

OARSOME SAINTS IN NATIONAL WIN



The victorious St Peter's College First VIII rowing crew at the schoolboy's national champions in Tasmania. Picture: Richard Beale

DANIELA ABRACCIAMENTO

IT has taken five decades but South Australia is a gold medallist again in the blue riband national schoolboy's eight rowing race.

St Peter's College's First VIII crew claimed the

Schoolboy's Coxed Eight title at Rowing Australia's National Championships in Tasmania on Sunday, for the first time since 1968.

The historic victory was done the hard way with the team having to qualify through a repechage – a trial

heat giving first-round losers another chance to earn a finals berth. It then won the final from the outside lane in 6min 28.33sec, in head breeze conditions on Lake Barrington.

Five Year 12 students – Nick Burr, Tom Oldfield, Felix

Packer, Jeremy Beale, and cox Aidan Hughes – and four Year 11s – Edward Chipperfield, Faris Harb, Jake Nesbitt and William Howard – formed the crew.

Their coach, triple Olympian James McRae, said it was a gutsy performance.

"They got out fast in the final and got out to a length in front and just held that for the rest of the race."

St Peter's won silver in the men's under-19 Coxed Four and the composite crew with Scotch College won bronze in the under-19 men's eight.

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