



Media Alert - 57th Annual Head of the Yarra - Saturday November 28th 2015 The great race continues to grow to be Australia's largest!

On Saturday 28th November, the largest ever contingent of rowers in an Australian rowing race – 2,142 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 race marks the 57th running of this rowing classic that is the undisputed favorite on Australia's rowing calendar. From 10.30 am – 3.30 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 238 rowing eights. Competitors include school students, Olympians, Club and Masters rowers of both sexes from all around Australia, NZ and even from Japan.

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 2.30 pm – 3.15pm. Last year's Male winners Melbourne University Boat Club, will have to fend off a strong challenges from Mercantile and Sydney Rowing Clubs, both of whom are keen to win bragging rights as fastest of the boats on the Yarra.
- **Club & Masters Eights.** 160 crews of Male and Females from the clubs all around Australia and NZ, plus a crew from Partez club in Japan, will compete for fastest time in their sections. Racing runs from late morning till around 2.00pm
- **The H+ Masters (Crews Aged 70 plus).** 8 crews of Septuagenarians and Octogenarians, from Qld, NSW, Vic SA and Tas, including some ex Olympians and World medalists, race off at 10.30am.
- **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 and Daramalan (ACT), around 1.30 pm
- **School Girl Eights.** 18 crews including last year's winners Pymble Ladies College Sydney, MLC, Loreto (Melbourne & Sydney), Strathcona, Daramalan (ACT), Melbourne Girls and Kardinia International College on the water from around 1pm.

Ends.

Media Enquiries:

- **Media Contact:** Pat Freeland-Small, M: 0418 63 1862
- **Photo shoots & interviews with athletes and crews in training can be arranged**
- **Race Commentary on the Day:** Peter Landy M. 0418 553840 John Stewart, M: 0400 873 531

Crew lists & statistics available at:

<https://www.rowingonline.com.au/Rowing/Regattas/Statistics/Default.aspx?id=d8f880d3-0add-46ed-9e0f-29a6f53a8617>

Event running schedule for Saturday 28th November is attached.

Website: www.headoftheyarra.com

Supported by:



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2015 HEAD OF THE YARRA RACE DAY MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES TIMETABLE
Saturday November 28th 2015.

General Race flow:

- All crews muster at boat staging area: Rowing sheds in Melbourne – Boathouse Drive – Near Princes Bridge St Kilda Rd. (Melways Map 2F, Ref K7). 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 of spectators and on-lookers.
- Yarrabank Reserve Hawthorn hosts a large finish carnival with thousands of spectators from 12.00 onwards.
- Fastest crews: Men's & Women's Open start around 2.40pm. Arrive at finish in Hawthorn from 3 pm.- 3.15 PM**
- Photo Opportunities** 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 12.00pm onwards will capture the Yarra littered with Rowing Eights (Note: 238 rowing eights end-to-end would stretch over 5kms).

TIME:		
9.30 am	River closure	(1 hour prior to race time) Crew Preparations & Boating to river
10.30 am	First of 238 crews start at Henley Judges Box	First crew to start: Men's Masters H+ (Oldest Crews 70 years plus) Fabulous Photo Opportunity from Henley judges box looking west to city skyline just prior to 10.30 am, with about 40 rowing 8's mustering prior to race start
11.07pm (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.
2.30pm (approx)	Women's Open crews start <u>Feature Race</u>	Fastest Women Open Crews featuring Olympians and world champions Photo Opportunities: 1. Women's Fastest Crews, including Olympians & World Champions in Melbourne, Queensland Universities & Mercantile Boat clubs. Finishing at Hawthorn around 3.00pm at Bridge Road Bridge, Hawthorn. 2. Best vantage point for Finish from Hawthorn Rowing Club Balcony.
2.40pm (approx)	Men's Open crews start <u>Feature Race & Fastest Crews</u>	Fastest Men's Open Crews featuring Melbourne University, Mercantile & Sydney Boat Clubs with a host of Olympians and world champions Photo opportunities: 1. Men's Fastest Crews, with Olympians & World Champions on board, finish at Hawthorn around 3.05 pm 2. Best vantage point for Finish from Hawthorn Rowing Club Balcony. Contact Pat (0418 631862)
3.15 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"	Yarra Bank Reserve (off Creswick St) Hawthorn. (Melways Map 2H, Ref H6) Commences 15 mins after last crew finishes (30 min duration) Photo Opportunity: Winning Crew Presentations at Yarra Bank Reserve, Hawthorn in front of crowd of 8,000 people – Open Crew's & Head of the Yarra winners presented first at approx 3.30pm
4.00 pm	Winners press release & results posted to Website	Note: Results to assist newsrooms by phoning Pat on 0418 631 862. Full results from 4.00 pm: www.headoftheyarra.com

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