

## **BOAT CAPTAIN'S DECEMBER REPORT**

The Bungan A crew have had a good start to season 2010 – 11 with wins at both the Newport and Bilgola Carnivals.

Classic Newport conditions including solid shore break with the occasional fluky wave out the back was a good introduction to the racing year. As always the very first race of the year was a shock to the system. The 4 minutes and 30 seconds of intense physical effort reminded many rowers in the field of the folly of winter excesses.

The races that followed saw Bungan once again take a win from all the Northern Beaches clubs.

With Sydney Northern Beaches branch representation up for grabs Bungan again fronted up to the Bilgola carnival. A requirement of the best results from three branch carnivals was the basis for branch selection.

With these criteria firmly in mind the Bungan A crew fronted to a rainy Saturday morning at Bilgola Beach.

Bilgola's tiny car park was no match for the Northern beaches entire fleet of surfboats and rowers. As a result Team Bungan was delayed forcing a hasty construction of tents and equipment.

Just enough time was left for a warm up before the start of racing.

The swell, unpredictable and steep had a savage nature. 10 strokes in the A crew struck an angry green wall of water. Oars, boat and bodies flew everywhere in the seething froth.

The entire northern beaches rowing fraternity looked on disbelieving some, with a snigger.

With their rivals looking on the Bungan A crew gathered themselves, retrieved equipment and left the course.

To make things worse, stroke Aaron Reilly was unable to walk due to a severely broken foot that occurred when the crushing weight of an entire surfboat mashed it.

Bungan's rivals were surprised when the days racing was dominated by an excellent performance from the crew. The Bilgola Carnival was won 'in convincing fashion' according to the commentator. All the while nursing a broken foot, battered equipment and bruised ego's.

The two wins resulted in automatic qualification for Sydney Northern Beaches (SNB) Branch team. SNB Manly to Palmy is recognised Nationally as the best surfboat branch in the country.

The Inter branch carnival during weekend of the 11 and 12 of December will once again see The Bungan A crew lock horns with some of the best crews in the state at the Lakes Beach on the Central Coast. Stand by for more news.

Don't forget the launching of the new Boat on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 1230 pm at Bungan Beach Surf Club.

Hope to see you there.

James Bezer

Boat Captain