



**NINE EIGHTS KINGS:** The St Peter's boys' eights celebrate after winning the Head of the River feature event.  
Picture: Stephen Laffer

# Norwood quad queens, as Pembroke, Saints take eights

## ■ ROWING

By DALE CLARKE

NORWOOD Morialta gave itself something to cheer about at Saturday's Head of the River regatta, taking out the Year nine A girls' quad sculls event.

The school won the 1000m event from Walford and Scotch.

In the day's feature events, Pembroke completed a fairytale journey to give the school its first

ever first eight triumph in the girls, while St Peter's showed why it was favourite, winning the boys' event from Pembroke.

After being allowed to row in the final despite being unable to compete in the previous week's qualifying event, the Pembroke girls narrowly beat Walford across the line for the school's first ever first eight triumph.

"Two-seater", **Phillipa Danson** was taken to hos-

pital during qualifying, after the Pembroke boat crashed into a SASI team, Danson's elbow coming off second-best in the clash.

A sensible decision by the coaches and organisers of the event allowed the second-favourite to row in the final.

After an even first half of the 2000m race, Pembroke moved clear by a boat length in the latter stages, but cox **Clemmie Mellor** said the win never felt secure.

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## ROWING

**P**EMBROKE schoolgirls won the Head of the River first eights for the first time at West Lakes yesterday.

Having previously finished second an agonising five times made the school's victory all the sweeter.

And, in the boys' event, a desperate St. Peter's College came from behind to snatch victory over Pembroke.

All the races pulled into a strong headwind, making times slow.

The girls' and boys' first eights events were among the day's closest races.

Last year the Pembroke girls finished runners-up to Walford, which started favourite yesterday for the Florence Eaton Cup.

Pembroke, Walford and Scotch were almost level at the 1000-metre halfway mark.

Walford kept raising its stroke rate and speed, constantly attacking Pembroke over the second half of the race.

But Pembroke, not to be denied, held form beautifully under pressure to cross the finish line almost a boat length in front of Walford and Scotch.

In the boys' race for the Gosse Shield, it was Christian Brothers College which burst out of the start and led early into the strong wind.

By the half-way mark, Pembroke had



**IT'S OURS:** St. Peter's College celebrates its Head of the River win yesterday

taken a small but handy lead over a packed field.

St. Peter's threw out the challenge in the third quarter of the race and looked composed as it crossed the finish line just over a boat length in front of the gallant Pembroke. Scotch was third.

- Phil Mangelsdorf