

MALIBU WAKEBOARD AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005

All season competitors from around the country compete at the state events to secure a position at the Australian National Championships. Wakeboard Australia's most prestigious event was held this year March 31st - April 3 . Four grueling days of competition on the beautiful and picturesque Lake Burleigh Griffin at Black Mountain Peninsula Canberra ACT.

The event was wakeboard Australia's largest nationals, hosting 117 riders from 6 states battling it out for AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION. The competition took place in perfect conditions for the first three days and saw horrendous winds gust up and stay with us for the finals on Sunday.

A magnificent Malibu Wakesetter VLX towed the competition as the major sponsor of the National Championships. The boat was excellent over the four days and did not miss a beat.

The wonderful thing about a national Championships is the camaraderie of all the best riders in the country. The wakeboarding elite are like family and that was the atmosphere at this years Nationals. All the riders at their peak performance by day and mates supporting each other by night.

This year we had two complete Under 9 classes, Under 9 Boys and Under 9 girls. These kids are the future of our sport and Krystal Oliver from NSW secured the National Title with a well executed run with 11 wake jumps including a styley fashion air to impress the judges. Ashleigh Blake placed 2nd impressing the judges riding her whole second pass in switch followed by sister Jessica Blake in 3rd.

The under 9 boys saw some fierce competition from 8 young riders. Kyle Pfitzner from South Australia put a clean run together to secure 3rd place. Blake Angus from Queensland took out 2nd with 16 tricks on an awesome long rope, but a little legend from New South Wales took out first place, Ethan Clifford stomped 1st with 11 huge tricks 4 rotations with grabs. Almost a veteran of the sport at only 9.

10-14 Boys is a division that is phenomenal. 20 riders took to the water. The boys had 3 heats in quarter finals, LCQ, semi Finals and then a final. Dane Tiene NSW secured 3rd place, 2nd place went to John Harris QLD and the Australian Champion is a very happy Ty Clifford sticking a very nice tantrum, Scarecrow and Heel side 360 in some very sloppy water.

10-14 Girls was another huge field of riders. 13 young women coming through our sport putting on some awesome performances. Brook Heiser Qld came in 3rd a 12 tricks, Gracie mallows another QLD rider impressed the judges with a big ride and a huge 180, but the Champion of the weekend was NSW rider Caitlyn Blaauw stomping a huge pass and hitting the slider the topped it off with a massive 2 wake tantrum. The first junior girl to

ever hit a slider in competition , she was quickly followed by Rebecca Frangi. Well done girls. We have some great talent coming through in these divisions by some pretty tough young ladies. All of these 3 ladies have been selected for the world train-on squad which will be held in July for final selection onto the world team headed for Russia.

The Junior Womens class is always good to watch, both on and off the water. These girls have style. Rebecca Stokman from ACT was in 4th place, 3rd place went to Samantha Hoitnik from ACT, Samantha Kinnish was determined to take 2nd place, but the champion of the weekend was birthday girl Kelly Farrell from NSW. Winning the event on her 18th birthday she celebrated with 380 wake boarders and their families at the Insomnia Bar on Saturday night.

The 20-29 men is an unbelievably difficult class with 17 riders from around Australia. Daniel Tolsen from NSW dominated the competition during the weekend coming in 3rd place , John Linke from South Australia took out 2nd place and Michael Davies secured the National Championship with a huge run winning on intensity with a massive 911 and mixed up his run with Off Axis 3 , Spins, Upside downers and Raleys.

The Junior men in Australia at the moment are awesome. An inspiring group of focused young men, some have visions of turning Pro, others just happy to be part of such an elite group of riders. All are good mates and travel around the country riding with and against each other in their pursuit of becoming a champion. This is one of the best classes for spectators to watch , with the future of wakeboarding here right now. 28 of Australia's best, all riding and partying as hard as the next guy. No rider is more outstanding than another because they are all just awesome, one rider that they all had their eye on was an 11 year old by the name of Harley Clifford who blew everyone away all weekend, however he couldn't hold it together and missed out on the final. Nevertheless he never ceases to impress other riders. The riders were all quite pleased when he missed out on the final. Some amazing names in this division that will be on the pages of these magazines for many years to come. 3rd place in Junior Mens went to Lachlan Burgess from South Australia stood a stylish run, 2nd place went to Scott Robinson from NSW, but the Champion of the weekend was Sam Collins from QLD. A favorite with the riders Sam secured first place with a Hoochie Glide, 2 sliders, Back Roll to revert, Slob 540 just to name a few. An awesome achievement in such a competitive class. Sam is now off to the cable world games and also secured a spot for the world games in Germany later this year.

Masters was taken out by Fluvio Tiene from NSW , Followed by Mick Godfrey NSW and 3rd went to Rod Angwin from Western Australia.

Open women is another favorite with some girl power being the topic of the weekend. Marcey Wellstead from Western Australia placed 3rd , 2nd place went to Denae Heggen from Qld and Australian champion is NSW rider Hayley Smith securing 1st place with a Raley and a Crow. All well executed and huge.

But the one they all come to see is OPEN MEN. This year did not disappoint with 13 of Australia's elite riders coming to our event.

Always a favorite we had Josh Sanders come along and show us all how it's done. A true professional in every aspect of the sport.

The finals were like this Adam Bruce was first off the dock after almost getting DQ. Riders did some quick talking and got him back on the water. Andrew Ghantous legend rider was next, Scott Mackay from Vic was 3rd off the dock, he had a busy weekend looking after his brother Troy who took a huge fall in the semis and broke a couple of ribs and needed some quite time, 4th off the dock was the hard charging Scotty Broome, 5th Tallun Rose who shares his time between judging and riding and keeps very busy during the competitions, 3rd last off the dock the riders main man Dean Smith, the rider everyone wants to be, next was Travis Osborne , busy boy school teacher by day, world selector and National coaching director, where does this man find the time and then last off the dock was LEGEND Josh Sanders, business man , pro rider , event manager.

Well they flipped and spun and grabbed and slid their way up and down the course, but at the end of the day the stars shone out.

Scotty Broome 3rd Tootsie rolls, KGB , Crow Mobes, Dean Smith 2nd More tootsie rolls, Mobes, Switch Dumb Dumb, but the Champion of the weekend was JOSH SANDERS from NSW. Josh supports the sport better than any other rider. There was no prize money, but one thing Josh did get for his time on the water was 1 x Guaranteed spot on the world Team heading for Russia, 1 x guaranteed spot on the World Cup Stops held around the world by IWSF and a chance to take home part of Russias cash Prize of \$50,000 USD. Not to bad for a few minutes on the water.

A big thank you goes to all the pro riders who support these events, and all riders who have a go.

One big prize for the weekend is the Mark Kenny AWARD. This award is for a rider who is an up and comer. A rider who has impressed all they meet, someone that goes from unknown to “ Who was That?” when they hit the water. A rider that all the riders feel they should take under their wing and make them the next champion. Someone like Mark Kenny was, a Riders Rider. That someone last week was SCOTT ROBINSON from NSW. Scott has been riding at comps for about two years now, but is now part of our wakeboarding family. Someone that is really going places and a genuinely nice guy. Congratulations to Robbo.

The other big announcement on the weekend is the Pre World train on Squad. 8 riders can be chosen to represent their country at the 5th annual World Wakeboard Championships to be held in Moscow Russia.

This year's pre train squad is as follows:

TY CLIFFORD	CAITLYN BLAAUW	KELLY FARRELL
JOHN HARRIS	GRACIE MALLOWS	FULVIO TIENE
DANE TIENE	BROOKE HEISER	MICK GODFREY
HARLEY CLIFFORD	COURTNEY ANGUS	TALLUN ROSE
MICHAEL DAVIS	DEAN SMITH	HAYLEY SMITH
DANIEL TOLSEN	SCOTT BROOME	JOSH SANDERS
TROY MACKEY	DENAE HEGGEN	KATH MOORE
SAM COLLINS	SCOTT ROBINSON	NAT BARBER

Injured riders may also be selected after recovering from injury and riding for selectors
Those riders are MICK HANCOCK (Back) CORY HARRIS (Leg) AMBER WING
(Knee) TOM HINES (Knee) JUSTINE ABBOTT (Arm)

A special thanks to all the volunteers, a list below. Events need riders, but events also need
volunteers and officials. Judges, Calculators and Drivers a big Thanks. Most of all we need
riders who want to become champions. A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO
EVERYBODY WHO MADE THE EVENT A SUCCESS>

SPONSORS - Malibu Boats, Sic Clothing, Insomnia Bar, JBL Marine Equipment,
Smith, Adrenaline Sports ACT and Waterskiers Warehouse ROSEHILL.

Brenda Harris

(Secretary Wakeboard Australia)

For more details about future events go to our website www.wakeboardaustralia.com.au