



## Media Alert - 56th Annual Head of the Yarra - Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup> 2014 Yarra River spectacle with armada of Rowing 8's.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, the largest ever contingent of rowers in an Australian regatta - 1,980 competitors will complete over the Yarra's gruelling 8.6 km course from Birrarung Marr to Hawthorn for fastest times in the annual "Head of The Yarra".

This year's event marks the 56<sup>th</sup> running of this rowing classic that is the undisputed favorite on Australia's rowing calendar. For 4 hours from 11.45 am – 3.45 pm, the flotilla of racing eights stretching the length of the Yarra to Hawthorn will provide a wonderful showcase and spectacle for the 10,000 spectators & supporters who follow it from the city along the 8.6km course to the finish and post race carnival at the Hawthorn Rowing Club.

This year's event is set to showcase some of Australia's best male & female rowing talent with a record field of 220 rowing eights. Competitors include school students, Olympians, Club and Masters rowers of both sexes from all around Australia and NZ.

### Some Highlight contests to watch include:

- **Elite athlete eights.** The fastest club crews packed with Olympic and world championship medalists race off in the Open Male & Female sections between 2pm – 3pm. Last year's winners Mercantile Rowing Club, will have to fend off strong challenges from Melbourne University and a Sydney University / Qld composite crew who are keen to take the silverware north of the border.
- **Club Eights.** 133 crews of Male and Females from the clubs all around Australia & NZ will compete for fastest time in their sections. Racing runs from late morning till around 2.00pm
- **The H+ Masters (Crews Aged 70 plus).** 5 crews of Septuagenarians and 1 crew of Octogenarians, from Qld, NSW, Vic and SA, some ex Olympians and World medalists, race off at 11.00am.
- **The Mixed 8's (4Male + 4Female).** 34 club crews from all over Australia and NZ will vie for honors in this hotly contested mixed category around Noon.
- **School Boy Eights.** 22 crews including a large contingent from last years winners Scotch College, plus Melbourne & Brighton Grammars, Melbourne & Sydney High Schools, around 2 pm
- **School Girl Eights.** 19 crews including last years winners MLC, Loreto (Melbourne & Sydney), Pymble (Sydney) Strathcona, Korowa, Melbourne Girls, and Karinda International School on the water from around 1pm.

Ends.....

### Media Enquiries:

- Pat Freeland-Small. Mobile 0418 631862
- Photo shoots & interviews with athletes and crews in training can be arranged via appointment.

Opportunities include:

- School Crews, Male & Female,
- Elite crews from University of Melbourne & Mercantile R.C (Including Male & Female Olympians & world Champions)
- Master's Crews including: six crews in 70yrs plus category and a crew of Vietnam Vets.
- Mixed, Leisure and club crews from all over Victoria, Interstate and internationally

Crew lists & statistics available at:

<http://www.rowingonline.com.au/Rowing/Regattas/Statistics/Default.aspx?id=061688cb-9a59-4a40-ac56-27f4eeda4567>

Event running schedule for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November is attached.

Website: [www.headoftheyarra.com](http://www.headoftheyarra.com)

# AUSTRALIA'S ROWING CLASSIC



**2014 HEAD OF THE YARRA RACE DAY MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES TIMETABLE**  
**Saturday November 29th 2014.**

Time	General Race Flow	
		<p>All crews muster at boat staging area: Rowing sheds in Melbourne – Jefferies Parade (Melways Map 2F, Ref K7).</p> <p>Course is 8.6km upstream to the Finish at Bridge Rd, Hawthorn. Bicycle tracks to the north and south of the river carry 1000's spectators and on-lookers.</p> <p><b>Fastest crews start: Men's Open at approximately 2.32 pm.</b></p> <p><b>Photo Opportunities</b> from Swan St Bridge, Anderson St Bridge and Alexander Ave (1 km west of Grange Rd Bridge – "Big Bend") as crews make way up the Yarra to Hawthorn. Helicopter shots from 12.30pm onwards will capture the Yarra littered with Rowing Eights (Note: 220 rowing eights end-to-end would stretch over 4.5kms).</p> <p><b>Crews are arranged in a Grand Prix style grid pattern across the river.</b></p> <p><b>Staggered time starts by section progressively over 3 1/2 hours</b></p>
10.00am	River closure	(1 hour prior to race time) <b>Crew Preparations &amp; Boating to river</b>
11.00	First of 220 crews start at Henley Judges Box	<p><b>First crew to start: Men's Masters H+ (Oldest Crews 70 years plus)</b></p> <p><b>Fabulous Photo Opportunity</b> from Henley judges box looking west to city skyline just prior to 11.00 am, with about 40 rowing 8's mustering prior to race start</p>
11.37pm (approx)	First crew crosses Finish line at Hawthorn	The first category to start / finish will be the Men's Masters H+, the oldest competitors in the race.
2.22pm (approx)	<u>Women's Open crews start</u> <u>Feature Race</u>	<p><b>Fastest Women Open Crews featuring Olympians and world champions</b></p> <p><b>Photo Opportunities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Women's Fastest Crews, including Olympians &amp; World Champions</b> in, Melbourne University &amp; Mercantile Boat clubs. Finishing at Hawthorn around 2.50pm at Bridge Road Bridge, Hawthorn.</li> <li>2. <b>Best vantage point for Finish</b> from Hawthorn Rowing Club Balcony. Contact Pat (0418 631862)</li> </ol>
2.32pm (approx)	<u>Men's Open crews start</u> <u>Feature Race &amp; Fastest Crews</u>	<p><b>Fastest Men's Open Crews featuring Melbourne, Sydney, &amp; Queensland Universities &amp; Mercantile Boat Club with a host of Olympians and world champions</b></p> <p><b>Photo opportunities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Men's Fastest Crews, with Olympians &amp; World Champions on board, finish at Hawthorn around 2.55 pm</b></li> <li>2. <b>Best vantage point for Finish</b> from Hawthorn Rowing Club Balcony. Contact Pat (0418 631862)</li> </ol>
3.00 pm	Last crew finishes	Calculation of race times commences (should take approx 15 mins).
3.30pm – 4.00pm (approx)	Presentations of winners & trophies and announcement of "Head of the Yarra"	<p><b>Yarra Bank Reserve (off Creswick St) Hawthorn.</b> (Melways Map 2H, Ref H6)</p> <p><b>Commences 30 mins after last crew finishes (30 min duration)</b></p> <p><b>Photo Opportunity: Winning Crew Presentations at Yarra Bank Reserve, Hawthorn in front of crowd of 8,000 people – Open Crew's &amp; Head of the Yarra winners presented first at approx 3.30 pm</b></p>
4.00 pm	Winners press release & results posted to Website	<p>Note: verbal results available from 3.35pm to assist newsrooms by phoning Pat Freeland-Small on 0418 631 862.</p> <p><b>Full results from 4.00 pm: <a href="http://www.headoftheyarra.com">www.headoftheyarra.com</a></b></p>

Media Contact: Pat Freeland-Small, M: 0418 63 1862

Race Commentary Peter Landy M. 0418 553840 John Stewart, M: 0400 873 531