



# RIP TIDE

## PETER PROUD AS PUNCH WITH HIS BUNDLE OF JOY

**P**eter Spence is relishing fatherhood. The Palm Beach boat sweep and his wife Steph celebrated the birth of their daughter Sophie a little over two months ago.

"I just love being a father ... finally," Peter said.

"I love being with Sophie. It is hard to leave each day to go to work and rowing (training) as I miss her and want to be with her as much as I can as she is growing so quickly.

"She is sleeping really well. In fact, she is sleeping longer than me when I get up at 4.20am for rowing (training)."

It won't be long before Sophie finds out exactly what her parents are doing at the beach.

"Yes, we plan to have her at the beach this season when I am racing," Peter said.

"She is coming down to Mollymook with us in late November and will also come down to Ocean Thunder round one at some stage throughout the day.

"In fact, my wife Steph plans to row again with two of her old crewmates Ingrid Cox and Sophie Wade in a reserve women's crew in January with Coxy (Stephen Cox) as their sweep.

"All three have become mothers in the past 12 months.

"That means we'll have Sophie under the tent at carnivals – a bit of juggling ahead.

"Luckily I don't have a reserve women's crew but we'll have plenty of the Palmy rowers that will help out when required."

Palmy will again lead the way in surfboat crews on the northern beaches this season.

"We are looking at having approximately 15 crews," Peter said.

Apart from Spence, Palmy have Matt Giblin, Nick Wladowski, John Rasmus and Stephen Cox sweeping again.

The Palmy Patriots (women's open crew) that won the Ocean Thunder series have a new crew member. Alex Tyrell is having a season off and Papparangi Hipango will be rowing in the second bow.

There is also a new addition to men's open crew with Louis Snelson joining Palmy. He has represented Australia in Stillwater rowing.

## FAST FIVES ACTION

**I**t's the launch of the new surf sports season for Sydney Northern Beaches Branch on Saturday with the Freshie Fast Fives.

The timing is perfect for athletes who will be competing in the Ocean6 first round at Queenscliff the following weekend.

The board and ski carnival at Freshwater Beach will be held from 3pm to 5pm.

While Newport's Georgia Miller, Maddie Spencer, Max Brooks and Jackson Borg recently did the Coolangatta Gold long course, they will be at Freshie getting in some valuable practice before Ocean6.

On Sunday at Dee Why, the juniors will be on show for the popular Bennett Board Classic.

The craft carnival sees competitors from under 9s to under 14s competing and will start at 12.30pm.



Picture: Peter Spence with his little princess.





*Pictures: Steph Spence (second left) is rowing again with Ingrid Cox and Sophie Wade. Ash Richards (left, is overseas). Stephen Cox (middle) will be sweeping the crew).*



*The Palmy sweeps ... Matt Giblin (top left), Nick Wladrowski and Peter Spence (centre) and Below: John Rasmus and Stephen Cox (left).*





# END OF A GOLDEN ERA FOR COLLARROY BEACH BOYS



All good things must come to an end, as the saying goes. It has been a fantastic ride for originals Ross Langbein and Michael Kember since they started out together with Collaroy's open beach relay team.

The past seven years, in particular, has been something very special.

"Being in the top two for seven consecutive years is something I will always remember," said Ross.

But the boys have now gone their separate ways. Ross will be competing for North Bondi in masters, along with Dean Scarff, Michael will be running for Coogee and Scott McMuro is concentrating on his rugby.

Ross explained that he and Dean work in the city and also live in the eastern suburbs now.

Scarff could find himself competing for Sydney Branch at the NSW Inter Branch Championships at Stockton Beach in December.

Sydney Branch have him on board as part of their beach coaching staff.

While Kember still lives on the northern beaches, he trains in the city with two of the boys who run for Coogee.

Michael's hoping that he will be drafted to run for Lower North Coast Branch again at the Inter Branch Championships.

Much will hinge on whether the Sydney Branch selectors choose Scarff. If they don't, Kember could find himself running for Sydney.

Langbein had previously won bronze medals at Aussies in 2002 and 2004 with Collaroy teams but dropped out for a few years to concentrate on work. Ross came back and he and Kember started together in 2009 and, along with Chris Tassone and Marko Ijadica, they formed the Collaroy men's open relay team but failed to medal at Aussies.

Tassone dropped out and Elliot Marynissen was introduced to the team. They won bronze in 2010 and silver in 2011.

Then along came Dean Scarff in 2012 and the Roys won their first gold. They were to win two more Aussie gold medals and a world title in Adelaide. When Marynissen called it quits after the 2015 Aussies, McMuro came into the team.

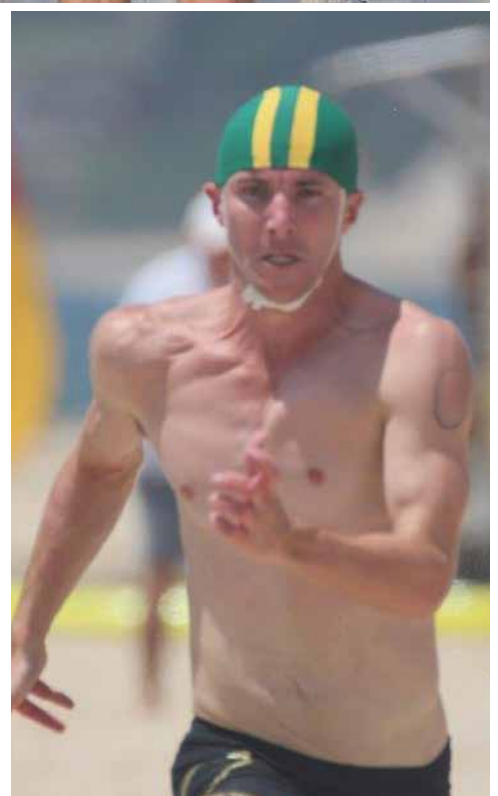
"I never thought I'd see the day when I wasn't running in a red cap," Ross said.

"I have been with Collaroy since 1988. I was only 16 when I ran in my first open relay team for Collaroy. I started running when I was six. I got involved with nippers because of my friends and I loved it.

"I continued because I had some natural ability. Also, I have been lucky in that I have had no major injuries.

"It's going to be rather strange when I start competition again and wearing a different coloured cap."

**Pictures: Top: Dean Scarff (left), Michael Kember, Ross Langbein and Scott McMuro. Below: Kember running for Lower North Coast.**





## SELECTORS EYE TALENT AT PAUL HAMMOND SHOW



The Paul Hammond Beach Carnival is one of the very special days of the year for our young beach competitors on the Sydney Northern Beaches.

This year's carnival at Queenscliff on Sunday, October 29 takes on special significance as it is part of the Sydney Northern Beaches Branch selection process for under 12, 13 and 14 athletes trying to win selection in the Branch team for the NSW Inter Branch Championships at Stockton Beach in Newcastle on December 9 and 10.

But what makes the day even more special is that some of the country's top beach specialists and current Australian representatives will be at Queensie to present medals.

Blake Drysdale, Jake Lynch and Bree Masters, who will represent Australia in the coming International Surf Rescue Challenge in New Zealand, will be at Queensie, along with Laura Shorter who made her name with the Queenscliff SLSC.

Laura says the late Paul Hammond did so much for her when she ran for Queensie and won two Australian open beach sprint titles.

Michael Gedz now organises the event. "This is the fourth season that we've been running it and it has certainly grown," he said.

"We'll have around 400 entries and there are some from outside Sydney Northern Beaches Branch who will be competing."

The event is open from under 9s to under 14s, with the 1km run very popular.

"Our Branch started it (1km run) and now everyone is doing it," Gedz said.

"It will be a great day. Paul's family are always



heavily involved and it's fantastic to have the Aussie reps there presenting medals."

Gedz, who is the Branch beach coach, said there would be a lot of interest in the 12, 13 and 14 years age groups as the selectors cast their eyes over potential sprint and flags representatives.

Artie Leiper, who has joined Freshwater, will be a strong contender for under 12 male selection, while there's sure to be a battle between Manly pair Georgia Morgan and Nina van der Reyden for the under 12 female spot.

Josh Gedz (Manly) and Stefanie Fejes (Freshwater) look to be the standouts in the under 13s. Josh

made his debut for the Branch last year and won the under 12 sprint at The Lakes on the Central Coast.

Zoe Couzens (Bilgola) looks to be a special in the under 14 girls. She was under 13 Branch champion in the sprint and flags last season.

But the selection of the under 14 boy is a real worry, according to Gedz. "It's really up for grabs," he said.

*Photographer KEMBLE COWAN took this great shot of Georgia Morgan (left) and Nina van der Reyden competing in the beach flags; Below: Laura Shorter with Josh Gedz.*