



Above: Elouera Ocean Thunder crew settling into a rhythm

## Competition

Competition is the reason why many Surfboat rowers put themselves through so much torment and training. Competition is broken up into Divisions; Open Men, Open Women, Reserves, Under 23 Men, Under 23 Women and Under 19.

The rules of the race are quite simple. The crews of which there would be five or six per race, line up on the beach in about knee depth of water outside of the boat. The race starts when the starter fires his gun and the crews get away. They race past their 'gate buoy' and onto the 'turning buoy' 400m off the shore. The crews turn around and race back home, the winner being the first boat across the line ... in the upright position with at least three crew members and three oars remaining in the boat. An average race is anywhere between 4 to 6 minutes depending on conditions.

You can break a race up into three stages. The start where you see the rowers jump in the surfboat and power out through the break requiring explosive power. The middle, from the gate buoys to the turning buoys and back to the gate buoys, where fitness and technique come into play. And the finish from the gate buoys back to the beach. The sweep's skill in catching waves comes into play here.

## Season 2007/2008

The new season sees the return of the big names in each division. For the Open Men you will have to keep your eye on North Cottesloe J (WA) again this year who are back-to-Back Australian Champions the past two years. Other possible title contenders are; Currumbin (Qld), Avoca (NSW) and Kurrawa (Qld) with strong chances. For the Open Women keep your eyes on two outstanding crews; Mooloolaba (Qld) and Avoca (NSW) who are back-to-back Australian champions for the last 2 years.

For all the important dates, turn to ROWdates on page 26.

Source: <http://www.geocities.com/rowboy78/>

## HAVE MUSCLES, WILL TRAVEL... NEED SURFBOAT.

By Chris De Jong

Aside from the training, the most difficult part of rowing, still water, coastal or surf, is being able to afford good equipment for up and coming athletes and clubs. The Asian Pacific Advisory Group (APAG) has announced that they will be offering surf clubs the chance to join a lease plan that could help them into a new surfboat.

General Manager of Finance, Mark Roberts, has announced that APAG will assist surf clubs throughout Australia with a lease plan that will offer a low monthly repayment schedule with a realistic payout figure at the end of the term.

Clubs can now offer potential sponsor or private donors the opportunity to have their name / logo on their surf boat with an opportunity to pay monthly or 12 month renewals, clubs can now offer sponsors a better cash flow commitment rather than bulk payment upfront.

### Asian Pacific Advisory Group - Lease Plan

Purchase Price	\$ 25,550 (includes GST)
Agreement Term	3 years (36months)
Monthly repayment	\$ 798.81
End of Term Payout	\$ 5000
Application Fee	\$ 350 (one off)

At the end of the term clubs have a choice to purchase and own their surf boat outright by paying the full payout figure amount, or sell at market price value (estimated to be \$8K - \$12K depends on condition quality). With the rate that surfboat rowing is expanding internationally, there'll be no shortage of buyers for pre-loved boats.

According to Peter Hickey from Hickey Sports Marketing the lease plan will allow clubs to easier offer sponsors a better cash flow instead of one major payout. "Surf Clubs in Australia will also be able to have a better turn around for their equipment," says Hickey.

Surf boat crews' dreams of competing in a new surf boat this summer may soon be a reality...now, get training!

For more information about this Lease Plan you can contact Mark Robert of Asian Pacific Advisory Group on 07 5531 8833 or [mroberts@apag.com.au](mailto:mroberts@apag.com.au)