

Cherubs on Facebook

Inside this issue:

Designer Profile: Richard Howell 2

NSW Program 2007-08 4

Brass Monkey Regatta 2007 4

With *Facebook* emerging as the latest and greatest on-line phenomenon, Australian Cherubs have moved to join the rapidly growing group of *Facebook* users.

The new Australian Cherub Sailors group on *Facebook* will allow Cherub sailors across the country to keep in touch with each other and find out information about Cherub racing and social activities.

The *Facebook* website explains how the site works "*Facebook* is a social utility that connects

people with friends and others who work, study and live around them. People use *Facebook* to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet."

Membership of *Facebook* is free and all you need to register is an email address. Once registered Cherub sailors can request to join the Australian Cherub group.

According to the Cherub Central webmaster Ewan Duckworth, the utility and

speed of *Facebook* will make it quicker and easier to share photos and keep up to speed with the hectic pace of the Cherub social scene.

The Cherub website [Cherub Central](#) will remain the central location for all the important news and information about Cherubs and Cherub sailing but *Facebook* will allow sailors to develop the strong social connections that are such an important part of the Cherub scene.

The screenshot shows the Facebook interface for the 'Australian Cherub Sailors' group. At the top, the Facebook logo and navigation links (Profile, Friends, Networks, Inbox) are visible. The group name 'Australian Cherub Sailors' is prominently displayed. Below the name, there is an 'Information' section with details: Name: Australian Cherub Sailors, Type: Sports & Recreation - Water Sports, Description: Australian Cherub Association, and Website: http://www.cherub.org.au. A 'Photos' section shows a grid of four photos of sailboats. A 'Videos' section displays two video thumbnails with titles 'Built for Thrashing at Belmont' and 'Belmont Racing'. On the right side, there is a large photo of a sailboat and a list of group actions: View Discussion Board, Message All Members, Edit Group, Edit Members, Edit Group Officers, Invite People to Join, Create Related Event, and Leave Group. At the bottom right, there is a 'Related Groups' section listing other groups like '12 Reasons to Date a Sailor' and 'I grew up in Australia in the 90s'.

Designer Profile: Richard Howell

The “restricted development” nature of the Cherub class means that hull design is always a keen topic of discussion when Cherub sailors meet. In this month’s feature article **Australian Cherub News** talks to one of the most successful designers in the class Richard Howell from Perth.

At last year’s Cherub National Championships held in Perth two boats built to Richard Howell designs, *Stomping Ground* (3140) and *Redback* (3139), finished in the top ten with *Redback*, sailed by Lisa Walters, winning the Women’s Championship. Another Howell design, *Green Apple Splatter* (3132) sailed by Todd McVee and Steve Fryer, won the Cadet Title. Later in the season Paul Hamer and Natasha Banning sailed *Stomping Ground* to victory in the WA State Championship. This State Title win capped the most successful season yet for a Cherub design that is now just on ten years old.

Richard Howell started sailing Cherubs in the 1975-76 season with his friend Peter Kovesi. He went on to sail in the 1977-78 Cherub Nationals held at Middle Harbour in Sydney and has sailed Cherubs on and off ever since.

Richard started his working life as a boat builder. He was involved in the major Western Australian project to build the replica of the Endeavour and the construction of the Duyfken replica. In 1990 he established his own boat-building business in Perth under the name *Watermark Australia*. Between 1990 and 2000 *Watermark*



built and repaired wooden boats, skiffs, Cherubs, Flying Ants and many other craft.

Among the Cherub that he built in this period were *Deep Sea Racing Prawns* (2972) and *Hot Chilli Peppers* (2970) for Maria-Luisa and Victor Odjea. Both these boats were foam sandwich hulls with ply decks. *Hot Chilli Peppers* won the National Junior Championship for Maria-Luisa Ojeda in 1990/91 and the National Women’s Title in 1909/91 and 1991/92.

Richard also designed and built over 100 rowing shells including some for export. While his business prospered, it was clear that in the competitive world of high tech boat building, the strains on a small business are enormous particularly the high cost of developing new products. Eventually Richard felt that business was not large enough to generate the profits needed to support further expansion and he decided to move on.

Embarking on a major career change, he enrolled in TAFE and obtained a Mechanical Engineering Diploma. This enabled him to commence a new career as a marine designer, initially with Austral Ships and then International Maritime Consultants in Fremantle before establishing his own marine design firm again under the name *Watermark*.

The first Howell Cherub (the Mk 1) was designed at *Watermark* in 1997 using CAD software. A mould was constructed using computer cutting techniques and the first boat 3106 was sailed by Richard himself.

1997 was a time of rapid development in the Cherub class as designers looked for designs tailored for the higher average speeds brought on by the

Above: The Watermark built Cherubs have a clean and open cockpit layout and feature an innovative placement of the chainplates on frames inboard of the gunwales.

move to asymmetric kites and apparent wind sailing.

Richard describes the *Howell* hull shape as quite full, with a full bow, a straight chine line and U shapes throughout.

“The result is that it planes at lower speeds than a Matthews hull. At 6 to 7 kts it is up and planing while the Matthews is still bow down. Because of this feature it accelerates faster out of a tack or when a small gust hits. This makes it good upwind. It is also a forgiving shape with its fuller ends. This means that it is not as sensitive to the crew’s fore and aft trim. It can be a handful if it is driven into a nosedive downwind. The

Richard Howell Designed Cherubs

3106 Nemisis	3139 Redback (Mk2)
3108 Queen of Hearts	3140 Stomping Ground
3132 Green Apple Splatter	3146 Brave Sir Robin

fuller bow means that it will decelerate faster in a nosedive and is therefore more difficult to control and may pitch-pole.” he explains.

“On the deck layout, I moved the chainplates aft about 50mm and inboard. I wanted the crew to be able to move freely fore and aft to balance the boat and moving the shrouds out of the way helped this. Anchoring the stays on the floor also helped to make the structures needed to support the loads lighter. Moving the stays aft also evens up the loads between the forestay and the side stays. This allows the boats to carry higher forestay tensions with less mast compression. The mast location is fairly typical for a Cherub perhaps to the back of the typical Cherub envelope.” he says.

In 2000 Richard built a one off Mk 2 boat for Mike Fuller (3139). It is a little finer in the bow and stern.

“It seems to have a very similar speed to the Mk1 design.” he explains.

“The Matthews hull is a very good one if sailed by a good crew. But it is less forgiving as it has been designed in one corner of the design envelope.”

Right: Photo analysis of the Howell hull (top two photos) shows the more rounded shaped in the bow and at the mid length measurement station. This compares the significantly more veed bow shape of the popular Matthews hull (bottom two photos). Photos Paul Hamer

Below left: Paul Hamer and Natasha Banning on their way to 9th overall at the Perth Nationals in *Stomping Ground*. Photo Andrew Burvill

Six Howell designed Cherubs are now sailing regularly in Western Australia, most were built by Richard with *Green Apple Splatter* 3132 having been built by Steve Walters to the Howell Mk1 design.

Richard now sails a Young 7.8. One that he built in 1998 of strip planked cedar. He bought it last year. “It is sailed for fun.” he says.

Richard still stays in close touch with the Cherub fleet in Perth. He sailed with Paul Hamer at the Nationals last year in the Invitation Race when Natasha was unavailable finishing third on the day.



Brass Monkey 2007

Four Cherubs lined up for the 2007 edition of the Sydney Flying Squadron's Brass Monkey mixed fleet regatta in early August.

A blustery westerly on the Saturday and light breeze on the Sunday made racing difficult and led to some erratic results. Adam Forbes and Kurt Warner in *Thicker Than*

Water, showed some occasional glimpses of speed as they duelled with Nigel Hale and Rosie Krause in *Pocket Rocket* for the lead among the Cherubs. Top spot in the Cherubs eventually went to *Pocket Rocket* narrowly from *Thicker Than Water*.

Right: *Camel Toe* (James Warner and Ewan Duckworth) gets an early jump on *Thicker Than Water* and *Pocket Rocket* at the 2007 Brass Monkey Regatta hosted by the Sydney Flying Squadron.



NSW Program 2007-08

Date	Event	Location
24 Nov	NSW State Championship Heats 1&2	Belmont 16ft Sailing Club
25 Nov	NSW State Championship Heat 3	Belmont 16ft Sailing Club
8 Dec	NSW State Championship Heat 4&5	Georges River Sailing Club
9 Dec	NSW State Championship Heat 6	Yarra Bay 16ft Sailing Club
27 Dec to 5 Jan	National Championships	Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron
26 Jan 2007	NSW Traveller's Trophy — Australia Day Regatta	Georges River Sailing Club
3 Feb	NSW Traveller's Trophy — SFS Trophy	Sydney Flying Squadron
16 Feb	NSW State Championship Heat 7	Jervis Bay Sailing Club
17 Feb	NSW State Championship Heat 8&9	Jervis Bay Sailing Club
1 Mar	NSW State Championship Heat 10	Lane Cove 12ft SSC
2 Mar	NSW State Championship Heat 11	Abbotsford Flying Squadron
2 Mar	NSW CA Annual General Meeting	Abbotsford Flying Squadron
8-12 Apr	Australian Secondary Schools Regatta (CHS)	Belmont 16ft Skiff Club
26-27 Apr	Traveller's Trophy (08/09)— Batemans Bay ANZAC Regatta	Batemans Bay SC

Australian Cherub News

Association contacts:

cherub.org.au

E-mail: info@cherub.org.au

NSW	Ewan Duckworth	02 9344 5880
WA	Andrew Vance	08 9332 6196
SA	Duncan Groome	08 8242 1140
Qld	Rob Jackson	07 3393 3383
Tas	Mike Fuller	03 6266 7109
Vic	Brent Frankcombe	03 9807 9607

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.