



**GIRL POWER:** Scotch's successful Head of the River first-eight crew, from left, Nicole Solomon, Frances Carter, Amy Withers, Louise Nicholls, Jayne Solomon, Jess Neville-Dortmans, Sally Potter, Annabel Vadasz and Alice Cleghorn.

Picture: DEAN MARTIN.

# Scotch at head of regatta

By LEE JELOSCEK

MORE than eight months of dedication and hard training paid dividends for the Scotch College girls' first-eight rowing crew at the Head of the River over the weekend.

In August, the girls set themselves the target of winning this year's prestigious West Lakes regatta.

Their dream was achieved in emphatic fashion on Saturday, easily accounting for Wilderness and Walford by three lengths in the second fastest time for the event.

Captains Nicole Solomon and Alice Cleghorn said the team's determination to win, coupled with high camaraderie, earned the crew the Florence Eaton Cup.

"We trained really hard to win this," Solomon, 17, said. "We've been training at 5.30am each day,

racing every Saturday and then training again on Sunday.

"This was our first year together and we jelled really well.

"Last year we finished third and the year before fourth, but before we began this season, we set ourselves the target of winning."

Cleghorn said the atmosphere among the crew was electric.

"We were so happy to win, the feeling was unbelievable - it was sensational," the 17-year-old said.

Scotch achieved success in almost every major race, finishing with two wins, four seconds and four thirds. Walford won the girls' second eights comfortably and favorite St Peters captured the schoolboy firsts from Scotch and PAC.