

AUSSIE 10



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

aussiechamps.com.au

ISSUE 2 - 19 MARCH 2010



THEY'RE OFF: The field in the open men's set off from Broadbeach for the start of the two kilometre beach run won by Tugun's Steve Madden.

COMEBACK COMPLETE FOR BRAVE MADDEN

By David Moase

Eighteen months ago Stephen Madden was hit by a car and didn't know whether he would walk again – let alone run.

People even questioned how he survived.

In a dramatic comeback yesterday, the 27-year-old from Tugun proved he is alive and well and can still run better than most as he claimed a clear victory in the 2km beach run.

After more than a year of operations, physiotherapy and uncertainty about his career, Madden was able to celebrate winning an Whereis® Aussies 10 gold medal.

In November 2008, Madden, a triathlete, was 100 metres from home at the end of a long cycle ride when he was struck by a car and knocked into the gutter.

He had serious knee and head injuries that have kept him out of competition for a long period but yesterday he was able to put that behind him.

"I haven't been allowed to run anything like 10km – the best I can do is run 2km and then walk so I thought this would be a good challenge," he said

"I was also keen to do it for my grandfather, Paul King, who passed away recently."

Following in Madden's footsteps was silver medallist David Rowell of Portsea and third-placed David Janes of Kurrawa, with one of the contingent of Japanese visitors at the championships, Hiroki Asami, finishing fourth.

After crossing the line in six minutes and 48 seconds then accepting congratulations from rivals and supporters, Madden's carnival was over with his one and only event successfully completed.

By 9am he was back at work as a Gold Coast City Council lifeguard.

In the women's final there were no surprises as the supreme beach athlete, Alison O'Toole, won her sixth consecutive title.

The tiny City of Perth star raced away to an emphatic victory in 7:46 to maintain her record as the only athlete to ever win the open event. She finished ahead of North Bondi's Siobhan McCarthy and Kurrawa's April Zekulich. *By David Moase*

Story continued page 2.

PROGRAMME CHANGES

Due to programming difficulties and testing conditions faced at Kurrawa, the organising committee has revised the program and locations for today's events at the Whereis® Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.

The following events have been relocated to North Kirra with racing to commence at 8am.

- Open Female Surf Boats
- U23 Female Surf Boats
- U19 Male Surf Boats
- Surf Boat Relay
- R&R
- All U15 water competition

Open Male surf boats will not race today.

All of the remaining events will be held at Kurrawa, with events to commence at 7am.

To assist competitors, officials, the media and the public, organisers will post the latest information on the carnival venue and weather forecast on the website at www.aussiechamps.com.au

**FORECAST FOR TODAY: MOSTLY FINE, WITH JUST A SHOWER OR TWO. MIN 20, MAX 28
UV ALERT: 8:20 AM TO 3:30 PM, UV INDEX PREDICTED TO REACH 10 (VERY HIGH)
TIDES: HIGH 10.06AM 1.26M LOW 4.03PM .18M**



CRAZY KURRAWA CUTS THROUGH IRONWOMAN FIELD



TIGHT GRIP: Ironwoman Hayley Bateup hangs on to her board in the Ironwoman heats.

By David Moase

“It’s one of the wildest, craziest Kurrawa surfs I’ve ever seen.” That was defending Ironwoman champion Kristyl Smith’s assessment of conditions in the women’s area yesterday.

Smith of Northcliffe had just made it comfortably through the opening round of the Ironwoman competition and was still shaking her head at the conditions that made the heats a battle of the fittest and the luckiest.

While Smith was able to get through to the semi-finals without much trouble, there were other star performers who weren’t so lucky.

Kellogg’s Nutri-Grain Ironwoman Series competitors Bonnie Hancock (Northcliffe) and Allira Richardson (Mooloolaba) were eliminated in heat one, unable to even complete the course as they battled to get through the break on their skis.

The first heat lasted nearly 25 minutes, with Maddie Boon (Kurrawa) grabbing the eighth and final qualifying place just 40 seconds before officials were going to call an end to the race.

Gold medal hopefuls Elizabeth Plumers (Northcliffe) and Naomi Flood (Manly) led the field in heat one, while heat two saw Hayley Bateup (Kurrawa) and Courtney Hancock (Northcliffe) do a similar job.

In that second heat, the tough conditions told on Candice Falzon (City of Perth) who led after the swim but could find no way out on the board and eventually retired from the race.

Casey Leo-Litzow (Northcliffe) won heat three ahead of Hannah Minogue (Bulli), Alisha Miller (Freshwater) and Smith, who almost walked over the line.

In heat four, only six competitors finished before the cut-off time, with Rebecca Creedy (Metropolitan Caloundra) leading the way.

“It’s just relentless out there,” Smith said. “You think you see a way through and then all of a sudden a six foot bomb is breaking on you.”

“It is the sea playing games against you and having the ski leg last, when you are already tired, makes it especially difficult.”

Smith said she was just happy to have progressed to the semi-finals with her equipment and her gold medal hopes intact.

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).

DOLPHIN TALES BY ZANE HOLMES

Shannon Eckstein may be battling a hip injury this week but if there is any athlete who is tough enough and determined enough to ignore the pain and still have a successful Whereis® Australian Surf Life Saving Championships it is my Northcliffe club mate.

He’s a big occasion athlete. He doesn’t have a weakness, he can handle any conditions; he’s good in the surf and he reads it well.

Even with an injury he is more than a match for his rivals.

Shannon has had some bad luck at past Aussies with injuries so he won’t want to let this injury stop him.

His record speaks for itself. He has won three Aussies Ironman titles and only needs one more to equal the career totals of Grant Kenny and Ky Hurst, although he is still a few behind Trevor Hendy’s record of six titles.

I definitely think matching Grant and Ky will be something on his mind this week.

When you are at his level and have achieved everything in the sport, what do you strive for? In his case, it is making history and stamping his name into the record books.

And he just might do that this week.



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.



PAGE ONE CONTINUED



“After three years competing at home in Perth I wasn’t sure what the competition would be like back on the east coast,” O’Toole said as she hugged her 13-month-old son Tighe, who was born a month before her gold medal victory last year.

“I’m stoked to be able to win it again.”

O’Toole is planning to have another baby in the next 12 months but after last year’s performance that is unlikely to stop her chasing title number seven in 2011.

In the under-19 beach runs, siblings Kieren and Kelly Ann Perkins from Metropolitan Caloundra both took gold medals, while in the under-17s David Lazarus from Trigg Island and Jordan Mercer of Mooloolaba were the winners.

Under-15 winners were Harry Scouler of Nowra/Culburra and Holly Curtis of Torquay.

MAD DASH: Stephen Madden breaks clear in the 2km run.



NUMBER ONE: Naomi Flood (centre) with her happy line team Robbie Williams, Harrison Williams, Flo Epper and Trent Herring.

NAOMI JOINS MANLY'S GREATS

By Ian Hanson

Manly Ironwoman Naomi Flood has joined a select band of sky blues who have won an Australian belt race championship with a brilliant display to win the coveted open women's title yesterday afternoon.

Flood joins the likes of Olympians Simon Upton and Deane Pieters, who dominated the open ranks between 1989 and 1991, and brilliant juniors Graham Ankin and Robbie Williams, who both grabbed junior crowns in 1972 and 1974.

It was a trip back through memory lane for Williams, the popular Manly president who acted as Flood's reelman, 36 years after his own success.

Williams also had the thrill of seeing his own daughter Emma finish fourth in yesterday's helter-skelter final that saw Miranda Bell (Maroochydore) and Nadine Canning (Lennox Head) share the podium with Flood.

Flood said after the victory that she was honoured to join some of the club's greats in one of surf life saving's traditional events.

"To be mentioned in the same breath as guys like Simon Upton and Deane Pieters is an honour – I have heard so much about them," said Flood.

"It was my first attempt at the belt at Aussies and it was tough going. I did get a favourable draw but I had to punch it through the break and swam as hard as I could to my buoy.

"To win a gold medal on the opening day of the Aussies is unreal and a bit strange really – but it was an enormous thrill."

Also part of Flood's crew were Williams' son Harrison (third line), her team mate in Manly's team events Flo Epper (first line) and her coach Trent Herring (second line).

Flood's gold medal capped off a big week after her victory with Bernadette Wallace in the K2 500 at the Australian Flatwater Canoe Championships last weekend.

The 2006 Australian Ironman champion was later named in the Australian Sprint Canoe Squad – the first major step towards the London 2012 Olympics.

PAGE THREE PIN UP



CHEEKY: Cottesloe's Anthony Rock has his hands full after losing more than just his board race heat.

WHEREIS® SURF FACT

No competitor has won the men's open board race in consecutive years since Mick Porra won four in a row from 1980-1983.



THRILLS & SPILLS

Over 7,500 competitors. Battling it out on the sand and in the surf.

The Gold Coast is set to come alive at this year's Whereis® Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.

We're growing Queensland's reputation as an international event destination, and in the process, creating exciting platforms for culture, communities and sport that showcase our creativity and celebrate the Queensland way of life.

It's all part of the experience of a Queensland event.

An initiative of the Queensland Government.
Delivering economic and social benefits statewide.



queenslandevents.com.au

**WHEREIS® AUSSIES 2010 IS PROUD TO BE A SMOKE AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT.
TODAY'S SAFETY TIP: DON'T TURN A NIGHT OUT INTO A NIGHTMARE. DRINK RESPONSIBLY.**

DAY TWO ACTION

ALL CHAMPIONSHIP PHOTOS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.HARVPIX.COM



UP...UP...AND AWAY: Long Reef's Reserve Grade boaties all surfaced unharmed after this spectacular wipe out.



WHAT A KRACKA: Believe it or not the other girl is also on a board. BIG DIPPER: Take me to the river.



BALANCING ACT: Olympic kayaker Ken Wallace.

TERRIGAL TRIO: Golden girls in the U19 board relay.

SWAN DIVE: The Australian diving coach will be calling this Northcliffe boatie today.

SHANNON'S PAINFUL IRONMAN QUEST

By Ian Hanson

The biggest name in surf life saving Shannon Eckstein will have to beat the pain barrier as well as Ky Hurst and Hugh Dougherty when he begins his quest for a fourth National Ironman crown at the Whereis® Australian Surf Life Saving Championships at Kurrawa today.

Eckstein, 26, lined up with his Northcliffe team mates in the Lifesaver relay, ski relay and board relay heats yesterday, conquering the testing conditions to help out his ailing Northcliffe team mates – despite a painful hip injury.

Australia's premier club have already lost two of their biggest names in former Australian Ironman champion Zane Holmes and reigning champ Pierce Leonard – severely depleting their open teams.

Eckstein will sacrifice some individual events – the board, the restricted surf race and the open surf race – to concentrate on the team events and the Ironman.

And he admitted he actually gets more nervous when he lines up in a teams race.

"Everyone expects you to perform and you don't want to let your team mates down," said Eckstein. "It's OK if you blow it yourself but not when you have other guys relying on you.

"But with Zane and Pierce sidelined I had to do whatever I could to help out the teams. I won't be doing the board, which I won last year or the surf races."

Eckstein admitted he is taking pain killers to help him get to the start line.

One of his main rivals, Tugun's Hugh Dougherty will also start as one of the favourites to capture his first Australian Ironman title.

"It's one of those things you always dream about as a youngster, to win the Australian Ironman and that would be a dream come true," said Dougherty. "It's great to be back at Kurrawa, we have some great memories here, especially winning those five Taplin relay titles and we have three of the team lining up on the weekend."

Joining Dougherty in the Tugun Taplin will be their "gun" ski paddler, Olympic gold medal winning kayaker Ken Wallace and Nutri-Grain Ironman Sam Hamilton.

Wallace, Hamilton and ski paddler Sean Kelly only just scraped through in their heat of the ski relay with Wallace crossing the line in eighth place.

But the man who has been part of the five Taplin Relay victories is looking forward to chasing title number six.

"This is the first team I've been in since we won here (at Kurrawa) in 2006 and it's a similar draw, with the ski last, so the pressure will be on," said Wallace, who has just come off a successful National Canoe Championships.

Wallace won the K1 500 and the K1 1000 events. Wallace won the K1500 and K1 1000 events and he and sister Bernadette were both named in the Australian Canoe Sprint Squad. Ken and Bernadette will line up together in the mixed double ski event at "The Aussies."

PROGRESSIVE CLUB POINTSCORE

Northcliffe 71 • Maroochydore 55 • Mooloolaba 45 • Manly 35 • Terrigal 35 • Alexandra Headland 34
Dicky Beach 26 • City of Perth 23 • Kurrawa 21 • North Burleigh 21

