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WALLA WALLA PRESS

## Peter Antonie: Out of His Shell

A biography of Australian rowing's unsung hero

Foreword by John Coates AC

### Peter Antonie Out of His Shell

A biography of Australian rowing's unsung hero



Robin Poke

*Truly one of the greatest sportsmen Australia has produced, yet only a few people know who he is... (but) those who know (rowing) regard him as one of the greats, up there with... Bobby Pearce and Merv Wood.'*

Rob Woodhouse, Age, 4 February 1996

This well-researched and vivid account, illustrated with black-and-white photographs, narrates the story of Peter Antonie's remarkable sporting career, which saw him represent his country from 1977 to 1996. In lightweight events, Antonie won one world championships gold medal, two silvers and a bronze, and a Commonwealth Games gold. He then switched to the 'open' sculling ranks in order to compete at the Olympic Games. Despite being at a considerable disadvantage in terms of both weight and height, he eventually contested three Olympics, and at the 1992 Games in Barcelona won a gold

medal when paired with Stephen Hawkins in the double sculls to secure his position as one of the greatest rowers and scullers Australia has ever produced. Antonie is also the only Australian thus far to have received the highest honour in rowing, the Thomas Keller Medal, awarded by the world body, FISA, 'to recognise an exceptional rowing career'.

*The founder of the modern Olympics always said it was the struggle that was important, not necessarily the winning or losing ... he might have had Peter Antonie in mind.*

Ron Reed, Herald Sun, 25 April 1996

*It's not just the racing and winning, it's the challenge and knowing it's not easy. If something is easy to achieve, it's not that worthwhile.*

Peter Antonie, Australian Rowing, June 1997

*There can surely be few athletes in any sport, let alone an endurance sport such as rowing, who can claim the durability, versatility and sheer tenacity that Peter Antonie has demonstrated.*

John Coates AC, foreword

(See over for further details and order form)

## The Author

Born in England, Robin Poke contested the Henley Royal Regatta as a coxswain before graduating to rowing, then migrated to Australia in 1969. He was a member of a successful lightweight squad at the Mosman club in Sydney, and twice manager of the NSW state squad. He founded a national magazine, *Australian Rowing*, and was manager of Australian teams at the 1978 and 1988 World Championships. Poke's long association with rowing provides him with a deep insight into the sport's history and traditions.

*Robin Poke ... has spent the past 30 years chronicling the exploits of Australia's oarsmen and women as editor and journalist ... In this, his first book, he lends a journalistic eye to an evocative and absorbing story that is not only a fitting tribute to the most worthy yet unassuming of athletes but also an account of a significant phase in Australia's national and international rowing development.*

John Coates AC , foreword

*Robin Poke does an exceptional job of capturing the excitement and emotion of the big wins.*

John O'Hara, Walla Walla Press

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**Illustrated with 38 black-and-white photographs.**

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