

TOM Macky, New Zealand Flying Fifteen champion and One Ton Cup racing enthusiast, said after winning the Australian Flying Fifteen championship that he never before realised the problems involved in borrowing a boat for a series.

31 boats took part in the seven-heat series which was hosted by the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club, Perth, and held on Olympic courses on the Swan River. Three Victorian and five Esperance crews were the other visitors.

The championship was a Macky family yachting experience. Tom and his father, John, were invited to sail the series in a Fifteen which the host association built for them. About the same time Tom's sister Trish (16) was to come to Perth as a Rotary exchange student — mother and another sister also came and were enthusiastic spectators.

However, although the WA Flying Fifteen Association does most things well, after the Mackys had been in Perth a few days they felt they had been given a raw deal. The Association had problems waiting for a mast to arrive for the Mackys boat, and the Mackys had to spend several days rigging it after they arrived instead of sailing as they had planned. There was also quite a bit of work to be done on the hull, which they felt should have been done before they arrived.

However when Tom looked back after the series he felt that doing the rigging themselves had enabled them to set the boat up as they liked, and this was a vital factor in their winning the title.

The New Zealanders used the new rig for the class, which has a higher-aspect jib and the boom is 9in (22cm) higher up. They used New Zealand JR sails and a stiff

Proctor mast section. Whereas most of the WA crews use slack rigging the New Zealanders had very tight rigging and the stiffer section mast gave them their superior boatspeed in the light airs.

Runner-up in the series was Esperance skipper Nils Blumann — a much older more experienced skipper who sailed his boat by the seat of his pants and used instinct for finding windshifts, whereas Macky used go-fasts and compasses to advantage. Both consistently made good starts and were sound tacticians.

Blumann had left his Snap at the Royal Freshwater Bay club after finishing second in the state championship a year before, and hasn't sailed much during this season. He bought a new suit of Cassidy sails for the nationals and had the best boatspeed in any breeze above 12 knots.

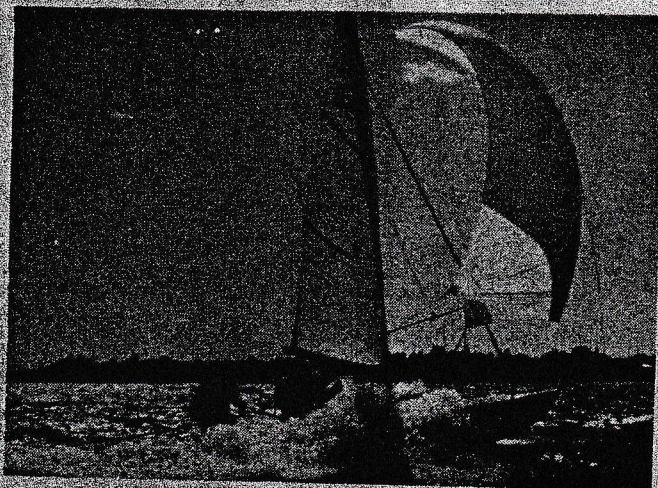
Third placing went to former national Hornet champion Geoff Black, sailing Owl and the Pussy Cat. This put boats from the WA Association mould in the first three placings; the first four boats all had the new rig.

Jim Carr was the best placed Victorian, finishing fifth. He did not fall behind in the race for the title until the sixth heat, which indicates the even competition between the clubs represented. The first wood boat was Hub Bell's Scaramouche which finished sixth.

Next year's series is to be held at the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club at Paynesville in Victoria.

— Rob Vaisey

RESULTS: 1, Waffa One (Tom and John Macky, NZ) *Ret. 1, 3, 2, 1, 2, 2* — 14.7 points (WA Assoc mould, Proctor spars, J.R. sails); 2, Snap (Nils Blumann and Roger Fitzhardinge, WA) *1, 3, 6, 1, 6, 1, 17* — 29.1 (WA Assoc mould, de Havilland spars, Cassidy sails); 3, Owl and the Pussy Cat (Geoff Black and Ian Ritchie, WA) *4, 13, 8, 3, 4, 3, 1* — 41.4 (WA Assoc mould, Proctor spars, Tasker sails); 4, Shonet Inyal (Ken Edwards and Dean Brewster Jones, WA) *12, 6, 1, 4, 7, 17, 6* — 62.4 (Shand hull, de Havilland spars, Tasker sails); 5, Simit 11 (Jim Carr and Peter Goods, Vic) *8, 10, 5, 10, Ret. 5* — 69 (Shand hull, de Havilland spars, Brooks sails); 6, Scaramouche (Hub Bell and Al Shepherd, WA) *8, 6, 4, 9, 9, 5, 12* — 72 (Crabbe hull, de Havilland spars, Tasker sails); 7, Fortuna (Garry Hood and John Edwards, Vic) *7, 4, 7, 6, 16, 4, 16* — 75.7 (Shand hull, M&W spars, Brooks & Tasker sails); 8, Cervantes (Tony Wood and Rick Scott-Murphy, WA) *3, 10, 4, 19, 8, 7, 4* — 76.1 (Shand hull, Proctor spars, Cassidy sails); 9, Saronikafi (Sandra, Paul and Ron Rose, WA) *9, 7, 5, 10, 5, 9, 9* — 78 (WA Assoc mould, de Havilland spars, Tasker sails); 10, Pamela Jane (Stan Austin and Peter Marriot, WA) *10, 14, 11, 8, 2, 12, 23* — 88 (self build hull, Champion spars, Tasker sails).



SON and father combination Tom (skipper) and John won Flying Fifteen national in WA.



Australian National Championship Results

1974 - 1975 sailed under the Burgee of Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club

With a fleet of 31 boats the Mackey's from New Zealand won the Nationals on the Swan River in the new association boat.

Arriving in Perth the team spent several days rigging the new boat. They used a stiff Proctor mast with much more rig tension than the locals normally used, they believe this rig tension gave them an edge over the locals. They were also sporting the higher aspect jib and the "new" boom height.

Unfortunately we do not have a full set of results for this series, however, the first place getters were:

Place	Boat #	Boat Name	Helm	Crew	Home State
1	1711	Waffa One	T.Mackey	J.Mackey	NZL
2	1701	Ssnap	Nils Blumann	R. Fitzhardinge	WA
3	1712	Owl and Pussy Cat	Geoff Black	I. Ritchie	WA