

19-8-'84

A TRIP TO THE FITZROY BY JIM WRIGHT

Its after midnight, all set to leave for the 41 km Fitzroy River Marathon. With the family in the new wagon, we were on the road before 1 am. Apart from a game of dodgems all night until we got to Winton, in which time one kangaroo decided to try out the roo-bar on the front, causing very little damage to the car not saying the same for the kangaroo, the rest of the trip was uneventfull. We arrived at Rockhampton about four o'clock on Friday afternoon. This was the right time to settle back for a long awaited coldie. We decided to get to Rocky with a day to spare, so that the day could be spent lazing around, BUT, this was not to be. About 10.30 on Saturday morning a phone call from Alpha, HELP!, the mighty Kingwood had finally failed, and a very disheartened Snow was stuck for a solution. Ron's car had a broken differential, he had just enough oil to drive the car back to Alpha to put it back on the train to Mt Isa.

This was solved by a days drive to Alpha and back with a load of canoes. Sunday morning put us at the start of the race, after the night before was spent talking to the race officials and deciding what we were going to paddle. I finally decided to paddle a borrowed K1, which proved to be a poor decision, when I had to stop less than half way through the race, with no circulation in my legs, from a seat that was too small. After jacking myself up on my life-jacket, I was back on the way, but lost too much distance from the leaders to catch up again, so finished third in what was quite a good race, that had a similar finish to the Championships at Easter with power-boats and skiers tearing up the water for the last couple of kilometres. Bart Van Der Meer proved too strong and paddled well to win the K1 and fastest time, with Dennis Shaw, our N.W.C.C. member from Townsville coming in second and myself third.

While I was doing this, Ron Snow was having his own battle with a couple of the locals in the TK1 class, and finished second. Only seconds behind the winner Nev Byron.