

FIERCE COMPETITION AT THE NATIONALS

Over Easter the Australian Marathon Titles were held on the Brisbane River, from the Toowong Rowing Club at St. Lucia upstream for 21 km and returning. The Titles bring together the best Australian paddlers, and forms the selection from the open international classes for our 16 member overseas team to contest the World Marathon Canoe Championships in Nottingham, England, in July. Competition is keen and a couple of C2 teams took it so seriously that they had a punch-up at the turnaround portage.

The international classes of the men's and women's K1, K2, C1 and C2 had, in addition to the 42 km paddle, two portages of over 250 m each. Juniors and veterans over 45 paddled 20 km, while the other classes paddled a straight 42 km. The first day consisted of the singles, with doubles on the second.

The weather on the first day was showery to hot and steamy, while the second day was kinder with rain and cooler conditions. The river is tidal and the current strong. The tides favourably suited most with an incoming tide for the upstream trip and turning for the return. Paddling the Brisbane River is not like on the lake, with its currents and eddies. Because of the strong incoming tide, keeping a straight line for the start was difficult.

On the first day about 150 kayaks and canoes covering different age divisions took to the water in the international and touring classes. Over 70 craft took part in the doubles on the second day.

Ten Mount Isa club members journeyed to Brisbane and entered in one or both day's competition to test their skill and strength against the best. Unfortunately on the first day a number of our men, Jim, Jeff and Mal, were forced to withdraw, and Shane's water syphoned from his water container before the start forcing him to paddle the first 15 km in a dehydrated state before finding water.

On the second day, Jim came good and paddled an excellent race with Glen; but misfortune struck again with Mal almost passing out and giving Shane a big fright in the Open TK2 event when they were up with the lead. However it was not all gloom for Mount Isa.

Jim Wright and Glen Keoghan, paddling the "Great White Whale" in the international C2 class, placed fourth in a time of 3 hrs 24 mins 29.9 secs, just 5 mins 55 secs behind first place. The race was won by K. Phillips and L. Tunbridge, with I. Docking and R. Fenwick second, after placing first in the World Cup. It was a great feat considering the opposition had far lighter and more streamlined craft, which were mere shells. They'll be right next time though, as the craft that placed second has been purchased. Heard talk of the "Great White Whale" being turfed in the river, but enough debris was already flowing downstream after recent rains.

Jason Mikkelson, teaming up with a Western Australian, placed third in the Junior K2 in a time of 1 hr 35 mins 34.7 secs, a mere 3 mins off the lead. Jason also placed fifth in the Junior K1 on the first day, with Steven Jenje and Michael Tsiamis placed further back.

Marilyn Drynan, teaming up with Neil Dalgliesh of Katherine, placed first in the Mixed TK2 class in a time of 3 hrs 27 mins 19.3 secs. Sue Silburn and Lindsay Becks came third, just 2 mins 3 secs behind, with Vicky Pickering (ex-Isa) and partner fourth.

Marilyn had paddled the day before in the open international K1 class when there was no Veteran 35 K1 class, and placed 9th out of 12 entrants in a time of 3 hrs 30 mins 46.9 secs. Its back to the drawing board in the K1 class as these women are so incredibly fast. Jane Hall, 18.5 mins ahead, won the Women's K1 class after placing third in the World Cup. John Jacoby won the Open Men's K1, keeping up the winning streak from the three World Cup wins.

Steve McLay placed second in the Vet 35 TK1 but was forced to withdraw on the second day when he partnered Alan Corney.

Gary Pickering paddled the first day in the Veteran 35 TK1, but not the second, leaving his partner to paddle with Vicky in the Mixed TK2. She'd missed the first day being the only Open or Veteran 35 TK1 entrant.

Ron Snow, paddled Veteran 45 TK1 but pulled out of the second day's competition, leaving his partner Neil Dalgliesh stranded and disappointed till successfully teaming up with Marilyn.

Next year's Titles will be held in South Australia. Competition at the Nationals is fierce, but there's still 11 months left to train.

CLUB MEMBERS LEAVING TOWN

Mike and Regina Dinon are leaving Mount Isa and going to Adelaide to live. Both Mike and Regina have been Secretary for the Club over past years, with Mike taking over from Regina in January 1986 and continuing until his resignation this month.

The Club would like to thank them for their valuable contribution over the years, and wish them well in their new life.

NEW CLUB SECRETARY

Following the resignation of Mike Dinon, Sue Silburn has accepted the position of Club Secretary.

Welcome aboard Sue.

Special thanks to Marilyn Drynan for the detailed report on the Aust. Marathon Titles.

It makes an Editor's job a lot easier.

(any volunteers for a report on the Gregory Race?)

GKF