



“AUSSIES” COUNTDOWN

Issue #2

Tuesday February 22, 2011

KIWI PAUL FLIES KURRAWA’S FLAG ON HOME SAND

There’s a saying amongst beach sprinters and flaggers: “If you never win a race until the last race of the year then you’ve still had a good season.”

Currumbin’s former World Champion and two-time Australian open champion **Brett Robinson** is one who certainly lived by the adage and knows that champions rise to the occasion – especially in the rigors of beach sprinting.

It is a case of survival of the fittest after gruelling rounds of flags, sprints and relays take their toll on surf lifesaving’s sand warriors.

“The Aussies brings out the best in the best,” says Robinson, now putting his efforts into coaching the next crop of “beachies” at the Currumbin Vikings.

And he knows that on the beach on finals days at the Australian Championships only the strongest legs and the toughest minds survive.

In casting his expert eyes over the fields for this year’s Aussies, Robinson was quick to point out that **Paul Cracroft-Wilson**, the man they call “KP” will be putting all of his eggs in one basket, as he chases the men’s open beach flags crown left vacant following the retirement of premier “sand man” **Simon Harris**.

Last year Harris hung up his final flag after beating Cracroft-Wilson – Kurrawa’s prized New Zealander - to win a record eighth Australian title.

Harris made the beach flags at Aussies compulsory viewing on a Saturday afternoon at Aussies when thousands of spectators packed the beach for the elimination process that has made the beach flags a must watch event.

“KP” – Kiwi Paul to his squad members now has the chance to add his second Australian gold medal after beating Harris only once in his decade of dominance.

“If he never wins a flag race all season he will still be the man to beat on the day at Aussies,” said former training partner, Robinson.

“With Simon watching in the grandstand I’m sure, Paul will be determined to turn around his bridesmaid tag after finishing second to Simon in five of the last six years...*continued page 2.*

BEST OF THE LAST TEN YEARS BEACH SPRINT – OPEN MEN

- 2000-01: S.Munnery (Killcare)
- 2001-02: S.Munnery (Killcare)
- 2002-03: B.Robinson (Currumbin Beach)
- 2003-04: R.Hoffman (Northcliffe)
- 2004-05: T.Williams (Anglesea)
- 2005-06: B.Robinson (Currumbin Beach)
- 2006-07: D.Scarff (City of Perth)
- 2007-08: S.Landers (Grange)
- 2008-09: A.Stubbs (Kurrawa)
- 2009-10: T.Nolan (North Cottesloe)

BEACH SPRINT – OPEN WOMEN

- 2000-01: R.Irwin (Bronte)
- 2001-02: R.Irwin (Bronte)
- 2002-03: K.Smith (North Cronulla)
- 2003-04: A.Cheney (Mollymook)
- 2004-05: A.Cheney (Mollymook)
- 2005-06: A.Cheney (Mollymook)
- 2006-07: E.Graf (Cronulla)
- 2007-08: E.Graf (Cronulla)
- 2008-09: L.Shorter (Queenscliff)
- 2009-10: L.Shorter (Queenscliff)

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NEXT WEEK:
SWIM EVENTS
Flash back 1996

“And that in itself will be an interesting scenario – after being the underdog for so many years behind Simon, now he’s expected to win – will he be able to handle that?”

The beach sprint, won by Robinson as an under 19 in 1998 before graduating to win the open crowns in 2003 and 2006, will see North Cottesloe’s Australian representative **Tom Nolan** lining up to defend his title.

It’s something that has not been done since Killcare’s **Stephen Munnery** won back-to-back titles in 2001 and 2002.

But reigning world champion Nolan is primed to join Munnery in a “special club” after emerging as the fastest man on sand last season and the WA flyer will have to keep 2009 Australian champion and Stawell Gift winner **Aaron Stubbs** at bay.

Stubbs won the under 19 and Open sprint double in 2009 – a feat only achieved once before by Bronte’s **David Dworjany** in 1987.

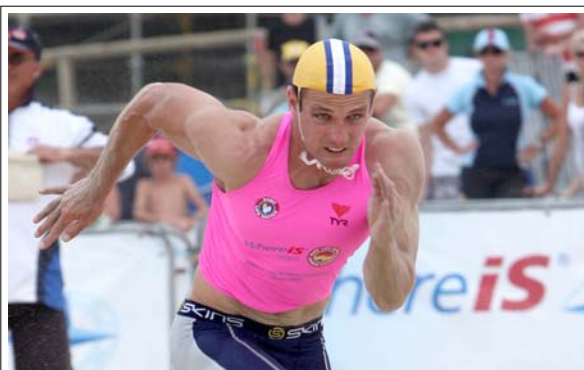
The former Kurrawa champion is expected to line up for Northcliffe in this year’s Aussies as he chases his second National crown.

His presence will add another element to a race that is likely to develop into a stouch between Nolan and the Kurrawa and Collaroy connections.

Kurrawa will field under 19 Australian beach sprint champion **Ben Mitchell** and under 19 Australian beach flags champion and Australian under 21 representative Ben Mispelhorn, who upset the big names, including Nolan in this year’s Trans Tasman Test Series.

Collaroy, from Sydney’s Northern Beaches, will boast 2010 open beach sprint silver medallist **Elliott Marynissen** and reigning NSW State Champion **Michael Kember** – fourth in last year’s final.

Others to keep watch on will be 2007 National champion, City of Perth’s **Dean Scarff**, who was third in last year’s final and Newport young gun **Jake Lynch**, who has already upset both Marynissen and Kember this season in Sydney.



ON THE FLY: Paul Cracraft-Wilson



AUSSIES GOLD: Tom Nolan

BEACH RELAY – OPEN MEN

2000-01: Killcare
(B.Johnson, A.Hopper, S.Munnery, N.McKay)

2001-02: Killcare
(M.Kain, A.Hopper, B.Johnson, S.Munnery)

2002-03: Killcare
(A.Hopper, B.Johnson, M.Kain, S.Munnery)

2003-04: Killcare
(A.Bird, M.Kain, S.Munnery, B.Johnson)

2004-05: Mollymook (G.Beveridge, P.Howcroft, G.O’Rourke, S.Richardson)

2005-06: Maroochydore
(P.Jackson, A.Jackson, J.Jackson, C.Laney)

2006-07: Bribie Island
(A.Bolt, L.Bailey, C.Linderman, B.Levenson)

2007-08: Kurrawa
(P.Cracraft-Wilson, P.Stubbs, A.Stubbs, R.Hoffman)

2008-09: Kurrawa (A.Stubbs, P.Cracraft-Wilson, R.Hoffman, J.Longden)

2009-10: Kurrawa
(B.Mispelhorn, B.Mitchell, P.Cracraft-Wilson, M.Foster)

BEACH RELAY – OPEN WOMEN

2000-01: North Cottesloe
(A.Margaret, R.Winteridge, S.Belle, N.Skelton)

2001-02: Mollymook
(A.Cheney, C.Gowen, H.Keevers, H.O’Sullivan)

2002-03: Anglesea
(N.Symington, A.Lewtas, L.Robinson, E.Hutton)

2003-04: Mollymook
(A.Cheney, A.Davidson, T.Davies, M.Howard)

2004-05: Cronulla
(N.Jones, J.Hamilton, A.Keegan, M.Miles)

2005-06: Mollymook
(A.Cheney, A.Davidson, T.Davies, M.Howard)

2006-07: Cronulla
(E.Graf, N.Jones, M.Miles, E.Groves)

2007-08: Scarborough
(E.Calabrese, S.Hudson, R.McCabe, T.Trigwell)

2008-09: Scarborough (D.Spurgeon, S.Hudson, R.McCabe, T.Trigwell)

2009-10: Kurrawa
(C.Donaldson, M.Finch, M.Howard, C.Maples)

DID YOU KNOW? Noosa Heads **Mitch Miller** has sights set on winning the under 19 & Open Ironman double at this year’s DHL Aussies - a feat only achieved once before, by Grant Kenny in 1980 at Maroochydore.

LAURA QUEEN OF THE SPRINT

Queenscliff's **Laura Shorter** has continued throughout 2011 where she left off in 2010 – unbeatable, mounting another dominant campaign in her bid to win a third straight open women's beach sprint title.

"I honestly can't see anyone beating Laura, she's been in great form all season in NSW and in the Trans Tasman in New Zealand, where she was unbeaten in all three Tests," said Robinson.

Shorter has been untouchable over the past two years and will join **Veronica Lee** (Terrigal) and **Ashley Cheney** (Mollymook) as only the third person to win three open sprints in succession if she can take the honours in 2011.

(Lee is the most successful of all open women's sprinters winning four titles in a row between 1993 and 1996 and five all together in a stunning career after winning her first title in 1991, while Cheney won three between 2004 and 2006).

Contenders will include flags champion **Melissa Howard** and Kurrawa's "Kiwi" connection of **Chelsea Maples** (second to Shorter at last year's Aussies) and South African-born New Zealand representative **Chanel Hickman**, who finished third to Shorter in each of the Tests and won all three beach flags finals.

While Shorter is the sprint queen arch rival Howard is very much the princess of the flags arena – having already won six of the last seven Australian titles, since her maiden victory in 2003 with Mollymook.

Howard is just two gold medals shy of matching Simon Harris' eight Aussies gold medals and is sure to attract a lot of attention in the build up to Aussies 2011.

Last year Howard kept Trigg Island WA pair **Alysse Hogan** and **Holly Daniels** at bay as well as Shorter, who finished fourth in a spectacular display of flagging.

Hickman's decision to link up with Kurrawa gives the Aussies host club even more reason to get excited about another dominant 2011 carnival.

Last season saw Kurrawa become the first club in history to win both open men's and open women's beach relays since Elouera won the first open women's beach relay in 1996 as they flourish under the coaching of 2000 and 2004 Australian open beach sprint champion **Ryan Hoffman**.

Kurrawa will start odds-on for history to repeat itself with what looks to be even stronger teams than last year.

While it was first time gold for the women it was title number three for Kurrawa's men with Cracroft-Wilson the one common denominator across between 2008 and 2010.

CITY OF PERTH SUPER MUM CHASES SLICE OF SLSA HISTORY

In the two-kilometre beach run, to be contested for only the seventh time, it will be a brave man or woman to tip against City of Perth's "Supermum" **Alison O'Toole**, unbeaten since it was first introduced in 2005.

And while O'Toole, who won the title for the fifth time in 2009, just three weeks after the birth of her baby boy Tighe has been the one constant on top of the podium – none of her 12 silver and bronze medallists have been the same.

So many have tried to match the WA running machine but as yet none have been good enough to topple her.

Her victory in 2010 saw her match Redhead's **Michael Jones** as the only other competitor to win six individual Australian open titles.

Jones, from Newcastle club Redhead, won seven out of eight Australian open beach flags championships between 1981 and 1988 – six of them in a row from 1983.

Meanwhile, the six-year history of the men's 2km run has seen six different winners with defending champion, Tugun triathlete **Steve Madden**, staging a remarkable comeback after an horrific bike accident threatened his career.

Photographs: www.harvpix.com



BEACH QUEEN: Laura Shorter



SIX OF THE BEST: Alison O'Toole

“AUSSIES” FLASH BACK TEN YEARS AGO

Kurrawa. 2001

Ten years ago in the 2000-01 season it was the year that Surfers Paradise with the likes of **Trevor Hendy** and **Karla Gilbert** at the helm, ruled the waves in surf lifesaving at the Australian Championships at a testing Kurrawa break.

Surfers won the cherished overall pointscore on 170 from the **Hayley Bateup** inspired Northcliffe 105 and Olympic gold medallist **Clint Robinson** and the Maroochydore club on 104.

Individually it was **Ky Hurst**, in his second season with Tugun, who would again lead the way, confirming his amazing potential as Australia’s leading competitive surf lifesaver.

Hurst, whose uncle **Keith “Spaz” Hurst**, was himself a legendary lifesaver with North Bondi, possessed a special affinity with the surf and showed all his extraordinary skills to become the first person to win the coveted open surf race-ironman double.

In the surf race he showed all those skills to win the gold medal from two-time Australian Ironman champion **Dean Mercer** (Mooloolaba) and Palm Beach Queensland’s champion stillwater swimmer **Jason Samuelson**.

Hurst had run second to Maroochydore’s **Stephen Short** in the 1999-2000 surf race but showed in 2001 that he was one right out of the box.

The Ironman saw Hurst prove too good and too strong for 2000 World Champion **Phil Clayton** and an emerging Ironman star in **Zane Holmes** (Kawana Waters).

Hurst, who had won the under 16 Ironman titles in 1996 and 1997 and the under 18 crown in 1998, had won his first Australian Ironman title with North Burleigh in 1999 and successfully defended the championship in 2000.

His third victory in 2001 made him the fourth competitor in Australian Ironman history to win three titles in a row, joining legends **Barry Rodgers**, **Grant Kenny** and **Trevor Hendy**.

Hendy had been the dominant force in Ironman racing between 1987 and 1995 – winning six gold and three silver medals from nine Australian Championship starts – beaten by **Dean Mercer** twice and **Guy Andrews**.

But in 2001 and very much in the twilight of his career Hendy showed a class field that as board paddler, he was far from a spent force.

Fifteen years after appearing on the podium for the first time, taking silver behind Manly’s **Mick Porra** in 1987, Hendy powered through the testing, tricky Kurrawa break to win his fifth National board race championship in a neck-and-neck finish with Cronulla’s **Nathan Smith**, with North Burleigh’s **Leon Hay** taking bronze.

Hendy could not hide his elation in what would be his final individual gold medal at the Aussies, taking his total to 25 gold medals – 13 of them in individual events.

2KM BEACH RUN – OPEN MEN

2004-05: B.Conrick (Redhead)

2005-06: M.Bate (Queenscliff)

2006-07: O.Shilston (Currumbin Beach)

2007-08: P.Jacobs (Freshwater)

2008-09: D.Rowell (Portsea)

2009-10: S.Madden (Tugun)

2KM BEACH RUN – OPEN WOMEN

2004-05: A.O’Toole (City of Perth)

2005-06: A.O’Toole (City of Perth)

2006-07: A.O’Toole (City of Perth)

2007-08: A.O’Toole (City of Perth)

2008-09: A.O’Toole (City Of Perth)

2009-10: A.O’Toole (City of Perth)

FLAGS – OPEN MEN

2000-01: M.Foster (South Brighton, NZ)* J.Moon (Mullaloo)
*Representing international club – first place Australian competitor awarded gold medal.

2001-02: C.Jones (Newport)

2002-03: S.Harris (Surfers Paradise)

2003-04: S.Harris (Northcliffe)

2004-05: S.Harris (Northcliffe)

2005-06: S.Harris (Northcliffe)

2006-07: P.Cracroft-Wilson (Northcliffe)

2007-08: S.Harris (Northcliffe)

2008-09: S.Harris (Northcliffe)

2009-10: S.Harris (Northcliffe)

FLAGS – OPEN WOMEN

2000-01: N.McDonald (Surfers Paradise)

2001-02: C.Gowan (Queenscliff)

2002-03: L.Wright (Swansea Belmont)

2003-04: M.Howard (Mollymook)

2004-05: L.Wright (Swansea-Belmont)

2005-06: M.Howard (Mollymook)

2006-07: M.Howard (Mollymook)

2007-08: M.Howard (Kurrawa)

2008-09: M.Howard (Kurrawa)

2009-10: M.Howard (Kurrawa)



TWENTY FIVE GOLD: Trevor Hendy

HAYLEY'S IRONWOMAN BREAK THROUGH

It was also a break through year for Northcliffe's **Hayley Bateup** who won the open Ironwoman for the first time, beating **Kirsty Holmes** (Kawana Waters) and two-times winner **Karla Gilbert** (Surfers Paradise).

A specialist board paddler and emerging ski paddler, Bateup out-surfed the field to kick-start an outstanding career in surf sports.

Bateup would also add the women's board title, again lowering Gilbert's Surfers colours with North Wollongong's **Lilli Miller** taking bronze.

Gold medal number three came in the open women's board relay when Bateup combined with **Lee Vrolyks** and **Reen Corbert** to beat Alexandra Headlands with Surfers Paradise taking bronze.

Gilbert did prevail to win her second Australian open surf race title ahead of Bulli's **Kristi-Lee Ogilvie** with Miller again in third and the golden girl of surf then spearheaded Surfers to victory in the open surf teams with **Alee Sharp**, **Penny Turner** and **Frances Wallace**.

In other events, sisters **Kirsty Holmes** and **Denby Stokes** (nee Holmes) combined with Olympian **Angela Kennedy** to win the inaugural open women's Taplin Relay crown from Northcliffe and North Burleigh; Tallebudgera, with the wily **Marty Fletcher** at the helm successfully defended the club's open women's boat title from Kurrawa and South Curl Curl while Holmes proved too strong to win the open women's single ski.

Cronulla's **Tiarne Smith** combined with swimmer Kate McLellan to win the open women's board rescue, while on the beach it was Bronte's **Rebecca Irwin** who prevailed to win the open beach sprint; **N McDonald** (Surfers Paradise) won the beach flags and North Cottesloe won the club's first women's beach relay gold ahead of Anglesea and Surfers Paradise.

Maroubra's **Holly Heussner**, second to Holmes in the single ski combined with Ironman brother **Kane** to win the mixed double ski, following in the family footsteps of legendary father **Dennis**, an Olympian who dominated board and ski paddling in the 1960s and 70s, winning 15 Australian gold medals.



SKI'S THE LIMIT:
Clint Robinson

ROBBO'S 26TH AUSSIE GOLD

In the overall scheme of things, 2001 was a lean year for Maroochydhore's three-time Olympian **Clint Robinson** who chalked up his 26th Australian gold medal – adding just one more gold to his extraordinary tally of 26 gold medals – but it was the one the one he cherished – the open single ski.

Robinson had won the coveted crown eight times before – winning his first open single ski in 1991 – 12 months before taking Olympic gold in Barcelona in 1992.

And it certainly wasn't presented to him on a platter. The field, with its usual inclusion of Olympic kayakers and aspiring Olympic kayakers and specialist ski paddlers took it to the champ in the uneven, tricky Kurrawa break.

Robinson, on his customary blue and black striped Hayden, was hit several times in the break, with North Burleigh's **Brad Rogers** handling the break the best with the field, also including Robinson's 1996 and 2000 Olympic kayak team mate **Peter Scott** (Redhead) in hot pursuit.

As the field chased the lumpy runners off the final turning buoy Robinson loomed large as first North Bondi's **Paul Tatham** mounted his charge for the coveted title.

Tatham headed north and Robinson, never beaten, chased anything that moved and he ended up towards the southern end.

With Tatham in dead water and Scott on the move as well it was Robinson who gathered momentum and charged towards the finish to grab another gold.

Tatham was only just behind him for silver with Scott taking bronze.

Meanwhile there were signs of a Northcliffe push and apart from Bateup's brilliance there were gold medals in the prestigious Taplin Relay and the men's board rescue to **Ty Dowker** and **Luke Richmond**.

Dowker and Richmond were joined in the Taplin team by **Paul Wotherspoon**, **Mark "Wally" Williams**, **Nick Crilly** and **Nathan Baggaley** who defended their title ahead of an emerging Tugun outfit and the ever present North Burleigh.

On the beach the outstanding talents of **Stephen Munnery** shone through in what would be a golden era for Central Coast, NSW club Kilcare.

Munnery won the club's first open beach sprint title from Maroochydhore's **Andrew Jackson** and Manly's much travelled Kiwi **Callum Taylor**.

In the Lifesaving area it was Currumbin's **Trent Balym** who again showed all the skills and finesse to win his fourth Champion Lifesaver title.

Balym also led the Vikings to their 14th Patrol competition championship with brother **Todd**, the **Cahill** brothers **Stephen** and **Ben**, seven time champion **Michael Chan** and **Adam Hamilton**.

SURF LIFE SAVING – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS DATES MEDIA CONTACTS

QLD

Name: Crazy John's Qld Masters Championships

Date: March 25 2011

Venue: Kurrawa

Name: Crazy John's Qld Senior State Championships

Dates: March 26 & 27 2011

Venue: Kurrawa

Contact: Cameron Ward

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T: 07 3846 8044 | F: 07 3846 8099 | M: 0419 201 246

W: www.lifesaving.com.au

NSW

Name: 2011 Allphones NSW Surf Life Saving Championships

Venue: Kingscliff, Cudgen Headland NSW

Date: Masters: March 17 2011

Opens: March 18-20 2011

Contact: Donna Wishart

Media & Communications Manager | Surf Life Saving NSW

P: 02 9471 8050 | Switch 02 9471 8000 M: 0414 414 087 | F: 02 9471 8001 |

W: www.surflifesaving.com.au

VIC

Name: Victorian Lifesaving Championships

Date: 12 & 13 March 2011

Venue: Lakes Entrance Beach

Contact: Drew Urlichs

Manager – Aquatic Sports

P: 03 9676 6957 | M: 0402 404 099

www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au

TAS

Name: Senior State Championships

Date: March 12 & 13 2011

Venue: Clifton Beach SLSC

Contact : Mel Bush 03 6223 5555

www.slst.asn.au

SA

Name: Masters State Championships

Date: March 12 & 13 2011

Venue: Christies Beach

Name: Seniors State Championships (Beach)

Date: March 25 2011

Venue: Glenelg

Name: Seniors State Championships

Date: March 26 & 27 2011

Venue: Moana

Contact: 08 8354 6900

www.surfrescue.com.au

WA

Name: 2011 WA Senior Surf Lifesaving Championships

Date: March 12 & 13 2011

Venue: Scarborough SLSC

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