

## **Sydney Rowing Club to perform on World stage**

16 year old Sydney Rowing Club athlete Kurt Spencer has been selected to represent Australia at the World Junior Rowing Championships to be held in Amsterdam.

This selection has concluded a very successful domestic season for the Year 11 Newington College student; with many wins at both schoolboy and club level most notably his win in the NSW State Championship under 19 Single Scull and placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in both the under 19 Single Scull and Schoolboys Single Scull at the Australian Championships held in Tasmania in March.

Sydney Rowing Club's Head Coach John Bowes; has also been selected as Head Coach of the Australian Junior Team traveling to the Netherlands at the end of July.

Kurt will be competing in the Quad Sculls event with crew mates Bede Clarke from Manning River, Hugo Struss from Queensland University Boat Club and Alex Scharp from Mercantile Rowing Club in Melbourne. The boys have been training together seven days a week from the Sydney Rowing Club pontoon under the guidance of Coach John Bowes.

17 year old Bede Clarke has moved to Sydney to attend Newington College to complete his HSC studies under the pathways programme while training for the Championships. 18 year old Hugo Struss is taking a year off study to enable him to concentrate on his rowing and 18 year old Alex Scharp is in his first year at Melbourne University.

The World Junior Championships is a significant stepping stone into international competition for these young athletes and the experience gained at such events is invaluable in their future rowing careers. Fifty percent of the 2004 Australian Olympic Team competed for Australia in the Junior category.

The regatta will be held on the Bosbaan which is situated in the Amsterdam Forest and is 15 minutes from the centre of Amsterdam. Over 50 nations and 600 competitors will row on this course over the grueling 4 day regatta each and every one with their hearts set on reaching the finals which will take place on August 5.

A dinner will be held at Dedes Restaurant at Sydney Rowing Club on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of July to farewell the Junior Quad and the coach. The dinner will be Dutch themed, with exciting auction items, raffles, a guest speaker and entertainment by the Dutch Folk Dancing Group. All are welcome to attend please contact the Club for more information or visit [www.sydneyrowingclub.com.au](http://www.sydneyrowingclub.com.au).