MEDIA RELEASE

**Results of 61ST HEAD OF THE YARRA – Saturday November 30th 2019.**

**Sydney takes Ownership of the Yarra River**

Two and a half thousand rowers from all over Australia racing in rowing eights created a marvelous spectacle today on the Yarra River as they raced from Birrarung Marr to Hawthorn Rowing Club in the annual Head of the Yarra. Thousands of spectators lined the Yarra banks and joined in the finish carnival celebrations in the parklands of the Hawthorn Rowing Club.

Club crews representing every state, New Zealand and Japan made the pilgrimage to Melbourne. The annual classic saw crews of all ability test their skill against the country’s best for fastest time over the grueling 8km Yarra course.

It was the Sydney Rowing Club’s Men’s Eight stroked by Alex Nichol and superbly coxed by Kendall Brodie who took ownership of the Yarra rowing the course in a time of 25:41.08 min, 12 seconds ahead of locals, Melbourne University stroked by Rohan Lavery (25:53:18) and Sydney University stroke by Will O’Shannessy (26:02.08) in third place after 8.0 km of very close racing.

In the elite Women’s Eights, the Melbourne University Boat Club crew stroked by Katherine Michelmore took line honors in a time of (29:28:09) ahead of the Queensland University crew stroked by ria Thompson (29:36:16) with the Mercantile Women’s Eight stroked by Sky Froebel (29:53.69) in third place.

In the schoolboys first Eights section, Scotch College (28:42:22) stroked by James Isles continued its dominance over recent years 20 seconds ahead of the Sydney’s Newington College stroked by Luka Stefanovic( (29.02.54).

The Schoolgirl first eights saw a very strong field of crews from all around Australia. It was the Sydney Rowing Club schoolgirls crew stroked by Eliza Dunlop that won the day (33:40:52), eighteen seconds ahead of last year’s winners Melbourne Girls Grammar (33:58:18) stroked by Bea Chirnside

Two crews of Octogenarians proved longevity comes from lifelong commitment to the sport. The Sydney based crew stroked by 80-year-old Jon Mitchell (Drommoyne) rowed the course in 42:50:99, forty-five seconds ahead of their Melbourne rivals the crew stroked by 80-year-old Ray Denis with the oldest competitor 91-year-old Don Christie on board.

The NSW Institute of Sport took out the Para8’s, a mixed adaptive 8’s format for those with disability. Stroked by James Talbot and rowing the course in a very fast time of (32:15:55) they raise our spirits for good results in para rowing in 2020.

The race attracted thousands of spectators along the full length of the Yarra course. A crowd of 10,000 congregated amongst the crews and boats for the trophy presentations and the post-race carnival at the finish in the Yarra Bank Reserve in Hawthorn.

Full results are available on the Website <http://headoftheyarra.com/results>

Race vision for news media is available for download at [<HERE>](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cpdpkmw3xejsdcr/AADAto6hvFUoizcwZuVUhrTKa?dl=0)

Rights free images taken by our club photographers are [<HERE>](https://photos.app.goo.gl/HLfbaSKT1p3mJczy9) for download.

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