



# ***Australian Rowing News***

**Issue 35: December 2007**

## **FROM THE CEO**

**We have nearly reached the end of another busy year at Rowing Australia and as we move into the final weeks before Christmas I would like to look back on what has been a successful twelve months.**

The year began with a successful Australian Rowing Championships at Nagambie Lakes in Victoria. The host state maintained their strangle hold on the Interstate Regatta and walked away with yet another King's Cup victory. I would like to thank Rowing Victoria for managing the event and we look forward to the 2008 Australian Rowing Championships at the Sydney International Regatta Centre in March next year.

In the early part of the international season Sarah Cook and Kim Crow reaffirmed their status as an exciting new crew when they won gold in the Women's Pair at World Cup 1, before adding a bronze medal to their collection in World Cup 2. At the World Rowing Championships they finished just outside the medals, but will be looking forward to 2008.



Kim Crow and Sarah Cook receiving their gold medals this year at World Cup 1

At the World Rowing Championships, Australia had three world championship crews, won seven medals and finished second on the medal table behind Great Britain.

Duncan Free and Drew Ginn defended their World Championship in the Men's Pair and will enter 2008 as the firm favourites to become Olympic champions in Beijing. Their success was underlined when they were awarded the 2007 FISA International Male Crew of the Year. Congratulations to Duncan and Drew on an excellent year.

Amber Halliday and Marguerite Houston, after a silver medal at the World Championships in 2006, won one of the most memorable races of the regatta claiming the Women's Lightweight Double Scull world crown after a superbly constructed race.

The Women's Lightweight Quad also won their final to stamp Australia's ownership of this category at the Championships.

Off the water there has been great progress on a number of fronts. RA continues to be one of the most highly funded sports by the Australian Sports Commission, and posted a sound financial result again for the financial year to 30 June 2007

We have continued to implement the recommendations from the independent governance review that concluded with the adoption of a new Constitution earlier this year. In doing so, RA has ceased to operate as an Incorporated Association and on 29 June was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee under the Corporations Act.

In December, RA Ltd will conduct its first Strategic Forum to commence planning for the future, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of our sport.

ROMS II went live in late 2007 and is now used by six states as their membership management and event entry platform. With development ongoing, we will start to witness the real power in this system in the coming months.

In reviewing the year, it would be remiss not to mention the retirement of Reinhold Batschi from the AIS as its Head Coach and Program Manager. Reinhold's tireless contribution has influenced the development of our sport at every level and we wish him all the very best for the future.

Finally I will make special mention of my staff and also the Rowing Australia Board for their efforts throughout 2007. Their input into the running of rowing in Australia is invaluable, and without their ongoing support and hard work we would not be in the position we are today.

I would like to wish all members of the rowing community a happy Christmas and a safe New Year. Thank you to all of you for your ongoing dedication to the sport of rowing and I look forward to working with you in 2008.

**Andrew Dee**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Rowing Australia**

---

## World Champions draw nearer to Beijing

### Rowing Australia has named the first four athletes to be selected for the Australian Rowing Team in 2008.

Drew Ginn (VIC) and Duncan Free (QLD) have been named as the Men's Pair, while the South Australian duo of Marguerite Houston and Amber Halliday will represent Australia in the Women's Lightweight Single Scull.

Both of these crews, as long as they maintain their current form, will be nominated to the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC), before the AOC chooses the team to compete at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Houston and Halliday became the first female crew in to be pre-selected for the Olympic Games and have achieved this feat due to their strong performances over the last two seasons.

In 2006 the pair combined to win silver behind the Chinese at the World Rowing Championships in Eton. This year their hard work paid off and Halliday and Houston went one better in Munich to become the 2007 World Champions.

Ginn and Free, who won their second successive world championship in the Men's Pair in 2007, were also awarded pre-selection in a move that copied the selectors' choice of four years earlier. Ginn, and then partner James Tomkins, were pre-selected ahead of the Athens Olympic Games and the move paid off as the pair swept to gold.



*Ginn and Free during their gold medal row at the 2007 World Championships*

Noel Donaldson, Rowing Australia High Performance Director, says the selection of these crews is an important step in the build up to the Olympic Games.

"It will allow our current world champions to focus their specific attention on the Beijing Olympic Games and their coaches to plan the most effective training methodology", Donaldson said. "It replicates the success of early selection for our men's pair four year's ago for the Athens Olympic Games."

Australia's rowers will have the first chance to impress the national selectors this week in Penrith as the National Time Trials and First Selection Regatta are held on December 6-9. Over 100 rowers from around Australia will compete on the Nepean River and at the Sydney International Regatta Centre. A shadow Australian squad will then be named to attend a camp in Canberra from December 10 – 16.

**David Polglase**

---

## **Adaptive Rowing**

**Rowing Australia assisted the latest Australian Paralympic Committee's Talent Search in late October. A handful of potential adaptive rowers tried out and, along the way, posted some impressive ergometer times.**

November has seen the start of the selection phase for the Australian Adaptive representative team for the Beijing Paralympics. The nominations closed in the first week of November, and the second week saw the on-water time trials being conducted. This month will conclude with the ergometer testing for all adaptive rowers."

After a month with Rowing Australia I am glad that I took on the opportunity to be the new Adaptive Rowing and Competitions Administrator. I have enjoyed taking on the responsibilities and roles that the position has to offer and to be part of the development of Adaptive Rowing in Australia.

**Matt Bialkowski**  
**Adaptive Rowing & Competitions Administrator**  
**Rowing Australia**

---

## **United States opens its doors for Australian coxswain**

**Australia's leading male coxswain, Marty Rabjohns, recently took time out from his normal routine and headed over to the United States to hone his skills. On his return, Rowing Australia caught up with Marty and found out more about his trip.**

### **How long were you in the United States?**

I was in the USA for the almost the entire month of October. I departed Australia on 3 October and landed back here on 31 October.

### How did you organise the trip and what was the purpose?

The purpose of the trip was to maximise my coxing opportunities in the lead-up to the 2008 season. There are limited domestic coxing opportunities in Australia, with a predominantly strong small boat culture, so I decided to look outside the square for other avenues. The USA seemed an obvious choice as the language barrier wouldn't be an issue, there is a nation-wide big boat culture and it would be an opportunity to grow my coxing skills, learning from the current Olympic Champions in the men's eight.

I organised the trip with the help of the USA National Team coaches and coxswains, past and present, including Mike Teti, Pete Cipollone, Marcus McElhenney and our own Tim McLaren. I also had the support of my coaches Brian Richardson and Andrew Randell. I was also fortunate to have the support of my club, Sydney University Boat Club, to undertake this opportunity.

### Briefly outline your schedule in the United States, including regions that you raced in and some activities you participated in?

I spent the first week in Boston, coxing and coaching at Harvard University. I was amazed at the magnitude of the program and infrastructure they had. I was very well supported by the coaching team of Harry Parker, Charley Butt and Bill Manning. During this week I was on the water twice each day, coaching one session and coxing the next. It was a fantastic experience spending time on the famous Charles River.



*The Men's Eight suffered the despair of missing out on initial qualification for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games but Rabjohns is still confident of a strong showing next year*

I travelled to New York for a weekend to train with a lightweight squad out of New York Athletic Club. I was housed at the famous New York Athletic Club City House, which overlooks Central Park. The boatshed was about a 45 minute drive out of the city at non-peak time, so I was very impressed with the commitment of these athletes.

I travelled from New York to Princeton, New Jersey to train with the USA National Men's Sweep squad out of Mercer Lake. This was an amazing experience. There were about 30

athletes training in predominantly eights and fours. I spent the week preparing a coxed four for the Head of the Charles regatta. I was very fortunate to be coxing three guys from the Athens Gold Medal winning eight and a member of the 2007 coxless pair, under the tutelage of Mike Teti. I travelled to Boston with the crew and raced the Head of the Charles regatta. We started in the middle of the pack and managed to jostle our way past six crews over the journey, only to come a close second to the current World Champions in the coxed four. It was great to catch up with some past Australian Champions including Stuart Welch and Alastair Gordon at the regatta.

It was going to be difficult to adjust to club life after spending the week with such high calibre athletes. However, the new surroundings of Philadelphia and the scenic Boathouse Row made my adjustment easier than expected. I spent my last week training with the Vesper Rowing Club under the famous Dutch oarsman, Michiel Bartmanns. I spent the week coxing their senior men's eight preparing for the Head of the Schulykill regatta. Unfortunately the regatta was cancelled for the second consecutive year due to serious debris in the river.

Whilst in Philadelphia I was invited to the Nielsen Kellerman factory to meet Richard Kellerman and witness the construction of their products. For me, as a coxswain, this was an interesting experience.

### **What did you learn from your trip? What are some of the similarities and differences between the programs in the USA and Australia?**

As a coxswain, you want to maximise your time in the coxswain's seat. The USA provided me with a great learning environment to develop my skills. I was encouraged to be actively involved in taking control of each boat I coxed. I found the experience of spending time and coxing some great athletes, as well as sharing experiences with other coaches and coxswains, to be invaluable.

All programs have their unique characteristics that define them from other programs. I found the major similarity between the Australian system and what I encountered in the USA to be the willingness of the athletes to strive for excellence. The major difference would be the small boat/big boat predominance between the two nations.

### **Are you looking forward to the next 10 months and what are your expectations?**

I am very excited about moving forward in the next 10 months. The men's heavyweight sweep group are all aware that this has been a three year building block around the eight and coxless four. As a coxswain my expectations are to keep striving for excellence, and to utilise the skills that I have developed over the last three years to get the most out of the athletes.

It is important to realise that we are not that far away from doing something very special. After all, we beat Great Britain in the heat this year and they went on to win a medal. As far as I am concerned it is wide open.

**David Polglase**

---

## **Olympic hopefuls show their class in Canberra**

**The AIS rowers based in Canberra enjoyed a crucial hit out before this week's National Time Trials when they competed in the Black Mountain Rowing Club's Sculls Challenge on Saturday 1 December.**

The annual event, which is now in its second year, featured events in the Women's Pair and the Men's Single Scull, with competitors vying for the extra incentive of a prize pool worth \$7000.

In the Women's Pair, Sally Kehoe and Kate Hornsey led for the majority of the race to take first place ahead of Sarah Heard and Liz Kell, with Kim Crow and Robyn Selby Smith third.

Kehoe and Hornsey, who rowed in the Pair at World Cup 2 earlier in the year before forming part of the Eight that finished fourth at the World Championships, will be one of the favoured crews heading into the trials this week in Penrith.

"It was obviously a great result on the weekend and it will be interesting to see how we all perform this week at the trials", Kehoe said. "We have just finished a pretty intensive six week training block so it will be good to see how we have progressed."



Sally Kehoe and Kate Hornsey in action during World Cup 2 in Amsterdam, June 2007

Hornsey meanwhile enjoyed the chance to start racing again after the intensive training program.

"It was great to get back on the water again and to be racing against all the girls", Hornsey said. "It was actually the first time I have raced for money so it was a nice little bonus heading into the trials this weekend."

In the inaugural Men's Single Scull event, Jeremy Stevenson, a member of the Australian Men's Eight for the last two seasons, won the final ahead of Dan Noonan and Tom Laurich.

Stevenson will be one of a number of Men's sweep rowers contesting the twelve spots on offer in the Men's Eight and Men's Four during the 2008 season. They will have their initial chance to impress selectors this week at Penrith.

**David Polglase**

---

## **New South Wales Rowing Announces New President**

**At the Board meeting held on Tuesday November 27, the Directors of the New South Wales Rowing Association appointed Mr. Andrew Rowley as President.**

Rowley, the current Deputy President, has been elevated to the Presidency of the New South Wales Rowing Association after serving on the Board for over ten years.

Andrew has extensive experience in all areas of the Association's operations. His most significant roles have included State Team Manager, Director of Development, Chairman of the Athlete & Coach Development Commission, Chairman of the Organising Committee for the highly successful 2007 Australian Masters Rowing Championships and being actively involved with the development of sponsorship initiatives.

Andrew has also been involved in the partnership with the New South Wales Institute of Sport, both at Joint Management Committee Meetings and, most recently, in the review of the National Elite Development Plan.

With Andrew taking on the responsibility of the Presidency there will be a Casual vacancy for the Deputy President position. The Board has immediately called for nominations.

The Board thanks the outgoing President, Mr Chris Noel, for his outstanding commitment and contribution to the Association in a very dynamic 13 months serving on the Board. We wish him well with his club, business and personal goals.

**David Evans**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**New South Wales Rowing Association**

---

### **COACHES TIP**

Given there is always importance associated with events such as selection regattas, no matter how experienced an athlete may be, re-learning and clearly focusing on race processes and strategies should be a part of the outcome of the season's first national regatta.

I witnessed this first hand in 1995 with the great Peter Antonie crawling on the ground, trying to overcome the pain of his heat row and him commenting on the previous advice.

**Noel Donaldson**  
**High Performance Director**  
**Rowing Australia**

---

## 2007/2008 EVENTS OF INTEREST

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
6 – 9 December	National Time Trial	Sydney International Regatta Centre, Penrith
7 – 9 December 2007	Rowing Australia Strategic Forum and AGM	Saville Park Suites, Canberra
9 – 16 December 2007	National Camp	Australian Institute of Sport, Canberra
15 – 24 February 2008	National Selection Trials	Sydney International Regatta Centre, Penrith
3 – 9 March 2008	Australian Rowing Championships and Interstate Regatta	Sydney International Regatta Centre, Penrith
8 – 10 May 2008	World Cup 1	Munich, Germany
30 May – 1 June 2008	World Cup 2	Lucerne, Switzerland
15 – 18 June 2008	Final Olympic Qualification Regatta	Poznan, Poland
20 – 22 June 2008	World Cup 3	Poznan, Poland
17 – 20 July 2008	2008 World U23 Rowing Championships	Brandenburg, Germany
22 – 27 July 2008	World Junior and Senior Rowing Championships	Linz, Austria
9 – 17 August 2008	2008 Beijing Olympic Games	Beijing, China

---

# ATHLETE PROFILE

Each month, RA News will feature an athlete profile. In this edition we feature Jeremy Stevenson



**Home town:** Karatha

**Place of residence:** Perth

**Occupation:** Student

**Club:** Swan River/Bayview

**Began rowing:** 1999 at School

**Date of birth:** 08/12/86

**Height:** 194cm

**Weight:** 95kg

**Favourite food:** Chocolate

**Favourite book:** Popcorn

**Favourite movie:** Broken, Se7en, Feed, Hard Candy

**Current coach:** Brian Richardson, Antonio Maurogiovanni

**Institute/Academy:** WAIS

**Rowing career highlight(s):** 5th in the Head of the River twice

**Professional goals:** Win everything everywhere (Men's 1x in particular), complete university and perhaps pursue some research

**Sporting hero:** Marty Rabjohns, Allana Slater

**Interests:** Computer pursuits, other technical areas, automobiles, society

---

## Sponsors and Corporate Supporters



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission



AUSTRALIAN  
INSTITUTE OF SPORT



NSWIS  
NEW INSTITUTE OF SPORT



TASMANIAN  
INSTITUTE OF SPORT



Queensland  
Academy of Sport  
Queensland Government



ACT AS ACADEMY OF SPORT



South Australian Sports Institute



Wais



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION



Going beyond expectations

