



# *Australian Rowing News*

**Issue 49**

## **FROM THE CEO**

### **Welcome to the 49<sup>th</sup> edition of RA News!**

Our elite athletes of all ages enjoyed a testing April as they battled it out for places on our three national teams. The National Selection Trials were held at the Sydney International Regatta Centre from April 17-26 and the selectors were faced with many tough decisions as they looked to nominate athletes for selection. The Board was happy to endorse and select all nominations provided to them on April 27 and now our Senior A, Senior B and Junior teams are in preparations for their respective World Championships later in the year.

The Junior team have been in camp at the AIS in Canberra for the last week which will provide all members of the five crews with a fantastic opportunity to experience the wonderful facilities the AIS offers its athletes.

A National Talent Identification and Development (NTID) squad will leave for a short tour of New Zealand next week. NTID Coordinator Wayne Diplock will lead the squad of 23 to New Zealand as he continues his excellent work in identifying and developing the future of Australian rowing.

WSCN is continuing their commitment to Rowing in 2009 and has offered the chance to sign up to their outstanding sports service for a discounted rate of \$39.95 for a full year subscription. They will be providing coverage of all rowing World Cup events and the World Championships in addition to a wide range of other Olympic style sports via their internet streaming.

The Rowing Australia Board met on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May and considered a number of issues including:

- The 2009-10 RA budget and 2009-2013 NRCE budget incorporating both RA and AIS high performance expenditure through to London 2012
- A review of current RA Commissions and Committees and the roles they play in the effective governance of Rowing Australia
- A review of the structure and events at the Australian Rowing Championships
- A review of the membership affiliation categories throughout the country which will be finalised and presented to the Council at their Mid-Year Meeting

Additionally, Rebecca Joyce was re-appointed as the Chair of the RA Athletes' Commission for another one-year term.

**Andrew Dee**  
**Rowing Australia CEO**

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## **Rowing Australia Board names 2009 Australian teams**

### **11 of Australia's 2008 Beijing Olympians were selected by the Board of Rowing Australia as part of the 2009 Australian Rowing Team.**

With the majority of those that competed in Beijing either retired from the sport or taking an extended break, a number of Australia's younger rowers have been given the opportunity to perform on the international scene as part of the eight Senior A crews that will be sent to Poland in August.

Headlining the Senior A team will be the Olympic silver medal winning men's four of Francis Hegerty (NSW), James Marburg (VIC), Cameron McKenzie-McHarg (VIC) and Matt Ryan (NSW). Following a successful 2008 which saw them win a world cup regatta, the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta and then the silver medal in Beijing, the crew has remained together as they aim to dethrone Great Britain from their dominance in the men's four category.

Olympic gold medallist in the men's double scull, David Crawshay (VIC), was selected in the men's quad scull along with Dan Noonan (NSW), who stroked the boat to a narrow fourth place in Beijing. They will be joined by two newcomers to the Senior A team, Nicholas Hudson (NSW) and Jared Bidwell (QLD).

The Toowoomba duo of Pippa Savage (QLD) and Sally Kehoe (QLD) have been named in a women's sculling squad, while Sarah Cook (ACT) and Kim Crow (VIC) will once again form the women's pair. Sam Loch (NSW) is the sole survivor from the men's eight crew from 2008.

Rowing Australia National High Performance Director, Andrew Matheson, says there are a number of exciting prospects in the Senior A team.

"We have selected a far smaller team than in 2008 but that is just a natural progression of where we are at in the new Olympic cycle," Matheson said. "The team we have selected combines a good mix of experience and youth and I am confident we will be able to produce some good results in Poland.

"The men's four and men's quad have some very talented guys in there, but a couple of our women's crews also have the potential to perform well."

Australia will forego the World Cup season in 2009 and only compete at the World Rowing Championships in Poznan, Poland (August 23-30). Internal regattas will be held at the Sydney International Regatta Centre on the weekends that the three world cups are being held in Europe.

Meanwhile the Senior B team will be represented by seven crews when they compete in their World Championships at Racice in the Czech Republic 23-26 July. Olympian James McRae has opted to focus on his university studies in 2009 and will row as part of the men's quad scull crew based out of Adelaide.

Five crews were selected as part of the Australian Junior team including three athletes who will be making their second appearance in the team. Maddie Edmunds, Alexandra Hagan and Anna Kaszycki all toured in 2008 and will provide experience to the crews that will race at the World Junior Championships at Brive la Gaillarde, France from 5-8 August.

## **Senior A Team**

To compete at the 2009 World Rowing Championships, Poznan, Poland: 23 – 30 August 2009

Team Managers: Ray Ebert and Michael Smith

### **Men's Coxless Four**

Francis Hegerty	(Sydney University – NSWIS)
Cameron McKenzie-McHarg	(Melbourne University – VIS)
James Marburg	(Melbourne University – VIS)
Mathew Ryan	(Sydney University – NSWIS)
Coch: Tim Conrad (QAS)	(supported by Chris O'Brien)
Training location: Melbourne	

### **Men's Quad Scull**

Dan Noonan	(Mosman – NSWIS)
Nicholas Hudson	(Sydney University – NSWIS)
Jared Bidwell	(University of QLD - QAS/AIS)
David Crawshay	(Mercantile – VIS)
Coch: John Driessen	(Huon RC)
Training location: Tasmania	

### **Men's Eight**

Dominic Grimm	(Sydney RC – AIS)
Fergus Pragnell	(Sydney University - NSWIS/AIS)
Richard Allsop	(Sydney University - NSWIS/AIS)
Bryn Coudraye	(Adelaide RC - SASI/AIS)
Thomas Swann	(Mercantile - VIS/AIS)
Mitchell Estens	(Sydney University – NSWIS)
Sam Loch	(Sydney University – NSWIS)
Tom Larkins	(Melbourne University - VIS/AIS)
Tobias Lister (coxswain)	(Sydney University – NSWIS)
Coch: Noel Donaldson	(AIS)
Training location: Canberra	

### **Men's Lightweight Coxless Four**

Angus Tyers	(Melbourne University – VIS)
Ross Brown	(Swan River – WAIS)
Darryn Purcell	(Toowong – QAS)
Chris Bigg	(University of Qld – QAS)
Coch: Chris O'Brien	(VIS)
Training location: Melbourne	

### **Women's Lightweight Double Scull**

Bronwen Watson (Sydney University – NSWIS)  
Alice McNamara (Melbourne University – VIS)  
Coach: Ellen Randell (UTS RC)  
Training location: Sydney

### **Women's Coxless Pair**

Sarah Cook (Sydney University – NSWIS)  
Kim Crow (Melbourne University – VIS)  
Coach: Laryssa Biesenthal (AIS)  
Training location: Canberra

### **Women's Coxless Four**

Emily Rose (University of WA - WAIS/AIS)  
Elizabeth Alderman (University of WA - WAIS/AIS)  
Laura Osti (Adelaide University - SASI/AIS)  
Emma McCarthy (Commercial – AIS)  
Coach: Laryssa Biesenthal (AIS)  
Training location: Canberra

### **Women's Sculling Squad**

Pippa Savage (Commercial – QAS)  
Sally Kehoe (Sydney University – QAS)  
Coaches: Tim Conrad (QAS)  
Phil Bourguignon (Sydney University)  
Training location: Brisbane

### **Adaptive AM1x**

Ben Houlison (The Lakes Rowers)  
Coach: Pedro Albisser (Nepean RC)  
Training location: Penrith

## **Under 23 Team**

To compete at the Under 23 World Championships, Racice, Czech Republic: 23 – 26 July 2009

Team Manager: Dean Oakman

### **Under 23 Men's Eight**

Joshua Dunkley-Smith (Mercantile)  
Rhys Grant (ANA – WAIS)  
Ned Kinnear (Adelaide University – SASI)  
Nickolas Purnell (Sydney University)  
Cameron Brewer (Swan River – WAIS)  
Alexander Scharp (Mercantile – VIS)  
James Goswell (Sydney University – NSWIS)  
William Lockwood (Melbourne University)  
David Webster (coxswain) (Melbourne University)  
Coach: Rhett Ayliffe (AIS)  
Training location: Canberra

### **Under 23 Men's Quad Scull**

James McRae (Murray Bridge – SASI)  
Matthew Bolt (Adelaide University – SASI)  
David Wright (Canberra RC – ACTAS)  
Alexander Belonogoff (Sydney University)  
Coach: Zoltan Shepherd (SASI)  
Training location: Adelaide

### **Under 23 Men's Lightweight Coxless Four**

Perry Ward (Swan River – WAIS)  
Thomas Bertrand (Mercantile – VIS)  
Charles Budd (Sydney University)  
Edward White (Sydney University)  
Coach: Bill Tait (VIS)  
Training location: Melbourne

### **Under 23 Men's Lightweight Double Scull**

Alister Foot (Tamar – TIS)  
Angus Morton (University of Queensland)  
Coach: Ron Batt (TIS)  
Training location: Tasmania

### **Under 23 Women's Quad Scull**

Georgia Baker (UWABC – WAIS)  
Alison Crowe (Melbourne University - AIS/VIS)  
Charlotte Walters (Sydney University – AIS)  
Peta-Lee Eddington (University of Queensland)  
Coach: Gordon Marcks (ACTAS)  
Training location: Canberra

### **Under 23 Women's Lightweight Quad Scull**

Lauren Burraston (Canberra – ACTAS)  
Alison Scobbie (Uni of Queensland – QAS)  
Ella Flecker (Huon RC)  
Alison Smith (Nepean RC)  
Coach: Jason Lane (SASI)  
Training location: Adelaide

### **Under 23 Women's Coxless Four**

Jessica Hill (Melbourne University)  
Alexandra Hill (Melbourne University)  
Philippa Lindley (Commercial)  
Louise Kilby (ANU)  
Coach: Ian Wright (Melbourne University)  
Training location: Melbourne

## Junior Team

To compete at the Junior World Championships, Brive la Gaillarde, France: 5 – 8 August 2009

Team Manager: Bob Cook

### Junior Men's Coxed Four

Angus Moore (Canberra Grammar School - ACTAS)  
Josh Hicks (ANA - WAIS)  
Sam Collins (Swan River - WAIS)  
Tom Amies (Nudgee College)  
Nick Allen-Ducat (coxswain) (St Josephs College, Gregory Terrace)  
Coach: John Bowes (Commercial RC)  
Training location: Camps – Canberra

### Junior Men's Coxless Four

Tom Chapman (Hutchins)  
Michael Poulter (Melbourne University)  
Daniel Brighthope (Mercantile)  
Tom Gatti (Swan River - WAIS)  
Coach: Dave Milne (ANA RC)  
Training location: Camps – Canberra

### Junior Men's Quad Scull

Louis Snelson (Shore)  
Cameron Smith (St Josephs College, Gregory Terrace)  
Ben Morley (Grammarians)  
David Prosser (Bunbury RC - WAIS)  
Coach: Lincoln Handley (University Of Qld)  
Training location: Camps – Canberra

### Junior Women's Quad Scull

Alex Hagan (Bunbury - WAIS)  
Madeleine Edmunds (Commercial RC)  
Amy Fowler (Canberra RC - ACTAS)  
Jessica Hall (Brisbane and GPS RC)  
Coach: Jamie Jones (Bunbury - WAIS)  
Training location: Camps – Canberra

### Junior Women's Coxless Four

Anna Kaszycki (UTS RC)  
Hannah Vermeersch (West Australian RC)  
Peta White (Torrens RC - SASI)  
Jessica Molsher-Jones (Torrens RC - SASI)  
Coach: Anna Tree (SASI)  
Training location: Camps – Canberra

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- Rowing World Cup 1 Banyoles, Spain May 29<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup>
- Rowing World Cup 2 Munich Germany June 19<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>
- Rowing World Cup 3 Lucerne Switzerland July 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>
- World Rowing Championships Poznan Poland Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>



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## **Uni students make imprint on national team**

**When the Senior A and Senior B rowing teams were named by the Rowing Australia Board on April 27, Sydney University had more than one reason to celebrate. In fact they had 17.**

Of the 63 names that were selected to represent Australia at the two respective World Championships, 17 were from Sydney University Rowing Club, a fact that did not stop short on Club Captain, Nick Hudson.

"The feeling all season has been a positive and exciting atmosphere at Sydney University Rowing," Hudson said. "The support everyone has shown each other provided a great atmosphere to train in and the club has now been recognised by the Australian selectors."

Hudson had double reason to celebrate after being named on his first Senior A team as part of the men's quad scull. Hudson has enjoyed one of his best domestic seasons to date and was ranked second behind David Crawshay after the selection trials.

"My domestic season overall was very good. I was really disappointed with my single performance at nationals which was a major goal for me, but winning the NSW State Champs single and the nationals Double, Quad and King's Cup Eight I think I could say it is one of my best seasons."

10 other Sydney University rowers were chosen alongside Hudson in the Senior A team, leaving the club as the highest represented. The men's eight includes Fergus Pragnell, Richard Allsop, Sam Loch, Mitchell Estens and Toby Lister, while Francis Hegerty and Matt Ryan are once again part of the men's four. Bronwen Watson will row in the women's lightweight double scull, while Kim Crow (women's pair) and Sally Kehoe (women's sculling squad) retained their places in the Australian team.

Sydney University Head Rowing Coach Phil Bourguignon was also included as a coach in the women's sculling group, yet another accolade for one of the country's most respected universities.

And when Hudson lines up in the men's quad scull at the World Championships in Poland later this year one quote is sure to be close to his mind.

"I recall a quote from Steve Waugh at last year's Olympic trials, which behind the scenes I have personally pursued in the shed – 'Attitudes are contagious, is yours worth catching?'"

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## **Training camp paves way for Junior team campaign**

**The Australian Junior Rowing Team recently participated in their first camp of the 2009 international season out of the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.**

Five crews were selected to compete at the 2009 World Junior World Championships later this year, with four of these crews participating in a camp this week and the women's quad scull beginning their camp on Monday May 11.

Selected along with the women's quad scull is a men's coxed four, a men's and women's coxless four and a men's quad scull. Three members of the team were also part of the 2008 Australian Junior Team and Maddie Edmunds (QLD), Anna Kaszycki (NSW) and Alexandra Hagan (WA) all aiming to improve on their performances from last year.

The training camp in Canberra commenced last Saturday and will conclude on Sunday May 10, with the athletes to be placed through rigorous on water sessions, education sessions and technical reviews.

Rowing Australia Elite Development Manager Peter Shakespear says that the camp will provide an important building block for their development.

"We are really happy with the progress that all these junior athletes have been making," Shakespear said. "The camp will provide us with the opportunity to further develop their growing skill levels and groom them for the international tour."

The 2009 World Junior Rowing Championships are being held in Brive-le-Gaillarde, France, 5-8 August.

The team will convene for a second camp at the end of June, ahead of a departure camp at the Sydney International Regatta Centre in late July.

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## Oarsman stronger than ever

*Written by Paul Malone (as featured in the Courier Mail on 30/04/2009)*

**TWO years after he was in an induced coma and fighting encephalitis, Brisbane rower Jared Bidwell has made his first Australian open world championships team.**

Bidwell was training in Perth in May 2007 to be part of an Australian team to compete in the under-23 world championships when he contracted the serious and sometimes lethal illness.

"I was in an induced coma for five days in hospital people can die from it and it can lead to brain damage, so I consider myself pretty lucky," Bidwell, 21, said. "When I was let out of hospital and came home to Brisbane, I was told to have three weeks of complete bed rest and not walk enough to get my heartbeat above 100 beats per minute. It was pretty tough for three weeks.

"The first goal once I started getting better was just to get back in the gym and the boat. My doctor told me: 'You should take a year off, but I know you don't want to hear that'. "It was six or seven months before I felt I could push myself in training."

Bidwell will compete with Olympic gold medallist David Crawshay and NSW rowers Dan Noon and Nicholas Hudson in the quad scull named on Tuesday for the world titles in Poznan, Poland in August.

"We will be training in Tasmania for the world championships," said Bidwell, who competed at last year's under-23 world titles. "I will get to know David a lot better. It will be great to learn from one of the best.

"I'd love to go to the London Olympics. That's got to be the ultimate goal."

Crawshay is the only Olympic gold medallist in the transitional team Rowing Australia named for the world titles, with Duncan Free taking the year off and pair mate Drew Ginn's rowing future uncertain because of a second serious back operation in eight years.

"The men's quad have some very talented guys in there," RA high-performance manager Andrew Matheson said. "So do the men's four and a couple of our women's crews also have the potential to perform well at the world championships."

Bidwell, who started in rowing at Brisbane's Anglican Church Grammar School, took up a scholarship with the Australian Institute of Sport this year and is also studying business management.

"He's not as physically gifted as some in terms of height, but he's a very hard racer and a pretty determined competitor," said Lincoln Handley, head coach at his University of Queensland rowing club.

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## **Houlison breaks through for bronze medal**

**Australian adaptive rower Ben Houlison rowed to a strong third placed finish at the International Adaptive Regatta held in Varese, Italy from May 2-3.**

Houlison, who rows out of the Lakes Rowing Club in Penrith, has broken onto the Australian team for the first time in 2009 after sitting in the shadow of now retired dual world champion, Dominic Monypenny.

In the world class field in Varese, Houlison proved that he can be competitive on the international stage as he finished behind Paralympic champion, Tom Aggar, in the final of the Men's Arms Only Single Scull.

Aggar, who hails from Great Britain, recorded a time that was 14 seconds quicker than the previous world record to finish ahead of compatriot Andy Houghton, who also finished ahead of the old world mark.

Houlison was recently selected as Australia's representative in the Men's Arms Only Single Scull for the 2009 World Rowing Championships and the result will provide encouragement ahead of the event being held in Poland, August 23-31.

National High Performance Director, Andrew Matheson, says Houlison has shown strong signs of improvement.

"Ben has put in a lot of hard work over the summer months to show that he is capable of matching the world's best in this category," Matheson said. "We are confident that Ben can continue to improve his times ahead of the World Championships and be a genuine medal contender come August."

Meanwhile Paralympic silver medallist Kathryn Ross continues her search for a partner in the double sculls, following the retirement of John Maclean after Beijing. A number of athletes are being fast tracked to join Ross in the boat in preparation for the London Olympic Games, with multi Paralympic gold medallist in cycling, Greg Ball, a notable frontrunner.



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**2008/2009 EVENTS OF INTEREST**

*Keep up to date with all major rowing events.*

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
29-31 May	World Cup 1	Banyoles, Spain
19-21 June	World Cup 2	Munich, Germany
10-12 July	World Cup 3	Lucerne, Switzerland
23-26 July	World U23 Championships	Racice, Czech Republic
5-8 August	World Junior Championships	Brive la Gaillarde, France
23-30 August	World Championships	Poznan, Poland
10-18 October	World Masters Games	Sydney, Australia

## ATHLETE PROFILE

Each month, RA News will feature an athlete profile. In this edition we feature Darryn Purcell



<b>Home Town:</b>	Brisbane
<b>Place of Residence:</b>	Brisbane
<b>Occupation:</b>	Athlete
<b>Rowing Club:</b>	Toowong Rowing Club
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	05/10/1985
<b>Height:</b>	183cm
<b>Weight:</b>	71kg
<b>School:</b>	Brisbane Grammar School
<b>Current Coach:</b>	Tim Conrad
<b>Institute/Academy:</b>	QAS
<b>Sporting Hero:</b>	Roger Federer, Simon Burgess
<b>Rowing Highlight(s):</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> open LM2- at National Championships 2008; Australian Lightweight Eight 2008; 3 <sup>rd</sup> u23LM4x at U23 World Championships 2006
<b>Other Interests:</b>	Surfing, Coffee, Cycling

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