



RIP TIDE

BILGOLA PLAN TO BECOME A MAJOR FORCE AGAIN SURF BOAT SEASON UP AND RUNNING

Bilgola boat captain Mark Fitzgerald is out to make the club a powerhouse in competition again after a few lean years. Fitzzy, who was also boat captain back in the 70's and 80's, and is a veteran of surf boats, said: "Organic growth is what we are after." He added: "We have started a progression program from the successful cadet's division within the club. "With the relaxation of barriers to trial surf boat competition this year, we now have a number of junior crews preparing to compete in the New Year." Bilgola's last major success was in 2014 when the A crew represented Australia in the Trans Tasman series. Surf boat racing on the northern beaches is up and running on Saturday with the action at Bilgola Beach. Bilgola have been hosting the season opener for decades. "Bilgola have traditionally been a surf boat racing club and prides itself not just on the quality of crews they produce but also the camaraderie and fun that all rowers have been part of the "Billy" program," Fitzgerald said.

SING THE PRAISES

"The Bilgola carnival has traditionally restricted entrants to Sydney Northern Beaches clubs up until this year. "Following more and more requests from other surf boat rowers in other Branches to be able to compete with our local, and some of the best crews in Australia, SNB has now opened their carnivals to other clubs. "It will be interesting to see how well crews outside our Branch stack up against our local crews." Fitzgerald can't sing the praises enough of Bilgola's fantastic sponsor Marcus Blackmore and his company Blackmores. "They have been pivotal over the years in the Bilgola's competition success with their continuous support of the surf boat section," Fitzgerald said. "Blackmores ensure the club always has the latest equipment, enabling Bilgola to be competitive at the highest level." Fitzgerald says big things are expected from the Bilgola A crew this season. "Benny Gill, or Sparkles as he likes to be known, is sweeping the A crew of Mitch Renouf, Dave Bryant, Nathan Udy and Rupert Ritchie," Fitzgerald said. "The A's have been competing together for the past two seasons and feel confident that their now honed surf skills, new sweep and the training they have been putting in will lift them to the top in competition this season. "The A crew will also be competing in the Ocean Thunder series with the help and support of long time rower and sweep Neil Jones." The Bilgola carnival is timely before the first round of Ocean Thunder at Dee Why the following Saturday.



The Bilgola A crew – Dave Bryant, Nathan Udy, Ben Gill, Michael Ritchie and Mitch Renouf;



The Bilgola under 19 Novices – Herbie Hawkins, Arabella Archibald, Molly Webster, Leah Fenley, Keira Paine, Meg Elphick, Jasmine Axford, Fitzzy.

OLLIE MAKES IT IN NICK OF TIME AND SHOWS CLASS



He literally arrived at Queenscliff Beach as they were lining up for the surf race in the first round of the Ocean6 series on Sunday.

Newport's Ollie Signorini had made a frantic dash from the airport and did the current Australian open surf champion put on a remarkable show.

Ollie had just returned from the National Short Course Swimming Championships in Adelaide. But the jet setting Signorini had also been in China and Hong Kong the previous two weekends.

"I was in China and Hong Kong for the FINA World Cups for the 10kms. I finished with the front pack and got a bit unlucky. It's all a learning curve," Ollie said.

"I am trying to make my way into an Aussie team, just learning.

"In Adelaide, I swam a PB in the 800m. I just didn't do well in the 1500m. I haven't done any proper training for both. I was down there for some support for Carlile (Swimming Club) and NSW. It was good." Signorini probably had about three minutes to spare when he arrived at the beach.

"I didn't really get a warm up," he said.

"But I jumped in and managed to get on a nice wave on the way in.

"I got to the front at the first can and just had to get a wave and made my way to the beach and got the win."

But Ollie was very modest about his surfing skills and how he handled the wave he went down.

Ollie said he landed at Mascot about 50 minutes before the race at Queenscliff but his mother was there for another take off – this time in her car.

"James Brooks rang me when we were at the Spit Bridge. He said you have about 10 minutes before the race – and we made it," Ollie said.

"It was nice to come out and get the first win of the year. I have just been doing a lot of swimming in the pool. I have been doing a lot of kilometres, training for 10kms. It was nice to rock up and do something shorter and get a win for Newport.

"I'll be going to the rest of the rounds and try and get some training in while I am there. I want to do the Taplins for Newport and a bit of everything else."

Manly's Naomi Scott may have been a little down on herself after her performance in the Nutri Grain ironwoman event but she later atoned with second placing to Maddy Dunn in the women's surf race. Her clubmate Emily Doyle finished fifth behind third placed Courtney Hancock and Rebecca Creedy.

Pictures: Ollie Signorini with a big smile on his face after winning the surf race; Manly's Naomi Scott emerges from the water. She was second in the female surf race.



GEORGIA, KENDRICK GREAT START IN NUTRI GRAIN



Jemma Smith (Middle), Georgia Miller (left) and Lizzie Welborn after the ironwoman final at Queenscliff.

When Georgia Miller got to the front after the swim leg in the first round of the Nutri Grain ironwoman series it looked like she may go on and win at Queenscliff last Sunday. But she took a hit on the ski going out and that was enough for Umina's Jemma Smith to take control of the race.

It was still a mighty effort by Newport's Miller to finish second, with Lizzie Welborn (North Bondi) taking third place.

Defending Nutri Grain champion Harriet Brown finished 10th, while just ahead of her was Coolangatta Gold winner Courtney Hancock.

"I am really happy with it (the race)," Miller said.

"It has been really tough trying to get ready for this, especially coming from the Gold and doing such long stuff to trying to get back to going fast stuff again.

"I had a great start in the board and was out in front but I messed up and found myself second around the cans. I just missed the first wave with two girls and then there was a group of us on the second wave.

"That sort of set it up really well going into the swim. I caught a good wave coming in on the swim

and held a broken wave and I was really happy with those skills.

"I just sort of copped one in the chest going out on the ski and Jemma passed me. She managed to get down one and I didn't think she was going to get down it but she did. Full credit to Jemma. She is a really cool chick. She's doing really well, so good on her." Later Miller had to pull out all stops, especially in the run up the beach to get second in the board race, this time Welborn won it.

'I BACKED MYSELF'

"The whole race was on the second wave behind Lizzie so it was really close. I saw the photo finish and I definitely got it. I was happy with that," Georgia said. While Sunday was the big show, Miller also raced in the heats on the Saturday. "I am really glad I raced. A lot of the professional girls didn't race (on Saturday) in the board and ski heats. I did the run swim run. It was good to get the cobwebs out and get some racing under my belt before the iron final."

Manly's Kendrick Louis came from well back in the field to take second place in the open ironman, behind TJ Hendy, with Coolangatta Gold winner Ali Day in third place.

Coming out of the board leg, Louis was way back with his clubmate Jay Furniss.

"It just shows you can't win a race in the first leg," he said.

"Hayden White came out two waves in front and where was he at the end.

"It's really funny the way people look at a race. Everything is kind of planned and there's a bit of surf involved.

"I backed myself and I stuck to my race plan. I knew the swim leg was going to be the longest leg. I sat with Shannon (Eckstein) and Ali (Day) going around (the cans) and we caught the whole field.

"It was then if you get a bit of luck on the ski. It's not bad for a fulltime worker now."

Newport's Jackson Borg made his debut in the final and finished a very creditable 10th.

"It was quick. I sort of expected it but I didn't," Jackson said.

"I really enjoyed it. I went well on the board and in the swim but I copped one right in the chest going out on the ski and went backwards and fell off.

"I felt like a little kid out there and like I should be asking for autographs. It was a great experience."



Top left: Kendrick Louis started the series on a great note; Right: Jackson Borg enjoyed his debut and will only get better; Below: Newport's winning board relay team Charlie and Max Brooks and Jackson Borg.



ACTION FROM OCEAN6



UNLUCKY BREAK FOR BLAKE IN FLAGS AT QUEENSCLIFF



Top: Blake Drysdale (right) and Jake Lynch competing at Queenscliff in Ocean6
Below: Jake wins the battle with North Bondi's Dean Scarff.

HAND IN PLASTER

It wasn't supposed to turn out the way it did for Australian open flags champion Blake Drysdale in the opening series of Ocean6 at Queenscliff. Blake was undefeated throughout the entire 2016-17 season and was a hot favourite for Sunday's event, although his Newport clubmate Jake Lynch and former Collaroy flags specialist Dean Scarff, now with North Bondi, were both competing. It was thought initially that Blake had dislocated his knuckle on his right hand and didn't look like he could continue when the field was down to five. After the event was held up for a while, Blake decided to continue but in severe pain. It was hardly surprising that he was quickly knocked out as he couldn't put pressure on his hands for the start. It would have been very uncomfortable for him.

It was revealed on Monday that the hand is broken and that he is now racing the clock to be available for the Australian team to participate in the International Surf Rescue Challenge in New Zealand in five weeks.

The hand is in plaster for four weeks.

Lynch went onto win Sunday's event and was too quick off the mark for Scarff when it came down to the last two.

Good luck to Jake at the National Awards of Excellence in Sydney on Saturday night. Jake is one of the finalists for Athlete of the Year.

Two of his main rivals are current Nutri Grain female champion Harriet Brown (Northcliffe) and Sorrento's Australian beach sprint champion Jackson Symonds.

OCEAN6 RESULTS

Nutri Grain ironman: TJ Hendy, Kendrick Louis, Ali Day

Nutri Grain Ironwoman: Jemma Smith, Georgia Miller, Lizzie Welborn

Men's Board: Luke Cuff, Max Brooks, Cory Taylor

Women's Board: Lizzie Welborn, Georgia Miller, Alexandra Fleming

Men's Swim: Ollie Signorini, Beau Wheeler, Hayden Cotter

Women's Swim: Maddy Dunn, Naomi Scott, Courtney Hancock

Men's Surf Ski: Ben Carberry, Cory Taylor, Mitchell Trim

Women's Surf Ski: Danielle McKenzie, Brianna Massie, Taylar Puskaric

Men's Taplin Relay: Redhead A, Alexandra Headland A, Northcliffe A

Women's Taplin Relay: Noosa Heads A, Kurrawa A, Northcliffe A

Men's Beach Flags: Jake Lynch, Dean Scarff, Blake Drysdale

Women's Beach Flags: Alexandra Rampoldi, Lisa Wright, Bree Masters

Male Run Swim Run: Ky Kinsela, Zach Morris, Jackson Borg

Female Run Swim Run: Emma Dick, Megan Kreuter, Emily Doyle

Men's Beach Sprint: Jamee Smith, Michael Hanna, Blake Drysdale

Women's Beach Sprint: Bree Masters, Chloe Mannix-Power, Isabella Walker

Men's Surf Ski Relay: Northcliffe A, Avoca Beach A, Alexandra Headland A



Women's Surf Ski relay: Currumbin A, Noosa Heads A, Burleigh Heads A

Men's Board Relay: Newport A, Manly A, Mermaid Beach A

Women's Board Relay: Noosa Heads A, Newport B, North Bondi A

Men's Double Ski: Burnie A, Avoca Beach A, Mermaid Beach A

Mixed Double Ski: Avoca Beach A, Manly A, Newport A

NOT MUCH CHANGED ABOUT SUPER MORRIS TWINS

BATTLE CONTINUES AT NEWPORT CARNIVAL

There's not a great deal of difference about the Morris twins, Mitch and Jake, from last season.

The one thing that really stands out is that they are now wearing a different coloured cap and have moved clubs from Manly to Newport.

Both have had a growth spurt, according to their dad.

"Mitch is probably a little bit heavier," Aaron said.

But the results haven't changed ... it was one, two the Morris boys in the under 13 board final at the Bennett Board Classic at Dee Why.

But it was Jake who earned bragging rights in their first carnival of the season.

But come this Saturday at Newport's junior carnival, you can be sure Mitch will be out to turn things around.

In the off season the boys played rugby league for Christian Brothers and won the under 13 grand final.

Jake was the five-eighth and Mitch, although he generally plays in the second row, played fullback.

Bailey Clues and Lee Melbourn were also in the team. Like the Morris twins, Bailey and Lee have left North Curl Curl and also joined Newport.

The four will certainly be a major force in surf teams events throughout the season.

Competitors from clubs in the Sydney Branch will invade Newport on Saturday as it is a major selection carnival for their Branch team to compete at the NSW Inter Branch Championships at Stockton Beach on December 9 and 10.

ASHLEY'S HARD TRAINING REAPING DIVIDENDS

It seems the hard work Ashley Windsham put into board training in the off-season is working a treat.

Ashley couldn't have two better coaches at Manly than Rachel Crerar and Harrison Stone.

Ashley hopes to take her good form from the Bennett Board carnival into the Newport carnival on Saturday.

She won the under 12 girls final in impressive fashion at the Bennett Board Classic at Dee Why.

Ashley has always been in the top three at the Bennett carnival but this was her breakthrough win. She'll be competing in the swim, board, iron and board relay at Newport with her aim to try and make the Sydney Northern Beaches Branch team now that she is an under 12 competitor.

While she has made huge progress on the board, Ashley puts in plenty of time at the pool where she trains at the Warringah Aquatic Centre with Big Blue.

Ashley is also a top young netballer and is part of the Manly Warringah Talent Squad in her age group.

It will be her first big test of the season in the surf race and ironwoman at the Newport carnival.



Photographer KEMBLE COWAN caught the Morris twins Mitch (left) and Jake in action at Dee Why.



Photographer KEMBLE COWAN caught Ashley in action at the Bennett Board carnival.



GEMMA IS TOO HOT ON SAND THIS TIME

Mona Vale's Gemma McIntosh runs on the sand for a bit of fun. While she enjoys nippers, especially learning how to swim in the surf and handle waves, her main focus is on the track.

Just recently Gemma won the under 9 100m at the State PSSA Championships at Homebush. Her time of 14.12 secs was faster than the under 10 girls.

Gemma showed up at the Paul Hammond Junior Beach carnival Queenscliff on Sunday and easily took out the under 10 girls final.

Gemma had three runs and was in a class of her own. Her clubmate Serin Korucu finished third in the final.

Manly's Charlie Easton said he saved his energy in the preliminary races so he could give the final a good shot

"I think I finished fourth in the other three races but the final was the one that counted," Charlie said. Charlie crossed the line ahead of his Manly clubmate Noah Maggs and Mona Vale's Jack Munro.

"I felt I could beat Noah," said a confident Charlie. It was a double celebration for Manly brothers Zac and Josh Gedz.

It was Zac's first carnival. He won the under 9 boys final and teamed up with brother Josh to help Manly win the All Age Relay.

Josh won the under 13 final and also decided to run the under 14 final and was too good for the field.

Pictures: Top left: Brothers Zac and Josh Gedz; Mona Vale's Gemma McIntosh (left) and Serin Korucu; Middle: Manly's Noah Maggs, Charlie Easton and Jack Munro; Below: Sprint action at the Paul Hammond beach carnival.

