

51st Australian Skate Championship at South of Perth Yacht Club

Two boats have dominated the past five Australian Championships, **Pilbara Meta Meya** (WA) and **Any Which Way** (NSW).

In 2008 **Pilbara Meta Meya** sailed by Gary Caporn and Michael Forbes won their fifth title on their home course, Melville Water, Perth. This now gives Gary a record Seven Australian Skate Championships since 1978/79 with six of them crewed by Michael Forbes.

The series breezes ranged from 3 knots to 30 knots (plus) mostly from the south to south west.

Pilbara won four heats out of seven and across a range of breezes; their worst place was third.

Their main competition came from **Cho-Kon-It** sailed by Gary's son Gavin Caporn and crewed by Luke Parsons. They won the Invitation Race and the first two heats but lost their winning edge in the lighter breezes.

Western Australian boats filled the first four places, handling the stronger breezes more comfortably. Many used winged rudders - a distinct advantage on the Melville Water chop.

The 2007 Champion **Any Which Way** placed fifth after winning only one heat.

Seven NSW boats crossed the Nullabor and this gave a fleet of twenty boats.

Handicap winner was W.A. boat **Hellucination** sailed by Dave Stewart and Paul Anesbury from South of Perth and the Junior Champion was **On The Road Again** - Matt Ferris and Phillip Shiner of East Fremantle Club.

To complete the clean sweep for W.A. the National Champion also won the Veteran's Trophy.

The breezes were varied with a pleasant 15 knot sou-wester for the final heat.

The South of Perth Club organised a fantastic series both on the water and on shore, and the hospitality and social program will take a massive future effort to surpass

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Results

Place	Boat	Skipper/Crew	Race Results	Points (after 1 drop)
1	Pilbara Meta Maya	Gary Caporn/M Forbes (WA)	2-3-1-1-1-2-1	6
2	Chok-On-It Gavin	Caporn/L Parsons (WA)	1-1-5-4-2-4-2	22
3	Aussie Kiss	D.Grover /J.Elliot (WA)	4-2-3-2-3-3-5	31.1
4	Wendy With Nuts	S.Fico /M.Minutillo (WA)	6-7-6-3-5-10-3	57.8
5	Any Which Way	D.Luck /G.Crichton (NSW)	8-6-2-8-12-1-dnf	60.7
6	Never Give N Inch	J.Grant/ D.Crawford (NSW)	5-5-4-7-4-7-10	62
7	Take It Easy	M.Winney /E.Sills (NSW)	3-12-8-6-6-6-13	72.8
8	Grey Ghost	K.Sinton /C.Sinton (NSW)	dnf-4-10-10-7-5-7	83
9	On The Road Again	M.Ferris /P.Shiner (WA)	10-9-11-9-8-8-6	85.7
10	Hellucination	D.Stewart /P.Anesbury (WA)	12-10-12-5-9-9-9	89
11	Natural Juices	K Davies/L Schroder (NSW)	7-11-16-dnf—11-12-8	95
12	Traction	Simpson/L Sills (NSW)	Dnf-8-9-dnf-10-11-11	102
13	Tasty Fish	B Fannon/C Fannon (WA)	15-16-13-dnf-dnf-15-8	115
14	Get A Grip	B Andrews/S Andrews (WA)	Dnc-13-7-dnf-dnf-13-15	120
15	Gobstopper	G Sloan/N Shiner (WA)	11-17-15-dnf-13-16-12	120
16	Fireworx	K Williams/C Creighton (NSW)	Dns-14-14-dnf-dnc-14-14	129
17	Sticky Fingers Too	S Payne/E Manar (WA)	Dnf-16-17-dnc-dnf-17-16	136
18	Megasaurarse	B Uren/N Arndt (WA)	Dnf-18-dnf-dnf-14-dnc-dnf	141

John Grant.