



Nick's Blog – Aussies Day 3

I thought it was the last event of the day. I was wrong.

The open men's board relay had wrapped at this point, and the sun, which put on a splendid demonstration of sunburny warmth today by the way, was sinking into the background. People were exiting stage right and left with not unseemly haste. Like, it'd been a HUGE day. Let's go home.

But then Charlie Brooks said, "Liv!"

Half a k away to the north, Olivia Clues was ripping in.

You might have read me calling Liv and her racing buddy Pipi Te Pania "powerful and fantastic" yesterday. What does that mean? In Liv's case, it means a tall strong human with sharp blue eyes, a similarly sharp wit, and a kind of endearing self-confidence. You sense, this is a girl who knows where she is going. Which is just as well, because today, according to supercoach Trent, she led out 21 races.

Let that sink in.

Like, it is impossible.

I truly wish I'd seen her second to last race. This was the under 19 women's board relay. It featured Liv and Pipi (both under-17s), and the other full on in-form athlete of the YTNG team, Kimberley Doyle.

Some background. One of the big items up for grabs at this carnival is the Numbered Cap. You get a Numbered Cap if you win an Aussies gold medal in the open carnival.

Liv didn't have one. Last year at Aussies, she got eight bronze medals. Pipi didn't, since she only joined the squad this season. Earlier in the afternoon, they'd come fourth in the U17 board relay, and Pipi especially was crushed. Just exhausted, maybe.

Yet here they went, in the next division up: Liv stepping on to the line to lead out, getting it done, and sending Kimmy in around sixth. Kimmy, in the board form of her life, clawed us back to fourth or so.

I do not know the names of the girls in front of Pipi in that last leg, but I bet none of them will forget being dropped like stones, one by one, till Pipi came in on her own wave and turned anguish into gold.

Numbered Caps!

So then, Olivia, after 20 races, as the sun retreats behind the Maroochydoore apartment blocks, steps into the shorie with her ski for the under-17s individual ski final.

BE THE BEST, ENJOY IT THE MOST

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This race should have been held yesterday, but because of yesterday's hectic surf conditions, it was pushed out a day. Today was very different. It was very much Queensland, perfect one day, beautiful the next - swell backed down, rain gone away, classic surf racing conditions.

But again, by this time it was 4.30pm. Even the spectators were cooked.

Not Liv, not yet.

She blew the race apart from the start. There wasn't any Pipi style overtaking heroics needed. Liv just took off and left the field two ski lengths back, possibly wondering what they'd got themselves tangled up in.

Charlie and I gazed at this from a distance in a kind of terrified admiration. "She's GOTTA win this," said Charlie. He was right. But it hasn't been that sort of carnival. People have taken bigger leads than this and been taken down by Maroochydore's minor intricacies, over and over. Especially on the ski.

On the ski, you can slew in a second here. Or paddle into dead water inside the surf zone, and be taken down by someone who finds a wave from nowhere.

We'd been conquering this all day, from the exceptional 1-2 in the mixed double ski way back around 9:30am (when?? was that today as well? at this point it felt like last week) to the long cascade of taplin qualifiers that filled the lunchtime hours.

But as Liv pulled further away coming in, something about it felt fragile. Three paddlers had settled in to give chase. In normal circumstances, you wouldn't have looked at them. Liv scrapped and chased a small wave off the back sandbar, almost got it, pushed into deep dead water.

The three girls behind her found something. A wave lifted behind them. All three picked it up and angled down on to Liv, stranded in that dead zone 20 metres ahead.

"Noooooo!" Charlie and I both sorta shrieked.

And then, they slewed. All three of 'em. The skis spun sideways and left them stranded instead, and Liv locked it in and power paddled the last 40 metres home.

We won some good medals today, and over the weekend, we're gonna win plenty more. But whatever we do, nobody's going to do what Olivia Clues has already done. Maybe nobody will ever do that again..

Don't forget our team dinner:

21st April 2024 @ 6.00pm

Cotton Tree Bach Bar

Shop 2

13-15 The Esplanade

Cotton Tree

BE THE BEST, ENJOY IT THE MOST

OPEN MEDAL WINNERS & POINT SCORERS TO DATE

9

Open Champion Lifesaver Jemma Smith
U17 Champion Lifesaver Harrison Woodrow (cap106)
U17 Mixed First Sequoia Avtarovski (cap107)/Tabitha Reeman (cap108)
U19 Double Ski Bailey Clues/Maguire Reid
Open Mixed Double Ski Jayke Rees/Jasmine Locke (cap109)
U17 Taplin Relay Sam Chaffer (cap112)/Noah Maggs (cap111)/Harvey Monnock (cap110)
Open Ski Relay Max Brooks/Jayke Rees/Mitchell Trim
U19 Board Relay Olivia Clues (cap113) /Kimberley Doyle/Pipi Te Pania (cap114)
U17 Individual Ski Olivia Clues

5

U17 2KM Ocean Swim Noah Maggs
Open Mixed Double Ski Mitchell Trim/Jemma Smith
Open Double Ski Jemma Smith/Lizzie Welborn
U17 Ski Relay Olivia Clues/Brooke Derz/Pipi Te Pania
U19 Ski Relay Bailey Clues/Maguire Reid/Ziko Vesely

5

U17 2KM Ocean Swim Pipi Te Pania
Open Double Ski Max Brooks/Jayke Rees
U19 Surf Team Luke Chaffer/Anthony Doyle/Conner Maggs/Noah Maggs
Open Ski Relay Fletcher Armstrong/Jackson Borg/Charlie Brooks
Open Ski Relay Analise Kibble/Hannah Minogue/Lizzie Welborn

2024 AUSSIES

Place: -
Points: 126

9 5 5

BE THE BEST, ENJOY IT THE MOST

OPEN MEDAL WINNERS & POINT SCORERS TO DATE

TOP 6 FINISHERS

4th

Open Champion Lifesaver	Phoebe Savage
Open Mixed Double Ski	Fletcher Armstrong/Piper Harrison
U17 Ski Relay	Sam Chaffer/Noah Maggs/Harney Monnock
Open Board Relay	Piper Harrison/Analise Kibble/Lizzie Welborn
U19 Ski Relay	Olivia Clues/Kimberley Doyle/Sarah Locke
U17 Board Relay	Charli Barbour/Olivia Clues/Pipi Te Pania

5th

U19 Double Ski	Olivia Clues/Pipi Te Pania
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6th

Open Champion Lifesaver	Sam Capell
Open Double Ski	Mitchell Trim/Luke Jones
Open Mixed Double Ski	Harrison Taurins/Sascha Taurins
Open Board Relay	Jackson Borg/Charlie Brooks/Charlie Verco

BE THE BEST, ENJOY IT THE MOST

YOUTH MEDAL WINNERS & POINT SCORERS



U14 2KM Ocean Swim
U14 Surf Swim
U14/15 Board Relay

Lisa Derz
Lisa Derz
Charli Barbour/Sadie Maggs/Alannah Paul



U15 Ironwoman
U13/14 Board Rescue
U13/14 Surf Team

Charli Barbour
Sophie Clues/Lisa Derz
Sophie Clues/Lisa Derz/Sadie Maggs/Matilda Young



U14 Ironman
U14 Ironwoman
U14/15 Surf Team
U13/14 Cameron
U14/15 Cameron

Tom Shrivell
Sophie Clues
Charli Barbour/Abi Capell/Alannah Paul/Sarah Song
Sophie Clues/Lisa Derz/Sadie Maggs/Matilda Young
Charli Barbour/Abi Capell/Alannah Paul/Song

TOP 6 FINISHERS

4th

U13/14 Board Relay

Sophie Clues/Lisa Derz/Matilda Young

5th

U14 2KM Ocean Swim
U14 Surf Swim
U14 Surf Swim
U14 Board

Tom Shrivell
Tom Shrivell
Sophie Clues
Sadie Maggs

2024 YOUTH

