



Nick's Blog – Aussies Final Day

Do you know why people tell each other stories?

I haven't been to that many Aussies. It hasn't been a lifetime thing for me the way it's been to many of the folk you'll see on the beach on finals day. People who've lived and breathed it for generations.

But I sure haven't been to an Aussies final day like this one.

The day sneaked up on us, like yesterday, all offshore cloud bands and gentle waters. Then bit by bit, it turned into Waterworld, in the surf and out. People crowded into each other's tents trying to avoid being soaked, and few succeeded. The surf zone went from easier than it'd been all carnival to Wanda in a southeasterly.

And it was cold! On the Sunshine Coast in April! What is that?

People wrote little pieces of their own stories today. If you looked hard enough, you could see the stories forming and re-forming. A half hour before his board final, Charlie Verco sat all by himself in the tent, looking down at his hands, running his thumbs over each other. Charlie's a perfectionist. There's a perfect race in his head somewhere, and I bet he rehearses it over and over. He got three-quarters of the way to it today, before the part of the race that he can't control popped up and carried it away from him.

"I'm not going to lie, I'm disappointed," he told me. "Wondering what I've got to do to win one of these." Classic perfectionist!

Then an hour later Charlie was sprinting up the beach for a bronze medal in the open iron. Maybe that's not perfect either, but today it was perfect enough.

In fact, maybe that's the story of our day today. Pretty much every one of us who raced ended up raising the bar for themselves in some subtle or not so subtle way. Somehow, after a six week absence from flat water training, Conner Maggs won the 19s board race. (I do not recommend this as a strategy, you understand.)

After what must have been the toughest Aussies of her still young life, Jemma Smith blew apart the ski leg of her taplin relay, like nothing had ever happened. After missing the iron final for the first time ever, Lizzie Welborn put all her growing adult authority on the board race and got an easy third. After being deeply annoyed by surf almost all her career, Kimberley Doyle won a bronze medal in the 19s individual board in the most difficult surf Maroochydore could conjure up.

Maguire Reid was a star, but what got me was not his ruthless individual ski effort but the iron. To stay ahead of that field through two and a half legs, and not just stay there, but own it, that's another story entirely.

BE THE BEST, ENJOY IT THE MOST

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Sarah Locke was a star. The way she ran into the water in the open taplin final leg made me wonder if Sarah is actually a meta-human out of the Marvel Universe. Perhaps she is really WaterDancer, sister of the surf ski paddling Powerhouse, mortal name of Jasmine, and together one day they will save the world — or maybe just save us.

I wandered around in all this, totally soaked to the skin, having mistaken my Kinghorn hoodie for some sort of raincoat. Seriously, it wasn't. I didn't care. I know this whole ragged day will be a story we'll tell each other, in bits and pieces, for months.

And it matters. Here's why we tell each other stories: They're evolutionary. They're how we form social bonds. A good story well-told brings together groups, nations, religions, civilisations, and yep, even surf clubs.

We won plenty of gold here in the past five days, and a lot of silver and bronze too. We got 243 points, and defended our exalted position in this amazing sport. Yet the part of this story I won't soon forget happened after all the racing was over. It was still raining in these gnarly bursts, but there was a lot of gear to shift, and for a solid hour, pretty much every single person on that beach pitched in.

I saw James hauling boards and skis up the sand, Liz carrying two boards over to the trailers, and Alex Jackson battling multiple chairs and paddles, cursing them, but eventually winning. I saw Matt Bell and Tom Doyle high up on the trailer racks strapping on equipment that definitely wasn't theirs. I saw the amazing Dave Rees Cleanup Squad pull down entire structures and transport them away from the beach so swiftly it was as if the structures had never been there at all.

People who'd minutes before been racing like soggy wildcats were now looking around for ways to help each other.

If that's our Aussies story, it's worth all the soaking.

Never Ending Event - Life Saving Team Report

Sam Capell

The 2024 Aussies was another strong season for the Newport Kinghorn Lifesaving team, with athletes in the U17's and Opens producing 22 points across First Aid and Champion Lifesaver from only 8 competitors—most notably, with all athletes producing points for the Academy.

Additionally we also produced 4 gold medals and 3 caps for first time gold medallists. I am incredibly proud of all the hard work our athletes have put in this season—they have committed themselves and reaped what they have sown. Unfortunately, Patrol Competition results were unable to be released during the Australian Titles, but I'm sure when they are our athletes will be pleased with their efforts.

Of course this couldn't have been done without the hard work of the people who supported the team: James Brooks for his assistance with securing new training resources, Dave Rees for coordinating trailer pack for our competition equipment, and our intrepid volunteers including Gavin Simmonds, Mark Thornton and Avona Cox for their consistent efforts in volunteering at each carnival and ensuring we are able to compete.

It's been an incredible season, looking forward to greater things in the next!

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OPEN MEDAL WINNERS & POINT SCORERS TO DATE

14

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
U19 Ski Race	Maguire Reid
U19 Board Race	Conner Maggs

10

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
Open Beach Flags	Jake Lynch
U19 Surf Race	Sarah Locke

14

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
U19 Female Board Race	Kimberley Doyle
Open Female Board Race	Lizzie Welborn
U19 Female Surf Race	Kimberley Doyle
Open Female Surf Race	Sarah Locke
Open Male Ironperson	Charlie Verco
U19 Male Taplin	Bailey Clues/Conner Maggs/ Maguire Reid
Open Female Taplin	Sarah Locke/Jemma Smith/ Lizzie Welborn

2024 AUSSIES

Place: 2nd
Points: 243

14

10

14

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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
Open Mixed Double Ski	Harrison Taurins/Sascha Taurins
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
Open Male Single Ski	Fletcher Armstrong
U19 Male Single Ski	Bailey Clues
Open Male Ironperson	Jackson Borg
U19 Female Taplin	Olivia Clues/Kimberley Doyle/Sarah Locke
Open Male Taplin	Jackson Borg/Charlie Brooks/Conner Maggs/ Jayke Rees/Mitchell Trim/Charlie Verco

5th

U19 Double Ski	Olivia Clues/Pipi Te Pania
Open Mixed Double Ski	Harrison Taurins/Sascha Taurins
Open Male Single Ski	Mitchell Trim
Open Male Single Ski	Mitchell Trim
U19 Male Ironperson	Conner Maggs

6th

Open Champion Lifesaver	Sam Capell
Open Double Ski	Mitchell Trim/Luke Jones
Open Board Relay	Jackson Borg/Charlie Brooks/Charlie Verco
U17 Ironperson	Noah Maggs
Open Male Single Ski	Jayke Rees
Open Male Board Race	Charlie Verco
U19 Male Ironperson	Maguire Reid
U19 Male Taplin	Luke Chaffer/Anthony Doyle/Ziko Vesely

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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

