

The Back Splash



ISSUE 6

DECEMBER 2007

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **ACTSport** new management team
- **ACTRA** Board Update
- **Peter Antonie** Book offer

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“Redbacks” perform well in Head of the Yarra

Head of the Yarra - 24 November 2007 - Redbacks crew from Black Mountain made their way to Melbourne for the 8.2km Eights race.

The crew; Peter Wright (bow), Vince McMahon (2), Colin Calderwood (3), Kerri Hughes (4), Stephanie Gollasch (5), John Kinsella (6), Kate McLoughlin (7), Evelyn Sommer (stroke) and Judith Abercromby (cox)



Where among the second largest field to enter the Head of the Yarra and where among a dozen crews entered in the D Mixed Master category.

The crew were hampered by the lake closure and were unable to get much training together. The major lead up was a good result in the Col

Panton over a shorter distance than the head of the Yarra.

The Redbacks Place in D category -
5th Time: 34:02.67
Adjusted time: 32:19.47
(Entry 76)

The Head of the Yarra was won by the Local Mercantile crew stroked by Olympic

Gold Medalist Drew Ginn.

The crew finished 111 out of 171 crews on outright time. The crew are already looking at going higher up the finishing order next year.

Photos by Emily McMahon



The crew; Peter Wright (bow), Vince McMahon (2), Colin Calderwood (3), Kerri Hughes (4), Stephanie Gollasch (5), John Kinsella (6), Kate McLoughlin (7), Evelyn Sommer (stroke) and Judith Abercromby (cox)



The race heads down the Yarra river through the centre of Melbourne.

DECEMBER 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 BMRC Re-gatta
2	3	4	5 NTC Time Trial Entries Close	6	7	8 NTC Time Trial
9	10	11	12 Tinnies Licences Course	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Xmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29
30	31					

First Crews selected for Beijing

Drew Ginn (VIC) and Duncan Free (QLD) have been named as the Men's Pair, while the South Australian duo of Marguerite Houston and Amber Halliday will represent Australia in the Women's Lightweight Single Scull.

Both of these crews, as long as they maintain their current form, will be nominated to the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC), before the AOC chooses the team to compete at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Houston and Halliday became the first female crew in to be pre-selected for the Olympic Games and

have achieved this feat due to their strong performances over the last two seasons.

In 2006 the pair combined to win silver behind the Chinese at the World Rowing Championships in Eton. This year their hard work paid off and Halliday and Houston went one better in Munich to become the 2007 World Champions.

Ginn and Free, who won their second successive world championship in the Men's Pair in 2007, were also awarded pre-selection in a move that copied the selectors' choice of four years earlier. Ginn, and then partner James Tomkins, were pre-

selected ahead of the Athens Olympic Games and the move paid off as the pair swept to gold.

Australia's rowers will have the first chance to impress the national selectors this week in Penrith as the National Time Trials and First Selection Regatta are held on December 6-9. Over 100 rowers from around Australia will compete on the Nepean River and at the Sydney International Regatta Centre. A shadow Australian squad will then be named to attend a camp in Canberra from December 10 - 16.

ACTRA Board Meeting Update

Below is a summary From the ACTRA Board Meeting held on 9th August 2007.

PRESENT: B. Prout, N. Hunter, P. Davoren, G. Marcks, T. Langdon and M. Ronke.

APOLOGIES: H. Neil.

Items discussed

Treasurers Report

EO Report

Roms Training
Level 3 Course
Youth Cup Proposal
Elite Development Coach
BRO Equipment Grant
2006-2007 Audit

Head Coaches Report

World Junior Championship reviewed

Recorders Report

WTT Concluded for 07

General Business

2000m Rowing Course
Beijing Olympic Torch Relay
ACT Team Uniforms
Youth Squad Meeting
Reinhold Batschi retires

Meeting Closed at 7:47 pm

Full minutes can be found at www.rowingact.org.au

Or by emailing actra@rowingact.org.au

BMRC Scullers Challenge—Regatta #3

The annual event, which is now in its second year, featured events in the Women's Pair and the Men's Single Scull, with competitors vying for the extra incentive of a prize pool worth \$7000.

In the Women's Pair, Sally Kehoe and Kate Hornsey led for the majority of the race to take first place ahead of Sarah Heard and Liz Kell, with Kim Crow and Robyn Selby Smith third.

Kehoe and Hornsey, who

rowed in the Pair at World Cup 2 earlier in the year before forming part of the Eight that finished fourth at the World Championships, will be one of the favoured crews heading into the trials this week in Penrith.

"It was obviously a great result on the weekend and it will be interesting to see how we all perform this week at the trials", Kehoe said. "We have just finished a pretty intensive six week training block so it will be good to see how we have progressed."

Hornsey meanwhile enjoyed the chance to start racing again after the intensive training program.

"It was great to get back on the water again and to be racing against all the girls", Hornsey said. "It was actually the first time I have raced for money so it was a nice little bonus heading into the trials this weekend."

..... Continued page 4



Sally Kehoe and Kate Hornsey receive their winners cheque



Jeremy Stevenson with his winners cheque

Beijing Supporters Group Deal

Rowing Australia (RA) has great pleasure in offering parents and supporters of the Australian Rowing Team with a golden opportunity to attend the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games to cheer for our athletes as they take on the rest of the world.

The package deal includes a return airfare on Singapore Airlines, 10 nights twin share accommodation that is close to the rowing course and a ticket to the rowing in the FISA Family Grandstand for \$4,990 per person. Additional travel options are also available on request (see attached website for details).

This is an exclusive deal that is limited to the number of rooms RA has been able to secure. In order to provide this opportunity, RA has negotiated an unbeatable accommodation deal with The Dragon Villas and has paid for 48 rooms in advance. RA has also secured a block of 100 – 125 FISA Family Grandstand tickets.

How to take advantage of this offer

1. Respond by email with

an expression of interest to Sam Irvine at sirvine@rowingaustralia.com.au. Please identify whether you are interested in a single (supplement to be charged), double or twin.

2. Go via the Travel Design International website to the 2008 BEIJING link for detailed information and conditions of the offer at www.traveldesigninternational.com.au (link found on the bottom of the TDI home page)
3. Complete and lodge the registration form attached to the Travel Design International website
4. Pay your deposit by the required due date.

This opportunity is offered on a first come basis so don't delay.

Families of prospective athletes will be given priority but will be restricted to one room package per athlete until the end of February 2008 (after the completion of the February Selection Trials). A reserve list will be kept of additional room requests that will be consider

after February subject to availability. If the number of responses and confirmed bookings is sufficient, RA will attempt to purchase additional rooms from the hotel.

All bookings and travel arrangements will be managed by Travel Design International, RA's preferred travel agency. A representative from Travel Design International visited Beijing last week to confirm the arrangements with the hotel and came back with glowing reports. The hotel is well appointed and is within walking distance or a short bike ride from the course. It will also offer regular shuttles to and from the course and the centre of Beijing.

I would encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity and I look forward to seeing you in Beijing!

Andrew Dee
Chief Executive Officer
Rowing Australia

BMRC Scullers Challenge continued

In the inaugural Men's Two locals made the go to Peter Wright and Single Scull event, Jeremy Stevenson, a final former Olympian the Black Mountain emy Stevenson, a Craig Jones and World Rowing Club organizing member of the Australian Men's Eight for the Nick Barnier who finished fifth and Sixth respectively. the final ahead of Dan Noonan and Tom Laurich. Congratulations must

The next ACT Regatta is on February 2nd.

ACT Sport New Management Team

ACTSPORT President, Brenda McConchie, announced the formation of a new senior management team for the ACT's peak sporting organisation. Mrs McConchie confirmed that the ACTSPORT Board has appointed a new CEO and a senior advisor to take the organisation to a new level in its leadership and advocacy of sport in the ACT and surrounding region.

Mr Gavin Macdonald from South Australia will take up the position of CEO on 6 November and well known Olympic cyclist and ACT Sports Hall of Fame member, Tracey Gaudry, will be the senior policy advisor from early in 2008.

Mr Macdonald has a wealth of experience in the sport and recreation industry with particular strengths in advocacy, sports business development, program management, including volunteer programs. Highlighted among his other areas of expertise are facilities planning and general sports administration. Ms Gaudry, who is well known to Canberrans as an outstanding sports woman, brings to ACTSPORT considerable business acumen from a wide range of business and sports business related projects and activities. Mrs McConchie was delighted with the Board's initiative in engaging Gavin and Tracey com-

menting that 'This is a new approach for ACTSPORT and we expect that our members and the Canberra community will see the benefit of having these two outstanding

people so closely involved with our organisation and our sporting industry.'



Marcks given ACTAS top honour

ACT and Australian rowing coach Gordon Marcks has been named ACTAS Sportsman's Warehouse Coach of the Year.

Marcks was rewarded for his excellent domestic season within the ACTAS program and then for his role as head coach of the Australian team at the 2007 World Junior Rowing Championships in Beijing in August.

Marcks was presented the award by ACT Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation Mr. Andrew Barr MLA and Senator Kate Lundy at the presentation on the 19th of November.

Nick Barnier, who was part of the Australian Junior Team, was also recognised as part of the ACTAS

squad of the year.

Veronica Tamsitt, Christabelle Northam, Zac Cleaver and Nick Barnier also received recognition for making the Australian Junior World Championship team.



ACTRA Supported By



Looking for a Christmas gift or holiday reading? Look no further!

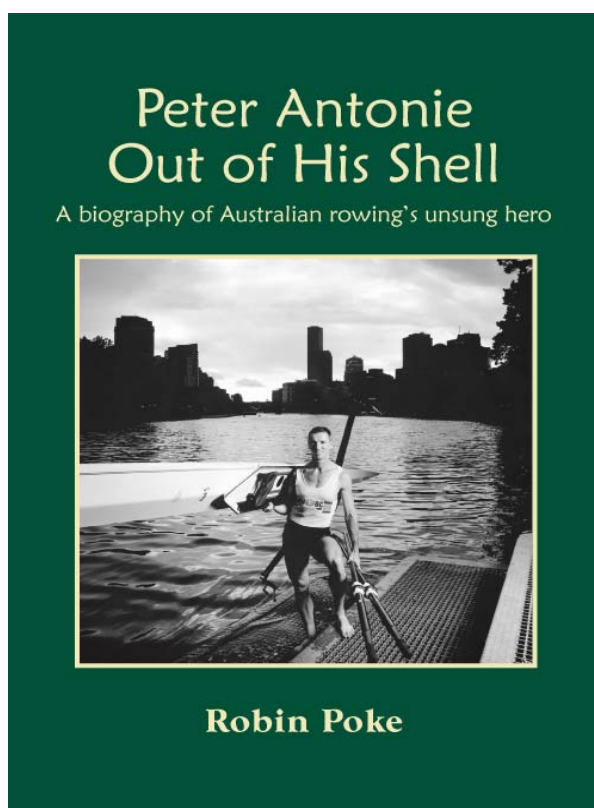
On sale NOW at SPECIAL 'mates' rate'

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

To order, mail address details and cheque/
money order for \$37 to:

Robin Poke, 53 Glasgow Street, Hughes, ACT
2605. Direct debit details can be obtained by
emailing robin.poke@bigpond.com



2007	Regatta	Hosting Club
November		
3 rd	Regatta 1	CGGS
17 th	Regatta 2	CLRC
December		
1 st	Regatta 3	BMRC
January		
26 th	Australia Day (Bridge to Bridge)	
February		
2 nd	Regatta 4	CGS
9 th	Regatta 5	Radford
23 rd / 24 th	ISRA	CGS/Daramalan/Radford/CGGS
March		
1 st	Regatta 6	Daramalan
15 th	ACT Champs (FHOL)	ANU
16 th	ACT Champs	CRC