



## **AUBC Season Summary 2022-23**

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The 2022-23 season was an opportunity for AUBC to redeem the season just gone, a season constantly tainted by the ever-lingering COVID-19 and ultimately ended early due to an outbreak of the virus in the squad who attended, but sadly did not get to compete at, the 2022 National Championships. The Club saw this opportunity and took it with both hands.

### **Uni Games**

Our season kicked off around June 2022, with a handful of eager athletes braving the cold winter mornings at West Lakes. The squads, men coached by me, and women by Tom Dornbaus, first challenge awaited across the Nullarbor at the University Games in late September. Many hours were put in both at Murray Bridge on Winter camp and closer to home at the familiar West Lakes, when the time came for the boats to be loaded, both squads were ready.

Uni games provided an opportunity for some serious competition in a period which is often void of racing. On arrival the squads had the opportunity to train on the Swan River from, Guildford Grammar's boatshed. After a few rows to finalise race plans and equipment they were ready to go. Uni games accommodates a handful of different events for rowing including some mixed events. Both the Women's and the Men's squads were very successful at the event.

### **Mens Squad**

2022 Uni Games saw two trophies coming home back across the Nullarbor. The first of which was the Wills Trophy, The OM1x trophy, won by our resident Australian U23 representative, Nick Blackman. Not has victory in this event eluded AUBC since Alastair McLachlan's victory in 1993; but it was also one of the most hotly contested races of the regatta. Nick was able to come away with the gold and set himself up for an unforgettable season over the next 6 - 8 months.

The second trophy was the Fred Schonell Cup trophy for the OLM4-. A boat which had missed out on competing at nationals due to a bout of COVID finally had its chance to show its worth. The crew of Harrison Francis, James Powell, Mitch Moore and stroked by Charlie Moore, did not disappoint, taking out the gold medal in style.

The men also headed home with some bronze medals. The Coxed 4 (Nick Burr, Ben Ashman, Oscar Moore, stroke Nick Blackman and coxed by Amy Carrodus) narrowly trailed the Sydney Universities. The Oxford & Cambridge Cup is a high priority for AUBC. The crew of Harrison Francis, James Powell. Mitch Moore, Nick Burr, Ben Ashman, Oscar Moore, Nick Blackman, stroked by Charlie Moore and coxed by Amy Carrodus were able to break a medal-less run of several years when they finished third. The squad are hungry and looking forward to bringing home the impressive Oxford & Cambridge Cup very soon.



## Women's Squad

The women's squad was also able to find some medals while away in Perth. A few narrow races saw our girls come out on the wrong side of 3rd and 4th however, this was not the case in the OW8+. AUBC's crew of Georgia Kelly, Rebecca Monck, Clare Romaniuk, Jemima Richter, Tiernie Hamilton Grace Seppelt, Carys Jones, stroked by Sophie Radford and coxed by Amy Carrodus were able to perform and received a bronze medal for their efforts.

Celia Cowan, racing for the University of South Australia, won gold in an impressive race for the Open Lightweight 1x. Together with Cleo Wilson, and again racing for Uni SA, Celia won a bronze medal in the OW2x.

University games is a unique regatta which brings people from multiple clubs together to compete under the one university. It is a regatta which always provides a good time and will remain high on my list of priorities in years to come.

## Regular Season

After Uni games, both squads had some well-earned time off as they headed into the regular season. The 22-23 season saw a big influx of younger rowers joining the Club, something which has been sorely missed over the last few years. The younger generation will mould the club for years to come, and AUBC is excited to be attracting school leavers to our Club again.

The end of 2022 calendar year is normally filled with highly anticipated regattas. These include the Riverland 2nd grade champs and Head of the Yarra. Sadly, the interruptions of flooding along the Murray and construction works in Melbourne put a stop to both events. With these disappointing cancellations the Club's attention turned to State team selection, NSW State Champs, SA State Champs and of course, the Nationals.

Training for these events was ramped up early in 2023: a summer camp was run out of the St Peters College facility at Finniss. Relatively decent water, for Finniss anyway (!), provided a great opportunity to get in some long rows and lots of squad bonding fun.

## NSW State Champs

A small group of athletes again headed across the country to compete in the NSW State champs, arguably the most competitive racing on the calendar, especially for the under 23 age group, as it was the main selection event for the Australian team. The NSW State Champs is an excellent regatta for developing our younger athletes, as well as a chance for the older boys to perform with the best of the best. With competition in Adelaide fairly limited in the non-school student, non-master space, NSW brings athletes from all around the country to compete.



Nick Blackman continued his excellent start to the season at Penrith, winning the Men's under 23 single scull, thus strengthening his case for under 23 National Team selection. With Cormac Hayes of Canberra Rowing Club, Nick also picked up a silver in the under 23 double scull.

The lightweight men also built on their success from Uni games, with two new recruits in Kyle Miller and Hugo Wurm, they won the Open Men's Lightweight 4. Charlie Moore and Mitch Moore also won gold in the lightweight pair, and with the help of UTS the four AUBC boys shared silver in the Open Lightweight 8+.

Jeremy Beale came 4th in the u23 scull, and 5th in the u23 double (with Adam Holland of ARC).

Both squads learnt a lot from the experience and this regatta was a great matinee performance before the big dance, back over in Perth a few months later.

### **SA State Champs**

Before we knew it, the local regatta of the year was upon us. Both squads were fully prepared for this and dived into the two-day regatta back on their home waters. The list of achievements is wonderfully long:

#### **Men's Squad**

Gold: 10

- N. Blackman: OM1x
- N. Blackman, J. Beale, R. Hamilton, O. Moore: OM4-
- C. Moore, M. Moore, H. Wurm, K. Miller: OLM4-
- N.Burr, H.Wurm, J.Schirmer, J.Felderhof, Cox: A.Hughes: U21M4+
- N. Blackman, J. Beale, R. Hamilton, L. Calabrese: OM4x
- K. Miller: OLM1x
- C. Moore, M. Moore: OM2-
- N. Blackman, J. Beale: OM2x
- J.Boyce [UHS], M.Henry, E.Watkins [MBRC], F. Balnaves: U19M4x
- H.McLeod, M.Henry, J.Schirmer, J.Felderhof: U21M4x

Silver: 9

- M. Henry, F. Balnaves: U19 M2-
- N. Burr, J. Schirmer: U21M2x
- C. Moore, M. Moore, H. Wurm, K. Miller: OM4-
- H. Wurm: OLM1x
- K. Miller: U21LM1x
- J. Schirmer: U21M1x
- R. Hamilton, L. Calabrese: OM2-
- K.Miller, H.Wurm: OM2x



- N.Burr, R.Hamilton, O.Moore, L.Calabrese, J.Beale, N.Blackman, M.Moore, C.Moore,  
Cox: A.Hughes: OM8+

Bronze: 3

- J. Beale: OM1x
- A.Drayton, H.Southcott, J.Maddern, B.Ashman: OM4x
- H. Wurm: U21LM1x

### Woman's Squad

Gold: 8

- V. Binns: U21W1x\_
- I.Wirth, L.Richter, D.Macolino, V.Binns: U19W4x
- C.Jones, S.Tickner, C.Wilson, G.Seppelt, J.Malcolm, J.Richter, C.Romaniuk,  
D.Macolino, Cox: A.Carrodus: OW8+
- V. Binns: U19W1x
- D.Macolino, V.Binns: U19W2-
- C.Romaniuk, G.Seppelt: U21W2x
- V.Binns, G.Seppelt, C.Romaniuk, D.Macolino, Cox: A.Hughes: U21W4+
- J.Richter, J.Malcolm, S.Tickner, C.Wilson: OW4x

Silver: 6

- B. Kollberg: U17W1x
- C. Romaniuk, D. Macolino: OW2-
- S. Tickner, C. Wilson: OW2x
- C. Wilson: OW1x
- L.McRoe, I.Wirth: U19W2x
- D.Macolino, G.Seppelt, C.Romaniuk, I.Wirth: OW4x

Bronze: 5

- S. Tickner, C Jones: OW2-
- J. Richter, G. Seppelt: OW2x
- S. Tickner: OW1x
- L.McRoe, I.Wirth: U21W2x
- T.Hamilton, R.Monck, L.McRoe, B.Kollberg: OW4x

The SA State champs was a roaring success for the Club, picking up a total of 41 medals and 6/7 Open State Championships for the Men and 3/5 of the Open State Championships for the Woman. There were a handful of races which deserve a special mention.

### Women's Squad

The Open women's VIII is always an excellent race to win, however, the 2 races which caught my eyes were the OW2- and OW2x. Although both these races resulted in a silver, they were hotly contested from start to finish. Both races were against ARC's Ella Bramwell and Georgina Taeger. The pair saw a margin of only 1.6 second between AUBC and ARC, for



the young crew of Clare Romaniuk and Deane Macolino, being u21 and u19 respectively; this is an outstanding result. In the pair, Cleo Wilson and Sophie Tickner left only a 0.96s margin between themselves and the same ARC crew. Both results were outstanding, given the high calibre of the competition.

### Men's Squad

Although the old enemy took out the Open Men's 8+ trophy, it was a race to the line, leaving everyone on the edge of their seats. In tough conditions, the margin of 0.87s was all that stood between ARC and AUBC. A disappointing outcome, however, speeds continue to grow and against an extremely experienced boat with several National representatives the boys should be proud.

The Open Mens 4- race was also combined with the Open Mens Lightweight 4- race. In a showing of the talent at the club, our boys were able to take out Gold and Silver in this race against an extremely strong ARC 4-. The lightweight boys, however, were not going to let their heavy weight mates have it easy. 0.82 seconds and times of 6:11.08 and 6:11.9 was all that could separate the 2 AUBC fours in an incredible race.

### Nationals

The local season complete, those who were competing in nationals again made the trip across the country to Perth to compete in the final test. A strong representation of AUBC athletes also made up the state teams for South Australia, always a big goal of the club. While in Perth, the club found excellent success.

### Men's Squad

Jeremy Beale dominated the field in the Under 21 events and was subsequently selected in the Australian squad to travel to New Zealand later this year. While in Perth, Jeremy won gold in the under 21 Men's single and double scull events (the latter with Adam Holland). Jeremy, with Jude Schirmer, also picked up a silver in the under 23 Quad. Everyone at the Club wishes Jeremy, his crew and their coach, Nick Mitchell, SASI Head Coach, the best of luck.

Nick Blackman left the regatta with blemish free record of entries, picking up a medal in every race he entered. These include, a composite crew taking out the hotly contested Open Men's Quad, Silver in the under 23 scull and the under 23 8+, and to top it all off, Bronze in the Open Men's Double. Nick started his season strong back at Uni Games and only continued to improve, this excellent season has booked Nick a trip to Bulgaria as part of the Under 23 Australian team in the Quad. Again, the Club wishes him the best of luck.

Finally, the Lightweight group were able to test their abilities on the national stage. It started off with Mitch Moore and Charlie Moore taking out Bronze in the Open lightweight pair. From a very difficult lane, the pair fought through the head wind to secure themselves a spot on the podium, in one of the toughest races I have ever seen. The success did not stop there, with the crew of Charlie Moore, Mitch Moore, Hugo Wurm and Kyle Miller



winning the Open Men's Lightweight 4. Full AUBC crews do not have an extensive list of Open National titles, especially in recent years. The club is extremely proud of this crew and what they have achieved. The race was no walk in the park, with the Tasmanian crew of North Esk only 0.32 seconds behind our AUBC boys. In fact, even these boys didn't know they had won until I explained it to them, while waiting to go onto the pontoon. This also marks the first time a full South Australian crew, without any institute athletes, has won an open event since 2013.

3 of those boys went onto the Penrith Cup race the next day, with the addition of Oscar McGuinness of ARC. They were able to take home a Bronze in the state team race, the best result the state has seen in 29 years.

### Women's Squad

The Women's squad also had a very successful trip. The Club VIII was able to take home a bronze medal against extremely strong crews from around the country. The young representatives showed how bright the future looks for the Club, with D. Macolino winning the U19 Women's Coxless Four. The girls also made up the bulk of the women's state team for South Australia, which continues to show how strong we are within the State.

The Season was a long one, not without interruptions, however, it came with outstanding success. I'm extremely proud of the whole Club and what they have achieved over the last 10 months.

I cannot wait to be back and continue to push the Adelaide University Boat Club towards being the club to beat, not only here in South Australia, but nationally as well.

Thank you to everyone for their support.  
Go the Blacks.