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AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESS — FROM PAGE 13

UNIONS: AND THE BATTLE TO BEAT REDUNDANCY

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Perkins buoys our hopes in the pool with a silver



Kieren Perkins in the Olympic pool today... a record-breaking swim by the Queensland goldfish, but one that earned silver

By staff reporters in Barcelona

KIEREN Perkins buoyed Australia's performance in the Olympic pool when he snared a silver in the 400m freestyle early today.

Perkins had been our best hope for gold after the Queenslandster emerged from the heats last night as the fastest qualifier.

But in the big race he was bested by Evgeuni Sadovyi of the CIS who swam the distance in a world record of 3:45.00, shaving 1.47 seconds off Perkins' best. Perkins swam the race in 3:45.16.

Third was Anders Holmertz of Sweden.

Australian Ian Brown was placed fifth.

In a morning of Australian participation in pool finals, Susan O'Neill was placed fifth in the 100m butterfly in a personal best and Commonwealth record.

Phil Rogers, who has a bronze medal to his credit, finished sixth in the 200m breaststroke final at 3am.

Perkins said after his race: "It was great. I'm very happy."

Perkins had said after his qualifier: "For the first time since I arrived here, I felt really strong in the water. I felt powerful."

"I felt strong and smooth in the water, whereas all week

BARCELONA 92
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I've been feeling sluggish and not so good. "But this morning's swim was nice."

Perkins' coach John Carew was an anxious man as he watched from the stands.

"Get into your rhythm, son," he muttered. "Pick up your kick. Swing your legs over faster in the turns."

Perkins satisfied Carew's every demand.

Before the race Perkins was asked the obvious, which was whether he was feeling the pressure of being the hope of the side. He said he was not.

And this isn't even why he is here. Perkins has said many times that the 1500m tomorrow is his target.

Perkins failed to show any real promise until five years ago, when he switched from sprints to longer races.

At 14, he won the Queensland 400m freestyle title and realised he had the ability to swim in the Olympics.

Two years later he became only the third person ever to break 15 minutes in the

1500m freestyle at the 1990 Commonwealth Games.

With his "shovel-like" hands powering him through the water, Perkins broke the world record in the 800m at the Pan Pacific championships in Edmonton in 1991, winning in 14:58.79. He also won the 400m and 800m in world record times. He broke those records again at this year's Pan Pacific Games.

Perkins broke his own 800m world record at the NSW State Open titles in Sydney this year, clocking 7:46.6 in a pool thought to be too shallow to produce world-class times.

Perkins' success lifted the Australian team's spirits after Lisa Curry-Kenny last night began her Olympic comeback just as she finished it eight years ago in Los Angeles — in anger and frustration.

Last night, two children later and aged 30, the oldest woman Olympian ever to swim for Australia again got it wrong in her heat — to again relegate her to the consolation final.

Samantha Riley bounced back from her 200m flop by qualifying third in the 100m breaststroke.

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Pressure on rates as CPI hits 28-year low

Inflation dive puts pay claim in doubt

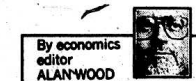
By economics writer LAURA TINGLE and industrial correspondent SHANE GREEN

THE deflationary forces unleashed by the recession continued in the June quarter, when inflation fell by 0.3 per cent to produce an annual rate of 1.2 per cent and put pressure on wage claims and interest rates.

The annual outcome was the lowest since the March quarter of 1964 and was welcomed by the Reserve Bank

Warm nostalgianomics flawed by cold realities

TREASURER John Dawkins has revealed himself as a practitioner of a new branch of the dismal science — Nostalgianomics. At his press conference on the CPI in Canberra yesterday, he was keen to point out that Australia's



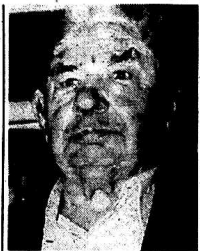
By economics editor ALAN WOOD

about four times those of the

week pay claim in the face of the very low inflation outcome.

"I think the ACTU has got to think very hard about it and I think what we have got to do and what I am sure the ACTU will do is put employment first as an objective for us," he said.

"But we are, at a stage where we have got inflation low — lower than the average of our trading partners — and so it is not as if we could not have some small increase without threatening that objective which we have set ourselves about maintaining an inflation rate below our trading



Mr Berezowsky yesterday

DPP fails in bid to try war crimes

By ROHAN SULLIVAN
A BID to prosecute a second Australian for alleged war crimes failed yesterday

Master photographer dies

MAX Dupain, regarded as the father of modern Australian photography, has died aged 81.

Dupain, whose photography is regarded as capturing the essence of Australian life, died early Monday evening.

At the request of his family his death was not disclosed until after his burial in Sydney yesterday.

Dupain's agent, Mr Richard King, said last night Dupain had been in failing health for the past three months.

Dupain released his last big works in May, the Dupain Gold Series, commissioned by The Australian, which portrayed five Australian Olympic gold medalists.

Friends and admirers paid tribute to Dupain, calling him an inspiration.

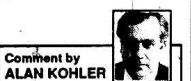
Earlier this year Dupain was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia for services to the visual arts.

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Westpac pays the price

WESTPAC is paying the price for a failure of accountability for the \$1.7 billion loss announced on May 20.

Not only has none of the directors paid the price of losing so much of their shareholders' money but internal succession has occurred within management following the departure of former chief executive officer, Mr Stuart Fowler.



Comment by ALAN KOHLER

provisions for bad and doubtful debts would be a "circuit breaker".

He was wrong — that was just wishful thinking.