



Nick's Blog – Aussies Day 4

About three months ago, Charlie Brooks had a dream.

It wasn't a fantastic victory dream. It was a mistake dream. The kind you have when your subconscious is trying failure on for size.

Charlie dreamed he missed the board rescue final at Aussies.

Insanely, that almost happened today. Even more insanely, the exact opposite did.

But let's appreciate this day, Saturday April 20, for how it was - how it began in the most glorious autumnal fashion possible. Much of the surf energy of the past three days had vanished. In its place, small waves, light winds, and a not-quite-clear sky that spoke of showers to come, but did nothing to erase the silver light on the water.

The fierce competitive tension of yesterday had dissolved, a little bit, as the huge competitor numbers at these Aussies have been slashed by relentless days of knockout heats.

Yet because of that, the distilling of talent and fitness and skills, every race today felt like it was full-on. Less people watching, more fire in the athletes' hearts.

On days like this, you see people revealed. I watched Pipi Te Pania, key member of the YTNG under 17 super squad who've dominated these Aussies, go to the wall, twice. Once in the iron final, once in the board final. Both earned her a silver medal, but the board showed me Pipi's deep emotional commitment to racing. She got a good start, ripped in, made sure she set up the 300-metre sprint that is the back end of a board race here. Took the lead on a little wave off the back of the break, stretched that wave to its maximum value. Rode it into a patch of deep water. Watched as another paddler - Kaitlin Rees from Swansea - somehow found something on shallower water to her right. Went from sure winner to a great second place.

Pipi doesn't show you much, but that result broke her open. People ran down to console her, but try that with a cast iron winner sometime. They don't console.

But people will surprise you. A coupla hours later, Pipi did the board rescue race with Liv Clues. They were miles ahead, then took off on possibly the largest wave ridden by anyone all day, and performed what is definitely the finest nosedive of the carnival so far, which is saying something. It was extremely impressive. I encourage everyone to watch in the live stream replay, see if you can pick who bails first.

The wipeout was on constant replay in the YTNG tent, and Pipi was laughing her head off.

Under 17s are magic for us. I dunno what it is. The boys seemed to grow an extra arm and leg up here. They won their taplin, went close in the ski relay, and were leading the board rescue by 50 metres until Fate intervened. By this time the Saturday we'd known at 7am had

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turned into another kind of Saturday altogether, windy, rainy, and vaguely annoying, with a fractured surf zone. Like, how dare it!

Anyway, just like Liv and Pipi, Harvey Monnock and Noah Maggs were tricked out of even more gold by that suddenly wobbly surf zone, and had to live with a bronze instead. It's still a great medal.

But back to Charlie's dream.

He and Conner Maggs are defending champs in the board rescue. It's a gnarly mix for a wild race: Conner's ultra swim speed, Charlie's highly polished board skills, and the pair's double down act on the way in. "They have to understand each other," Imogen Stewart said at some point, as the whole thing unfolded this afternoon, "there has to be chemistry."

She's right. There's a reason why nobody's ever won this race three Aussies running.

But Charlie and Conner wouldn't even have had a shot at a double, if it weren't for their team-mates.

Conner was in the under-19s board rescue heats, just down the beach to the south. He finished a heat there, ran back to the open area, and as he did, his and Charlie's heat started. WITHOUT THEM.

See what I mean about Charlie's dream? It is not the kind of dream you want to come true, yet it actually, horribly was. Charlie and Conner didn't know what to do with themselves. There was only one way back in - if someone else, already in the next round, stepped aside.

Cue Luke Chaffer and Thomas Doyle.

Luke and Tom had raced and qualified for the next round. It was cold, wet, and unpleasant. Saturday was feeling more like Friday - the 13th, that is.

When they realised what had happened with the double-Cs, they didn't hesitate. "Yep," said Tommy. "Luke, are you good with it?" "Yep."

See what I mean about team-mates?

The next 20 minutes or so were a blur, really. Conner stepped on to the line, ripped in. The pair tried a couple of different racing lines in the messy conditions, moving through the quarters and semis, shaking off the near-miss, figuring it out.

Then in the final, through all the nonsense and the messy surf, they drew the finest line imaginable. "You can have my gold medal," Charlie told Tom afterwards.

They now have a chance at a unique achievement: three of these wildly tricky race wins in a row. As long as they can manage to show up in time.

Meanwhile...be careful what you dream, kids! Dream of what I am dreaming of for tomorrow. See if it comes true.

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OPEN MEDAL WINNERS & POINT SCORERS TO DATE

12

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 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 |
| U19 Surf Team | Olivia Clues/Kimberley Doyle/Sarah Locke (cap115)/Pipi Te Pania |
| U17 Surf Team | Charli Barbour/Olivia Clues/Dom Melbourn/Pipi Te Pania |
| Open Board Rescue | Charlie Brooks/Conner Maggs |

8

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|-----------------------|--|
| 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 |
| U17 Ironperson | Pipi Te Pania |
| U17 Board Race | Pipi Te Pania |
| U17 Board Race | Noah Maggs |

7

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|--------------------|---|
| 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 |
| Open Surf Team | Kimberley Doyle/Analise Kibble/Sarah Locke/Lizzie Welborn |
| U17 Board Rescue | Noah Maggs/Harvey Monnock |

2024 AUSSIES

Place: 2nd
Points: 170

12

8

7

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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 |
| Open Board Rescue | Sarah Locke/Lizzie Welborn |

5th

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| U19 Double Ski | Olivia Clues/Pipi Te Pania |
|----------------|----------------------------|

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 |
| U17 Ironperson | Noah Maggs |

Don't forget our **team dinner**:

21st April 2024 @ 6.00pm

Cotton Tree Beach Bar

Shop 2

13-15 The Esplanade

Cotton Tree

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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

