



GOLD: Port chief inspector Brian Smith and his dragon boat team won gold in China.

Brian brings home gold

By TANYA WESTTHORP

PORT Police chief inspector Brian Smith and his dragon boat teammates sparked a media frenzy in China recently when they became the first Australians to ever clinch a gold medal in the 2007 Chinese Nanning International Dragon Boat Invitational Games.

The Black Dragon dragon boat racing team returned from China last month amid much fanfare after their

unexpected win in the 500m mixed 20s race.

The team also won silver in the 800m mixed 20s race.

“To race in China, the historical foundation of dragon boating for over 2000 years, was an incredible experience,” Chief Insp Smith said.

“To win a gold and silver medal in the event that they considered their own is something that we will cherish as a group and never forget.”

Chief Insp Smith said

after their win, every Chinese newspaper, TV and Radio Station ran their story and hundreds of people tried to cram into their racing tent forcing organisers to bring in more security.

“We were treated like royalty at the closing ceremony,” he said.

The Invitational Games were held as part of National Dragon Boat Month with 30,000 people lining the banks during the two-day event.