



WELCOME TO THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS DAY 4 - FINALS DAY

The rowers were greeted by ideal conditions, temperatures in the low 20's and no wind. This is a great relief after yesterday's strong winds causing 6 hours delay in the regatta and having head lights lighting the finishing line for the judges. The races didn't finish till after 7pm.

These ideal conditions have brought on some spectacular finishes, not the least of which was the Men's lightweight single scull. Bruce Hick from Canberra and Gary Lynagh from the Commercial Club in Queensland dead heated after the lead changed several times during the race.

Peter Antonie, former world champion was hard pressed to hold off a fast finishing Stephen Hawkins of Tasmania, current lightweight quad sculling champion. Alistair McLachlan from the AIS finished 6th in this event but then teamed up with Craig Jones, also from the AIS to win the Men's double scull in an easy fashion. This was a good result considering the crews coming second and third are current world champions in the lightweight quad scull, and the crew in 4th position were bronze medalist in this event in 1990 at the world championships.

Jenny Luff from the AIS caused another sensational upset when she beat her double sculling partner Gillian Campbell from Leichardt of Queensland. Gillian is the title holder of this event and was leading comfortably with 150m to go when she clipped 2 bouys and came to a halt which allowed Jenny to sneak through and win by one length. Nevertheless, the two of them teamed up to easily win the women's double scull later in the day.

The women's lightweight four was won by a determined NSW composite crew over the pre race favourites from Melbourne University. The Melbourne University crew after leading for the first 1700m of the race fell apart as the bow, Tamsin Angus-Leppan was obviously suffering from her allergic reaction to a penicillin injection given to her earlier in the week to overcome a hand infection suffered in the Henley regatta 2 weeks ago.

Australia's "AWESOME FOURSOME" started off well coming 1st (Tompkins/Cooper) and 2nd (Mckay/Green) in the Men's coxless pairs this morning. Then they teamed to have a hard fort win in the Men's coxed four, being pushed the whole way by the rest of the field. The AIS and University of Queensland finished 2nd and 3rd respectively which was less than a length behind the "AWESOME FOURSOME". "It was a hard race but we were happy" said the Awesome Foursome's Nick Green.

Newington College from NSW, the Australian schoolboy's champion's for the last two years look like making it three in a row as they had a very comfortable win in their heat of the schoolboy eight championships and looked far superior to any of the other schoolboy eights.

Geelong College looks like taking out the schoolgirl coxed four after their easy win in the 2nd heat of this event.

The women's Senior A coxed eight was won easily by Melbourne University who have won this event five times in the past.

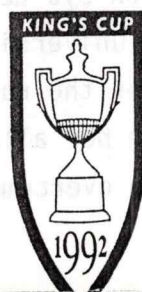
Victoria looks like being favourites for the Men's youth eight inter-state race after their strong 2nd placing in the Men's under 23 coxed eight final which was won by a Western Australian crew comprising most of the WA King's Cup eight.

The Victorian crew stroked by Tony Johnston held off a determined Lithuanian crew from Klaipeda Club with the AIS No. 1 crew in third spot.

The Men's Senior A quad scull was won by Australia's lightweight quad scull champions which capped off an extremelly sucessful regatta for this world champion crew.

The final day of the regatta, being the inter=state races on Sunday concludes the 2nd last chance for the rowers to prove they are worthy of being part of the Olympic and World championship teams.

WELL DONE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ROWED AND GOOD LUCK FOR TOMORROW'S RACES!



NATIONAL REGATTA
NATIONAL WATER SPORTS CENTRE
CARRUM VICTORIA AUSTRALIA
WEDNESDAY 11 - SUNDAY 15 MARCH 1992