

LIFESAVING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018
16 November – 2 December 2018

Report by Tait Brannock

Wanda SLSC sent one of the finest teams ever to compete at the Life Saving World Championships in Adelaide.

The LWC entails equal amounts of surf and pool lifesaving events. The Euros treat pool competition as competitive as we do Aussies in the Ocean, it took Hayden Allum to break Wanda's drought to win silver in the 50m manikin carry. Tait, Luke, Hayden were joined (late) with Cam Pyett to swim an action packed 4/25m manikin relay where Wanda obtained its second medal of the meet.

Wanda full team arrived for our strength the ocean events and there was no doubting our star of the carnival was Hayden Allum winning four GOLD, not taking away from the dominance of Chris Iredale's Board Race GOLD, Stuart Braine's class in the board for GOLD & Paul Buttel tactical Oceanman GOLD & silver in the ski with all rounder Cam Pyett medaling in every event he competed in.

Team dinner was called Monday night to celebrate the individual medals & focus on the team day. We were very fortunate to have Wanda SLSC Patron Solly, Life members Greg Allum, Sean Mckirdy & Wanda's friend Kaoru Iketani from Japan joining us for an entertaining Dinner.

Team's Tuesday was met with horrific conditions forcing the team into makeshift cover similar to the 19th century opium dens of China. Wanda true strength was shown.

Cam finally cracked a GOLD with Hayden in the 30-34 board rescue, Tait and Stuart Braine GOLD in the 40-44 Board Rescue, Ruffy and Lavo narrowly edged into silver 60-64 board rescue.

In the surf teams GOLD (Cam, Braine, Tait) & Bronze (the Allum family, Greg's first race for 30 years) in the 110 years, GOLD in 130 years surf teams with Butts, Luke & Mick Kay.

The silverware kept coming in with board relays 110 Hayden, Lavo and Ruffy, 130 Chris Allum, Pyett and Braine.

Ocean Man relay GOLD 110's (Brainey, Cam, Chris Allum), 2nd 130's (Hayden, Tait & Hoppy) & 2nd 150 years (Mick Kay, Ruff & Butts) to round out best ever performances from Wanda SLSC at a World Championships, this is before counting the youth and open medals.

Beach Masters

In what can only be described as a catastrophic weather event, the Beach masters survived and conquered.

In the 2km 40-44 DJ Bronze & Tait Silver in a tactical race into a 80km headwind. Jockos return from major back surgery earned him a silver medal and Donna with more push & shove than a state of origin finished with a Bronze where the winds increased to 100km/h.

Our sprinters braved gale force winds to fly down the track with Lauren Campbell claiming our first bronze in the 35-39 sprint. Donna Cox glided through heats of the sprint & in the final with 4th and Dee narrowly missing a spot, Peter Hadfield's was a strong 3rd.

Our girls, the 110y female beach relay of Greer Calabro, Mairead Brannock & Loz, reigning World & Australian champions did not disappoint. Loz started strong out of the blocks to set the team up for a change to Meg who ran head on into the catastrophic weather event & changed to Greer who powered Wanda into the lead & GOLD defending their 2016 World title.

Our 150y men's were the ones to watch and transferred to grass after the beach was washed out, it has taken Jocko 20 years to get Peter & Zane Campbell into a relay together, unfortunately the baton was dropped on the first change over & they never recovered.

It has been one of the best teams that I have been involved with at Wanda SLSC. The ocean and beach masters support, encouragement and camaraderie shown over the competition was amazing. Our team unity definitely influenced better results for the club at the championships.

Thank you for the support of Greg Pierce, Scott Allen, Wanda office and our chief at the top Sarge.

Tait Brannock