

## AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS NEWSLETTER

It is hard to imagine that the 2008/2009 season has finished, to me and I am sure to many of you it only seems like yesterday that you had begun that first long paddle on the lake or took that first Saturday ski paddle out to sea or if you are a boatie you had that first chorus of Stuarts voice bellowing across the channel at 4.30 am, but time has marched on and the competition season has ended.

This years Aussie Titles was one where our club suffered some significant injuries which ultimately impacted upon the clubs performance in some events. Kaitlyn Summers copped a ski in her back and was taken to hospital on a spinal board but fortunately Kaitlyn suffered no serious damage. Mat Fairbairn broke his hand while warming up and resulted in Mat missing many of his individual events and Jess Collins who must have upset the gods this season suffered a serious laceration to her leg, which resulted in Jess also missing all of her individual events. This has been a very unlucky season for Jess as she suffered a serious toe injury that kept her out of the State Championships as well. The good news is all will recover and hopefully will be competing in club colours again next year.

Despite the injuries our club members performed above expectations with our under 15 competitors being the club stars where medals are concerned but there were many other performances in other divisions which were just as impressive although they were not rewarded with a medal.

Before detailing the performances I would like to thank each of our 52 competitors who made the journey to Western Australia, it is a long way and expensive, and to our club supporters who also made the trip thank you also, particularly John Sedgewick, it is my understanding that he has supported our club at the Australian Titles, in person, for over 40 years, a truly remarkable effort.

I would also like to thank Clive Higgins, Phil McClaren and John Scott who met our officials' requirements and Neil Gascoigne who manned the IRB. Thanks must also go to Tanya Barlow, Mick Sullivan, Paul Morgan and Troy Blatchford for assisting on the beach ensuring that competitors were ticked off and their needs met, well done.

Our club has also been very fortunate to have some wonderful coaches who have given up many hours of their time to assist our competitors in an endeavour to realise their goals, congratulations and thanks to Tim Foran, Mat Kent, Mick Sullivan, Dean Little, Peter Scott, Stuart McDonald and Goldie McKerras.

I must also thank the club and its executive for the support given to our competitors. This year the club met all expenses associated with entries to all carnivals, the cost of transport and uniforms to Aussies and some equipment.

Special mention must also go to Lisa Brown who was paddling for 2 at both the State and Australian Championships, well done and great club spirit Lisa.

**MEDAL RESULTS AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009 SCARBOROUGH W.A.**

NAME	EVENT	MEDAL
TIM FORAN	30-34 BOARD	GOLD
MAT KENT	30-34 BOARD	SILVER
TIM FORAN / MAT KENT	30-34 BOARD RESCUE	GOLD
AL BOYCE	45-50 SKI	GOLD
PETER MCKERRAS	65+ SKI	GOLD
PETER MCKERRAS / DON BLATCHFORD	65+ DOUBLE SKI	SILVER
SAM CORRIGAN MAT FAIRBAIRN JAY SULLIVAN ISAAC MORGAN	UNDER 15 SWIM TEAM	GOLD
MAT FAIRBAIRN JAY SULLIVAN ISAAC MORGAN	UNDER 15 BOARD RELAY	GOLD
MAT FAIRBAIRN MICHAEL REILLY	UNDER 15 BOARD RESCUE	GOLD
ISAAC MORGAN	UNDER 15 BOARD	GOLD
JESS COLLINS HANNAH TRYPAS ZOE KEMP MADDY MURRAY	UNDER 15 SWIM TEAM	SILVER
MAT FAIRBAIRN JAY SULLIVAN ISAAC MORGAN MICHAEL REILLY	UNDER 15 CAMERON RELAY	BRONZE
BOYD CONRICK	2 KM BEACH RUN	BRONZE

Congratulations to all of our medallists, you have all trained hard and deserve your rewards.

I would like to especially congratulate Zoe Kemp, Hannah Trypas, Sam Corrigan and Michael Reilly who have collected an Australian medal at their first attempt. To win a medal at an Australian Championship at any time is a tremendous feat, but to do so in team events with your mates is special and I am sure that these memories will remain with you for a lifetime, congratulations.

## MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM THE AUSSIES.

There were a number of incidents and achievements that are worthy of note and these include;

1. Mat Fairbairn breaking his hand in a warm up accident yet going on to compete with Michael Reilly in the Under 15 Board Rescue event and win gold. Mat was the swimmer and despite his broken hand reached the cans in the middle of the pack and on the way in they caught a boomer of a wave, some described the wave as the “wave of the day” and powered past the field to sprint up the beach in first place. Mat that is true iron man material and Michael it was also a great paddle on your behalf.
2. The under 15 Boys Swim team of Sam Corrigan, Isaac Morgan, Mat Fairbairn and Jay Sullivan winning Gold and our Under 15 Girls Swim team of Zoe Kemp, Hannah Trypas, Jess Collins and Maddy Murray being pipped into a Silver Medal by 1 point, what a great effort by our champion under 15 division.
3. The domination of our Under 15 Board Relay team of Mat Fairbairn, Jay Sullivan and Isaac Morgan who won the State Australian double and Isaac Morgan who won the State and Australian double in the under 15 Board race.
4. The girls under 15 Cameron relay team leading to the wave zone only to be cleaned up, with the following 4 teams by a monster and blasted out of medal contention. The girls also suffered bad luck in the under 15 Board Relay by finishing 4<sup>th</sup>.
5. Whilst the Under 17 and Under 19 divisions did not taste success many made finals and considering that most are in the first year of these age groups, continued training over the coming season will undoubtedly gain them the success they so richly deserve.
6. Tim Foran and Stewart Mclachlan, who had only had 1 previous paddle together in the Board Rescue event, combined at Aussie and worked through 4 rounds to make the final, with 6 teams competing for the medals. Stewart (swimmer) reached the cans a touch behind the strong Northcliffe team of Holmes/Eckstein. They were in line for a medal all the way to the beach but unfortunately the surf was fickle and a wave did not appear until they were nearly on the beach and in a run up the beach for 3<sup>rd</sup> they finished a creditable 6<sup>th</sup>, did I mention Stewart fell over in the run up, he claims Tim tripped him, hopefully the replays will be kind to both.
7. Peter Scott was sitting in a great position in the final of the Open Ski at the first can only to be T-Boned by a following competitor knocking him from his ski and ending his race. In the double Ski Peter teamed with Mitch Thompson and appeared certain to win a bronze medal only to hit dead water and be unplaced.
8. The Open Board Relay of Tim Foran, Brendan Ross and Stewart Mclachlan easily won the semi final but in the final things did not go to well for them where they finished 8<sup>th</sup>. Stewart Mclachlan made the final of the Open Board, where he drew alley 1, which turned out to be the difficult end, he was hit at the start and despite

- paddling back into contention just missed the wave that carried second and third to the beach.
9. The old warrior “Battler Conrick” won bronze in the 2km run, but the real surprise was his stamina, like an 18 year old which he was when he last competed at Scarborough (1992) he competed in the restricted surf race, the open surf race, the open board race the B Taplan side and made the semi final of the Open Iron man with a borrowed ski and Board. Boyd remarked that most competitors these days are ‘pussies’ because they stick to pet events. Battler with a little more training you may make the final of next years iron man, congratulations and thanks for your club spirit.
  10. The boat section had mixed fortunes whilst the girls boat crew suffered an early departure from competition in tricky conditions the under 19 Boys made it into the second round confirming their potential.
  11. The pride of our club the Open Men’s Taplan relay team did our club proud, finishing 7<sup>th</sup> in the final just behind Queenscliff, 6th position, the leading NSW team. When you consider the quality of the team members in the first 5 places and that our swimmers Michael and Daniel Booth were 16 and 18 years you realise the enormity of the effort so to our team Peter Scott, Mitchell Thompson (ski), Michael and Daniel Booth (swim) and Tim Foran, Stewart Mclachlan ((Board)

## FINAL MESSAGES

Congratulations are extended Mitchell Thompson who has been selected to compete in the Under 23 Australian Kayak Team at the World Championships to be held later this year in Germany. Congratulations are also extended to Mitchell Crow who performed well at the Australian Kayak Titles held in Perth, and from all accounts it will not be long until he joins Mitchell in an Australian side.

Remember that patrols continue up until the Anzac weekend and any hours accrued for this period go towards next season’s competition requirements.

The board squad have their annual trip to sandbar coming up and for all details contact Mat Kent.

Finally the container arrives back from W.A. Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April between 1-3 pm enquiries for assistance and collection to be made to Troy Blatchford.

I would like to end by thanking you all for your friendship, assistance and the manner in which you committed yourself to training and competition.

Garry Mclachlan  
Competition Coordinator