

## STATE 2009 NEWSLETTER

The 2009 State Championships again displayed our club's strength in water events. Our club finished 7<sup>th</sup> on the point score table and when you consider we did so with 1 sand competitor, no competitors in the R&R or lifesaving events and without a senior boat crew what a tremendous effort, one which is underrated by many of our peers and one that all of our competitors should be proud of.

The carnival commenced poorly for our club with a significant injury occurring to the club's champion under 15 competitor Jessica Collins in a training mishap two days before the championship. The injury prevented Jessica from competing in the championships and was obviously a huge disappointment to Jessica who had committed many hours of training towards the event. In addition Michael Booth sustained a serious knee injury which prevented Michael from competing to his full potential, although Michael still gave 120% effort.

### UNDER 15'S

Without a doubt this is where the club strength and our future lies, despite the injury to Jessica all of the under 15's competed above expectations and were a credit to our club. Whilst there were many great results in this division I feel it important to highlight competitors such as Maddy Murray, Zoe Kemp, Hannah Ward, Elisha Whitmill, Kelly Mitchell, Abbey McDonell, Sam Corrigan, Michael Reilly, Mat Barton and Ben Tacon who were always there to support our club in both team and individual events. In addition I would add that from my perspective all under 15 competitors deserve a standing ovation for the manner in which they represented our club at these championships, congratulations.

With respect to performances in this age division the star performer must be Isaac Morgan, 7 gold medals and 1 bronze from 8 events was simply fantastic, a great effort Isaac, congratulations.

Isaac was ably supported by Mat Fairbairn and Jay Sullivan both in team events and by pushing him to the limit in individual events that they so closely contested with Isaac and their efforts are also to be congratulated.

In the absence of Jess, Hannah Trypas stepped into the void by grabbing a number of medals but none were more impressive than her wins in the Diamond Lady and Swim Races, congratulations Hannah.

### Highlights

- Isaac Morgan 7 Gold Medals, 1 Bronze Medal
- Hannah Ward teaming with Hannah Trypas to win a bronze medal in the hotly contested under 15 board rescue event.
- The under 15 board relay team of Isaac Morgan, Mat Fairbairn and Jay Sullivan continuing their domination of this event.
- The finish of Michael Reilly to run down and dead heat with the Swansea Belmont competitor in the under 15 Cameron Relay event.

## **UNDER 17'S**

Luck certainly wasn't with the under 17 division with a number of 4<sup>th</sup> placings further souring the taste. The boys ably lead by Daniel Booth were very competitive in a number of events including the Taplan and Ski Relays and when you consider that most of the 17 year boys are in the younger year of this division, a brighter season is assured next year,

Mark Stowe and Brendan Pullen put in great performances in a number of events, whilst Lucas Chapman is beginning to develop into a fine board paddler. Rory Tanner competed well and swam in the open B Taplan relay displaying great club spirit.

The Under 17 girls were very competitive in every event they entered, making a number of finals in team and individual events. Whilst results did not come their way the camaraderie and team spirit displayed by all of these young ladies was inspiring, congratulations.

### **Highlights**

- The 4<sup>th</sup> placing in the Ski Relay and Taplan relay by Mark Stowe, Daniel Booth and Brendan Pullen great efforts and signs of things to come next year.
- Whilst the 3<sup>rd</sup> placing occurred in the under 19 Tube Relay Race the performances of both Laura Pearce (patient) and Emma Collins (rescuer) in this event were outstanding.

## **UNDER 19'S**

The lack of numbers and injury to Michael Booth had a significant impact on this age group. Mitchell Ambler deserves a special mention as he was willingly to participate in any event whether it was in the Under 19 division or the Open category. Michael Booth despite his injury competed in a number of events.

The iron lady of the championship must be Laura Higgins, who is not only a champion club person but a champion competitor. I lost count of the number of events that Laura participated in but it was numerous in both under 19 and open categories.

### **Highlights**

- Michael Booths 3<sup>rd</sup> placing in the under 19 Single Ski Race.
- Laura Pearce, Laura Higgins, Emma Collins and Allanah Luttrell 3<sup>rd</sup> placing in the Under 19 Tube Race.

## **BOATS**

Under the stewardship of Stuart MacDonald our boat section is developing quite well. Stuart's approach is to develop young crews who will mature into senior crews, rather than attempt to poach a senior crew from another club. This approach appears to be working with the Under 23 ladies crew making the semi-finals and the Under 19 men's crew finishing one place out of the semis.

## **OPEN'S**

There was so much excitement, elation and disappointment in the Open Category it is difficult to know where to begin, but I will begin by thanking Michael Booth and Mitchell Crow for the team spirit that both displayed. Earlier in the week Michael had suffered a knee injury which seemed certain to keep him out of all events where running was involved including the A Taplan Team, where Michael was a key member of our swim leg. Mitchell who is currently a member of the Australian Kayak squad on the Sunshine Coast, and who had not been in the pool for a while put his hand up and offered to swim in his place. Prior to the event Michael decided to swim and Mitchell willingly gave Michael His place in the team, displaying true club spirit.

It was also pleasing to see Callum Maher, who is better known for his feats in the pool attend the carnival and put his hand up for a number of swim events in both the open and under 17 divisions.

The board squad performed above all expectations, taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the board relay and having 4 members in the final 16 of the open board being Stewart McLachlan, Brendan Ross Mat Kent and Tim Foran. Mark Ayre nearly made it 5 Redhead competitors in the final, but was one place away finishing 9<sup>th</sup> in the semi-final.

The Ski squad was a little disappointing considering the goals that they had set, however 5<sup>th</sup> placing in the Ski Relay and Peter Scott's 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Single Ski Race were excellent results.

Boyd Conrick won the 2klm Beach Run but more importantly Boyd displayed true club spirit and fitness by nearly making the final of the open iron man and performing well in a number of swim events.

Emma Scott stepped out of retirement to take a place in the ladies Ski Relay and was much appreciated by the other team members. Lisa Brown had a great carnival putting in a very solid performance with her double ski partner Dean Little.

The fickle finger of fate again fell against our open Taplan team, with our first swimmer Michael Booth missing the start a little but putting up a Herculean swim to be in the top two 20 metres from the beach when a number of backmarkers jagged one of the only waves of the day to swarm past and over Michael. The team finished a creditable but unlucky 4<sup>th</sup>.

I would also like to personally thank Peter Scott, Stewart McLachlan, Daniel Booth, Hannah Ward and the Under 19 boat crew who waited on the beach from 11.30 am until 4.30pm to represent the club in the lifesaver relay. The organisational skills in this area displayed by Surf Life saving NSW was nothing short of disgraceful and the club will be making representations to the Association. Once again thank you all very much for your club loyalty.

## **Highlights**

- Michael Booth's swim in the Taplan Relay.

- Boyd Conrick's defence of his 2km Beach Race and quality results in the water.
- Stewart Mclachlans defence of his Open Board Title, this event is hotly contested and sought after to win 2 in a row is quite a feat.
- Peter Scott's 2<sup>nd</sup> in the open Ski Race, Peter was pipped in a photo finish despite missing the start by 40 metres, a sensational effort when you consider the calibre of the field and one that will put Peter well places at the Aussie Titles.
- Brendan Ross's paddle in the Open Board Race, at one stage Brendan looked assured of victory with a long searching burst from the turning buoy but was caught and was one of five on the lead wave and finished 4<sup>th</sup> a great effort.
- Certainly not highlights but incidents worth mentioning were the very ordinary starts that were afforded to Tim Foran in the Open Board and Peter Scott in the Open Ski. Tim was put into a nasty shore break and his race was over. Peter Scott received the same sort of start, a start I might add that certainly cost Peter the race. It was not Peter's day as he and his partner Mitchell Thompson also encountered an incident at the turning Buoy that cost them any chance of a medal.
- In the last leg of the Open Board Relay Stewart Mclachlan paddled the team from 5<sup>th</sup> to the lead wave with the Cronulla competitor making for an exciting finish. Stewart who is renowned for his finishing prowess was confident of victory and with a few metres to go had every right to be confident, but one quick glance at the pursuing competitor, two holes, both of which Stewart found resulted in Stewart completing a face plant on the finish line and accepting 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Stewart despite your disappointment it was an excellent paddle to be in that position and I am uncertain as to who has now christened you "tangles".

## **SUMMARY**

A great team, some great performances and a great carnival for Redhead Surf Club.

However we must all remember that without officials such as Lorraine Scott, John Scott, Clive Higgins, Symon Thompson, Phil McClaren, and duck drivers such as Col Ekert and Boyd Conrick, Supervisors such Tanya Barlow, Bill and Karen Summers and coaches Mat Kent, Troy Blatchford, Mick Sullivan, Greg Booth, Dean Little and Goldie the results achieved could not be obtained so thanks to all of the above and others that have helped thank you.

To all those competitors heading to W.A. safe journey and I will catch you on the beach at Scarborough.

Garry McLachlan  
Competition Coordinator