

# Head of the Lake 2010

## Highlights

- More crews than any other school racing (23)
- 11 out of 23 crews win their division
  - Girls Year 10 div. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
  - Boys Year 10 div. 3, 2
  - Open Girls div. 6, 5, 4, 1
- Girls win Head of the Lake
- Boys second in Head of the Lake
- Girls win Premiership trophy – first time in 20 years
- Boys second in Premiership trophy – best result in 15 years

## Results

Crew	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
Boys Open Div. 1	SPC	<b>BCC</b>	BG	BHS
Boys Open Div. 2	SPC	BG	BHS	<b>BCC</b>
Boys Open Div. 3	SPC	<b>BCC</b>	BG	BHS
Boys Open Div. 4	SPC	<b>BCC</b>	SPC	
Boys Year 10 Div. 1	BHS	BG	SPC	<b>BCC</b>
Boys Year 10 Div. 2	<b>BCC</b>	SPC	BHS	BG
Boys Year 10 Div. 3	<b>BCC</b>	SPC		
Boys Year 10 Div. 4	SPC	<b>BCC</b>	SPC	
Boys Year 9 Div. 1	BG	BHS	SPC	<b>BCC</b>
Boys Year 9 Div. 2	SPC	BHS	BG	
Boys Year 9 Div. 3	BG	SPC	BG	SPC
Girls Open Div. 1	<b>BCC</b>	BG	LC	BHS
Girls Open Div. 2	BG	<b>BCC</b>	BHS	LC
Girls Open Div. 3	BG	<b>BCC</b>	LC	
Girls Open Div. 4	<b>BCC (4)</b>	<b>BCC (5)</b>	<b>BCC (6)</b>	LC
Girls Year 10 Div. 1	<b>BCC</b>	BG	LC	BHS
Girls Year 10 Div. 2	<b>BCC</b>	BG	LC	
Girls Year 10 Div. 3	<b>BCC</b>	LC	BG	
Girls Year 10 Div. 4	<b>BCC (4)</b>	<b>BCC (5)</b>	LC	BG
Girls Year 9 Div. 1	BG	LC	BHS	<b>BCC</b>
Girls Year 9 Div. 2	BHS	BG	<b>BCC</b>	LC
Girls Year 9 Div. 3	BHS	BG	<b>BCC</b>	LC
Girls Year 9 Div. 4	BG			

## Race reports

Cool conditions greeted crews as boat trailers were unloaded and boats prepared for racing on the last day of February – Head of the Lake 2010. The Ballarat Clarendon fleet was the largest on the day with 23 crews racing across all divisions.

Hopes were high of challenging the Ballarat Grammar reign in the girls premiership, while the boys' also were keen to move up the rankings. Premiership points were to be awarded in the following races: Open Divs 1 to 4, Year 10 Divs 1 to 3 and Year 9 Divs 1 and 2. The point allocations for each race were 1<sup>st</sup> = 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 2 and 4<sup>th</sup> = 1.

Our Year 9 crews had a wonderful introduction to rowing this season and all crews fought out their races all the way to the line. With the inclusion next season of some students who are currently on King Island this promises to be an exciting squad.

The first of our Girls Year 10 crews, Div 4 and Div 5, were pitted against each other as well as crews from Ballarat High and Loreto College. These two crews really set the tone for the rest of the day with the BCC crews battling it out for the win. In the end the Div 4 crew managed to hold off a determined Div 5 group. This meant that both crews won their respective divisions. Special commendation goes to the Div 5 crew who managed to finish in front of other Div 4 crews.

Our Boys Div 4 crew consisted of two Year 9 boys, two Year 10 boys with a Year 10 girl coxing them! The crew settled into a really good rhythm and, although they were out-muscled by a bigger St Patrick's outfit, easily accounted for the other St Patrick's crew in the race.

The BCC domination of this year continued in the very next race with our Girls Div 3 showing the rest of the field a very "clean set of heals" to go on and win by over five lengths – a very large margin over only 1000m!

The next race was extremely exciting, with our Boys Div 3 crew getting the better of their St Patrick's rivals with about 400m to go. The crew went on to win comfortably and added a valuable five points to the premiership tally.

The depth of our girls program was again on show in the Div 2 race as the BCC crew had the race in their grasp at the half-way mark and extended the lead over the closing stages of the race. It was a very polished performance by these girls.

It took even less time for the Boys Div 2 crew to assert their authority when after only 20 strokes they had a commanding lead over the rest of the field. Looking back at the other crews, stroke Max Balharrie was not going to let them get back into the race and the boys shut the door with a great burst 400m from the finish line. Another five points to the tally!

The Girls Div 1 race was a much closer contest with the BCC crew getting the better of the start and jumping out to three-quarters-of-a-boat-length lead. It remained this way for the next 400m until the Ballarat Grammar crew made their move. They closed the gap to within a canvas (2m) and a close finish looked likely. The BCC girls were having none of it, however, and after letting Grammar complete their burst the BCC girls put the foot down! There was a clear length lead at the finish line, another five points for the premiership and a clean sweep of the girls Year 10 races! Well done ladies!

The Year 10 boys likewise jumped out of the blocks and rowed a wonderful first half of the race. Leading at the 400m mark, they then struggled to settle down and to find a sustainable rhythm and, try as they might, they were unable to hold on to their lead. It was a well-fought-out fourth place for the boys who put it all on the line early.

The final results of the Year 10 racing saw BCC win seven races from the nine crews who started.

The Open Division racing started with the Girls Div 4 race. BCC had three crews in this event along with a crew from Loreto College. It was a close race with all three BCC crews pushing ahead of the Loreto crew. As they crossed the line it was the Div 4 crew narrowly ahead of the Div 5 crew followed by the Div 6 crew – a great result for the school.

The Boys Open Div 4 crew took a while to settle down in their race. The blade work was a bit messy with there being lots of water coming off the blades during the recovery. To the boys' credit, they were able to settle down, tidy up their rowing and settle into a long rhythm. The second half of their race was a much better performance; however, "the horse had already bolted" with St Patrick's recording the win.

The Girls Open Div 3 saw a very determined Ballarat Grammar outfit dictate the terms of the race in the early stages. The BCC crew fought hard through the middle of the race and drew close to their opponents. However, this effort took its toll and the Grammar crew was able to push away towards the line to win the race.

The Boys Div 3 crew had their best race of the season. Although they were blown away at the start by the St Patrick's crew, the smaller BCC crew settled into a fantastic rhythm and matched boat speed with their opponents for the rest of the race through some terrific rowing.

The Girls Div 2 crew had a tremendous battle with their Grammar counterparts for the entire length of the 1500m course. There was never more than a half-boat length between the two crews. Grammar jumped out to an early lead but by the 500m mark the crews were bow-ball to bow-ball. It remained this way for the next 800m with crews "trading blows" every stroke. Neither crew was prepared to give an inch, but with 200m to go the Grammar crew found another gear and created a 30m lead. This they held to the line in one of the closest races seen at the Head of the Lake for many years. It was a great race by our girls that capped off a wonderful season.

The Boys Div 2 race promised to be a thrilling encounter with all four crews winning at different regattas throughout the season. St Patrick's again jumped out to an early lead with the other three crews jostling for second place in the early stages. By the half-way mark the crews had settled down with the St Patrick's crew holding their lead. All four crews fought valiantly as they headed towards the final sprint with our crew forcing their way forward. On the line the St Patrick's crew held on to win the race with our boys finishing a very close fourth. It was a tremendous season by all of these crews that really highlighted the ups and downs of this sport.

The Girls Head of the Lake race was always going to be close, with Grammar and College having raced seven times throughout the season for a 3-4 record. The race followed the usual pattern with the College girls making the best of the start. Out by half a length our crew extended this lead to three-quarters of a length as the crews hit the 500m mark. This is where the Grammar crew had made their push in previous races and this race was to be no exception.

However, instead of moving past the BCC crew as in the past, once level the two crews remained locked in battle for the remainder of the race. It was a thriller with College maintaining their slender lead until the 1200m mark. The Grammar girls moved up to, and then ahead of, the College girls and with less than 200m to go looked to have done enough to finish off the College challenge. With 150m to go, and from somewhere only known to the girls in the crew, the College girls found one last effort and with staggering boat speed pushed up to be level with Grammar.

With ten strokes to go it was Grammar, College, Grammar, College, stroke for stroke. Then two strokes to go – Grammar, College ... finish line!! A photo finish was called. The girls went through an amazing mix of emotions at this time – utter exhaustion, excruciating pain, and nobody knew in either crew who had won.

Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, the loud speakers crackled into life ... "The winner of the 2010 Girls Head of the Lake is ... Ballarat ... College!!" There was an official margin of 20cm and with that result our girls also had won the Jack Netherway Trophy for the Girls Premiership. It was an outstanding race and both crews should be thoroughly proud of their efforts. As is often the case in sport, it was a shame there had to be a winner and a loser in this race.

The final race of the day was the Boys Head of the Lake. Recent form suggested that St Patrick's would be hard to beat but this regatta is different from all other regattas and anything can happen on the day. The College crew had been unable to match the other crews off the start all season; however, by 300m they had found the lost art of starting and, along with St Patrick's, headed the field as the second 500m stage approached. The good start had given our boys some confidence and they rowed with new-found relaxation and rhythm.

St Patrick's was living up to pre-race form and took a commanding lead through this stage of the race. The race for second place hotted up with Ballarat Grammar forcing the issue with our boys. Some tough racing ensued and the final 400m saw the College crew dig very deep to hold Grammar at bay. St Patrick's was too strong for all other comers and went on to record their fourth straight victory. Our boys finished second, with Grammar third and High School in fourth place. It was another great race and our boys should be very proud of their efforts this season. This result cemented our place in second position on the premiership ladder – a result last bettered 15 years ago.