

Canoe Polo teams around the country are training in anticipation of another tumultuous season of the world's greatest sport. Of great significance this year, September brings the 2014 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships and takes the Australian Men's Team away to Thury-Harcourt, France, to compete in International Canoe Polo's pinnacle event. The team has been training hard and is looking forward to competing against the World's best Canoe Polo players.

In this edition of *Spike's Report* you'll find information about the road to the World Championships, the 2015 Australian National and Oceania Canoe Polo Championships and more. Since we try to keep this newsletter brief, let's get started...

Australian Canoe Polo Men's Team | 2014 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships

The Australian Men's Canoe Polo Team has been training extensively since April to be in peak condition for the 2014 Worlds in Thury-Harcourt, France (Sept. 22-28). Adhering to strict on-water and off-water training schedules, the eight team-members have been working hard under the coaching leadership of Brett Houghton to ensure that they meet their own expectations when going head to head against the fierce competition of the European teams.



As the team informs us through their Facebook Page (facebook.com/Ausmenscanoe polo), they will compete in the ECA cup in Groningen, Netherlands (Sept 6 & 7) and the Breizh Cup in Acigne, France (Sept 13 & 14) prior to the World Championships. These competitions provide a great insight into the competition the Australian team can expect at the World Champs. Visit and 'Like' the team's Facebook page to keep up to date with all of the international action. For more information about the pre-Worlds competitions, visit the following websites:

ECA Cup: <http://eurocanoeevent.nl/euro-canoe-event>

Breizh Cup: http://www.breizhcup.com/eng_index.php

Although missing from this year's World Championships, the Australian Women's Team will be back in the midst of the World Championships action in 2016 in London. Using the 2015 Oceania's as the starting point of an international come back, candidates for the Australian Women's Team have been training hard both on and off the field to ensure that they are at full strength when they take on New Zealand and, hopefully, other international guests at Nagambie Lakes, Victoria, in April next year.

With Canoe Polo still working its way into the mainstream of Australian sports, members of the Australian Canoe Polo teams are required to foot the entire bill for participating in international competitions themselves. This situation increases the significance of and gratitude for sponsor's support of the teams. With great thanks to Kayaks Plus, a long-



time supporter of Australian Canoe Polo development and our national teams, CPS and Polomania (NZ), members of the Australian Men's Team have recently received paddles and boats that will assist their performance at the World Championships.

On behalf of the Australian Canoe Polo community, the Australian Canoe Polo Technical Committee wishes the Australian Men's Team all the best in the upcoming 2014 World Championships and pre-Worlds competitions!

(Picture: #5 Jay Burgess breaking in his new CPS Paddle)

2014 Australian Canoe Polo Men's Team

#1 Bob Sims

#3 Andrew Merrifield

#4 Craig Hutchinson

#5 Jay Burgess

#6 Stephan Hubbard

#7 Josh Holmes

#8 Ian McIntosh

#9 Luke Holmes

Coach: Brett Houghton

Assistant Coach: Matt Moore

Tour Manager: John Moore



2015 Australian Canoe Polo National Championships 2015 Oceania Canoe Polo Championships



Preparations for the 2015 Australian Nationals (Apr. 4-7) and Oceania Championships (Apr. 9-11) are well underway. Taking place at Nagambie Lakes, Victoria, and with outstanding support from the Strathbogie Shire Council and Canoeing Victoria, the Oceania Championships will deliver excellent polo for participants and spectators.

Nominations for all Australian team categories for the Oceania Championships close on October 24. We encourage everyone who is interested in competing for Australia to nominate. The team selection process itself provides all nominees with valuable experience and will assist their team and individual skills development. Nominations can be lodged via the following website: <http://canoe.org.au/?Page=27792>

Nominations for Coaches of and Selectors for the Australian Teams are also open, as are nominations for Officials for the Oceania Championships. Nominations can be completed using the following online portal:

<http://canoe.org.au/?Page=27792>

An information booklet for both events is now available and has been distributed to the Australian Canoe Polo News email subscribers (Send an email with the subject "Subscribe" to polo@canoe.org.au to join the mailing list). The booklet contains all of the usual event information as well as accommodation options and local attractions.

The ACP Technical Committee has secured a number of Cabins at the Caravan Park adjacent to the venue. With Nagambie being a popular tourist destination over Easter, these comfortable accommodation options are limited in number – so get in quick to reserve yours! Contact Ian Beasley for more information (email below).

The organization of Australian Teams in all of the different categories at the Oceania Championships is a significant but very rewarding undertaking, which is made much easier if the workload is spread amongst a number of volunteers. Currently, we are looking for a volunteer to be responsible for the organization of Australian Juniors for the Championships. It would be great if the volunteer for this role would be willing and able to undertake the organization of the ACP Development Camp in Adelaide in January as well (see also the Development Manager advertisement below). If you are interested in either of these roles, please contact the Australian Canoe Polo High Performance Manager, Duncan Cochrane: Duncan@kayaksplus.com.au or Ian Beasley.





If you have any questions relating to the 2015 Australian National Championships or the 2015 Oceania Championships events, please contact the Australian Canoe Polo Technical Committee Chairperson, Ian Beasley: ibeasley@eftel.net.au

A very special thanks to Craig Hutchinson for taking the time out of his incredibly busy schedule to put together the Oceania Championships Logo.

2014 Canberra Invitational - Australian Canoe Polo Summer Series -



The Burley Griffin Canoe Club cordially invites all interested Canoe Polo players to participate at the opening event of the 2014 Australian Canoe Polo Summer Series, the Canberra Invitational, on November 1 & 2 at Molonglo Reach, Campbell, ACT. The 2014 Summer Series competitions serve as selection events for Australian teams competing at the 2015 Oceania Canoe Polo Championships with final selections for all categories taking place at the Australia Day Competition in Adelaide (Jan 24 & 25, 2015).

Entries for the Canberra Invitational open on September 10, 2014 via RegisterNow.com.au (<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=14019>)

You can explore accommodation options at:
<http://www.visitcanberra.com.au/find/accommodation>

Please contact James Deakin with any queries about the event: jamesbdeakin@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there!



Victorian Invitational (Dec 6 & 7)

Taking place at the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre, the 2014 Victorian Invitational has been brought forward this Summer Series to accommodate the 2015 Nationals and Oceania Championships.

Entry forms for the Victorian Invitational are available on the Canoeing Victoria website (vic.canoe.org.au) – just follow the Canoe Polo links.

Australian Canoe Polo Committee

Position Vacant: Competitions Manager

During the 2014 Australian Canoe Polo AGM, the need for a Competitions Manager position on the committee was identified and the role subsequently established. The Australian Canoe Polo Committee is seeking a volunteer to fill this role prior to the commencement of the 2014/15 Summer Series. Liaising and cultivating professional working relationships with local organizers, State and Territory and National Canoeing bodies, the Competition Manager will be responsible for assisting to ensure the successful planning, organization and delivery of Australian Canoe Polo events around the country, such as the annual National Championships and Summer Series competitions. If you are interested in taking on this role, please submit your expression of interest to Ian Beasley: ibeasley@eftel.net.au

Position Vacant: Development Manager

The Development Manager is responsible for overseeing and initiating innovative player development programs, including the Australian Canoe Polo Development Camp(s). The Development Manager liaises with and cultivates good working relationships with State and Territory Canoe Polo entities to deliver successful outcomes that benefit players of all ages and Australian Canoe Polo overall. If you are interested in taking on this role, please submit your expression of interest to Ian Beasley, Australian Canoe Polo Committee Chair: ibeasley@eftel.net.au

Australian Canoeing Awards

Nominations for the annual AC canoeing awards have opened. These are a great opportunity to recognise individuals for their contributions to the sport, and also an opportunity to promote Canoe Polo to the wider canoeing community. Australian Canoe Polo had good success last year with Anthea Courtney and Matt Heard achieving well deserved recognition.

The award categories are:

- Canoeist of the year – non-Olympic
- Junior canoeist of the year – non-Olympic
- Paracanoeist of the year
- Master canoeist of the year

- Coach of the year
- Team of the year
- Service to canoeing
- The Olegas Truchanas Canoeing Award
- People's choice award
- Technical official of the year
- Instructor and guide of the year

If you think someone should be nominated, please go online and do so. It does not matter if the same person is nominated by different people (that is a good thing). Anyone can nominate. And may do so at: <http://canoe.org.au/?Page=27990> Nominations close 26 September, 2014.

Roof Rack City Photo Competition

Australian Canoeing and Roof Rack City are searching for a 'hilarious photo of someone paddling'. This competition will yield the winner a \$300 voucher up for grabs from Roof Rack City Adelaide (<http://www.roofracksa.com.au/>). Here's another good opportunity to promote Canoe Polo and to have your photography prowess recognized. Details are at: <http://canoe.org.au/?Page=28020>