



“Crede quod habes at habes”

Well, another Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is over. It was a beautiful moonlit night, some LCRK paddlers well and truly broke a number of records, others with excellent placings, and many others challenged themselves through their own races. The Club had 30 boats starting with 35 paddlers paddling. Indications are that over half of Club members were involved in some form – either paddling, landcrewing, or just generally helping out before, during or after the event. The 2015 Hawkesbury Classic was a little down on the usual LCRK participation – due to a combination of planned and unplanned absences from Club Members and an unexplained drop in the usual influx of HCC newcomers to the Club. Our numbers were nevertheless bolstered by some long term LCRK supporters – more of which later.

Paul Van Koesveld offered the following message prior to his departure on a well earned overseas trip: *“a quick congratulation to all our paddlers who put in many wonderful performances in the river. Much more important is our thanks to the many club members who selflessly supported our paddlers as landcrew and/or LCRK base volunteers - there is nothing like being knee to thigh deep in cold river water into the early morning hours to make you feel alive, highly appreciated and maybe keen to paddle instead next year. Tony H again provided wonderful equipment and transport support. Thanks also to Brianna Lees and her friends for the excellent catering they provided to LCRKers at Wisemans. Many of us also volunteered directly to the HCC organisers in roles such as scrutineers, showbag assemblers, marshals and, of course, Roger Deane at the centre of the action on the day and heavily involved all year along with Richard Barnes in making the event happen”.*

At Windsor, it was clear that the representation from the New England region was formidable with several local schools TAS, NEGS and PLC Armidale banding together and the University of New England (DDS Kayaking Club) well represented. A corner of Macquarie Park at oval was a veritable sea of students, parents, kayaks, buses and 4WD's and reportedly made up a 5th of 2015 HCC entrants! A great effort and exactly the sort of participation the HCC needs, although our long term dominance of the Commonwealth Cup now has some serious competition. Will we retain for 2015??



Results

In terms of results, we had an excellent showing, raising the bar for 2016 substantially in a number of categories.

We had five record breakers. Glen Orchard our fastest finisher, took 6 minutes off the ORS V40 category finishing 1st in his class in 8:51:35 (4th fastest outright). Joy and Rich Robinson paddling in SSK2 Mixed 40 took a full 1hr off the existing Open Record by finishing in 9:28:31 (7th fastest outright). Roz Green took 28 minutes off the ORS L50 record to finish in 12:47:59. Anjie Lees took a full 1hr 20 minutes off the UN1 L40 record to finish in 11:41:14. David Young broke the ORS V50 category by some 20 minutes finishing in 9:25:03.

Two more paddlers were within 1 hour of the record; Tom Holloway completing the LREC Open in 10:28:37 (around 50 minutes off the record) and Ruby Gamble in LREC Open in 10:48:01 (around 45 minutes off the record). Peter Fitzgerald came in first in the Brooklyn or Bust category (9:48:30) and good placings were evident across the categories.

Special mention goes to Antoni Lewinski (70+ BOB paddler) who persevered to finish his first race in 18:14:55. Make sure you read his race report.

The full list of LCRK performances is shown in the table below.

Class	Craft No.	Distance	Paddler (s)	Elapsed Time	Place desc	Handicapped Time
Brooklyn or Bust	180	111	Peter Fitzgerald	9:48:30	1 of 60 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust	122	111	Richard Yates	11:08:28	4 of 60 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust	281	111	Darren Williams	11:11:04	5 of 60 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust	272	111	Graham Cleland	11:11:10	6 of 60 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust	175	111	Craig Salkeld	11:11:12	7 of 60 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust	104	111	Eric Filmlter	13:52:22	23 of 60 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust	234	111	Tony Murphy	14:07:23	28 of 60 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust	186	111	Chris Thompson	14:26:29	29 of 60 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust	155	111	Kenji Ogawa	14:59:43	32 of 60 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust	243	111	Antoni Lewinski	18:14:55	53 of 60 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust	276	47.4	Chris Quirk (MW)	4:58:00	58 of 60 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust	269	31.2	Craig Ellis	3:18:00	59 of 60 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust 2	111	111	Linden Barnes, Richard Barnes (SU)	13:46:41	15 of 49 entrants	
Brooklyn or Bust 2	270	65	Tim Dodd, Ian Wilson	6:55:00	46 of 49 entrants	
Mixed Open - K2	128	111	Jonathan Papalia, Suzie Rhydderch (MW)	11:30:25	1 of 1 entrants	12:04:56
Mens Open - LREC	232	111	Tom Holloway	10:28:37	1 of 1 entrants	10:41:11
Mens Veteran 40+ - LREC	165	111	John Harrison	11:08:10	2 of 3 entrants	11:01:29
Mens Veteran 50+ - LREC	230	111	Peter Millard	11:38:03	2 of 7 entrants	11:10:07
Ladies Open - LREC	164	111	Ruby Gamble	10:48:01	1 of 1 entrants	9:30:15
Mens Open - LREC2	268	111	Luke Heasman, Kyle Wilson	10:37:59	2 of 2 entrants	11:22:38
Mens Veteran 50+ - LREC2	187	111	Paul van Koesveld, Matthew Swann	10:29:48	2 of 3 entrants	10:29:48
Mens Veteran 50+ - MREC	266	111	Jeffrey Tonazzi	12:11:21	2 of 6 entrants	11:27:28
Mens Veteran 50+ - MREC	258	65	Wade Rowston	8:07:00	5 of 6 entrants	
Mens Veteran 50+ - MREC	240	31.2	Oscar Cahill	4:49:00	6 of 6 entrants	
Mens Veteran 40+ - ORS1	279	111	Glen Orchard	8:51:35	1 of 10 entrants	9:23:28
Mens Veteran 50+ - ORS1	217	111	David Young	9:25:03	1 of 3 entrants	9:42:00
Ladies Veteran 50+ - ORS1	102	111	Rozanne Green	12:47:59	1 of 2 entrants	11:15:49
Mixed Veteran 40+ - SSK2	235	111	Joy Robinson, Richard Robinson	9:28:31	1 of 1 entrants	9:17:08
Mens Veteran 50+ - UN1	101	111	John Duffy	11:15:48	1 of 1 entrants	11:36:04
Ladies Veteran 40+ - UN1	286	111	Anjie Lees	11:51:14	1 of 1 entrants	10:47:13

Fundraising

The HCC reports some \$145,000 of committed fundraising from the 2015 event. Of this LCRK has in total contributed some \$30,000 – noting that over HALF of this is due to the efforts of Peter Fitzgerald (in particular) and his team (an informal group of buddies who go by the tag of SHOCkers - Sydney Harbour & Ocean Kayakers).

Funds raised go to the Arrow Bone Marrow Foundation and you can read about them [here](#) Darren from the SHOCkers has actually been a beneficiary of the Arrow Foundation and his journey can be read at the Arrow website [here](#). His 2015 race race reflections are well worth a read as well.

Race Conditions

Local Colour

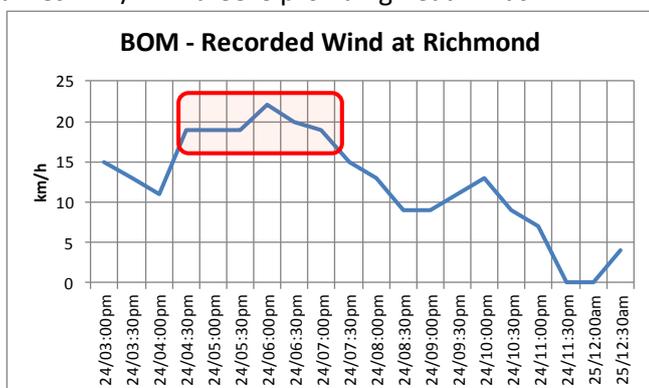
The 100 odd kilometres of the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic can be almost guaranteed to yield the full spectrum of humanity both on and off the water.

Paddlers experienced lowlights such as aspiring locals using the river as a golf driving range, oblivious to (or perhaps because of) the paddlers, trailbike riding eggthrowers, and run-of-the mill hecklers with limited vocabulary.

This was offset by people simply enjoying the spectacle and offering encouragement of all forms.

The Elements

Many paddlers reported some challenges with the wind, chop and tide coming out of Windsor. BOM observations at Richmond (nearest station) confirmed a fresh NE/NNE breeze providing headwinds.



Tidal flow was on the ebb at the startline for the BOB1, but value was rapidly diminished for later starters who then had to tough it out to Sackville and beyond. An outgoing tide benefitted most coming into

Wisemans and then onto Spencer with fast finishers able to take advantage of the ebb almost to the finish line. Later finishers faced a tough incoming tide – for which paddling faster or skipping stops were the only option.

The moon remained bright (and useful!) for much of the night finally pitching the river into inky darkness around 4am.

The Stops

LCRKers provided superb volunteer support at all the key stop points. At the risk of missing people – John Harris, Tim McNamara, Tony Carr, Jana Osveld at Windsor. Don Rowston, Don Johnstone, Derek Simmonds and Jana Osveld at Sackville. Tony Hystek, Tony Mathers, Dave Hammond, Jana Osveld Tim McNamara and Don Rowston at Wisemans. And David Veivers and Tim McNamara (again!) at the finish.

Landcrew were invariably getting into the spirit of the event as well and whilst we can't name them all it was certainly good to see long time LCRKer Justin Payne again involved.

Of particular note at Wisemans was the LCRK catering facility which had a banquet available for all the helpers (and any paddlers with a flexible balanced diet). Catering was provided by Brianna Lees and the Rovers – and facilitated by Anjie Lees who spent much of Saturday shopping/prepping/cooking. Thank you all!



Brianna Lees and Rovers provided 5 Star Wisemans Catering

Classic Quotes

See if you can recognise the kayaker!

- *"I didn't stop at Wisemans, I was worried my daughter would pull me out of the race...."*
- *"Do you know what she means when she asked for her water to be changed? I thought she said she definitely wouldn't want her water changed."*
- *"I had a 35km washride on the outrigger of an OC6"*
- *"Don's offers for massage make me laugh, I just can't go there"*
- *"well HE doesn't know where he's going then"*
- *"COME ON RICHARDDDD COME ON RICHARDDDDDD"*
- *"no no no no no no salt and vinegar, salt and vinegar, salt and vinegar, yes those ones those ones those ones open them up open them up quick quick hurry right lets go lets go turn it round turn it round turn it round yep yep yep garrrooooggggaaarr"*

The Post-HCC BBQ & Awards

On Wednesday 28 October, having had a few days to recover, there was a good showing at the LCRK BBQ where stories were shared and excuses offered.



Roger & Mark providing post HCC protein

LCRK's Perpetual Trophies were awarded to:-

Fastest Lane Cove Finisher – Glen Orchard

Glen finished in a time of 8:51:35 in his Fenn Glide, shaving some 6 minutes off the ORS V40 record – all the more impressive given the tides on the night. He was the fourth fastest paddler in the 2015 HCC (the fastest being the Slade brothers in 8:46:43).



Glen receiving his award from Tom Holloway at the BBQ

Fastest Lane Cove Finisher on Handicap

Joy and Richard Robinson paddling a SSK2 finished in an overall time of 9:28:31 with a handicapped time of 9:17:08. They were actually the 7th fastest paddlers in the overall race.



Joy and Rich making a flying stop at Wisemans

Stories from HCC 2015

The following selection of stories (in no particular order) was offered by those either present at the LCRK BBQ night or separately via email. It includes paddlers and land based volunteers. Apologies if you're missing – editorial deadlines!!

Antoni Lewinski

"I didn't stop at Wisemans, I was worried my daughter would pull me out of the race...."

I truly wanted to have HCC Medal for completing the race. Somehow I believed I could achieve this.

"Crede quod habes at habes" as the Romans say < Believe that you have it, and you do> . and now I can say that too.

My HCC time could be 1hrs (Approx) better if not for injury to my lower back I sustained at last stage of the race. I did Sackville to Spencer in one go skipping Wisemans (2AM)stop to save outgoing tide. It wasn't wise as "determination defied logic

So.. I have attached 2 one at the start (you can easily notice on my face a degree of trepidation) and the other shows how my Hawkesbury adventure ended, quite telling... before I could lift my butt (with some helping hands)...I was surprised with lightning speed Medal Presentation! ... overwhelming... and touching too...

Then medical staff had me checked (thoroughly). Their assessment was a bit enigmatic – 'Lumbar Facet Joints Injury' which prevented me from sitting upright in the kayak during paddling over the last hour and a half or so.

Otherwise I was quite OK, and one of them even suggested I could be sent paddling back to Windsor. Young cheeky bugger!



Antoni at the start



Antoni pleased to be finished....

I would like to say thank you to all LCRK paddlers who helped me in my preparation to HCC, especially Duncan, Paul Van Koesveld, Eric ,Wade, Tony Hystek. and Tony Carr

May I use this occasion to dedicate a piece of poetry by A.Guest to new and future members of LCRK who think "It could be done"!

It Couldn't Be Done

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But, he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one has done it";
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Edgar Albert Guest ~1917

... and so did !!! Tony Lewinski 2015

Peter Fitzgerald and the Shockers

SHOCKERS is simply an informal group of regular paddling buddies the 'Sydney Harbour & Ocean Kayakers' many of whom are now LCRK Members. Reproduced below is the summary report Peter Fitzgerald (Fitz!) prepared for his team and supporters.



SHOCKERS Cancer Fundraising about \$19,735 this year <\$16365 of this specific to LCRK> – total raised since 1998 now \$ 181,370.

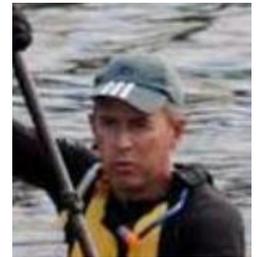
Six Paddlers – Singles - Craig Salkeld (3rd) + Graham Cleland (3rd) + Darren Williams (9th) + Fitz (18th)
Mirage Double - John Fitz (5th) & Michael (1st)
Firstly thanks so much to our great ground crew again - especially Kellie who flew in to help John and Noel and Co – man he needed help as he landed Friday from Adelaide - threw his back out Friday – emergency physio & panadeine forte got him through.

Also great to see yet again young Reece assisted by Anne! Beth and Sally - the Wisemans stop was pure clockwork ! Thanks team.

Training was interesting this year doing loads of kms every week & joining Lane Cove. Darren had blood clots / daily thinning injections meaning he had to keep his Garmin monitor below 150 - alarms regularly ringing off at 5 am in the dark of Bobbin Head winter. Craig's wrist swelled like a football on the 70 km Wisemans run and Fitz's personality disorder was at its all-time worst as we trained harder than any year before. We all felt for Brendan who had trained with us but got a virus that laid him up – next year mate! Now the evening highlights? Conditions...tad windy but pretty perfect night with wonderful moonlight..

The thing about the event...something always happens...John and Michael thought it was a Mirage but it was just Spencer FOG. They got lost for hours in Spencer Fog - John and Michael took the long way home doing laps from Spencer to Berowra and back before deciding to go to Brooklyn and finish...Adding 2 plus hours and my guess 10-15 km to the round trip!!

Craig <Salkeld> set this new toy Garmin that does everything but paddle to alarm and tell him to eat every hour but it decided every minute was better – by Sackville he was either full or ran out of food !



From Michael in his first year “I have done some reasonably extreme events in my life including marathons in New York, London & Berlin; the Rottneest Island swim (19km), swimming across the Dardanelles, climbing Table Mountain, etc however the Hawkesbury Classic is up there for being the toughest. The duration of the event, competing at night, being at the mercy of the weather - all a challenge which I did not fully comprehend until I was actually out there on the water. It is a great feeling and extremely rewarding to know that John & I successfully completed the event, albeit a little delayed. The 2015 finishing time sets an easily beaten benchmark future.”



From Graham – “Plan executed - Wow what a paddle with a great team of blokes. Fitz disappeared into the sunset from the very start never to be seen by us for the next 9 hours 48 minutes. Craig off hard in the wake of three strong paddles. Darren settled into steady warm up pace and I was somewhere in between. The pace was on and by the time we reached Sackville we were all together and that's how we paddled the rest of the race all the way to the end - a strong team. Windy conditions for first three hours with favourable tide pushing us along. A beautiful moon and star filled sky provided spectacular conditions for the rest of the journey. We all went through highs and lows but stuck together - Darren could have sprinted away from us but chose to stay with Craig and I - thanks mate! Nothing better than spotting Brooklyn bridge in the distance coming through the final channel and crossing the finish line. Congrats to Fitz on six months of planning to reach your goal and thanks to Darren and Craig for sharing a great event. Don't mention next year!”



From Darren <Williams> – “ The usual tough tides spiced up with some strong winds to kick off. As I was under doctors orders to keep my heart rate down I watched with growing depression as the lead group in the BoB pulled away from me. In true HCC survival form I settled into a good rhythm and was surprised to catch some of those who had dropped me by Sackville. Feeling good I pulled away leaving

Sackville only to be hit by spells of dizziness probably related to coming of the blood thinners the Monday before the race and my body still adjusting. It was getting a little scary and I was contemplating pulling out if I could make it to Wisemans when two mates I train with (Craig & Graham) caught up with me. I now had my own escort and by Wisemans was feeling good again. A pack was made to finish together if the three of us were still holding the same pace by the High Tide Pit Stop.

We all went through some tough patches but remained together past Pit Stop until Graham hit a fast tempo as another LCRK paddler came past and disappeared into the dark while I remained with Craig who was taking his turn to go through paddlers hell. A race was a race and we respected Graham had hit a sweet spot and wanted to finish well (plus were looking forward to months of paying out on him from breaking our pack) however the HCCC brings out the best of us and as we rounded Bar Point we found Graham bobbing around waiting for us. From there we paddled strongly and finished together, I think going through the tough times and having your mates beside you were again the highlight of the 2015 HCCC for me. "



From Fitz – All in all a successful night – after 18 years and previously only achieving the 10 hour mark with my old partner Craig Badings in a double...I finally cracked it in a ski...and even got line honours...albeit in non-competitive class !!

Glen Orchard

Fastest Lane Cover in race (8' 51")

Glen shaved some 6 minutes off the ORS V40 record – all the more impressive given the tides on the night. For me, it is always a mental game – I have 'ups' and I have 'downs'. After leaving Windsor, the wind felt like I was out on the Ocean and the first 4 hours were the toughest. I had about 5 swims.



Joy & Rich Robinson

(Fastest double on handicap – and with the LCRK trophy to go with it)



... it was a good night with excellent LCRK support, particularly the guys in the water at Wisemans. We're not getting in a kayak for a few weeks but will come down one Wednesday night sometime soon.

Paul van Koesveld & Matt Swann

On the highs? How easy it was for Matt and my cadence and temperament to match with little time together in the boat; this meant that for much of the time it felt like "just floating along". Also that there were no tricky conditions (fog at Spencer or eddies at Bar Point) to handle when we were getting very tired.



On the lows? That we suddenly lost synch totally with 2-3 km to go and had to stop several times and slow down the rating even further just to make the finish line, costing us several minutes. That Matt wasn't born 8 days earlier, allowing us to contest the 60+ division and earn the club a few more points in our defence of the Commonwealth Bank Cup.

On finishing? Pretty wrecked but less so than previous attempts. After I cooled down, my right elbow told me it will be very pleased to have a month's rest from paddling.

On the journey? The tide against came in much earlier than anticipated after the start and we had reasonably strong NNE headwinds in three of the early reaches making us feel a bit despondent about our speed. However, this was compensated, for us, by the falling tide extending almost to Spencer with flat water all the way; 13+km/h felt pretty good. The

moon light stayed with us all the way to Mooney Mooney and was delightful; it is most reassuring when you can see both banks in the wider sections of the river. No fluorescence though.

On the volunteers? The HCC volunteers were excellent and seemed to be in a very positive mood, smiles all around. Our own club volunteers, including the many HCC scrutineers, show bag assemblers and marshals, were out in force and our club bases were fully staffed by club members who knew what they were doing, were exceedingly helpful and willing to put themselves out to look after our paddlers and landcrews. It was great to see Steve Russell come out of the woodwork to assist everywhere, including in the deep water at midnight. Brianna Lees and her catering team provided great food and service.

On this vs previous HCC's? The weather was really good but numbers were down again. Roger again organised a top team of helpers.

Don Johnstone

(LCRK Sackville spotter and beach duties)

On the highs? - Arriving at Sackville to be dumbstruck by the view, looking out over a magnificent cliff face with the sun setting and paddlers soon coming into view. Spotting a bedraggled Ruby from my lookout on the point at Sackville, only 4 minutes behind her target time despite having gone for a swim. Hearing John Duffy arrive to the accompaniment of a great playlist of <his> old <Slim Dusty> favourites, and to share his joy at being part of such a great event. Sitting on the hill with Don R and Derek hearing tales from years gone by

One of the great joys of being at Sackville as every LCRK paddler passed through was to see the range of different temperaments of the paddlers and the variety of requests for support. One in particular I found amusing, Rozanne Green, who was clearly on a mission and didn't want to be delayed by an incompetent land crew. She barked some orders about changing her water then disappeared up the slope for a comfort break, reminding her crew several more times to change her water and asking why it hadn't yet been changed. When she'd disappeared her crew turned to each other and said "Do you know what she means when she asked for her water to be changed? I thought she said she definitely wouldn't want her water changed." Anyway, they managed to find spare water and got something sorted and she came back and said "Why did you do that?" and then off she went down the river... It took me back to when my

first child was born and I spent ages preparing for all the ways I could be of help during labour but when it started all that preparation went straight out the window and I felt absolutely useless.

Jeffrey Tonazzi

On the highs? Nurofen.

On the lows? Incoming tide at the end killed me.

On finishing? Wobbly, and flat when I found out my time.

On the journey? Wind slowed my first leg, but the Epic V8 took on the waves straight down the middle of the river with the tide, whilst all the kayaks headed to shore. I passed a few in that section.

On the volunteers? Anyone putting themselves out for the cause is fantastic.

On this vs previous HCC's? They all give you different conditions, which is great, as it adds to the challenge.

And? Very proud of some of the LCRK achievers,

race records on bad tides. In awe of Glen Orchard the way he motors down the river. I think Glen passed me at Check Point C, having started an hour behind me



Oscar Cahill

I knew that I was in for a bit of a challenge as just before the start, a local teenager dropped out of a tree and tried to capsize me with a big bomb next to the boat. No such luck! After the first 25km I was feeling confident as I had



battled the wind, big chop and tide and was well on schedule and feeling good. But in glassy calm water, almost just in front of the "lively" locals at C (whose use of the English language was restricted to mostly words beginning with 'f'), I went for a swim. I was good for the next 2km, but the cold then crept in. The low point was arriving at Sackville, wet, freezing, shivering and knowing that my number was up. Ian and Jana were a huge support to me there, which was also a high point of the night, knowing that such help was there.

My landcrew, Ian and Ciara, were fantastic from the beginning all the way to my finish. You can't do the HCC without them! And I had super support from all club members and the HCC volunteers. All were super from well before the start, to assistance when I had

my swim, to physio in Sackville. This year wasn't my year, but I loved all the training, the club support, and being a little part of such an amazing and well organised event.

John Duffy

I found it a bit tougher than usual and the incoming tide and wind at the start obviously had something to do with that as I figure I paid for it later. I was extremely tired for the last hour and no amount of music, singing or shouting to myself was going to change that. I even made the rookie mistake of going wide on the turn between N and O thinking the river turned the other way. It wasn't until I could smell the finish line at Bar Point that the tiredness lifted. I committed last year to take this year's event slightly less seriously and that made the whole experience more fun. Highlights were as usual "meeting" lots of paddlers on the river, although I only passed a handful of LCRKers. Plus the moon which was a welcome addition this year and also our club helpers at Sackville, Wisemans and of course the finish line. Lowlights? Just so bloody tired. I'll be back.



Anjie Lees

4th Hawkesbury Classic done and dusted in 11hours 51min. 1 hour 20min off the UN1 record. Special thanks to [Clayton](#) for land crewing especially when I was a little grumpy at Sackville coming last. Found some fellow



[Yukon River Quest](#) paddlers in an OC6 "the Mighty Minions" and had a lovely cruise from checkpoint E to Wisemans. Awesome massage by Don Rowston. Met [Rozanne](#) at Low tide pit stop we literally shared a cup of tea, picked up the OC6 again at Spencer but was having difficulty seeing the Outrigger in the dark they arrived in just before me at Mooney Mooney and along with all the others waiting at Mooney Mooney gave me an awesome cheer. A real highlight for me was seeing the awesome teamwork in the OC6 it was just magic.

Tom Holloway

I had a tough night. I'd done minimal training and had a sore throat. The first 50km were good, however by Wisemans I was suffering. I stopped for 15 minutes and put on more clothes, figuring the tide would make for an easy finish, however even with the 2.0km/h push I struggled to make it home. I finished 45 minutes off my PB. Thanks again to my land crew and the LCRK team at Wisemans.



Tony Murphy

I bought a Mirage 4 months ago but couldn't get comfortable for any length of time so ended up paddling my plastic Valley Avocet. I had a good run out of Windsor on the Ebb tide for at least 1½ hours and didn't really feel the effects of the flood tide for another 2 hours. All was going well till Spencer when I was hit by the flood tide there.



Richard Barnes (and Linden)

(once again) I had a good time and it was lots of fun. The highlight for me was when Roz caught us, which spurred Linden into a burst of paddling. It's remarkable what you can achieve with very little training!



Richard Yates

The highlight for me was a lively group of youths on the bank with a glowstick display calling out "What's your name what's your name!" and a response yielded a very encouraging "COME ON RICHARDDDD COME ON RICHARDDDDDD".



Tim Dodd & Ian Wilson

Unfortunately we pulled out at Wisemans, we suspect because we went out too fast? We had the same positive experience as Richard Yates with the 'glowstick kids' on the bank calling out encouragement.



David Young

My final competitive race (albeit a charity race) of the season, the 110km Hawkesbury Classic paddled overnight is now done and dusted.. in a time of 9hrs and 25 min. I finally broke the 10 hour barrier and in the process shattered the category / age record by 20 minutes. I came 5th overall, 2nd in the singles category and 1st in the over 50 years age category. Three doubles kayaks occupied the top 3 placings.



For the record there were 361 paddlers in 239 boats that included singles (131), doubles (97), 6 person outriggers / canoes (5) and stand-up paddle (SUP) boards (5). In total 211 boats completed in the prescribed time with the winning double finishing in a time of 8hrs :44min and the last craft, a SUP completing the event in 19hrs and 19 minutes.. I thought I was crazy but those doing it on a SUP are certified mad.

Conditions at the start were far from perfect. Starting off at 5:30pm we contested a 25km head wind for the first hour and the turbulent conditions, not to my liking, saw me being dropped off the leading pack of paddlers, and destined to paddling the race on my own. With the incoming tide also against the paddlers my thoughts meandered around this being a long hard slog to the finishing line and expectations of a sub 10 hour paddle wanning yet again. Thankfully as the sun set, the winds died down and I was soon into my paddling rhythm. Not everything quite went to plan... at the 15km mark I was pelted by eggs from some hoons on the river bank with one hitting my ski, luckily no damage; then my GPS / navigational equipment failed to display and despite a 5 minute stop before it

got dark I failed to fix the issue and resigned myself to the fact that I would be paddling the remaining 80km by instinct. Thankfully a near full moon provided me with much needed navigational assistance. I had initially planned on by-passing the first official pit-stop at Sackville (33km), but as I was having minor issues with my paddle, I stopped for a replacement. I was now 6 minutes behind my planned time.

The second 31km leg to Wisemans Ferry was uneventful, a glorious moon and a slight breeze made for ideal conditions. Half way through this leg the tides changed to be an assisting outgoing tide, consequently the strain on the body lessened, my speed improved and my moral lifted. I arrived at my 2nd and last scheduled stop 15 minutes ahead of schedule.. put some warmer leggings on, consumed a coke and a packet of crisps (Stephen Bradbury junk food diet) and continued.

The final leg was mesmerizing.. yes I felt the strain of the paddle, and my back started to play up but being the only person on a particular section of the river on a quiet, still, moon lit night, with fish jumping all around you, and being treated a spectacular prosperous water glow display as the kayak glided through the water was truly surreal. These perfect surrounds allowed me to power home to finish at 2:55am with little more to than a blister to show, and my sense of humour still intact. I may be back next year, but in more of a social capacity I hope.

Chris Thompson

This was my 5th HCC and I found it to be a lonely night. Highlights were being caught by Roz <Green> who with eyes on a record and wanting a ride, asked "can you paddle faster"? When an even faster paddler came along and I



suggested she tack onto him, Roz called out "how many times have you done the Classic?" When the response came back "first time" Roz held back remarking "well he doesn't know where he's going then"

Wade Rowston



It was very windy into the starting strait and the next long straight around the corner with a good size wind chop. I felt flat from the start and it took over an hour before I started to get going. There were some other windy patches up to Sackville and I stopped at a sandy

beach about half an hour before Sackville to put on a warmer top. The tide was well and truly against us by that point.

The stop at Sackville was quick with great help from Derek but I had already started to feel a bit off. About half hour further on the same old thing started to happen. Dizziness and nausea started to creep in and I considered turning back to Sackville but then I was hoping it was just a bad patch. Unfortunately it was here to stay so I reduced my pace even further but it just got worse. It was a real struggle for the next 3 hours just to crawl in to Wiseman and withdraw.

It was disappointing as my preparation had been very good having done all the familiarisation paddles and the Myall and thought I had the right drink mixes and even taken a non-drowsy sea-sick tablet. I was relaxed and my only goal was to finish. That is now the same symptoms for my last 3 HCCs and still a problem to be solved ... if in fact there is a solution. It was a perfect moonlit night and there were some beautiful stretches of river so it would have been great to go all the way to the finish. Many thanks to my landcrew, Don at the start and Sackville, and Carly and Harry at Wisemans.

Ruby Gamble

I fell out just near the Sackville ramp due to the combination of wash from a MSB boat and a bit of an eddy. And no, the MSB Boat did not stop. I had a 5" stop at Sackville, likewise at Wisemans staying on the water and taking advantage of a great tide. There was a 30 second power nap at the Low Tide Pitstop and then onto the finish.



Roz Green

I had a really good start. Last year I was too hot and as a result this year did not wear or pack too much warm stuff. I was feeling OK at Wisemans and having a record in sight, did not change (big mistake!). I was absolutely freezing at the finish



Eric Filtmater



Kenji Ogawa



Suzie Rhydderch & Jonathan Papalia

David Veivers at the Finish Line

David Veivers provided this report from the Finish Line: *"Tim McNamara and I were at the finish from around 2:30 am to around 7 am. I was a bit late to catch our speediest members and when I arrived it was a still moonlit night, with a lot of the paddlers looking amazingly strong as they came home - it was actually looking like fun. On the other hand, less than two hours later, with the moon having gone down behind the hill, and I believe the tide having well and truly turned against the paddlers, they were coming in from the pitch black river which from my point of view looked like the heart of darkness.*

It was, however, a proving ground of the human spirit. We saw people getting out, assisted, and falling exhausted backward into the river, people unable to walk up the ramp, and others in good form, but the overall emotion was relief and the pleasure one gets when you actually get to stop paddling after 100km. There were several double boats from The Armidale School manned by brave lads who really looked shattered at the end, but had obviously shown a lot of courage.

It was also great to see all the LCRKers who finished - well done"

oOo