

BARRACUDAS

Water Polo Club Newsletter | Issue 1 March 08

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Barracudas 2008 Executive Committee:

President - Jacque Giles

Vice President - Greg Smith

Secretary - Cara Tyler

Treasurer - Janita Johnston



Welcome the first of the new look Barracudas water polo club's newsletters. The club has thus far had a tremendous season fielding record numbers of teams in both Junior and Senior Brisbane competitions. There is a lot going on around the pool even as the days get shorter and colder so be sure to keep up to date with all the latest events and games on our club website which is updated regularly (www.barracudaswp.com.au).

Barracudas Qualify for Seven Junior BWPI Grand Finals

Barracudas qualified for seven grand final matches to be played next weekend, March 8th, at the Valley Pool. Four girls teams narrowly missed the Grand Finals with the U13A Barracudas losing to All Hallows A 6-2, the U13C Barrabubs 2 team coming so close losing only by 1 goal to favourites BGGGS C. The U14B Barracudas girls put up a valiant fight but also came within 1 goal of frontrunners St Peters and the U18A Girls could not fend off the Sunshine Coast team losing 6-2. Congrats to all these teams for a wonderful season. Lets get behind our teams and cheer them on as they take aim at the 2007/08 Premiership Titles. Good luck to all players and teams involved. Please send in any photos or news stories about the competition to share on the website and dont forget the junior break up an presentation of trophies at Musgrave following the conclusion of games.

Grand Final Program - Saturday March 8th - Valley Pool

TIME	AGE	TEAMS		POOL
8.00 am	U13 A Girls	All Hallows A	BGGGS A	Valley 1
8.00 am	U13 B Girls	All Hallows B	Brigidine	Valley 2
8.50 am	U13 Boys	Barras	Polo Bears	Valley 1
8.50 am	U13 C Girls	BGGGS C	Warriors	Valley 2
Presentation of Medals				
9.50 am	U14 A Girls	All Hallows A	BGGGS A	Valley 1
9.50 am	U14 B Girls	Polo Bears	St Peters	Valley 2
10.40 am	U14 Boys	Barras	Polo Bears	Valley 1
10.40 am	U14 B Girls	All Hallows B	St Ritas	Valley 2
Presentation of Medals				
11.40 am	U15 A Girls	Sun Coast	Barracudas A	Valley 1
11.40 am	U15 B Girls	Brigidine B	Polo Bears	Valley 2
12.30 pm	U14 C Girls	Brigidine	Warriors	Valley 1
12.30 pm	U15 C Girls	BSHS	All Hallows C	Valley 2
Presentation of Medals				
1.30 pm	U16 B Girls	Brigidine	Stuartholme B	Valley 1
1.30 pm	U16 C Girls	Barracudas C	BSHS	Valley 2
2.20 pm	U16 A Girls	Sun Coast	Barracudas A	Valley 1
2.20 pm	U18 C Girls	All Hallows C	BSHS 11	Valley 2
Presentation of Medals				
3.20 pm	U16 Boys	RiverCity	Barras	Valley 1
3.20 pm	U18 B Girls	Brigidine	Barras/RCity	Valley 2
Presentation of Medals				

AROUND THE POOL

Two Barracudas earn MVP Honours at Queensland Country Champs

Two Barracudas goalkeepers were named top player at Queensland Water Polo's Country Champs. On the women's side Kelsey Wakefield playing for the victorious Gold Coast team was named top player and on the men's side, Fabio Pavanello playing for winning Sunshine Coast side was given top honours. Well done to both these players

Australian U20 Squads named - Five Barracudas included

Following on from the U20 National Championships held in Perth in January, Australian water polo have announced the National Junior Squads. Barracudas Hannah Robinson, Kayla Bryce, Emma Jackson BJ Howden and Dan Young were given the nod and included in the sides. The girls will have a training camp in April following National League Finals with a born 88 team set to tour USA.

Australia Downs New Zealand in Trans Tasman School Girls Series

Australia's School Girls have taken the first two matches in the best of three series against the New Zealand. The matches a close and physical affair with only a goal difference the result at the end of the match. A number of the New Zealand players also competing for their country in the senior women's Olympic Qualification tournament. Three Barracudas players represented Australia at this series including Gabby Wikman, Jamie Lee Lewis and Lauren Coburn.

Queensland Boys take National U20 Title

The Queensland men had the ride of their lives at the U20 national championships in Adelaide but the tournament where the team shocked NSW in the Grand final 11-9 to take the gold and the title. The boys downing only two matches during the round games (to both NSW sides) and earning a controversial draw against WA in the the rounds after winning the match in regular time and being forced to replay the last 3 minutes. Congrats to the new national champions! Included in the Queensland side who are now national champions are Barracudas players: Clay Douyere-Pate, Scott Gynther, Damien Hicks, Dan Young, BJ Howden, Matt Giles and Cian Mulcahy. On the women's side, inconsistent attack troubled the team throughout the tournament with the team losing by a significant margin to front runners NSW Blues and WA. The team found momentum against the NSW Warratahs winning 9-6 and earning spot in the 2-3 playoff where they came up short against WA losing 9-7. The team led throughout the bronze medal match against the NSW Warratahs but ran out of steam in the 4th quarter, letting the lead slip away and allowing the NSW back into the match - at the final buzzer there was only a goal in it with Queensland being down 7-8. (Photos Courtesy Pearse Photography and AWPI)



Kayla Bryce controls the attack



Jamie Lee Lewis swamps the ball from Victorian player



Clay Douyere-Pate in full flight

Barras U14 Boys Crowned State Champions - Girls Earn 4th and Cudas Boys 5th. 21 Barracudas Players named in Queensland Squad!

The Under 14 State Championship was held in December at the Gold Coast at both the Miami and Southport Pools. A total of 22 teams competed in this years competition made up of an amazing 14 girl's teams and 8 boy's teams. The Barracudas club was very well represented in the Championships entering three teams in the competition - 2 boys teams (Barras and Cudas) and one girls team (Barracudas).

The Barras boys set a high standard right the way through the rounds and gained a spot in the Grand Final where they comfortably defeated Alstonville 9 - 3 to claim the Gold Medal and earn themselves the coveted title of State Champions! The Cudas boys defeated the Gold Coast in their 5th/6th playoff match to earn 5th place with a final score of 8-5. Barras boys captain James Broadley accepted the championship



Barras U14 State Champions



Relaxed before the Grand Final

trophy on behalf of the Barras winning team from Barracudas Hall of Fame member and former Australian representative Kate SweeteKelly. James also took out top honours being named tournament MVP.

On the girls side, All Hallows won the gold defeating BGGs in the final while the young Barracudas girls put in a top effort finishing fourth in a close game against the All Hallows Blues side narrowly missing the bronze by one goal; the final score 5-4 to All Hallows Blues. The Barracudas girls team made up of virtually all players a year or two younger than the U14 age category. Again a top performance and excellent result by all.

Thanks to the coaches and managers who put in their time - Neil Gynther, Rob Edwards and Jacque Giles. Rob Edwards has been selected as the U14 Boys State coach and Jon Broadley, manager. Amazingly 21 Barracudas players were selected to the Queensland State squads! The table below reflects the final placement of teams as well as the Barracudas players named in the State Squads. Well done to all the participants and congrats to everyone.

Following the competition selectors named the U14 State Squad. Barracudas were very well represented with a record amount of players being included in these squads. A remarkable 21 players were named including the following: Boys: William Armstrong, Oscar Breakwell, James Broadley, Rafe Denham, David Edwards, Caelyn Jones, Jacob Kinneally, Luke MxKenzie, Sam Mitchell - Whitting, Flynn Moloney, Harry Morris, George Pullar, Zane Spasojevic, William Stockwell, William Suess Girls: Emma Bullock, Madeline Glass, Madeleine Groves, Claire Stott, Sophie Stoltz and Emily Nielson. Well done to all these players! (Photos courtesy Jon Broadley)



James Broadly recieves MVP award from legend Kate SweeteKelly

MORE AROUND THE POOL

Sue Smith finally presented Queensland Water Polo Award for Service to Sport

Club President Jacque Giles took the Chinese Women's Olympic Team's games against the Barracudas Women's team as an opportunity to finally give Sue Smith the 2007 Water Polo Queensland Service to Sport Award. Sue was named as the award winner back in September of last year but could not attend the function gala. Needless to say Sue was on hand for the festivities at Musgrave this week and happily accepted her very deserving award. Sue gave more than 20 years of service to the club acting as a dedicated volunteer and committee member until finally hanging her hat up in 2007. Sue and Jacque pictured above (photo courtesy Lucas Allan Wroe)



Emma Keogh presses the Chinese heavily



Gabby Wikman trying to get by Chinese defence



Pre- Game entertainment to honour Chinese New Year and the visiting Olympic Team

Barracudas in action against Chinese Women's Olympic Team

The Barracudas Women national league team took on the Chinese women's Olympic Team as part of the National League season. In their first encounter at Musgrave the Barracudas came up short losing 15-9 to the feisty Olympic outfit. It was a physical affair with the Barracudas as evidenced by the heavy press defence exhibited by Emma Keogh above. (photo courtesy Lucas Allan Wroe). Game 2 was a much tighter game with the Barracudas taking the lead early but the Chinese fought back to take the lead and the win. The experience a very positive one with a number of young Barracudas players getting their first taste of senior international play.

The Barracudas Club put on a real show for the first of the head to head matches. Three Chinese dragons were on hand at Musgrave for the crowd to enjoy along with drummers, firecrackers and dancing. It was a real event to honour the Chinese New Year. Thanks to Liz Smith who organised the pre-game events and to all who attended to support our club's elite women's team.

Barracudas proudly sponsored by:



State's Finest Pool their talents - Source: The Courier Mail Saturday March 1st - Bernie Pramburg

THE girls made a big splash in the 1980s, and they plan to make more than a ripple at the World Masters Games in Perth next month. Inspired by a reunion of Australia's female water polo representatives last year, Queensland's finest from the '80s have pulled their costumes and caps out of mothballs and jumped back in the pool. "We had a strong Queensland contingent at the reunion in Melbourne and some of us hadn't seen each other for 20 years," said Jacque Giles (nee Thomas). "A group of the men from my club (Barracudas) go to the World Masters every year and I thought it was about time the women did something." Last year's reunion in Melbourne, coinciding with the water polo world championships, was organised by former Australian player Cathy Parkes, who was battling breast cancer at the time. Cathy, who was vice-captain of the Australian team that won the 1986 World Cup in Spain, died shortly after at the age of 52. "Cathy was very unwell and did a wonderful job organising the reunion which was a marvellous occasion," Jacque said. "In our day Queensland played at the national titles for a week and we got to know everyone from every inter state team. It was a terrific get-together." Jacque, who played goalie in state and national teams, is back in the water playing B-grade club water polo with Barracudas. The difference now is that her daughter, Annabelle, 14, is also in the team. Two other former internationals, Kate Swetekelly (nee McAdam) and Amanda Leeson-Smith, are also trying to keep pace with daughters Emma and Margot.

Other former internationals preparing for the trip to Perth include Gold Coast-based Janet Rayner, Sandy Mills from Townsville, Sue Gordon and Carol Hudson. "They're all excited, but a few haven't been in the water for a long time. It's a big challenge," Jacque said. "We're not sure what age category we'll be in at Perth, but it will definitely be over-40s." Although men's water polo is the oldest team sport in the Olympics, the women's game was not played internationally until 1975. "Women's water polo was a demonstration sport at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, but the girls weren't admitted to the Olympics until Sydney 2000," Jacque said. "In the early days we used to sell lamingtons and have street collections to fund our travel to championships. "Players like Carol Hudson and Debbie Handley were there from the 1970s. I made

my debut for Australia in 1980 and Amanda (Leeson-Smith) the following year. Amanda represented for more than a decade and went on to captain Australia." Many of the game's "pioneers" were present at Sydney 2000 to witness Australia's magnificent victory to take the inaugural gold medal in women's water polo. "It was fantastic," Jacque said. "I went to the Sydney Olympics with Amanda and it was lovely to be there when the girls won gold. "We went and celebrated with the girls . . . we virtually hijacked the bus. There were so many former players there and we celebrated all week. "The girls made us so welcome and gave us their gold medals to have photos taken. They knew about all the hard work that had been done in the years before the game was an Olympic sport."

Jacque admires the commitment and skill of today's elite players who train between five and six hours a day. "They get paid an allowance now . . . not a lot, but it helps because they're so busy training. In our day we all had full-time jobs," she said. Women's water polo has made giant strides at all levels and is extremely popular in secondary schools and at club level. "You see it happening all over Australia. It's a great family sport and you see generations of players in the game. You recognise a lot of names from our era who now have kids playing the game," Jacque said. She joked that the team for Perth might be called "Haven't We Let Ourselves Go", but with a couple of NSW players drafted into the line-up it's simply the Queensland Blues.

Pictured: KEEPING it in the family . . . water polo ex-internationals are enjoying playing with their daughters today: Emma Swetekelly, Margot Leeson-Smith and Annabelle Giles; Kate Swetekelly, Amanda Leeson-Smith, Jacque Giles and Carol Hudson. Picture: Derek Moore



Don't miss the Blockbuster National League Local Derby Match as Barracudas play host to KFC Breakers

Our Barracudas National League teams are nearing the end of their regular season matches and the finals are in sight. They saved the best for last with the always exciting local derby match between the Barracudas and our cross town rivals, the KFC Breakers is the final regular season game for the 2008 competition before the finals.

In the first encounter which took place at the Valley a few weeks ago, the bottom of the ladder Breakers women surprised the Barracudas ladies with a win after the Barras squandered a 3 goal lead at half time. On the men's side it was quite the reverse with the top of the table Breakers shocked by a 7-7 draw with the young Barracudas side.

These final matches are sure to be thrillers with the results cementing the positions of teams as they head into the Finals. Don't miss it. Entry is \$5 at the door.



Barracudas vs. Breakers

**Saturday April 5th
Musgrave Pool**

Women's Game 6:30pm

Men's Game 8:00pm

BBQ and refreshments available throughout the games.



Barras Beijing Hopefuls: L to R: Rhys Howden, Victoria Brown, Sophie Smith, Kate Gynther and Melissa Rippon

Barracudas set sights on Beijing Olympic Games

With the Beijing Olympic Games just around the corner its no surprise that our Barracudas senior representatives are gearing up in hopes of selection to this, the most elite of teams. On the women's side Barracudas have four hopefuls - current Australian captain Melissa Rippon, international superstar Kate Gynther and rising stars Sophie Smith and Victoria Brown. The Barracudas men's hopes rest firmly on the shoulders of Rhys Howden who has broke into the international scene in 2007 and has been impressing with his hard work and talent.

All five of our Barracudas players were just announced to take part in a international test tournament in China taking place at the end of March. The conclusion of the National League competition is sure to be important for Olympic selectors with the final squads being announced shortly after the tournament ends in April.



Barracudas Australian representative: Sophie Smith, Mel Rippon, Kate Gynther and Victoria Brown jubilant after helping Australia qualify for the 2008 Olympic Games



BWPI Senior Standings up to week 14

	Pts	For	Agnst	Bal	Win	Lose	Draw	Forfeit	Games
A Grade Men									
Sunshine Coast	30	126	144	-18	8	6	0	0	14
Polo Bears	19	120	171	-51	2	11	1	0	14
Barracudas	34	156	111	45	9	3	2	0	14
RiverCity	29	153	129	24	6	5	3	0	14
B Grade Men									
RiverCity 1	31	133	67	66	10	1	0	3	14
Polo Bears	28	102	134	-32	7	5	1	1	14
RiverCity 2	28	125	95	30	8	4	0	2	14
Barracudas	27	106	116	-10	6	7	1	0	14
RiverCity 3	13	58	96	-38	3	4	0	7	14
Warriors	27	89	105	-16	7	6	0	1	14
X Grade Men									
Barbarians	9	52	101	-49	1	6	0	6	13
Uni Old Boys	10	39	112	-73	1	7	0	5	13
Souths 25	82	80	2	6	5	1	1	13	
RiverCity	33	112	80	32	10	3	0	0	13
Hammers	32	120	109	11	9	3	1	0	13
Barracudas 1	39	177	25	152	13	0	0	0	13
Barracudas 2	26	97	104	-7	7	5	0	1	13
Avalon Ice	21	77	145	-68	4	9	0	0	13
Prem B Grade Women									
Barracudas 1	11	36	35	1	3	2	0	0	5
Polo Bears	6	31	38	-7	1	3	0	1	5
RiverCity	13	44	21	23	4	1	0	0	5
Barracudas 2	7	21	56	-35	1	4	0	0	5
Warriors	9	31	13	18	3	0	0	1	4
C Grade Women									
Barracudas	25	54	68	-14	5	6	2	1	14
Polo Bears	22	64	82	-18	5	5	1	3	14
RiverCity	35	97	54	43	10	3	1	0	14
Souths	25	53	64	-11	6	7	0	1	14



**MORE AROUND THE POOL
Barracudas Young Stars of
the Future -The Barrabubs
U13 Girls Teams**

The Barracudas entered six U13 girls teams in the BWPI Junior competition with the youngest of the bunch being the two Barracudas Barrabubs Teams. The Barrabubs are coached by national league players Hannah Robinson and Nanda Stoltz and the girls are played each other in the last round of regular season games. Barrabubs 2 defeated Barrabubs 1 by a score of 16-1. With a good number of players well under the 13 age limit, these teams are ones to watch in the future. (Photos courtesy Wendy Phillips)



Barrabubs 1



Barrabubs 2

National League Results to date

Barracudas National League teams have been in action since late January setting their sites on the Finals Series and the National Championship.

2008 Barracudas National League Scorers as of March 3

MEN		WOMEN	
Rhys Howden	21	Jane Moran	25
Dan Young	18	Melissa Rippon	18
Curtis Williamson	15	Sophie Smith	14
Kevin Smoker	15	Nanda Stoltz	12
Drew Gynther	12	Kayla Bryce	12
BJ Howden	8	Natalie Pavanello	9
Matt Giles	3	Amanda Russell	8
Alex Yeates	3	Emma Keogh	8
Damien Hicks	4	Gabby Wikman	8
Blake Edwards	1	Hannah Robinson	7
Fabio Pavanello	1	Kate Gynther	7
		Alice Miller	4
		Steph Thomas	3
		Claire Miller	3
		Jamie Lee Lewis	2
		Emma Jackson	1

Wins posted by teams:

**MEN - 3 wins, 2 draw
10 losses**

- Defeated Sydney Uni once
- Defeated UniWA once
- Defeated Wests once
- Drew KFC Breakers once
- Drew Fremantle once

WOMEN - 7 wins, 1 draw, 5 losses

- Defeated Hunter Hurricanes twice
- Defeated UniWA twice
- Defeated UNSW twice
- Defeated Fremantle once
- Drew Fremantle once

Next home games vs. Cronulla Sharks - 5\$ at door

Friday March 28th

Women: 6:30pm Men: 8:00pm

Sunday March 30th

Men: 9:30am Women: 11:00am

