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16-21 March 2010 Kurrawa Beach. **Come Celebrate.**

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IT'S CRUNCH TIME



WHOA THERE: This Masters double ski combination from Scarborough about to come a cropper in yesterday's testing Kurrawa break.

Competitors may be nursing bumps and bruises after two hectic days of Masters events in demanding surf at the Whereis® Australian Surf Life Saving Championships but their pride and spirit are well and truly intact.

In a punishing couple of days in all areas of the competition zone there have been thrills and spills aplenty but no competitors have shirked the challenges thrown up by the ever-unpredictable Kurrawa surf.

They have swum, paddled, run and rowed with relish as they took on the conditions and came out smiling at the other end.

"Why would you go anywhere else?" Maroochydore's Wade Lee said after winning his third gold medal of the carnival yesterday.

"It's a spectacle whenever we come here and the ideal place for the Australian championships. I'm loving it."

The demands of the surf have also allowed some of the sport's biggest names to thrive and relive old glories during their Masters competitions.

The biggest name of them all, Grant Kenny, was in his element yesterday and turned back the clock to win two gold medals (see story inside).

With the rough conditions expected to continue and perhaps worsen later in the week, competition will start at Kurrawa at 7am today as organisers attempt to complete as many events as possible.

Conditions will be closely watched each day, particularly the progress of Cyclone Ului off the Far North Queensland coast.

Surf Life Saving Australia's General Manager of Sport Grant Baldock said the range of contingency options available was not limited to relocating the entire event.

"We're working with other government agencies to gain the most up-to-date and accurate forecasts and we're monitoring conditions hourly," he said.

"The safety and wellbeing of our competitors and officials is paramount so if conditions do deteriorate we will look at our contingency options."

Those options include rescheduling the timetable of events to maximise the prevailing conditions, the use of an alternative competition area at the existing site, moving event arenas along the beach, partial relocation away from Kurrawa and the complete relocation away from Kurrawa.



HOLD ON TIGHT: A Coffs Harbour crew gets set for a bumpy ride to the finish.

**FOR THE LATEST UPDATES ON CONDITIONS AND THE CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE,
GO TO WWW.AUSSIECHAMPS.COM.AU**



IRONMEN NOT SO RUSTY AFTER ALL



ON THE DOUBLE: Mooloolaba’s Grant Kenny (right) and Jeff Lemarseny on their way to double ski gold at Kurrawa yesterday.

Ironman legend Grant Kenny showed he still has that Midas touch – mastering Kurrawa’s tricky, two-metre conditions like yesteryear.

The man who won the only senior-junior Ironman double on one day in 1980, turned back the clock to win two gold medals during yesterday’s Masters teams competition.

Kenny became the face of surf life saving when he won the Australian Ironman Championship in 1980, ’81, ’82 and ’83, and yesterday anchored the 130 years ski relay and the 45-49 years double ski.

The dual Olympic kayaker teamed with brother Martin and Jeff Lemarseny in the ski relay

before a stroke of luck saw him win gold number two with Lemarseny in the double ski.

“All I said to the boys before the ski relay was make sure you get me a good lead – because I’m the one who’s going to need it – I haven’t done much training,” admitted Kenny.

“When they delivered then the pressure was on me and after a few anxious moments I managed to negotiate the break and get back in one piece.

“And in the double the Tweed Heads Coolangatta team of Rob Darragh and Warren Lobb led but slewed near the finish to let us through – unfortunately that’s surf.”

Kenny was joined by the likes of former ironmen Dwayne Thuys, Darren Mercer, Mark Bennetts, Geoff Dews, Alan Coates, Michael Cook, Len Wood and Ashley Massie in an all-star Masters class who have all conquered the conditions.

Dews, formerly with Wanda and now from Maroochydore, showed he’s lost none of his skills, winning the 55-59 years Ironman from Newport’s Kevin Flood, with Stan Davies (Cottesloe, WA) taking the bronze.

Dews won Australian Ironman silver behind Currumbin’s Norm Rabjohns at Blacksmiths in 1972 and silver again behind Olympian Ken Vilder at Glenelg in 1974 in the Australian Open Ironman title. He also added gold in the board relay and board rescue.

Flood is the father of Manly’s Ironwoman queen Naomi Flood, who will mount her charge to recapture the Australian crown today.

Another legendary Aussies competitor and one of Dews’ old rivals in the Sutherland Shire, Steve “Dasher” Warren (North Cronulla), added another medal to his vast collection of Aussies gold, winning the open board race.

Warren won 16 open gold medals and in 1975 was named along with Vidler and Peter Lacey as the three greatest competitors of their era.

Michal Cook (Trigg Island), who finished second to Ken Vidler in the 1973 Australian Open Ironman title, won gold in the 60-64 years surf race from Barry Aplin (Surfers Paradise) and the ever present Jeff Banks.

Wanda’s Doug Iredale won the 50-54 years Ironman from North Burleigh’s Michael Daly with Southport legend Bennetts third.

Wood, who was third to Hayden Kenny in the original Ironman championship of 1966 and added further bronze and silver in 1967 and 1972, won two gold medals in the 65-69 years division for Maroochydore, in the board rescue and board relay.

Meanwhile Alan Coates, who was also an original Ironman in 1966 at Coolangatta, won the 65-69 years board race.

But the man who had the most successful individual day at The Masters was Terrigal’s Paul Lemmon who had a golden day in the 35-39 years age group, winning four events.



GOLDEN OLDIES: Michael Cook (left) and Mark Bennetts show they’ve still got it.

DOLPHIN TALES BY ZANE HOLMES

Is it just me or is everyone just as excited as I am that the Aussies are back at Kurrawa?

There is definitely a buzz in the air that hasn’t been there for quite a few years and it is so good to see!

I just hope Cyclone Ului will stay at bay just enough to produce some good swell to create some of the amazing competition Kurrawa is renowned for.

It’s about time we see what the best in the country are made of at a venue to test them all. After all we are surf lifesavers and this is what drives us to be the best we can be.

No one can deny the ‘spectacular’ that is the Whereis® Australian Surf Life Saving Championships when there is a swell to test the greats.

Like everyone else, I’ll be watching the events with great anticipation of seeing something which will be talked about for many years to come.

I think that’s what the Aussies are all about.

The camaraderie, the stories, the memories and the friendships created through every athlete and supporter witnessing and being part of one of the greatest events on earth.

Gee it’s good to be back!

WIN A

DOLPHIN

SURFCRAFT.

Name

Surf Club

Email

Phone

Drop the entry form into the Dolphin tent. Winner will be announced on Sunday afternoon, 21 March over beach PA system.

DOLPHIN

D1

EMMA A CHAMPION IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE



SHOULDER TO LEAN ON: Emma McKenzie (left) and Ashley Gallagher.

There is probably no better place in the surf to be injured than in the middle of the champion lifesaver competition – unless you’re the competitor who is injured, of course.

Swansea Belmont youngster Ashley Gallagher wasn’t thrilled to be on the end of a nasty whack from a rival’s board while competing in the under-17 champion lifesaver event on Tuesday but she was happy to be in safe hands.

Ashley, 16, was hit in the back by the board as the field battled to get out in the testing conditions.

“It was horrible, I could have sworn I was going to drown,” she said.

I was stuck under for a bit but when I got back up all I could think about was getting back to shore.

“Luckily the IRB guys where there to help me walk back up and all the other girls were there to make sure I was OK, which was great.”

Among the fastest to react to Gallagher’s injury was under-19 champion lifesaver entrant Emma McKenzie, who was quick to comfort and calm her fellow competitor.

McKenzie of Northcliffe showed the instincts of an outstanding lifesaver, running quickly off the sand and assessing Gallagher’s injuries.

It was no surprise to learn soon afterwards that McKenzie, a top-line swim prospect, had won the under-19 champion lifesaver competition.

While her attention to an injured rival did not count towards her gold medal, it was a classic example of how good training pays off no matter the situation.

The open champion lifesaver competitions were won by two familiar faces – defending champion Stuart Snell (Northcliffe) and Manly’s Melinda Pelly, who won her third title.

Taylor Redwood of Sunshine Beach won the men’s under-19 title, while the under-17 gold medals went to India Hancock (Northcliffe) and Bradley Doughan (Alexandra Headland), and the under-15 titles went to Samantha Scott (Kurrawa) and Liam Yeates (South Curl Curl).

GOLD, GOLD, GOLD

Winners of the most gold medals at the Aussies up to 2009.

- 36 – Clint Robinson
- 26 – Ky Hurst
- 25 – Trevor Hendy
- 22 – Zane Holmes
- 20 – Shannon Eckstein, Ken Vidler, Graham Carlisle
- 18 – Hayley Bateup, Kristy Harris (Cameron)
- 17 – Pierce Leonard
- 16 – Elizabeth Plumiers, Karla Gilbert, Steve Warren, Graham White
- 15 – Kristyl Smith, Caine Eckstein, Tate Smith, Dennis Heussner
- 14 – Brooke Fletcher, Mick Porra, Pater Lacey, John Laforest, Grant Kenny, Bernie Barry
- 13 – Amanda White, Mark Bennetts, Brad Stokes, Ken Wallace, Daniel McLellan
- 12 – Craig Riddington, Len Harris, Paul Duffy, Troy Hipwood, Ashley Cheney, Col Newman, Harry Nightingale
- 11 – Beau Cummins, Melissa Howard, Peter Dawes, John Ison, Mark Williams, John Ogilvie, Greg Allum, Robert Chapman, Glen Bell, Trent Balym, Adam Weir, Gary Watson
- 10 – Elly Graf, Noel Ryan, Barry Rodgers, Col Ricketts, Clayton Wetherall, Nick Nezval, Adam Nezval, Ian Jobson, Ron Sandstrom, Rob Watkins, Col Johnstone, Dick Cahill, Charles Fountain

WHEREIS

The best place for information on all the action on & off the beach.

Check out the new **Whereis®** and Telstra interactive centre to trial Whereis® Navigator, learn more about Telstra products, pick up an official event map and enter competitions!

Open from 8.00am-4.00pm in the Sponsors area.

Come and say hi!



PALM BEACH QUARTET WITH GOLDEN SMILES

After seven years of trying, a quartet of Palm Beach ladies struck gold at the Whereis® Australian Surf Life Saving Championships at Kurrawa Beach yesterday.

Annabelle Chapman, Karen Begg, Di van Ooi and Fiona Rae have been competing in Masters competition since 2003, having a lot of fun but finding no success.

Yesteray it was still fun but they now have two gold medals to go with the good memories.

In rough and tough conditions, Annabelle, Karen and Di joined forces to win the 150 years swim teams final and then an hour later Fiona teamed with Annabelle and Karen to take out the 130 years board relay.

The wild waves made the board relay a test of endurance for all teams but there was ecstasy for the Palm Beach combination when they realised they had won.

“We do this simply because we can,” Annabelle, who years ago was the first female member at Palm Beach, said.

“We train together all through the year and this is just terrific. The conditions were hard but they were easier than yesterday.”

Fiona also found success in the 40-44 years Ironwoman race yesterday, taking the silver medal behind Anna Ballara of Northcliffe.

While they were happy to finally be able to wear Masters gold medals, the ladies have other priorities when they compete at the annual carnival.

“It’s not about winning, it’s about how many events we can go in,” Di said.



PALMY ARMY: Golden girls from Palm Beach (L-R) Karen Begg, Fiona Rae, Annabelle Chapman and Di van Ooi.

WHEREIS SURF FACT

Alison O’Toole (City of Perth) is the only winner of the women’s 2km beach run, having won it in each of the five years it has been contested.

WHEREIS AUSSIES 2010 IS PROUD TO BE A SMOKE AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT.
TODAY’S SAFETY TIP: STAY WITH YOUR MATE WHEN YOU’RE OUT AND ABOUT

DAY ONE ACTION

ALL CHAMPIONSHIP PHOTOS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.HARVPIX.COM



CRUNCHER: Trouble looms for a Half Moon Bay ski paddler.



POOLE-POWER: Queenscliff's Ian Poole.



DOUBLE TROUBLE: Northcliffe's Masters women's ski team tackle this wave head on.



LIFE'S A BEACH: Golden oldies take to the Kurrawa sands.



SANDFLIES: Thrilling beach flags action.



WAVE OF SUCCESS: Manly's Christie Krenkels.



AUSSIES GOLD: Brett Dowker and Michael Waide.



ARMS LENGTH: Waide again, this time with Chris Maynard.

IT'S GREAT TO HAVE THE AUSSIES BACK 'HOME'

More than 8100 competitors are voting with their feet – as well as their boats, skis and boards – this week as they converge on Kurrawa for the Whereis@ Australian Surf Life Saving Championships 2010.

Competitors from every State in Australia as well as international competitors from New Zealand, Japan, France and Wales are making the six-day extravaganza a reason to celebrate another successful surf life saving season.

Fierce competition has been under way during with the first of two days of Masters who have shown that age does not weary them, conquering the testing two metre conditions.

And it will be more of the same when the open carnival starts today.

Surf Life Saving Australia President Ron Rankin AM said: "The 'Aussies' caps off another busy summer of patrolling for our volunteer surf lifesavers and is the time of year where we can all come together to celebrate.

"Surf Life Saving is delighted to be back on the Gold Coast at Kurrawa after three successful years at Scarborough in WA.

"Our renewed partnership with the Queensland Government through Queensland Events will see 'The Aussies' held on the Gold Coast from 2010 to 2012, after which there will be an opportunity to rotate the event every two years, making the Gold

Coast a semi-permanent venue for 'The Aussies' through to 2022.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Queensland Government, Whereis, Gold Coast City Council, Surf Life Saving Queensland and Kurrawa Surf Life Saving Club for their continued contribution to the running of this world-class event."

Queensland Tourism Minister and Member for Southport, Peter Lawlor, said he was thrilled about the return of 'The Aussies' to Kurrawa.

"2010 is the first in a landmark 13 year agreement between Surf Life Saving Australia and the Queensland Government through Queensland Events," Mr Lawlor said.

"This means until 2022, even though they may make guest appearances in other States, the Gold Coast is where 'The Aussies' call 'home'.

"Congratulations to all surf life savers who have travelled from Australia's 306 surf life saving clubs – your skill and spirit really are inspiring to us all."

And the athletes are just as happy about being back at Kurrawa.

"There's a good feeling that it's back home," Kurrawa club star and Olympian Ky Hurst said.

Kurrawa always puts on a big wave and surf and that's what sells the sport."

MASTERS CLUB POINTSCORE

Northcliffe 237.5 • Queenscliff 144 • Mooloolaba 137 • Alexandra Headland 114.5 • Currumbin Beach 101.5
Maroochydore 92 • Newport 84 • Noosa Heads 76 • North Burleigh 76 • Wanda 74