

16-9-'84

DUNK ISLAND CANOE RACE

By Steve McLay

Imagine swaying palms, white coral sands and a calm clear blue sea and then add a canoe race and you've got the Mission Beach to Dunk Island Canoe Race - true magic.

By the start at 11.00 am the weather was humid and hot and there was a pretty disorderly start through the small waves as every kind of boat set off. There were skis, TK1's, TK2's, a DRR2, a sea kayak, canadians, slalom kayaks and a C1.

To my surprise two skis soon overtook us and then led all the way to finish 3 minutes ahead of us in 1 hour 23 minutes, a new record. Mike and I stuck like glue to the DRR2 (with a trailing rudder) as they had set a new race record the year before. We eventually outsprinted them near the line to equal last years record, win the TK2 section (which the DRR2 was in) and come third overall to the two skis. (By the way the C1 stayed with us for 3/4 hour!).

The race is part of a day long fair on the beach with drinks, burgers, and various goods stalls and beach sprints and sand castle competitions for the kids.

Some names well known in Isa were there - Dennis Shaw easily won the TK1 but was disqualified for assistance after tipping in the bedlam at the start, Bruce Laurie won the K1 in his DRR and John Scheu was in there somewhere too.

