

The bleak morning began with a soft, drizzling rain and grey skies that left visibility down to 200 metres. Ron Snow took this as an opportunity to direct unwary canoeists on a course 90 degrees off true and towards the perils of a hidden group of offshore rocks.

When the race began the canoeists battled through the bludgeoning surf only to have to contend with one and a half metre swells as they got further out. The Coast Guard and a couple of volunteer boat owners were on hand to guide us towards Dunk Island and to help any canoeists if they got into any difficulties. On reaching the island the canoeists were recorded as they went around a parked boat and headed back for the starting point at Mission Beach.

Gary Pickering and Ron Snow came first in the TK2 section beating Doug Boundy and Wayne Porche by a couple of metres after a short dash up the beach. Their time was 1 hour 30 minutes 50 seconds. Their time was the second fastest overall with Malcolm Buchanan taking out the fastest time on a Ski. in a time of 1 hour 29 minutes 20 seconds. John Van Ryt was first home in the TK1 class in a time of 1 hour 46 minutes 20 seconds with Greg Van Ryt second in 1 hour 47 minutes 45 seconds. Jan Van Ryt came in fourth with a time of 2 hours 3 min. "Not bad for an old man!" Adam Davies was unlucky to break his rudder just after leaving Dunk Is. as he was leading the Tk1 section at that stage.

After the race there was prize-giving and presentations in a 4TO Double-Decker bus with a few local ministers on hand to make speeches and give prizes. The end of the event was organized into a fair-fete type atmosphere with musicians and stalls of all kinds present. Congratulations must go, apart from the Mt. Isa canoeists, to the Tully Lions Club for organizing the race for the first time and even though the weather was dismal and it drizzled half the time, the whole event was successful.

RESULTS (16km) RECORD TIME : 1hour 28min. 50sec

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|-----------------------------|------------|----------|---------|
| 1. Malcolm Buchanan | Townsville | Surf Ski | 1:29:20 |
| 2. Ron Snow/G. Pickering | Mount Isa | TK2 | 1:30:50 |
| 3. Doug Boundy/Wayne Porche | Edmonton | TK2 | 1:30:52 |
| 4. Mark Nielsen | Townsville | Surf Ski | 1:34:00 |
| 5. Byron Jones | Tully | K1 | 1:37:21 |
| 6. Jeff Mitchell/ ? | Townsville | TK2 | 1:40:00 |
| 7. John Van Ryt | Mount Isa | TK1 | 1:46:20 |
| 8. Greg Van Ryt | " " | " | 1:47:45 |
| 9. Stephen Kerr/Bernie Dobe | Gordonvale | TK2 | 1:52:27 |
| 10. John Scheu | Innisfail | K1 | 1:53:42 |
| 11. Gary Andrews | Tully | TK1 | 2:03:00 |
| 12. Jan Van Ryt | Mount Isa | " | 2:03:00 |
| 13. Ken Butler | Cairns | K1 | 2:15:41 |
| 14. Ken Francis | " | " | 2:15:41 |
| 15. Adam Davies | Mount Isa | TK1 | Retired |
| 16. Emiel Hoogland | Mackay | K1 | Retired |

SPRINT-REGATTA BUNDABERG ↓