

Vic's sterling effort

Victoria's Underwater Hockey teams brought home silver in every division contested at the recent National Championships but in an odd twist, Victorian players managed to snare the MVP award in two of the three finals.

In one of the most closely fought Men's finals in years Western Australia held out to defeat Victoria, 3-2. Fielding what on paper appeared to be young and inexperienced team, the Victorians took the game right up to their more seasoned opponents. Despite looking a far fitter and more cohesive unit the Victorians were unable replicate the upset victory they had achieved in the round robin stage and Western Australia eventually came out victorious. ACT import and full-back Nicholas Herralld took out the Grand Final MVP for the Vic's but received strong support from Steven Taylor and David McFee while Gavan Wise was rock solid in defence for the Western Australian side.

The Elite Women's divi-

sion witnessed a similar result with Western Australia defeating Victoria 2-1 with Victorian playing coach Eden Brown was adjudged the dominant player in the pool. A strong opening by the Western Australian left the Victorian's faced with a 2-0 half-time deficit. Despite controlling much of the play in the second half the Vic's were only able to find one of the two goals required to send the game into overtime. Alongside Brown, Nina Barry-Macaulay and Tracey Hunt had great games.

Although defeated 4-2 by Western Australia, the Victorian U18 team delivered an admirable performance. At the conclusion of the final, Victorian coach David McFee expressed pride over the performance of his charges but acknowledged that it was always going to be tough fielding eight players as opposed to Western Australia's full compliment of ten. However, promising performances by a number

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TOP: HANNA SILBERTEIN (LEFT), ANKIA ROGERS WITH COACH DAVID MCFEE. ABOVE: DAVID BARRY-MACAULAY (LEFT), NICK HERRALD AND ROB BRIGHT.

Warragul four's competition a great success

More than sixty players participated in a four-on-four competition held at the Warragul Pool on Saturday the 17th of March. Even teams were selected from a pool of interested players drawn from the Warragul, Wonthaggi and Melbourne

underwater hockey clubs. These teams competed in one of the three divisions – Open, Women's and Junior's.

The fun kicked off around 5pm and the next four hours witnessed numerous closely fought, high quality games

across all of the divisions. Belinda and Carl hosted the after party at their home in Drouin where good times were had by all. It was great to see players of all ages and skill levels enjoying a great social competition.

A big thankyou to Belin-

da and Carl for all the hard work they put in organising and running the event. Thanks also go to everybody who assisted with scoring and time keeping duties as well as to all the players who participated in such a great event.

FINAL STANDINGS

31st AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS PERTH FEB 1-4, 2007

OPEN MENS

1st WA

2nd Vic

3rd Tas

Grand final MVP: Nicky Herald Vic

ELITE WOMENS

1st WA

2nd Vic

3rd NSW

Grand final MVP: Eden Brown Vic

OPEN MASTERS

1st WA 2

2nd WA 1

3rd NSW

4th Singapore

Grand final MVP: Derek Dufall WA

OPEN JUNIORS

1st WA

2nd Vic

3rd Tas

Grand final MVP: Steve Rennick WA

POSITIONS VACANT

32nd AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS MELBOURNE JAN 18-21, 2008

Victoria is hosting the 2008 Australian Underwater Hockey Championships. The event will be held at MSAC in mid January.

Championships Organising Committee

Anybody interested in assisting with the organisation or running of the championships please contact the VUHC committee (committee@vuhc.org.au)

Victorian Team Officials

The VUHC is calling for nominations for the following positions:

State team coaches

State team selectors

Team Manager

U18 team chaperone

Chef Referee

Interested parties please forward your application (including an outline of your coaching/playing experience and a cover letter) to the VUHC Committee (committee@vuhc.org.au) by

APRIL 30, 2007

• From **PAGE 1** of the less heralded members of the team confirmed that the future of Victorian Underwater Hockey is bright. Dean Thomas put in a cracking game, announcing himself as a star of the future. Rich Healy took his game to next level while Lachlan Wishart filled a variety of roles with aplomb. The fact that all eight players still eligible only bodes well for the teams prospects at next year's championships. The 31st Australian Underwater Hockey titles were held at the Belmont Aquatic Centre in Perth from February 1st to the 4th. Despite numerous pre-tournament schedule changes which raised serious questions marks over participation levels WA UWH oversaw a well-run, enjoyable and good spirited competition which witnessed hard fought contests across all divisions. Over 120 competitors from 13 teams competed across four divisions. Victoria sent teams in the Elite Men's, Elite Women's and U18 divisions.

Leaving the traditional four day format WA UWH opted instead for a more intense playing schedule which saw teams play seven games over two days.

Australian team selections were held on the Sunday morning. These were followed by a mixed social competition.

Eight players were selected to represent Australia in the forthcoming South Hemisphere Championships.

David Barry-Macaulay was named as Vice-Captain of the Elite Men's team alongside **Thorsten Johansen**, **Matthew Sweeney**, and **Steven Taylor**. **Alex**

Doughty, **Tracey Hunt** and **Nina Barry-Macaulay** were selected in the Elite Women's division while **Craig Thomas** was named captain of the U18 team.

Selections were held at the conclusion of the 31st Australian National Underwater Hockey titles held at

the Belmont Aquatic Centre. The number of Victorian selected is testament to the current depth of Victorian Underwater Hockey.

The VUHC would like to congratulate all those selected on their achievement and wish them all the best for their trip.

Eight Vic's to represent Australia

visit www.underwaterhockeyworld.com
for information and discussion on hockey

the SOGGY CHRONICLES

VICTORIAN UNDERWATER HOCKEY COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

EDITION 5 MARCH 2007

The Victorian Underwater Hockey community celebrates the life of one of the true characters of the game, we'll miss you mate. Our hearts and thoughts go to Sharon, Sandra, Lisa, Amber & Nicole.

Peter 'Pyshco' Davies 30/01/1956 - 25/02/2007

I will always remember distinct emotions when playing with, or against Peter. If he was on my side there was a sense of relief, tempered by the need to stay out of his way. If on the opposition a sense of dread, tempered with the knowledge that I would have to improve my game. We spent so many minutes locked arm in arm, my right hand against his left hand that we should have at least gone out for dinner once. But that was what personified Pete - an incredibly tenacious player, who gave his all, not just in the game of underwater hockey, but in life as well. A truly unique, genuine person, he has enriched all of our lives by allowing us to be part of his. Rest in peace.

-- Thorsten Johansen

If there were ever a more apt nickname then I'll go he. Thoughts of Pete 'Psycho' Davies invoke memories of a wild haired, moustache wielding crazy man. They also invoke a broad smile. The thing that I found most striking about Pete was his passion. It was a passion which often bordered on obsession and at times led his schemes into the realm of the fantastic. Who could forget his plan to harpoon a White Pointer with a hand spear? His take on the news over smoko? Or the speed with which he could shovel three tonnes of wet sand out of an empty swimming pool in 40-degree heat?

Unqualified determination was another trait which stood out in

Pete's character and nowhere was this more evident than in the way he pursued his sport of choice, Underwater Hockey. You could tell Pete loved the game. You could tell from the way he spoke about it, the way he got involved in it and from the elbow print he left on your forehead when he played it.

The passion and determination which shone through in Pete's Underwater Hockey was also blatantly obvious in the final stages of his life. His passion for life and determination to wring every last moment of living out of his ailing body was heart-wrenchingly inspirational.

Sharon, to you and your family go our greatest condolences, your old man was one of kind. I treasure the memories and the lessons learnt from the time I spent with Pete, both in work and play. My life and the lives of all those from the Underwater Hockey community are richer for having spent time with such a genuine character.

-- Rees Quilford

When I first meet Pete, I thought it was a secret that we all called him Psycho! I use to cringe and giggle to my self and thought 'you can't call somebody by that name'. But then I got to know him and there was no other word for him in the pool, I soon realized it was a term of endearment for such passion and thirst for a great game of Hockey!

-- Belinda Watts

From the moment I met Pete I was blown away by the passion and commitment he had for the

game both in and out of the water. I remember at the old state swim centre when Pete entered his first team into the Monday night comp. They were mainly divers and few if any had experience playing underwater hockey but that didn't stop them from wanting to play with the "Big Boys" so to speak. Pete was hell bent on creating a super team of Underwater Hockey players, the first few games getting walloped by the opposition only made him more determined to play better next time.

I remember Pete experimenting one night at Latrobe on the quickest way to get to the strike, whether it was underwater or on top and what stroke would get you there faster. He then announced to his team mates he was going to try swimming to the strike underwater using his arms in a freestyle motion to see whether he could win the strike! Needless to say he discovered that this was not the most time effective way to get to the strike, but at least no stone had been left unturned!

Pete went on to play in numerous state teams and for Australia in the Masters division. He was renowned throughout the underwater hockey world as "Psycho", a name given to him because of the enormous aggression and determination that he displayed when both playing and developing underwater hockey. Pete and Sharon have made an enormous contribution to hockey in Victoria and Australia. We are all in debt to Pete for his hard work and commitment to the sport. Pete has held numerous roles of



importance in the sport, coach, President and chief organizer of the last Nationals held in Victoria. Next January when Nationals are held in Melbourne we will definitely miss Pete's guidance and energy, but we will remember and acknowledge him as a great ambassador to the sport.

One of my other favourite stories is Pete's attempt to win the pier to pub race swimming underwater with his dive gear and garden stakes to pull him self along the sand on the bottom of the ocean. What a man!

What ever he was doing Pete never gave up! This is translated to his fight with cancer when he defied all odds by even lasting as long as he did. He had a huge heart and can lay in peace now knowing he made the most of the time he had here with us. It was always full steam ahead with Pete, but now perhaps he can enjoy a peaceful calm.

--Kirsteen Reid

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EVENTS CALENDAR

March 17	Warragul 4's Competition <i>Warragul</i>
March 31	Woolongong 4's competition, <i>Woolongong</i>
April 15-21	2007 Southern Hemisphere Underwater Hockey Championships, <i>New Zealand</i>
April 21-22	Women's training camp <i>Wonthaggi & Leongatha</i>
April 30	Nominations due for state team officials
May 5	"CRACKER JACK" Lawn Bowling Competition, <i>McKinnon Bowls Club</i>
May	Wonthaggi mixed social competition, <i>Leongatha</i>
June 30	VUHC memberships due
July	State Championships Victorian Team Selection & Social Night <i>VU, Footscray</i>
August	Schools Competition <i>New Zealand</i>
October	Victorian Invitational Competition & Referee's Course, <i>MSAC, Albert Park</i>
November	Christmas function, <i>TBC</i>

"CRACKERJACK"



FOURS LAWN BOWLING COMPETITION

- WHERE:** Mc Kinnon Bowling Club end of Tyrone street, Ormond.
- WHEN:** May 5th, 7:30pm til late.
- COSTS:** \$20 includes, bowls (all equipment) and sausage sizzle, drinks are at Club prices which are very cheap!
- HOW:** You must enter teams of four or alternately tell me and you will be allocated with those not yet in a group.
- WHY?** Because we can. Get behind your committee and the sport we all love. Come along for a roll.
- RSVP:** To Kirsteen Reid: 9578 3508 or krchook@bigpond.net.au by April 28th. No shows will be charged to cover costs.
- NOTE:** This is a child free event!

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