green Apple Splatter	Brendan O'Dea and Kate Hill	KBSC	2.	TNT	Rachel Jones	MBSC
3	Back in Black	Todd McVee and Steve Fryer	PDSC	3.	Green Apple Splatter	Kate Hill	KBSC
4	The Erotic Cucumber	Ben Loffelmann and David Meili	PDSC	4.	Big Girl's Blouse	Danielle Carr	PDSC
5	Alchemy	Claire Lunsmann and Rolf Lunsmann	LC12ftSSC	5.	WOP	Libby Vickery	MOFSC

## Best Presented Boat

Rope City	Ashley Knighton and James Walters	B16SC
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