



Greetings Everyone,

With Christmas only days away and the festive season upon us, canoe polo takes a break. After a busy and successful year of local, national and international competitions and with any luck, feeling that our skills and game play have improved, now is the time to rest, recuperate and refresh. Of course the warm weather will encourage a game or two or maybe you will take to the water in a different kayak just for fun. (Let's do it!)

Enjoy a well-earned break, spend time with family and friends and seek out those you meant to catch up with but maybe missed during the year. Return to the excitement and fun of canoe polo and rejoin teammates in 2014, revitalised and paddling stronger.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you a happy and safe Christmas,

**Ian**

Ian Beasley

Chair

Australian Canoe Polo

This special Christmas Edition of *Spike's Report* contains a number of items that will help to keep you in the right headspace (a Canoe Polo-centric one!) during the holiday period.



Email *Spike's Report*: [polo@canoe.org.au](mailto:polo@canoe.org.au)





2014 ICF World Championships - Australian Team online nominations **extended until January 5, 2014**

Men's, Women's and U21 Men's Teams are open for nominations.

It is **crucial** that those choosing to nominate are entirely committed to attending the 2014 World Championships. Please consider that the World Championships requires a significant amount of time for training and competing, as well as a significant financial commitment from players for their travel, accommodation, meals and other costs.

All related enquiries should be directed to Duncan

Cochrane: [duncan@kayakplus.com.au](mailto:duncan@kayakplus.com.au)

**Online Nominations can be completed until January 5, 2014, via:**

<http://www.canoe.org.au/event.asp?ID=17003&format=popup>

If you're expecting some new Canoe Polo gear from Santa this year, there are a number of events coming up to help you break in that new paddle, boat, jacket, deck or helmet...



Email Spike's Report: [polo@canoe.org.au](mailto:polo@canoe.org.au)



### **The 2014 Australian Canoe Polo Development Camp:**

January 21-23 @ Mawson Lakes, Adelaide.

Registrations due: 10 January, 2014

**\$100 for 3 days of high quality training!**

Start the year off at a camp designed to improve your skills and positively develop your training routine. The Australian Canoe Polo Committee strongly encourages those intending to participate in the camp to please submit their registration forms to the camp organizer and AC Polo Development Director, Angus Robb as soon as possible: [angusrobb\\_5@hotmail.com](mailto:angusrobb_5@hotmail.com).

For registration forms and more information, click on or paste the following link into your web

browser: <http://canoe.org.au/?Page=26833> or <https://www.facebook.com/polocamp>

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to improve your polo skills and get to know Coaches and other players from around Australia - register today!

### **Upcoming Competitions:**

2013/14 Australian Canoe Polo Summer Series Events





**2014 Australia Day Competition @ Mawson Lakes, Adelaide**

January 25 & 26.

Registrations Close: January 17, 2014.

Early Bird Entry fee available until December 31, 2013.

Entry Fees:

Juniors (Males and Females under 18 as at January 1, 2014) \$220 or \$180 Early Bird

All Others: \$300 or \$250 Early Bird

Check with the organizers about Micro-Juniors

Registrations and event information:

<http://www.ndcc.canoe.org.au/?MenuID=Australia+Day+Comp%2F571%2F9981>

**The Victorian Invitational @ Nagambie Lakes, March 8 & 9**

This is the final major Canoe Polo meet before Nationals. Event Information and

Registrations: Brooke Honeyman - [vcp\\_sec@yahoo.com](mailto:vcp_sec@yahoo.com)



**Be The Influence 2014 Australian Canoe Polo National Championships**

Easter Weekend, April 19-21 @ Molonglo Reach, Canberra.

Sanctioned by PaddleNSW, the Nationals will take place at the new home of the Canberra Invitational. The venue is conveniently located 5 minutes West of Canberra's newly upgraded airport and 5 minutes East of Canberra City.

An event information booklet will be distributed shortly via email and made available on the AC and PaddleNSW websites.

Any enquiries should be directed to Angus Robb: [angusrobb\\_5@hotmail.com](mailto:angusrobb_5@hotmail.com)

*The Canberra and Sydney Invitational Wrap Ups:*



Over the weekend of November 16 and 17 Canberra hosted 11 teams from around the country at the opening event for the 2013/14 Australian Canoe Polo Summer Series. There were 7 teams in the Open division and 4 in the Restricted Division. The venue for this year's event was Molonglo Reach, the home of the Burley Griffin Canoe Club and a site



Email Spike's Report: [polo@canoe.org.au](mailto:polo@canoe.org.au)



that received much applause from the Canoe Polo players in attendance.

The Molonglo Reach pitch sits alongside a much used public cycle/running path. Many would-be passersby stopped in their tracks upon witnessing the explosive shots, smashing boat tackles and a powerful display of paddling skills from all teams. As a result, there were many inquiries about the sport, which has prompted the Canberra Invitational organizers to make Molonglo Reach the permanent home of the competition.



Having begun with overcast conditions, the first day ended in sunshine and intense matches in both divisions. The high level of competition on Saturday made Sunday morning's matches must-win events for some teams to earn their desired spot in the finals. Gallantly playing with only 4 players throughout the competition, Focus met Aunty's Army in the Open Division Grand Final. The match yielded 'Focus' the win along with a massive tackle upon team member, Adam Hofmeyer from Andrew Merrifield of Aunty's Army. Adam suffered some bruising but, thankfully, no broken bones. The match was spectacular and provided an exciting glimpse of what can be expected at the 2014 National Championships and the rest of the Summer Series. Kanusport, took out 3rd place



Email *Spike's Report*: [polo@canoe.org.au](mailto:polo@canoe.org.au)

honours, Lakers Gold 4<sup>th</sup>. The Dream Team placed first in the Restricted Division after defeating the Burley Babes. The SA Masters placed third and the Paddle Pirates were fourth. The Restricted Division Grand Final was a very close match that went into extra time and provided the Dream Team with a 'Golden Goal' win. It is important to mention though that this was the newly created ACT Women's side, the 'Burley Babes', first major competition. Well done to everyone!



Thanks to the Burley Griffin Canoe Club for their support of Canoe Polo (especially in the past 12 months) and congratulations to the organizers of the event for delivering a highly successful competition. Thanks to all of the participants for competing in the Canberra Invitational. Your attendance helps to promote the sport in the region and the Canberra community looks forward to host you at next year's events – especially Nationals.

Sydney:

A month after the Canberra Invitational, it was Sydney's turn to host the Australian Canoe Polo Summer Series on December 14 and 15. Conducted at the Penrith White Water Stadium, the Sydney Summer Series provides a great opportunity to promote Canoe Polo to paddlers of other disciplines – and also gives polo players an excuse to jump in a play boat and take advantage of the white water course between games.





(Focus vs. Aunty's Army – Focus in Red)

In the Open Division, Focus and Aunty's Army were again demonstrating their polo prowess but were provided with a couple of major challenges by Lakers Gold and Lakers Blue. However, the Open Division Grand Final was again between Focus and Aunty's Army, with neither team giving up until the final buzzer. This time, playing with 5 instead of 4, Focus again defeated Aunty's Army, with a final score of 7 – 5. Lakers Blue took out 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Lakers Gold 4<sup>th</sup>, Blades of Glory 5<sup>th</sup> and ACT 6<sup>th</sup>. The Restricted Games increased in their level of intensity compared to games played at the Canberra Invitational. It was great to see the improvement achieved by teams after only one month. The Grand Finalists provided

another great game for the spectators, but it was The Vampires who came out on top against the Stingrays. The Jelly Beans took out 3<sup>rd</sup> place and the Eliminators were 4<sup>th</sup>.



Visit the Australian Canoe Polo Facebook page to watch portions of the Open and Restricted Grand Finals. There are also some short video clips of other matches available:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Canoe-Polo/163266210400923?ref=hl>

Thanks to the Sydney Summer Series event organizers for another successful instalment of the 2013/14 ACPolo Summer Series. We look forward to the next event – The Adelaide Australia Day Competition (Mawson Lakes, January 25 & 26).

The ACP Committee periodically sends out information for distribution by State and Territory liaisons. If you would like to receive news items directly, please send an email with the subject "SUBSCRIBE" to [polo@canoe.org.au](mailto:polo@canoe.org.au) and you will be added onto the mailing list.



Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



Email Spike's Report: [polo@canoe.org.au](mailto:polo@canoe.org.au)

