

BARRACUDAS

Water Polo Club Newsletter | Issue 2 May 08

In this Issue:

Junior Award winners

Barracudas men and boys sweep the BWPI titles - full round up of Junior and Senior 2007/08 Brisbane Competition results

U18 Club National Results

2008 National Club Rankings

U14s at Club Nationals

Barracudas women take Bronze medal at National League Championships

50+ Masters Team wins FINA World Championships Silver medal

Feature Article : Kate Gynther: Author of a resurrection.

Salute to our club's coaches and managers

Around the Pool News + Photos

Barracudas 2008 Executive Committee:

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Vice President - Greg Smith

Secretary - Cara Tyler

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What a month it's been since our last Barracudas water polo newsletter. The club had a tremendous conclusion to the local competition and once again was the dominant force in the Brisbane and at the state championship level. The club has been featuring strongly on the national front as well with the U14 and U18 Club Nationals not to mention the exciting conclusion to the National League competition and XII FINA World Masters. Barracudas have excelled in all these arenas and across all ages groups showing the depth of the club. With the season now winding down, players will either be taking a much deserved break or training on with representative squads over the colder winter months.

Club honours Junior Players

Following the conclusion of the BWPI Grand Final series all of the Barracudas juniors headed to Musgrave Pool for the Annual Junior awards presentations honouring the successes of the season and the achievements of the teams and individual players. For each team a 'Best and Fairest' player was named for the player who is considered to be the most valuable player in all aspects of the game as well as a 'Coaches Award' which was given to the player who has improved, shown dedication and team spirit. Congrats to all the Junior players and award winners.

	Team	Placing	Best and Fairest	Coaches Award
U13 Boys	Barras	1st	Kieran Mulcahy	Jacob Kinneally
	Cudas	5th	Thomas Mason	Henry Hutton
U14 Boys	Barras	1st	James Broadley	Harry Morris
	Cudas	4th	Flynn Moloney	Zane Spasojevic
U16 Boys	Barras	1st	Ben Edwards	Peter Edwards
	Cudas	7th	Nick Godfrey	Sean O'Neill
U18 Boys	Barras	1st	TBA (at Senior Awards)	
	Cudas	3rd	Sam Hicks	Zach Underwood
U13 Girls	Bubs1	8th - C	Margot Bligh	Kate McCreedy
	Bubs2	3rd - C	Hannah Kelly	Pheobe Kelly
	White	10th - B	Clea Denham	Brittany Berhem
	Grey	9th - B	Mia Kelly	Grace Maloney
	Green	5th - A	Elodie Ruffin	Sarah Serena
	Gold	4th - A	Madeleine Groves	Alex Leaver
U14 Girls	B	3rd	Maddison Glass	Sophie Stoltz
U15 Girls	A	2nd	Bronte Colenso	Jess Ulcoq
	B	12th	Aiobhe Mulcahy	Bec Lloyd
U16 Girls	A	2nd	Kate McAfee	Suzie Lindley
	C	1st	Anna Horgan	Annabelle Giles
U18 Girls	A	3rd	TBA (at Senior Awards)	
	B	1st	Maddie Nyst	Maddie McAfee
	C	5th	Sally	Maddy

Barracudas Boys Sweep Junior Grand Finals Club wins 6 out of 8 Grand Finals and Premierships

The Barracudas junior boys program has established itself as the premier program in Queensland winning four out of four Junior boys premiership titles last weekend at the Junior Grand Finals. The Barracudas boys took the U13, U14, U16 and U18 titles by clear margins with the closest match the U16 Boys final where the Barras narrowly edges RiverCity by 1 goal. The U16 Boys victory was an upset over the favoured River City side marking the first time the boys have beaten RCU all season. U16 Boys coach Dave Miller who joined the side midway through the season was thrilled with the result. On the women's side the Barracudas U16C Girls narrowly defeated BSHS to claim the club's fifth junior title and the combined Barracudas/RiverCity team in the U18B girls division defeated favourites Brigidine by one goal to claim the victory and the title. The U15A and U16A Girls went down to the Sunshine Coast in their Grand Finals after a very strong season. Congratulations to all the teams who participated in the season - another successful one for the club with many wonderful results.

BWPI 2008 Junior Grand Final Results

U13 Boys	Barras (6)	Polo Bears (3)
U13 A Girls	All Hallows A (1)	BGGS A (3)
U13 B Girls	All Hallows B (9)	Brigidine (13)
U13 C Girls	BGGS C (6)	Warriors (3)
U14 Boys	Barras (13)	Polo Bears (1)
U14 A Girls	All Hallows A (4)	BGGS A (1)
U14 B Girls	Polo Bears (7)	St Peters (6)
U14 B Girls	All Hallows B (6)	St Ritas (3)
U14 C Girls	Brigidine (10)	Warriors (7)
U15 A Girls	Sunshine Coast (9)	Barracudas (2)
U15 B Girls	Brigidine B (8)	Polo Bears (7)
U15 C Girls	BSHS (7)	All Hallows C (5)
U16 Boys	RiverCity (6)	Barras (7)
U16 A Girls	Sunshine Coast (7)	Barracudas (1)
U16 B Girls	Brigidine (11)	Stuartholme (10)
U16 C Girls	Barracudas C (4)	BSHS (3)
U18 Boys	Barras (13)	RiverCity Blue (6)
U18 A Girls	All Hallows A (10)	Sun Coast Blue (8)
U18 B Girls	Brigidine (6)	Barras/RCU (7)
U18 C Girls	All Hallows C (3)	BSHS 11 (5)



Pictured above the Boys U13 Barras Premiership team with their medals (Photo courtesy Trevor Kinneally)

Barracudas Sweep Men's BWPI Senior Premiership Titles - Women earn 1 Premiership and 1 runner up title

The Barracudas senior teams enjoyed a stellar end to the 2007/08 BWPI season with a hugely successful Senior Grand Final day at Musgrave pool winning 4 out of the 5 Grand finals in which the club competed. The men's team swept the Grand Finals with wins in the X Grade, B Grade and A Grade. Couple this result with the Junior Boys result of the weekend before where the Barracudas Boys teams swept ever Grand Final and its easy to see that Barracudas club is the dominant mens and boys club in the State. The women's side was victorious in a close B Grade match where goals were shared around evenly and goalkeeper Kelsey Wakefield was in sensational form sealing the win for her team blocking one on ones and sure goals. The C Grade women, a team made up of veterans of the sport and rising juniors stars of the future came within 3 goals of front runners River City to claim the Runners Up title. A great day and end to the season. Thanks to all involved and congrats to everyone for outstanding performances and hard work.



Pictured Left: B Grade women defeated River City 5-4 to claim the 2007/08 title

Pictured above: (Top) X Grade Men victorious over the Hammers to take the 2007/08 Premiership Title (Bottom) B Grade Men's team - caused a major upset defeating RCU in the semi finals and then taking the Premiership after defeating Polo Bears 10-8

More photos on page 8 of the newsletter.

BWPI 2008 Senior Grand Final Results

AGE	TEAMS (and score)	Barracudas Goal Scorers
X Men	Barracudas 1 (16) Hammers(6)	L Johnson 5, P Howden 3, J Muspratt 3, R Edwards 2, G McMahon 1, N Gynther 1, P Lang 1
C Women	RiverCity (9) Barracudas (6)	A Leeson-Smith 4, M Leeson-Smith 1, F Halling 1
B Men	Barracudas (10) Polo Bears (8)	T McGiffin 5, B McMahon 2, D Miller 1, J Bailey 1, Z Underwood 1
B Women	RiverCity (4) Barracudas (5)	M James 1, M Coburn 1, K McAfee 1, A Hall 1, B Wakefield 1
A Men	Barracudas (12) Sun Coast (7)	D Young 6, R Howden 3, D Gynther 1, S Gynther 1, M Giles 1

MORE AROUND THE POOL

Melissa Rippon and Rhys Howden named to 2008 NWPL All Star Team

Barracudas Mel Rippon and Rhys Howden were named for the second year in a row to the NWPL All Star team following the conclusion of the 2008 season in Sydney at the Finals Series. The all star teams were announced the finals function following the completion of the tournament. The men's all star team includes: Daniel Lees (Cronulla Sharks), Stephen Cody (Wests Magpies), Trent Franklin (Sydney University Lions), Rhys Howden (Brisbane Barracudas), Anthony Martin (KFC Queensland Breakers), Ross Sinclair (Hunter Hurricanes), Gavin Woods (Balmain Tigers). The women's team made up of Lea Barta (UNSW Killer Whales), Jemma Dessauvagie (UWA Comets), Suzie Fraser (KFC Queensland Breakers), Melissa Rippon (Brisbane Barracudas), Mia Santoromito (Cronulla Sharks), Rowie Webster (Victorian Tigers), Taryn Woods (Balmain Tigers).

U18 Club Nationals - Barracudas Boys win Bronze - Girls earn 5th

After a close first few days of round games at the 2008 U18 Club Nationals in Brisbane over ANZAC long weekend, the Barracudas boys and girls U18 teams found themselves in the elimination rounds facing some tough opposition. The Barracudas boys made it look easy against Victoria downing them 10-2 to line up an encounter with top ranked Drummoyne in the cross over semi final. The Barras boys went toe to toe with Drummoyne with the scores all level at 15 -15 at the end of regular time, forcing extra time. Drummoyne converted two goals quickly in extra time, one through a penalty until the Barracudas replied. But the boys ran out of time with the score 17-16 at the end of extra time sending the Barracudas to the Bronze medal match. The boys faced off against Wests for the Bronze and showed that they are a class act coming away with a convincing 16-11 win and some hardware to show for their efforts. Fremantle took top honours downing Drummoyne in the gold medal game. Barracudas Dan Young was the 4th highest goal scorer of the tournament with 19 goals. Other big attacking contributors were Blake Edwards, BJ Howden, Damien Hicks and Matt Giles.

On the women's side, the Barracudas were placed in the toughest Grouping with top ranked Sydney Uni and favourites Cronulla. After close encounters with both these teams, the Barracudas were ranked third in their pool and headed to the elimination rounds against 2nd rank UNI NSW in the opposite pool. The elimination game was one of those games where nothing went the Barras way with attack stalling and the Killer Whales making the most of their opportunities, winning the match 4-1 and sending the Barras to 5th/6th playoff against Sydney Northern Beaches. The Barracudas ladies showed they were all class in the 5th/6th playoff taking an early lead and controlling the match handily, ending the tournament on a positive note with a 10-7 win and 5th place. The girls were disappointed they they didn't get another chance at playing Cronulla or



Sydney Uni who ended up playing each other in the Grand Final (Cronulla coming away with their 4th consecutive U18 National title). Gabby Wikman topped scored for the Barracudas with 18 goals over the tournament with Jamie Lee Lewis closely behind her with 17.

Pictured left: Barracudas U18 boys with their Bronze medals.

Overall National Rankings 2008 by age group

	National League Men	National League Women	U18 Club National Championships Boys	U18 Club National Championships Girls
1	West Magpies	Fremantle Marlins	Fremantle	Cronulla Sharks
2	Victorian Tigers	Balmain Tigers	Drummoyne	Sydney Uni
3	KFC Breakers	Barracudas	Barracudas	Drummoyne A
4	Balmain Tigers	Cronulla Sharks	Wests	Uni NSW
5	Drummoyne	Sydney Uni Lions	Victorian Tigers	Barracudas
6	Fremantle	Victorian Tigers	KFC Breakers	Syd Northern Beach
7	Sydney Uni Lions	UWA Comets	Sydney Uni	KFC Red
8	Hunter Hurricanes	KFC Breakers	Qld Country	Adelaide United
9	Barracudas	Hunter Hurricanes	Cronulla Sharks	Victorian Tigers
10	Adelaide Jets	Adelaide Jets	Adelaide United	Hunter
11	UWA Torpedoes	Uni NSW	UWA Torpedoes	Drummoyne B
12	Cronulla Sharks		Hunter	Qld Country
13				KFC White
14				Balmain

	U14 Club National Championships Boys	U14 Club National Championships Girls
1	Cronulla	Cronulla
2	City Beach All Star	Drummoyne
3	Barracudas	Syd North Beach
4	Syd North Beach	Melville
5	Melbourne	Breakers
6	Drummoyne	Barracudas
7	Newcastle	Uni NSW
8	Melville	Tasmania
9	Dolphins	KFC White
10	Triton	City Beach
11	Wests	
12	UWA	
13	Sydney Uni	
14	Uni NSW	

Barracudas have had very strong results at the Club National championships at all age groups winning three bronze medals at the women's national league, Boys U18 and Boys U14. In the regular season games the Barracudas men's national league side defeated 1st place team Wests, came within 1 goal of the 2nd place Victorian team and drew with the 3rd place KFC team which demonstrates the tight competition as well as the potential of the team in the future. The U14 Girls teams came away with a strong 6th place finish fielding a team that was largely aged 11 and 12. The U18 Girls were disappointed with their 5th result but are sitting pretty with a young team that will have the opportunity to play together at the U18 Club nationals again in the future. A wonderful set of results for the club. Congratulations to all involved.

AROUND THE POOL

Two Barracudas named in Queensland Country Team

Amanda Russell and Fabio Pavanello have both been named to the Queensland Country A teams and will be contesting the Australian Country Championships 25th May - 31st of May at Miami pool on the Gold Coast.

Dan Young and Clay Douyere Pate named in the Australian Junior men's squad

Dan and Clay are joined by Kane Smith who played for the Barracudas in the national league in the Australian Junior squad born 89 or later.

Barracudas win U18 State Championship Title - Dan Young and Jamie Lee Lewis named MVPs

The Under 18 Boy's won the U18 State Champs on the weekend beating River City 10-4 in the final. This win means that the Barracudas have swept every male title in the state this season winning the U14, U16 and now U18 titles. Dan Young was named boy's MVP and Jamie-Lee Lewis earned top honours as girls MVP. A number of Barracudas girls players played in the winning All Hallows Girls Team which defeated Sunshine Coast for the female title.

Barracudas female referees take to FINA school in Sydney

Four of our Barras ladies who are heavily involved in refereeing were invited to Sydney to attend the FINA school and become accredited FINA referees. Nicola Johnson, Janita Johnson, Wendy Phillips and Alexis Trevethan all successfully completed the course and earned their accreditation.

Barracudas U14s earn bronze and 6th and National Champs

The boys and girls Barracudas U14 teams had a great tournament in Sydney at the U14 Club National Championships over the Easter long weekend with the Barracudas boys continuing on their winning ways earning a Bronze medal and the girls 6th place. Cronulla collected both national crowns on offer. The Cronulla girls retained their title with a 3-2 margin over 2006 winner Drummoyne while Cronulla boys beat Perth's City Beach All Stars 6-5 for the boys' gold medal. Our Brisbane Barracudas boys earned the bronze medal with a 7-3 defeat of Sydney Northern Beaches while the girls cemented 6th with a win over UNINSW. James Broadley was top scorer for our boys side with 16 goals over the course of the tournament. On the girls side, top scorer went to Lydia Moreland with 7 goals to her credit. Well done to all the athletes who participated in the tournament and congrats on the excellent results.



Pictured above - Barracudas U14 Boys receive their Bronze medals at the National Club Championships (Picture courtesy AWPI)

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Musgrave Pool



National League: Barracudas Women come home with Bronze

A national championship title eluded the Barracudas women's national league side this season but a bronze medal was the product of a solid season and strong finals performance. The NWPL Finals series took place April 9th - 12th in Sydney at Sydney Olympic Park pool and featured the top ranked 6 male and female teams in the country after 3 months of competition made up of 22 regular season round matches. The Barracudas ladies are no strangers to the NWPL finals competition being one of only four women's teams nationally to have qualified for every finals series in the competition's history.

The Barras ladies' finals campaign started slowly with a disappointing loss to Cronulla 9-3 in the first round of the tournament. Day 2 saw a return to form and an upset over the minor premiers and top ranked Sydney University Lions. The match staging the return of international star Kate Gynther which had an instant impact on the side. The Barracudas displayed a complete team effort with strong defense and consistent attack coming back from a two goal deficit at half time to take the lead and hold on in the dying minutes of the match with a vital 12-11 victory. The victory placing the Barras in second position in Group A and setting up a face off with 3rd ranked Victorian Tigers from Group B in the semi-finals. The Barracudas disposed of the Tigers comfortably in the cross over match sailing out to a 5-0 lead after the first quarter and 9-3 lead at half time. The match became a very physical affair with the Barracudas coach Fabio Pavanello opting to rest his starters for the second half as Victoria tried with all their might to fight back into the game but the final score of 12-8 in favour of the Barras guaranteeing the team a top 4 finish.

The semi-final saw the Balmain Tigers who finished top of Group A taking on the Barras girls. The match started as a closely but a poor 2nd quarter for the Barras took the Tigers out to a 3 goal lead at half time - a lead they maintained and extended in the fourth until the Barracudas engines started firing again with four unanswered goals. Sadly, it was too little too late and at the final hooter it was the Tigers ahead by one goal (13-12) sending the ladies to the bronze medal game against the Cronulla Sharks - a team that had beaten them 3 times in the last two weeks. In their final



match of the season, the Barras girls dominated from the outset with controlled attack and decisive defence pushing Cronulla onto the back foot. Goalkeeper Emma Jackson had a fantastic match for the side. The team celebrated ending the season on a winning note and secure their third medal at these national league championships in four years. Congrats to all the players and all involved for yet another outstanding and exciting season of water polo. Team pictured above L to R (back) Fabio Pavanello (coach), Mel Rippon, Amanda Russell, Natalie Pavanello, Gabby Wikman, Victoria Brown, Claire Miller. Front; Jacque Giles (manager), Kate Gynther, Emma Jackson, Hannah Robinson, Emma Keogh, Nanda Stoltz, Jane Moran, Sophie Smith and Kayla Bryce. Not pictured: Kelsey Wakefield, Jamie Lee Lewis, Alice Miller and Steph Thomas.

NWPL: Barracudas Results 2008 Finals Series:

Group A round Game 1: Barracudas 3 - Cronulla 9 (M. Rippon 1, N. Pavanello 1, S Smith 1)

Group A round Game 2: Barracudas 12 - Sydney Uni 11 (M Rippon 3, A Russell 3, S Smith 3, J Moran 2, K Bryce 1)

Cross Over Game 3: Barracudas 12 - Victorian Tigers 8 (J Moran 4, M Rippon 3, K Gynther 2, A Russell, G Wikman, E Keogh)

Semi Final Game : Barracudas 12 - Balmain Tiger 13 (K Gynther 4, J Moran, M Rippon 3, S Smith, E Keogh)

Bronze Medal Match: Barracudas 10 - Cronulla 6 (K Gynther 3, M Rippon, J Moran, S Smith 2, K Bryce)

AROUND THE POOL - PHOTOS



Barracudas Men's A Grade 2007/08 Premiers defeated Sunshine Coast in the BWPI Grand Final (12- 7)



Barracudas +50 Men's team quarter time talk at the XII FINA World Masters Championships



Women's C Grade team (a mix of youth and experience) Runners up in the 2007/08 BWPI Grand Final



Barracudas former Olympian Julian Muspratt in action at the XII FINA World Masters Champs



Alice Miller joins Olympic hopefuls Mel Rippon and Kate Gynter cooking up snags at the BWPI Grand Finals day at Musgrave



Coach Rob Edwards (aka Germ) all wet after being tossed in the pool following A Grade men's grand final victory.

Barracudas Claim Silver at 50+ World Masters Championships

The Barracudas mens +50 masters team recently competed at the XII FINA World Masters Championships held in Perth over the ANZAC week and long weekend. The team consisted of both current and past players for Tugun who came within a whisker of taking the title of World Champions.

The Barracudas team went through their round games defeating 2 American teams, a Canadian team, a Western Australian team and the Russian team. The hardest round game was against Russia, winning the hard fought battle 3-2 to finish top of their pool. This was a tremendous effort as the Russian team consisted of 8 former Olympians. The Barras men then faced the City Beach team in the Semi Finals and defeated them easily 9-3 securing their spot in the Grand Final. The other semi final was between the Russians (who the Barras beat 3-2) and the Germans. This was a very strong skillful game, with the Germans victorious 7-3.

The Barras knew that they were then in for a hard fought final but gave it everything they had. A good start was required but unfortunately things did not go the Barras way with inside wood shots going out not in and they trailed 6-3 at half time. The guys fought hard in the second half and tied the game with 2 minutes to go, but a goal by the Germans in the last minute sunk the Barras hopes of winning the 2008 World Title. The guys had a great time reuniting with their friends, some of which had been playing together as teenagers. Congrats to all involved in the tournament on an outstanding result.

Round results: Barras 5 v Kaos 0; Barras 9 v Calgary 0; Barras 2 v Tri Valley 1; Barras 12 v City Beach Bears 3; Barras 3 v WPM – 04 Moscow Russia 2

Semi final: Barras 9 v City Beach All Stars 3

Final: Barras 6 v SV Cannstatt 7



Pictured above - Barracudas +50 Men's silver medal winning team at the 2008 XII FINA World Masters Championships held in Perth. The team consisted of: Stephan Radwanski, Rob Edwards, Duncan Broyd, Neil Gynther, Colin King, Nick Furneau, Peter Paoella, Ray Powers, Peter Lang, Phil Howden, Lance Johnson, Julian Muspratt and Gerard Wilkinson. Coach: Marty Davis, Managers: Neil Owens & Geoff Stiles. (Photo courtesy: Nicola Johnson)

Feature Article: Barracudas own Kate Gynther - a force in international women's world water polo

Many folks involved with water polo in Brisbane are not aware that one of the greatest female water polo players of the modern era is a product of our very own club - Kate Gynther began her career at Musgrave Pool representing the (then Tugun) U14s at the tender age of 10. Kate still represents the Barracudas after almost 15 years - she currently plays for our women's national league team and is taking aim at the 2008 Olympic Games and a gold medal for Australia. The name Kate Gynther holds much clout locally, nationally and internationally in the sport as evidenced by the article from "Water Polo around the World": an international publication that follows our sport and the top players.

The emergence of Kate Gynther has helped reposition Australia as one of the top teams in women's water polo - By Eric Valazquez (Water Polo around the Globe - Jan 2008 - Issue #29)

When Australia emerged as the gold medal victor in the first Olympics to feature women's water polo in the 2000 Sydney Games, many believed it heralded a new day for the sport and asserted Australia as a world power for years to come. The former prediction turned out to be true. The latter? Subsequent results indicated that perhaps it was overreaching a bit.

Much of the team that edged the US in the 2000 Olympic gold medal game disbanded following

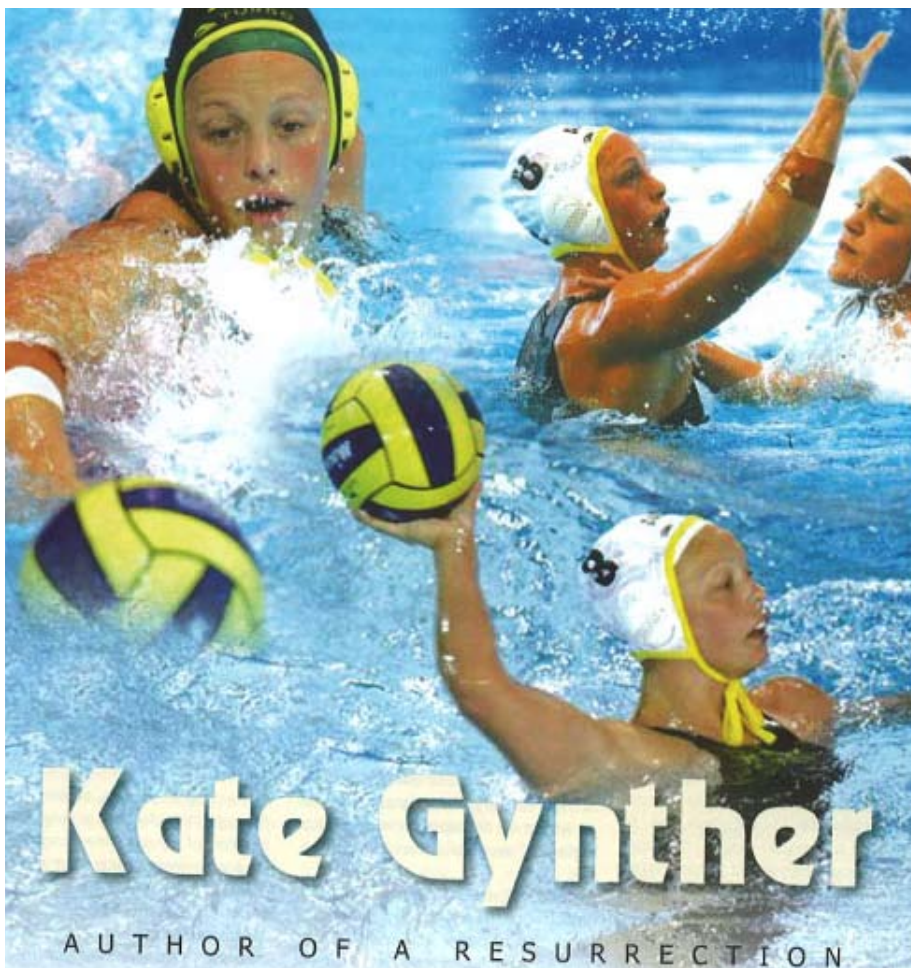
the tournament, leaving Australia's women squad in a de facto rebuilding state.

Australia slumped to fifth at the 2001 World Championships in Japan, seventh at the 2003 Worlds in Barcelona and sixth in Montreal in 2005. In 2002, on their home soil, Australia stumbled to a sixth place finish at the World Cup. Ironically, that was Aussie offensive whirlwind Kate Gynther's first major international tournament with the big squad. Playing for those low-placing teams between 2002-2005, for some, may have been discouraging. But for Kate, it was all the fuel she needed to step up and take charge of her flailing squad.

After getting her feet wet on the world scene in those first few years, it's clear that Kate has become much more comfortable. On the big stage, she has become a marquee player on a team whose youth movement is now paying off in spades.

Erasing the shortcomings of the years following the 2000 Olympics, Australia has orchestrated a 180-degree turnaround, managing a fourth place Olympic finish (2004) a World Cup victory (2006) and a World Championship silver medal finish (2007). Those looking for a central theme in the team's competitive resurrection needn't look further than the arm of Brisbane resident Kate Gynther.

"Kate is, in my eyes, close to the best all round players in the world" boasts Australian head coach Greg McFadden. "She can score goals through counterattack, driving one-on one, shooting from out on top in six on six and while also in extra man."



If that doesn't sound like enough to drive opposing coaches mad, Kate is also steadfastly committed to her physical conditioning. "When you have a player that offers you all these attributes while also being fit enough to play close to the whole game without dropping their intensity, it allows us to always be threatening the opposition's defence," says McFadden.

One of McFadden's biggest rivals, US coach Guy Baker agrees. "Kate is a great overall player and she is a very intense counter attacker, an excellent goal scorer and a fierce competitor. On the list of great international players, she has to be right up at the top." Far from a one-dimensional player, Kate's defensive skills are also sharp.

"I believe that she is one of the best defensive players in the world," says McFadden. "she is a very good one-on-one defender, can play centre back very well and is also a great team player on defence resulting in lots of individual steals and blocks while also defusing dangerous situations with her speed and ability to play on her legs."

In other words, Kate is the reason coaches stay up nights drawing up new plays to implement versus the ever resilient Aussies.

The Humble Olympian

In the grand scheme of things, Kate fits right in to Australia's long-standing tradition of aquatic dominance, the 3-4 year downturn aside. But she's just happy to be in the mix.

"There were quite a few retirements from the team after they won the gold in Sydney." She recalls. "It was a major achievement for me though to make the team a couple of years later and to also be able to play alongside some of the girls who were part of the Sydney team." When she finally got the opportunity to compete in an Olympics herself, Kate was incredibly excited. "The Athens Olympic tournament was one of the biggest things I have ever experienced in my water polo career." She says. "While our result was definitely not what we had hoped for, the experience and atmosphere as a whole was just amazing. "

Though a bit reticent to speak on her own attributes, Kate is all too willing to dish on the team's expectation for Beijing. "Gold in Beijing has been the team's goal all along," she says plainly. "We have had some good results in the last 18 months and are still working on

improving every aspect of our play so I think we are definitely on the right track for another good result."

While her Olympic debut certainly of the scrapbook variety, Kate's trip to last year's world championships was also incredibly memorable. In the end, her squad dropped a nail-biter to the Americans and had to settle for silver. "I was reasonably happy with how I performed at this tournament." Kate says with some reluctance. Many people would also be "reasonably happy" with scoring a team-high 13 goals and walking away with a medal.

Kate isn't all business though. Even for this shining star, there is life away from the pool. "We don't get a lot of free time when we're in full training and we do travel a lot so I guess I just like to do normal things when we get the chance," says Kate. "I love catching up with friends and family when we're home and also love going to the beach. I'm also studying at the moment which is a good way to take the mind off water polo for a while".

When asked how long she expects to compete for Australia, Kate gives pause. "Honestly, I don't know. At the moment the only focus is making the team to compete in Beijing and then playing the best I can. I haven't really thought much further than that except that I know I am still enjoying it and still improving so wouldn't rule anything out right now."

But when they finally do close the stat book on Kate's career, she could see herself heading into coaching at the lower levels where she feels her skills and experience would best be imparted. For now though, she remains a committed team-mate and vital cog in the Australian water polo machine.

"I think she is a fantastic athlete and player to coach," says McFadden. "She is always trying to improve her game and I still believe her best years are ahead of her. She has made some great improvements over the last three years and there are still some little things that we are working on that will help her emerge as the best player in the world."

"Her team-mates love playing with her as she leads by example and gets the job done without much fuss. Kate does not talk much or demand to be the centre of attention like a lot of other players and is happy to let her actions do the talking." Luckily for the Aussies, her actions speak volumes.

AROUND THE POOL

Eight Barracudas girls named in Australian Junior teams

Eight Barracudas girls have been named in the Australian Junior Teams for international tours this year. In the Team born 88 both Emma Jackson and Gabby Wikman got the nod with Gabby punching well above her age to make this elite squad. Hannah Robinson, Kayla Bryce and Nanda Stoltz were named in the Born 89 team. Jamie Lee Lewis and Gabby Wikman were named in the Born 90 team and Stephanie Thomas and Kelsey Wakefield were named in the Born 91 team. An outstanding achievement which marks a solid season of performance by all of these players. Congrats!

Annual AGM Meeting - Sunday August 24th at Musgrave Pool

The Barracudas water polo club will be holding its Annual General Meeting on the 24th of August at Musgrave Pool. The meeting will take place under the Grand Stands in the club room at the pool. Be sure to attend and be part of the planning for the upcoming season. Check the club web site for meeting time closer the day.

Club Room space at Musgrave

The generosity of Musgrave pool manager Alan Humphreys has reached new heights. This season Alan extended the offer to the club to use the newly vacated space beneath the grand stands as a club room to store equipment and provide space for team talks and meetings. The space was a major asset and proved a huge success. The club thanks Alan for his kindness and his on-going support of the club.

Thanks to all 2007/08 Team Coaches and Managers

All the success of the club over the last season would simply not be possible if not for the outstanding efforts and contribution of time and energy put in by our coaches and team managers. Great players are borne of great coaches and great coaches are supported by great managers. We at the Barracudas club are blessed with so many talented people who give up their time week in and week out for the love of the game and for that we are all grateful.

	Coach	Manager
National League Women	Fabio Pavanello	Jacque Giles
National League Men Head	Ray Mayers	Tony Young
National League Men Assistant	Rob Edwards + Phil Howden	
Women's A Grade	Fabio Pavanello	Natalie Pavanello
Men's A Grade	Rob Edwards	Trevor Giles
Women's B Grade B1	Emma Keogh	Judy McAfee
Women's B Grade B2	Jacque Giles	
Men's B Grade	Duncan Greenbank / Dave Miller	
Women's C Grade	Amanda Leeson-Smith	
Men's X Grade	Phil Howden / Adam Franklin / Rob Lindon	
U18 Girls A	Wendy Phillips	Judy McAfee
U18 Girls B	Emma Keogh	Jacque Giles
U18 Girls C	Scott Greenbank	
U18 Boys Barras	Rhys Howden	Trevor Giles
U18 Boys Cudas	Dave Miller	Jo Hicks
U16 Girls A	Nicola Johnson / Claire Miller	Judy McAfee
U16 Girls C	Alexis Trevethan	
U16 Boys Barras	Dave Miller	Jo Hicks
U16 Boys Cudas	Garth Slade	
U16 Boys Development	Geoff McMahon	
U15 Girls A	Claire Miller	Linda Zillman
U15 Girls B	Kayla Bryce	
U14 Girls	Jacque Giles	Kate Swetekelly
U14 Boys Barras	Neil Gynther	Jon Broadley
U14 Boys Cudas	Neil Gynther / Rob Edwards	
U13 Girls Gold	Janita Johnson	
U13 Girls Green	Emma Jackson	
U13 Girls Grey	Emma Keogh	
U13 Girls White	Alice Miller	
U13 Barrabubs 1	Nanda Stoltz	
U13 Barrabubs 2	Hannah Robinson	
U13 Boys Barras	Rob Edwards	Vince Hudson
U13 Boys Cudas	Rob Edwards	

A big thank you is also extended to all the volunteers who ran clocks, did scorecards, set up and cleaned up for games and ran BBQs at the various club events.