



RIP TIDE

COACH AND QUEEN FULL OF PRAISE FOR GEORGIA

YOUNG JACKSON SHINES, TOO

Newport coach Trent Herring rated Georgia Miller's first attempt at the Coolangatta Gold long course as unbelievable. And the Coolangatta Gold queen Courtney Hancock described Miller's performance as gutsy and one that she should be very proud of. "Georgia pushed me the whole way and it wasn't until the last run leg that I broke away from her," said Hancock, who won her third Gold. "I know she didn't get a place and was overtaken in the run but she should be very happy." Herring reckons that Hancock (Northcliffe) may not have won the Gold but for Miller pushing her. "Georgia's performance was out of the box considering she was doing it for the first time," Herring said. "She was totally committed for this and trained hard throughout the winter. "She shocked a lot of people. Some probably thought she wouldn't stay with them on the ski. But she kept pace with Courtney and Danielle McKenzie (Northcliffe). "Georgia really took the race to Courtney and it was only in the last 1.5km of the run that fatigue set in and two others (Alli Britton – North Burleigh and McKenzie) ran past her." Georgia covered the course in 4 hours 25 minutes and 11 seconds and McKenzie beat her by 46 seconds for third place.

PROUD OF ATHLETES

Georgia earned \$3000. "I think Georgia surprised herself and I think she will do it again," Herring said. Hancock believes Miller will only get better. Herring was extremely proud of the Newport athletes who travelled to the Gold Coast and competed in either of the long course or short course races. Jackson Borg finished fourth in the open long course behind Ali Day (Surfers Paradise) and Northcliffe pair, Shannon Eckstein and Corey Taylor. Max Brooks was sixth. "Max had an outstanding ski leg and Jackson had a great swim leg," Herring said. Apart from Miller, Maddie Spencer finished 11th and Phoebe Savage 12th over the long course. Manly's Naomi Scott, who was doing Gold for the first time, came ninth. Newport's Matthew Bell was on the podium after taking third place in the open male short course, while Isaac Smith won the under 19 short course with the fastest time of the day. Grace Gurr and Olivia Heaton (Newport) were



placed sixth and ninth respectively in the under 19 female short course, the event was won by Manly's Emily Doyle. Newport's Taylor Gabb and Zac Morris combined to take out the under 19 teams long course. Taylor paddled the ski and Zac did the swim, board and runs. Zac's younger brothers, twins Mitch and Jake,

finished first and second in the under 13 Youth Challenge, while their clubmate Joel Piper won the under 14 short course event, featuring a swim, board and run. Georgia Miller (top) and Jackson Borg made great debuts in the Coolangatta Gold long course. Photos: HARVPIX

ISAAC IS THE FASTEST OVER GOLD SHORT COURSE

FOCUS IS NOW ON OCEAN6 SERIES

What's better than receiving a medal and then a hug from your handler? Newport's Isaac Smith not only took out the under 19 short course (21km) at Coolangatta Gold last weekend but his time was the fastest on the day. Isaac covered the course in 2 hours 28 minutes and 32 seconds, which was four minutes and 8 seconds faster than Ben Cochrane (Surfers Paradise) who won the men's open event.

"I had no idea I had the fastest time," Isaac said. "I was just happy with how I went after my sickness last season."

Isaac's training preparations for Coolangatta Gold were interrupted because he required sinus surgery.

"I was out of the water for quite a while," he said. Isaac led all the way to win from Charlie Verco (North Bondi) and Corey Cumner (Alexandra Headland).

Isaac paid tribute to his handler Fletcher Davies.

"He did a great job for me," Isaac said.

Isaac stayed on the Gold Coast on Sunday to handle for Fletcher, who competed in the long course race.

"It was terrific to see him complete the race (4 hours 38 minutes and 11 seconds)," Isaac said.

"We gave each other a hug after the race."

NEW LOOK

Isaac is not sure whether he will have another shot at the Gold next year and possibly race the long course.

"Doing Molokai (in Hawaii) is something I may consider. It's too early to make a commitment at the moment," Isaac said

Now that's he's fully fit again, Isaac's focus is on Ocean6.

The first of the Ocean6 rounds will be held at Queenscliff on October 28 and 29.

It's one of Isaac's favourite beaches and he knows surfing conditions well as he was a member at Queenscliff before moving to Newport.

Ocean6 is the new-look of surf sports competition and will be over six rounds. The other venues are Coolum (November 18-19); North Wollongong (December 17-19); Torquay and Fairhaven (January 12-14); Surfers Paradise (February 3-4) and North Cronulla (February 24-25).

Kellogg Australia will continue sponsorship of the Nutri Grain ironman and ironwoman as part of the Ocean6 series.

Reigning Nutri Grain ironwoman champion Harriet Brown said: "I am excited about the upcoming Ocean6 series. Hopefully with Summer of Surf and Surf Sports Australia joining forces, our sport



will continue to grow."

Fox Sports has secured broadcast rights to the series with two-hour segments covering the highlights across each of the qualifying rounds

and live broadcast of round six.

Isaac Smith on his way to the finish line; and paddling in the first leg.

Photos: HARVPIX

NO MONEY BUT EMILY STILL A GOLD MEDAL WINNER



She may not have won any prizemoney like some of the elite athletes who competed in Coolangatta Gold, but Emily Doyle was very proud just to receive a medal. Well, at least the medal was gold as she won the under 19 female short course over 21km. "I found it long and hard but it was a lot of fun," Emily said. "What I really liked was the environment. It kept me going."

No sooner had the young Manly star arrived back home than she was packing her bags again – this time she was heading to New Zealand. Emily is a member of the NSW under 18 Development team that is competing in the New Zealand Pool Rescue Championships in Auckland. She left for New Zealand on Wednesday and arrives back next Monday and will be back into the school books as Year 12 gets underway for her HSC next year.

So Coolangatta Gold and the thought of even doing the long course next year may be out of the question.

"It was just so nice to be able to put a medal around my neck after all the hard work," Emily said.

"I knew I wouldn't be able to keep with Grace Gurr on the ski leg but I stayed in the top three. "In the swim and board it was a battle between myself and Brielle Cooper (Kurrawa) but the soft sand transition for the 5.5km run was tough. I made sure that I had saved some energy. That's when I got the better of Brielle" Lily Costello (Redhead) came flying home to get second.

Emily's time of 2 hours 41 minutes and 48 seconds would have placed her second in the open women, the event being won by WA's Currumbin-based Kirstie Hardstaff in 2 hours 38 minutes and 48 seconds.

"I suppose when I sum up the race I was really happy with the ski leg (10.5km). I liked it and felt like I was prepared," Emily said.

Emily got one up on her older brother Thomas who finished fourth in the male under 19 short course event.

Thomas covered the course in 2 hours 35 minutes and 35 seconds. Had he been just seven seconds faster he would have had a podium finish in third place.

There are two more up and coming Doyle sisters, twins Kimberley and Katelynn.



They were chosen in the SLSNSW Junior Development Program along with their Manly clubmates Tia Emmott Bennett and Conner Maggs. Also chosen was Georgina Prowse (North Curl Curl). Emily Doyle nears the finish; and older brother Thomas. Photos: HARVPIX

NORTH NARRABEEN NAIL LEGENDARY BOAT SWEEP



North Narrabeen SLSC have finally got their man to help rebuild the club's boat section – Don McManus.

The legendary boat sweep, of course, is no stranger to North Narrabeen.

It was his first club when he came to Sydney from Port Macquarie looking for work as a 17-year-old. He spent 29 seasons there and had great success as a rower in the stroke seat and as a sweep.

In the open boat crew with 'Woofa' Barnett sweeping, North Narrabeen came second at the Australian Championships at Collaroy in 1964. Don turned to sweeping junior crews in 1975 and by the time he left North Narrabeen he had won four Australian titles.

Don and wife Carol, who have now been married 50 years, moved back up the coast to Byron Bay in 1991.

"We had a small property at Alstonville and the plan was to plant macadamia nuts," Don said. "Unfortunately, there was a big drought and we ended up coming back to the northern beaches. "I returned to North Narrabeen for a short stay in

1993. I found that things had changed there and felt it best to move on. I joined Bilgola."

Bilgola crews had a wonderful run of success with Don at the helm.

In 1997, the Bilgola open men and junior crew won Aussie titles, while the open women won at Aussies in 2004 and 2005.

Bilgola won another open men's title in 2011 and Don and his Gold crew also represented Australia in the Trans Tasman series against New Zealand and won.

It seemed like Don would never leave Bilgola but North Narrabeen threw the bait out a couple of seasons ago to try and entice him back.

Don has thrown out the challenge to a North Narrabeen men's crew that previously rowed reserves.

"They'll be rowing opens. They are quite keen but haven't had a lot of exposure," Don said.

Don will also have a women's crew. The girls he had at Bilgola have followed him across to North Narrabeen.

"The aim is to get the boat section back to where it once was," said Don.



Don's face will still be seen at Dee Why for the Ocean Thunder series as the women's crew have entered.

And Don's wife will be there to follow her husband. "Carol will still be doing the recording and my daughter Kerrie will be helping with the first aid," Don said.

The first round of the Ocean Thunder series is on Saturday, November 11.

Picture: Don McManus with wife Carol; and the women's crew from Bilgola who will now be rowing for North Narrabeen.