

# BARRACUDAS

## Water Polo Club Newsletter |

Issue 7  
Dec 2011

### **In this Issue:**

First half Season Wrap Up  
U18 State Champs  
QSport Awards  
Our 2011-12 Coaches  
QWPI Awards  
Aussie Rep Team Reports  
U16 National Champs  
Barras aiming for London  
2012 National League Preview  
U14 State Champs  
Around the Pool

### **Barracudas 2011/12 Executive Committee:**

President - Jeanette Morris  
Secretary - Liz Jones  
Treasurer - Erika DuToit  
Registrar - Donna McKenzie  
Operations Director - John Edwards

**Check out the all the latest club news and events at**  
**[www.barracudaswp.com.au](http://www.barracudaswp.com.au)**



### **2011-12 Season off to a Fantastic Start - First Half of the Season Wrap Up**

Hard to believe we are half way through another season of water polo already. So much has happened in the last four months. To start, we ushered in a new leadership group to the Executive Committee. The injection of fresh ideas and faces has done a world of good and the club has embraced some new ideas and approaches. Our teams have competed at Club Nationals, at State Championships and in the weekly Brisbane Competition and done fantastically making us all very proud. We also welcome some new faces to our club's coaching ranks and thank all our coaches, managers and volunteers for their hard work to date. It's this tradition of great coaching, fantastic volunteers, strong community spirit and outstanding players that once again has made us (for the second year in a row) the top club in the 2011 State winning the QWPI Club/Association of the Year.

At the half way point in the season, our Men have won the BWPI Premier League title and every single one of our Junior Boys teams sit atop the BWPI points ladder. Our boys U18s won Gold and Bronze the State Champs. Our girls have been fantastic too with our U18 girls narrowly missing the State Champs title and finishing with Silver and our U14 girls doing us a very proud 4th. Don't forget our U16 teams at club nationals who finished 13th (boys) and 14th (girls) in a very tough competition.

With 2012 and the second half of the season approaching there will even more excitement with the start of the National League season and of course the London 2012 Olympic Games. A number of Barracudas elite senior players are vying for positions at this ultimate of sporting events. Of course there are more Club Nationals, more State Championships and the final half of the BWPI competition. Get excited!

### **Team Selection Policy**

The Club Committee have been working on developing a number of policies for our Club. As a new committee we thought it necessary to start to document the core processes that have made this Club successful over the years. As a priority due to the upcoming U18s and U14s National Champs in April, we have developed a Selection Policy for Barras teams entering National and State Competitions. This policy will be soon be available on our website under Club Policies. The purpose of the policy is to provide a transparent and fair process for our members and their parents. We encourage you all to read the policy and if you have any questions, please send us an email.

We will soon be advertising the processes for selection for the upcoming Nationals. Please note that specific trail dates are only one of the methods for selection, coaches may choose to select teams based on performance during Saturday games. As per the policy, you will be notified how this process will occur for each team. Good luck!

## Bronze, Silver and GOLD for Barracudas at U18 State Champs!!! Club sweeps MVP awards!

Our Barracudas teams brought home a medal of each colour following the conclusion of the U18 State Championships held at the Valley Pool. Our girls team faced off in a remarkable Grand Final that took three quarters of water polo for a team to break the deadlock (scores were locked at 1-1 at 3 quarter time!) with the Sunshine Coast hanging on by the narrowest of margins for the 3 - 2 win. Emma Williams was sensational in goals for her side and the younger Barracudas players really stepped up to keep the pressure on a fine tuned Sunny Coast team. On the boys side, the Cudas definitively ousted River City 16 - 2 for Bronze and the Barras continued their undefeated run and defended their State title by downing Alstonville 9-3. A plucky Alstonville held the Barras boys 2 - 2 early with the 30m pool and harsh chlorine playing a bit on an impact on the boys - but the team rallied and pulled into a commanding lead to take the Gold. A whole of team effort with goals spread evenly over the roster is a key factor in the win and the sensational run through the tournament. The icing on the cake - Barracudas players swept all the major individual awards with Megan DuToit and Callum Smith earning top honours as MVPs for the girls and boys respectively while Barracudas goalkeepers Emma Williams and Reed Douyere-Pate took out the MGV awards! Well done to all our Barracudas players on great results across the board.



U18 Boys Cudas BRONZE!



U18 Barracudas Girls - SILVER



U18 Barras Boys - GOLD!



Barras Boys coach Rob Edwards all smiles with the win



Barras Sweep MVP and MGV Awards - All pictured above

## **Barracudas Men take out 2011 BWPI Premier League**

Barracudas convincingly won the 2011 Men's Premier League Final against River City. In a very one sided game, Australian National Team members Rhys Howden, Billy Miller along with Dan Young, BJ Howden and Matt Giles were instrumental in the team's performance. They played a leadership role both in the final and throughout the series. The result reflects the commitment to this level of competition by the Barracudas Club as well as their players.

The Premier League is set up for those elite players involved in QAS squads, National League Team Squads, EAP Squads and as a "pre-NWPL" preparation and is run over a 7 week period in October and November.

## **Pavanello and Barracudas Women nominated among Queensland's very best - QSport Awards**

In a star studded gala evening of the whos-who in Queensland sport, the Barracudas Women's National League Women and their coach Fabio Pavanello were pipped to the line by powerhouse Queensland Roar coach Angelo Postecoglou and the Queensland Reds Rugby Team.

The Barracudas and their coach Fabio Pavanello were nominated in perhaps the two of the most hotly contested and tight categories - Coach of the Year and Team of the Year respectively. In a calendar year that has seen Queensland sporting teams bring home more championships and achieve never before seen incredible results, Pavanello and the Barracudas found themselves up against the likes of the Trans-Tasman conquerors the Firebirds and the A-League champions the Roar. Add to that the Queensland Reds and rugby League's Maroons and the magnitude of the Barracudas water polo achievements begins to measure up in comparison to some of the big name sports. While water polo is a small sport by comparison, the feat of winning Queensland's first senior women's national water polo championship was big three years ago but to then back it up for three consecutive years is something that we all should be very proud of. When asked about how it felt to be nominated as Queensland Sporting Coach of the Year in the company of such great names as Mal Meniga (Queensland Maroons), Ewen McKenzie (Queensland Reds), Ange Postecoglou (Brisbane Roar) and Roselee

Jencke (Queensland Firebirds), Fabio could only muse "...its a huge honour and demonstrates how great what we as a team achieved in the 2011 season and the two seasons before." In rating his chances Pavanello could only chuckle saying "it could be a bit of a long shot but the acknowledgement for our club and sport to be given such exposure in such esteemed and deserving company, is quite significant".



Pictured above: Fabio Pavanello and his Barracudas National League women - up against the best teams in the State. Great exposure for water polo and our club!

## **Barracudas U16s Club Nationals Wrap Up - Callum Smith named to boys team of the tournament**

Our Barracudas U16 teams have returned from Melbourne where they took on 24 male and 24 female teams at the 2011 U16 Australian Club Nationals. The huge event featured some fantastic competition with Barras Boys unlucky to lose some very tight matches and managed the tournament with a win to secure 13th. Callum Smith was recognised for a great week being named to the Team of the Tournament. The Barracudas girls improved rapidly over the course of the tournament led by Christobel Hill-Smith on attack and Ocky Belkens in goals managing to finish 14th overall.



Follow the Barracudas Water Polo Club on Facebook and Twitter. Regular updates, photos and posts.

## Our 2011-12 Barracudas Coaches

We have a great team of coaches assembled for this 2011-12 Season representing so many different skills

and experiences in water polo. We thank them all for their dedication, energy and time that they have put in so far in the season.

### National League

Fabio Pavanello

Rob Lyndon

Paul Heffernan

Women's National League

Men's National League Head Coach

Men's National League Training Coach

### Junior Coaches

Neil Gynther

Guiles Aston, Caelyn Jones, Luke McKenzie

Rob Lyndon

BJ Howden

Matt Giles

Rob Edwards

Bridget O'Connor

Erin Wray-Jones, Ainsley Masek, Megan DuToit

Bronte Colenso, Anna Sieprath

Hannah Robinson

Felicity Halling, Simone Babcock

Emma Jackson, Melissa Rippon

Monique Subasique

Henri DuToit

Club Head Coach

U13 Boys + U14 Boys

U16 Boys

U16 Boys

U18 Boys

U18 Boys

U13A Girls

U13B Girls

U14A Girls

U15A Girls

U15B Girls

U16A Girls

U16B Girls, U18B Girls

U18A Girls

### Senior Coaches

Briohny Norris

Kirsten Binnie

Anna Sieprath

Rhys Howden

Paul Heffernan, Rob Lyndon

Rob Lyndon, Paul Heffernan

Div 2 Women

Div 2 Women

Div 1 Women

Div 1 Men

Div 1 Men

Premier League Men

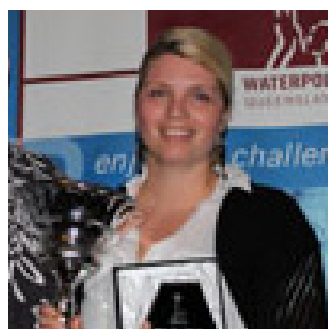


## Barracudas take Six Awards at QWPI Sports Awards Night - Including Club of the Year

For the second year in a row, it was Barracudas named Club/Association of the Year at the QWPI Awards Presentations. Barracudas Bronte Colenso and James Broadley were named Junior Female and Male player of the year respectively while Rhys Howden took the gong for Senior Player of the year. The Barracudas Women's National League were named Team of the Year while their coach, Fabio Pavanello took Coach of the Year for the third straight year.



Rhys Howden - Senior Male Player of the Year



2010-11 President Nat Pavanello accepts Club of the Year Award on behalf of Barras



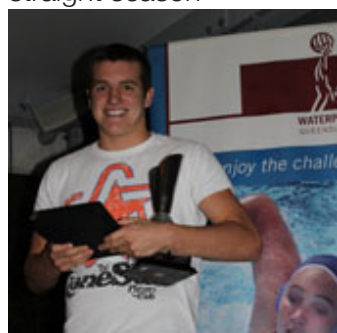
Mel Rippon accepts Team of the Year award for Barras NL Women



Fabio Pavanello take Coach of the Year for third straight season



Bronte Colenso - Junior female player of the year



James Broadly - Junior male player of the year

## AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE TEAM REPORTS

### Aussie Stingers win Canada Cup

Winning their first international event in a few years, the Aussie Stingers took out the Canada Cup defeating China in the grand final 11-8. Barracudas were well represented with Jane Moran, Kate Gynther (captain), and Kelsey Wakefield part of the winning side. Kelsey was also named Most Valuable Goalie of the tournament. All in all a great tournament and great result in the lead up to London 2012.

### AUS Girls bring home FINA Junior Worlds Bronze

Barracudas Ashleigh Southern and Kelsey Wakefield have been part of the Australian Junior team competing at the FINA Junior Girls World Champs in Italy and last night secured the bronze downing Russia in their final match. Captained by Kelsey, the Australians were disappointed to narrowly lose to Spain in the semi final and miss out on the Grand Final.

### AUS Boys earn 4th at FINA Junior World Champs

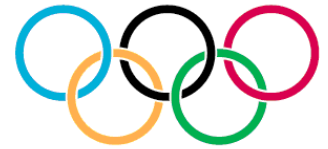
BJ Howden converted one goal in Australia's effort at the FINA Junior World Champs Bronze medal match but it was not enough for the Aussies who went down 7-6 to the home town team, Greece to finish a very solid fourth. Matt Giles joined BJ as part of this Aussie contingent who equalled Australia's second best performance at the Junior World Champs.

### Young and Stoltz represent AUS at World Uni Games

Two Barracudas just returned from Shenzhen, China where they represented Australia at the World University Games - Daniel Young and Nanda Stoltz. Dan was the lone Queensland male representative while Nanda was joined by former Barracudas and now NSW representative, Gabby Wikman as the two Queenslanders on the women's side.

### World Champs: Australian Women defeat USA to capture 5th while men earn 9th

Barracudas Jane Moran, Melissa Rippon, Kate Gynther and Rhys Howden were all part of the Australian teams taking part in the FINA World Championships. The Australians had high hopes but were somewhat disappointed with the results. The tournament a good marker in the lead up to next years 2012 London Olympic Games



## AROUND THE POOL

### Barras named in AUS Talent Squads

Following U16 National Club Champs in Melbourne a number of Barracudas young rising stars have been named in the Australian Talent Squads and ID Squads for the 2014 Junior World Championships. Congrats to Callum Smith, Zac Hudson, Christobel Hill Smith and Octavia Bellekens for their inclusion in these squads. Well done!

### Club Welcomes Billy Miller to the Barracudas Family

The Barracudas Senior Mens teams have had a major boost this year with international representative and Australian Senior men's national team member Billy Miller joining the club. Billy hails from the Sunshine Coast and comes from a swimming and surf background. He has been a member of the Australian team since 2009. Having played with the KFC Breakers up until this season, Miller is hoping the move to the Barracudas will help him further improve his form and line himself up for Olympic selection.

### U12s Another Bumper Season

The Barracudas U12s Program had another fantastic Term 4 turn out with over 70 participants taking to the water and being coached by our elite senior players. Program coordinator Emma Jackson was thrilled with the turn out and continued success of the program. "We are constantly striving to make the program fun and fresh while given kids the chance to learn and try new skills. Its been fantastic and the response has been great." Term 1 registration is available now.

## Our London 2012 Olympic Hopefuls

The next few months of National League games, National camps and international tournaments will be critical for our Barracudas who are aiming for Olympic berths. Meet our nine athletes all hoping to wear the green and gold in London.



**Daniel Young**  
Pos: Left hander  
Age: 21



**Billy Miller**  
Pos: Driver  
Age: 23



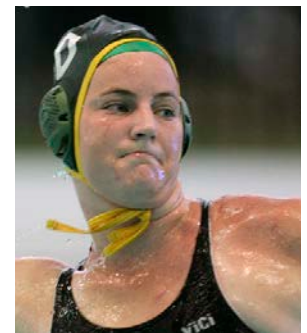
**Rhys Howden**  
Pos: Driver  
Age: 24



**BJ Howden**  
Pos: Centre Forward  
Age: 20



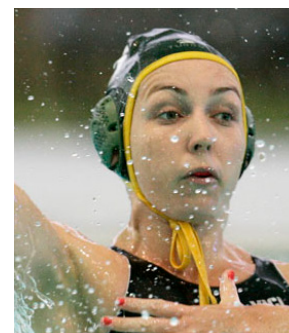
**Melissa Rippon**  
Pos: Left Driver  
Age: 31



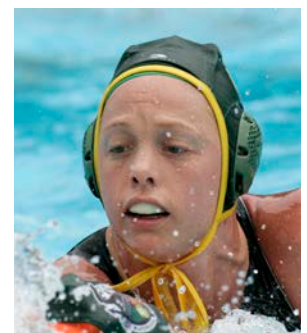
**Ashleigh Southern**  
Pos: Outside Shooter  
Age: 19



**Kelsey Wakefield**  
Pos: Goalkeeper  
Age: 20



**Jane Moran**  
Pos: Driver  
Age: 26



**Kate Gynther**  
Pos: Driver  
Age: 29

## 2012 NWPL Preview

The National League is set to get underway in late January 2012. Our Barracudas teams are poised to have another sensational season with our women aiming at an unprecedented 4 straight titles while our men look to build on the awesome momentum that saw them as the most improved team in the nation last season finishing 4th overall.

The Barracudas women will face tough competition with all teams vying to knock them off their perch – the Victorian Tigers who finish 2011 in third have lured two of KFC Breakers most prominent players among other top ranked recruits. This added depth will make them a real threat. Much like last season the Cronulla Sharks will be front runners with a well rounded and experienced side. Fremantle Women will once again be tough relying on their classy experienced players.

On the men's side, our Barras will need to put together solid performances all season with the competition becoming tighter each year. A stacked Victorian Tigers lineup will be a force with Fremantle and Wests also looking strong on paper. Other teams our Barracudas will need to upset include the Sydney University Lions and fast improving Hunter Hurricanes.

Games start in late January so be sure to come and support our Barracudas teams and watch the country's best players in action.

## Barracudas National League Home Games 2012

- Friday Jan 27th, 2012- Brisbane Barracudas vs Sydney Uni Lions W: 6:30pm M: 8:00pm
- Sunday Jan 29th, 2012 -Brisbane Barracudas vs Sydney Uni Lions W: 10:00am M: 11:30pm
- Friday Feb 10th, 2012 -Brisbane Barracudas vs UNSW Killer Whales/Magpies W: 6:30pm M: 8:00pm
- Sunday Feb 12th, 2012 -Brisbane Barracudas vs UNSW Killer Whales/Magpies W: 10:00am M: 11:30am
- Friday Feb 17th, 2012 - Brisbane Barracudas vs UWA Comets/Torpedoes W: 6:30pm M: 8:00pm
- Sunday Feb 19th, 2012 - Brisbane Barracudas vs UWA Comets/Torpedoes W: 10:00am M: 11:30am
- Friday Mar 9th, 2012 - Brisbane Barracudas vs KFC Breakers W: 6:30pm M: 8:00pm
- Friday Mar 23rd, 2012 - Brisbane Barracudas vs Cronulla Sharks W: 6:30pm M: 8:00pm
- Sunday Mar 25th, 2012 - Brisbane Barracudas vs Cronulla Sharks W: 10:00am M: 11:30am
- Friday Mar 30th, 2012 - Brisbane Barracudas vs Fremantle Marlins / Mariners W: 6:30pm M: 8:00pm
- Sunday Apr 1st, 2012 - Brisbane Barracudas vs Fremantle Marlins / Mariners W: 10:00am M: 11:30am

**REMEMBER - All Barracudas Junior Players get FREE ENTRY when they come to home games wearing their club shirt!**

## Teams to watch in the MEN's National League



## Teams to watch in the WOMEN's National League



## **MORE AROUND THE POOL**

### **Barras in Australian Schools Teams**

Barracudas players have represented Australia in the Aussie School teams. The teams played in an international tournament in Sydney. Congrats to our players earning selection - Emma Williams, Megan du Toit, Clare Dal Bon, Callum Smith and James Broadley.

### **Call for Referees**

Probably the most undervalued members of our Club are our referees! Their decisions can make or break a game at times and they often bare the brunt of irate players, coaches and parents. But without them, there is no game! We recently received an email from QWPI to make comment on the performance and attitude of the referees at the U18s State Tournament, with particular reference to Clay Douyere-Pate, Lachlan Morris and Laura David. They were not just recognized for their refereeing performance but for going beyond their duty, stepping up wherever needed. This can be said for most of our referees during the Brisbane Competition – as many times we see our junior referees - Caelyn Jones and Rafe Denham refereeing game after game. From all the Club members and the Committee, we say a big thank you and to all our club referees!

**Got a story or tidbit for future newsletters - send it onto us at [tugunwaterpolo@hotmail.com](mailto:tugunwaterpolo@hotmail.com)**

### **Barracudas finish with Silver , 4th and 5th at U14 State Champs**

Our Barracudas U14 teams did us very proud at the U14 State Champs. Our Barras boys finished with a hard earned Silver going down to Sunshine Coast in a thrilling grand final that came down the final minute where a Barras goal was disallowed giving Sunny Coast the chance they needed. The Cudas boys put in a heartfelt performance all tournament and finished with a very good 5th place. Our Barracudas girls were very impressive and earned themselves a spot in the Bronze medal playoff against Stuartholme who proved a stronger team on the day. Thanks to all players who put in a tremendous effort and to all our coaches, managers and supporters. Well done!



### **It takes a village... Volunteering is FUN!**

The success of our Club is based on the volume of volunteers we have that help support our athletes. No clearer was this demonstrated then at the U18s and U14s State Champs in December. As a requirement of WPQ we manned the gate, and also maintained a BBQ for two full days during these champs. This was a great opportunity to raise funds, but it also showed the spirit of the Club to its maximum. We had a host of parents who volunteered their time, who took time off their work to help and who organized free goods for us to sell. Our U18 boys and girls were legendary on the BBQ on the second day.

When we host the BBQ at Musgrave on Saturdays, we are always inundated with helpers. We receive comments from other Clubs, as well as QWPI that we are very fortunate indeed to have such a community spirit! So a big thank you goes out to you all.



Pictured: So many BBQ helpers as the U18 Girls team rally together raising funds and having a great time. See - volunteering is fun! Way to go girls. Photo courtesy: Jill Williams