



FFI please contact Anna Wallin of H2O Communication on 0408 832 999 or email annawallin@bigpond.com

Sydney Harbour Swim Classic

Media Release

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Record numbers turn out to celebrate a clean and safe 2009 Sydney Harbour Swim Classic

A record number of open water swim fans hit Sydney Harbour this morning to celebrate the 8th annual Sydney Harbour Swim Classic, despite recent concerns about a spate of shark attacks across NSW waters in recent weeks.

The open water enthusiasts ranged from 13 to 65 years plus with local Sydneysiders Luane Rowe of Waverton taking out the double header in the women's racing and Mathew Jepson of Milsons Point taking out the 2km swim in the men's category.

Warm conditions both in and out of the water greeted the swimmers on the first day of autumn, with many of the competitors using the one kilometre swim as an early morning hit out, before taking on the recently extended two kilometre course.

Long distance swimmer and new mum, Susie Maroney took the plunge in the celebrity race to kick off the event joining the likes of Olympians, Murray Rose, Max Metzker, Carl Wilson and Graeme Brewer with the legendary Murray Rose taking out the dash for cash on corrected time.

"I can't believe how fast the men in our challenge hit the water today, but I guess they are boys and boys like to compete," joked Maroney who was the "rose amongst the thorns" in the celebrity dash.

"Despite the boys quick pace which took me by surprise, I have to say that the water was absolutely lovely, it was great to see the improvement in water condition across the years."

The Swim was also kicked off by "Clean Up Australia Day" founder, Ian Kiernan on the starters gun who was also celebrating 20 years of Clean up Australia Day.



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"I think we can safely say that everyone had a great time here today with both competitors and crowd numbers exceeding all expectations," said Event Organiser, Adam Wilson.

"Regardless of the recent hype concerning the presence of sharks in Sydney Harbour Australian swimmers put this aside and they are also well aware of the presence of marine life in the Harbour."

"We were however extremely vigilant to make certain every step was taken to ensure that the swim was conducted safely, with the safety of the swimmers our major concern, as it has been for the last eight years."

"We look forward to returning to the Harbour next year and hopefully hitting the 1000 swimmer mark in 2010," said Wilson.

Longtime ocean and open water swimmer Josie Molloy of Rozelle who took part in the annual swim noted that the presence of marine life is always a part of open water swimming.

"As open water swimmers we know that factors such as sharks are always going to the present, but these situations don't really deter nor affect our swimming community," said Molloy previously from Victoria.

"This was my first Swim Classic and the event was great, the weather was perfect, crowd numbers were strong and the water was really clean."

The swimmers gathered early this morning on Sydney Harbour to participate in the annual swim off the Man o' War steps, which sees swimmers starting from the Sydney Opera House. The race course has competitors head out to historic Fort Denison and the return to the steps, with swimmers exiting alongside the Opera House.

Since the swim's inception in 2002 the swim has grown to become an annual event, showcasing Sydney's community spirit.

Top ten results below with complete results available at www.sydneyharbourswim.com or www.oceanswims.com

Celebrity Dash for Cash		
First	Age	place
Murray Rose	70	1
Don Boland	55	2
John Koorey	65	3
Graeme Brewer	50	4
John De Mestre	46	5
Carl Wilson	41	6
Matt Renshaw	44	7
Susie Maroney	33	8



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Max Metzker	48	9
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One kilometre results

Pos	name	Time	From	RaceNo	Age
1	Luane ROWE	0:13:03	Waverton (NSW)	528	19
2	Jan venca FRANCKE	0:13:12	Sutherland (NSW)	562	25
3	Louise STEVENSON	0:13:37	Woollahra (NSW)	608	27
4	Ryan HUCKLE	0:13:46	Bellevue Hill (NSW)	574	29
5	Talbot HENRY	0:13:52	Bondi Beach (NSW)	571	33
6	Sean DALY	0:13:59	dee why (NSW)	635	39
7	Stephen REID	0:14:50	wyoming (NSW)	675	44
8	Brian STANDLICK	0:15:05	waverley (NSW)	736	51
9	Luke HARRIS	0:15:24	balmain (NSW)	568	33

Two kilometre results

Pos	name	Time	From	Age
1	Matthew JEPSON	0:19:13	Milsons Point (NSW)	14
2	Luane ROWE	0:20:06	Waverton (NSW)	19
3	Graeme BREWER	0:20:06	Lane Cove (NSW)	50
4	Jan venca FRANCKE	0:20:06	Sutherland (NSW)	25
5	Louise STEVENSON	0:20:07	Woollahra (NSW)	27
6	Don BOLAND	0:20:17	Picketts Valley (NSW)	55
7	Te Rina TAITE	0:20:32	Balgowlah (NSW)	26
8	Elliot LONG	0:20:34	Milsons Point (NSW)	14
9	Timo PELTOLA	0:20:36	Finland	23

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