



BE THE BEST, ENJOY IT THE MOST

Nick's Blog – Aussies Open Day 1

At the champion lifesaver competition a couple of days ago, Jemma Smith was asked a super weird question.

"They showed us a synoptic chart," she told me and a couple of other people standing on the beach this morning. "You know, highs and lows, all those lines. Then they asked the question. It was, if the air pressure says 1010 hP, which side of the line is that?"

Meaning: was the pressure on the high side, or the low?

What did you say? I asked, intrigued - not least by what a champion lifesaver would do with the information.

"I guessed it right," she grinned.

Well you should never be surprised when Jemma Smith gets it right. A few minutes before, she'd kicked off the open women's ski relay final, a race in which we plucked a silver out of the Maroochydore shore-break thanks to an outside-in run from finisher Sascha Taurins. Boom!

But the truth is, atmospheric pressure is going to play a significant part in this massive carnival.

At any one moment, wherever you might be on the surface of the Earth, the atmospheric pressure varies. There are many wacky reasons for this, but the single biggest reason is the Sun. It heats the planet's curved and spinning surface unevenly, causing the air to rise and fall and rush about all over the place in the phenomenon we know as "wind".

And wind is everything. Right? Wind makes waves. Wind forms inshore currents. Wind blows like it did for a while today, across the racing line, slightly disrupting everything.

The air pressure may have been stable over the open women's racing area - two finals, two silvers. Elsewhere, it varied wildly. I wandered down to the under 17 boys and watched their highly successful board relay team, such frequent winners, dragged into fifth in the final. Low pressure formed over the area's tents, threatening to turn cyclonic. Mitch Morris sat in his folding chair, not looking dismayed so much as disappointed.

Within 30 minutes the same team was back on the line in the ski relay final. Now you don't want to project on to an athlete, specially not if you're a coach, but I did think, let's see if these three decide to get revenge here. Let's see if this cloud has a golden lining. And did it ever.

2021 Aussies

Place: 2nd
Points: 65



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Mitch, the anchor, extended the lead built by brother Jake and lead paddler Bailey Clues and ran away with the race. The low pressure system magically dissipated, to be replaced by clear skies and sunshine again.

Of course a lot else happened, everyday at Aussies a lot happens. The masculine ski gods were pretty much ski gods. They put three teams into the open ski relay final, three teams! Nine paddlers! And while they didn't win, they plucked more team points out of that final than the actual winners.

Other finals were made, to be decided tomorrow. But all in all, today felt to me to be strangely light hearted. We've been training and prepping in one way or another for this carnival since last May. We've done it through the first global pandemic in a century. We've been split up into little groups of five at a time, and cut off from each other by the Avalon Cluster, and had to abandon more plans than I can count. Three weeks ago, for a couple of days at Easter, I bet most of us wondered if this whole thing would even happen - if Covid would claim its second Aussies in a row.

But here we are.

At sea surface level, a perfectly balanced air pressure occurs at 1016 hP. Anything higher than that, and it's considered to be High, anything lower, and - yes! as Jemma guessed - it's thought to be Low.

Today, over Maroochydore, it was around 1019. High, but I daresay, not as High as it's gonna get.

Tristan's Beach Report

Our Masters Beachies team has been out in force over the past two nights on the beach track under lights at Mooloolaba.

Newport were represented by Ted Smithies, Brett Budd, Tristan Conn and Glen Borg.

Night One saw Ted defend his Australian title convincing and take Gold in his sprint. Tristan came in second in his sprint taking a silver medal. The team then combined to compete in the relays. The heats saw them take a solid win and were amongst the favourites heading into the final. Unfortunately, a dropped Baton in the final meant the team went home empty handed.

Night two was flags night. With two flags pits and a large crowd converging on the promenade above the atmosphere was electric.

Ted opened the teams account taking a bronze medal flags. Brett followed with a solid performance in the finals and Tristan rounded out the night with a silver medal.

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Open sprints start on Wednesday and with finals at night under lights make sure you make it down to support some of Newport's finest and watch the fastest athletes on the sand compete.

Open medal **WINNERS** & point scorers to date



2

Open Champion Lifesaver Jemma Smith
U17 Ski Relay Bailey Clues/Jake Morris/Mitch Morris



4

U17 Patrol Competition Emma Carrol/Travis Cox/Sam Capell/Kai Raffles
Open Surf Team Emily Doyle/Jemma Smith/Maddie Spencer/Lizzie Welborn
Open Ski Relay Jemma Smith/Sascha Taurins/Lizzie Welborn
U19 Surf Team Logan Kaye/Lee Melbourn/Mitch Morris/Zach Morris



4

U17 2KM Ocean Swim Kimberley Doyle
Open 2KM Ocean Swim Emily Doyle
U19 Champion Lifesaver James Simmonds
Open Ski Relay Max Brooks/Jayke Rees/Mitch Trim

TOP 6 FINISHERS

4th

Open Champion Lifesaver Phoebe Savage
Open Make Ski Relay Luke Jones/Luke Morrison/Greg Tobin

5th

U19 2KM Ocean Swim Logan Kaye
Open 2KM Ocean Swim Jami Prowse
Open Patrol Competition Phoebe Savage/Bec Capell/Brendan Capell/Guyren Smith/
Jeremy Paul/Chloe Van Dam

6th

U17 Champion Lifesaver Kai Raffles
U19 Surf Team Katelynn Doyle/Kimberley Doyle/Jodi Louw/Madi Louw