

Pittwater Outrigger Racing Club

PO Box 1143
Mona Vale NSW 2103

www.pittwateroutriggers.com

22 February 2011

OUTRIGGERS RACE AT PALM BEACH

PITWATER OUTRIGGER RACING CLUB

Ocean Regatta 2011 - Sunday, 6 March 2011 @ Station Beach

MEDIA RELEASE - for immediate distribution

Pittwater Outrigger Racing Club is excited to once again host the annual Ocean Regatta on Sunday, 6 March 2011. Station Beach, located on the Pittwater side of Palm Beach, will teem with outrigger paddlers from across New South Wales as they battle it out in a full day of competitive racing.

The action kicks off at 8.30am with a 3km Junior race and a 6km Novice race in the sheltered waters of Pittwater.

Next up are the Long Course races which will head out from Station Beach, around Lion Island and into open water, paddling down the coast toward Whale Beach and back again. This 16km course will be a marathon test for the Women, Men and Mixed divisions with some challenging conditions along the way. The Women and Mixed blast off the start line at 9.30am with the Men up at 11.30am.

The final race of the day is the 7km Short Course with races commencing from 1.30pm. Short Course paddlers will get to test their mettle against the often unpredictable conditions around Lion Island before finding calm in the relatively tranquil Pittwater.

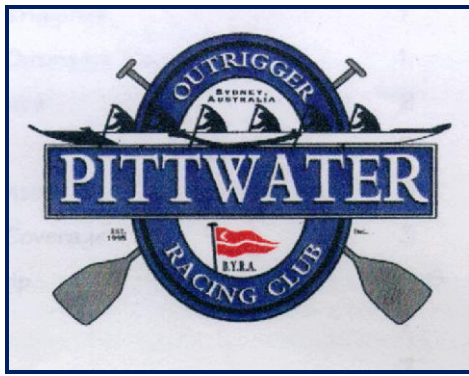
Crews from all age divisions (Open through to Golden Master) and clubs as far south as Mollymook and as far north as Port Macquarie will race for honours on the day.

Race Director George Floth said, "We are looking forward to a fantastic day of racing with some tough competition in a picture perfect setting. Pittwater Outrigger Club welcomes all crews to the best outrigger paddling location in the State and are especially excited to welcome international paddler Paul Higgs back to the club after a stint overseas."

Competition between NSW outrigger clubs is fierce, with close rivalries between crews. However, with the 'home water' advantage in their favour, Pittwater ORC is looking to perform well across all races in the Ocean Regatta.

Outrigger canoeing is not only a great team sport, but it is also part of the diverse cultural history of the Pacific peoples. From Tahiti to Fiji, the Cook Islands to New Zealand, outrigger paddling is integral to South Pacific culture. The official team sport of Hawaii, it has been adopted by countries around the globe with crews from countries as diverse as Canada, Japan and Italy fielding teams on the international regatta circuit.

Although still a niche sport in Australia, with approximately 4700 paddlers nationwide, outrigger canoe racing is one of the fastest growing water sports in the world. Pittwater Outrigger Racing Club was founded in 1995 and until January 1997 boasted only six members. Success came quickly for the fledgling club and it grew in both stature and numbers. With close to sixty



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members currently active, the club is competitive in both state and national regattas and is always eager to race at an international level. The overall results of Pittwater ORC are a positive indication of the hard work, commitment and resolve of its members.

Pittwater Outrigger Racing Club is based at the Bayview Yacht Racing Association. The club takes advantage of the sheltered waters of spectacular Pittwater and Scotland Island and the more rugged and exposed open water of Lion Island and the Northern Beaches. Pittwater ORC caters for the ultra-competitive athlete as well as the paddler who wants to mix getting fit with some fun in a welcoming and supportive environment. To find out more, check out the club website

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WHAT: Ocean Regatta 2011 - outrigger canoe racing

WHEN: Sunday, 6 March 2011

- 3km Junior + 6km Novice races @ 8.30am
- 16km Women + Mixed Long Course race @ 9.30am
- 16km Men Long Course race @ 11.30am
- 7km Men + Women Short Course race @ 1.30pm
- 7km Mixed Short Course race @ 2.30pm

WHERE: Station Beach (Pittwater side of Palm Beach, near the seaplane wharf)

CONTACT:

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INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES: George Floth (Race Director), Donna Macedo + Peter Watson

VISION OPPORTUNITIES: Paddlers competing in all races with the best on-shore viewing opportunity at Station Beach. However, to truly experience outrigger paddling, it must be viewed from the water. To arrange a spot on one of the regatta support boats for video or photo vision, please contact Pittwater ORC directly.

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