

2021 Noosa Paddlegaine Organisers Report

Last November Adam Power asked if we were interested in organising the next paddlegaine on the Noosa River, the opportunity to organise an event close to home was too good to say no. We were keen to plan a course that took in the variety of scenery along the Noosa River from the luxurious waterfront properties; log cabin houseboats; the busy tourist zone to the quiet narrow mangrove lined watercourses.

Our main concern for the course design was its linear nature and not being able to provide a variety of route options that had been offered by the previous bayside paddlegaines with many islands. A central HH and an even distribution of points in each direction was designed to make teams weigh up the distance to paddle, against tidal movement and potential shallow areas.

The original course was only 'just' clearable by the strongest teams if weather conditions on the day were perfect, however, a condition of the Marine Services Qld approval forced us to abandon CP91 which shortened the course by about 1.8km or approximately 14 minutes, resulting in a course that could be cleared.

The Noosa event maintained the tradition of previous paddlegaines by selling out a month before close of entries, on the day we had 53 teams compete. Teams were of all abilities ranging from those doing a leisurely 2 hours to the three mens teams that cleared the course.

First and second placed teams cleared the shortened course with a comfortable seven minutes or less to spare (Dave Schloss and Leo Theoharis 1320 points in 3:52:57, Gary Sutherland and Clint Falla 1320 points in 3:53:51). *If CP91 had been available teams would have had to gamble on their ability to clear the course or make a decision to drop a lower value CP to avoid late penalties could have been very interesting.*

Trevor Mullins and Sara Bennet were first in the mixed and mixed veteran categories (5th outright) with 1240 pts - finishing with 15 minutes to spare and may have regretted dropping CP81 under the bridge in Crank Creek.

Kim Beckinsale and Ali Wright were first in the women's and women's veteran categories (7th outright) with 1230 points. On the same score were novice team of Phil Munson and Chris Barnes.

Aaron and Andrew Scott won the family category with 810 points and Ultra vets Sue Clarke and Walter Kelerman took out the mixed supervet category with 740 points.

Full results with splits are at <http://act.rogaine.asn.au/navlight/QRA/2021-Paddlegaine/html/results.html>

The feedback we received was positive, a great day was had on the river. This is really good to hear from an organiser's perspective! The success of the event is not possible without the other volunteers who assisted in running the event. A big thanks to:-

Joe Biggs (not a rogainer!) who provided and captained the safety boat patrolling the course

Craig Steffans - our safety official

Sandra Pearce - manning CP32, photographing teams

Anthony Della - who did a bit of everything from photography, loading/unloading kayaks, setting up, plus manning CP32

John Wevers and Linda Thompson - our course veters and hangers, car park directers and early morning HH setup assistants.

Peter Blyton - the essential admin person downloading the navlight results and publishing the results

Adam Power - the provider of valuable advice when planning the event, organised MSQ approvals and provision of kayaks

Mark & Tamara Wilson - kayak setup, delivering, loading and offloading (and still competed!)

and finally our volunteers who brought in the CP's -

Janet Southern and Albert Van Der Wyk; Darren and Fiona Quinn; Steve Amor and Anne; and Jan Leverton & Kim Beckinsale.

See you all at the 2022 Paddlegaine

Michael & Janelle Schafer