

# PAC, Walford dominate river race



Victory is sweet: The Walford girls celebrate their Head-of-the-River win

By  
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PRINCE Alfred College continued a remarkable year by winning its second consecutive Head-of-the-River at West Lakes yesterday.

Not to be outdone, Walford dominated the girls first eight event to win by four lengths.

PAC edged out rival St Peters College by just under a boat length over the Olympic distance 2000m course.

PAC has had one of its best seasons to date, recently competing in the national championships were it won the under-19 eights title.

In an exciting race, PAC could

never shake off the determined St Peters crew, who always had their bow ball overlapping the PAC stern. St Peters lifted for a great finishing burst which brought the crowd to its feet but PAC held on to win in a slow time of 6 minutes 13.88 seconds.

It was the first time since 1941-42 that PAC has won the Gosse Shield twice in a row.

Walford dominated the girls eight from the start. After 500m it was Walford by half a length to Pembroke with Wilderness and Scotch level a quarter of a length further back.

Over the closing stages Walford pulled away to win by a massive 14.25 seconds — nearly five boat lengths.

Both PAC and Walford also won the second eight races to

complete big doubles for their schools.

Geoff Perry, who is retiring as Walford head coach after 14 years, said he was almost moved to tears by the victory.

“When I saw the crew so far out in front with about 20 seconds to go in the race I choked up and went all misty when I realised it was all over for me after 14 years; but at least they were winning,” he said.

PAC head coach Andrew Stunell said he was rapt for the crew, particularly Aaron Woolston who missed last year's race with a broken thumb.

“They've worked hard for their success,” he said.

PAC also won the Cudmore Cup for first fours.