



INFO PACK 2011

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General Information

Disclaimer

The following information is intended as a guide only for competitors and spectators. As the conditions are often dependent on water levels, the Organisers accept no responsibility for the correlation of the descriptions and the actual conditions encountered.

General Event Background

In 2005 approx 28 paddlers hit the water in what was called "Play Day 2005". Central TAFE students had to guide clients down the Lower Murray River as part of their course. The river hit 3.2m and we made the move to the middle Murray. Afterwards we partied up at Koorngal Outdoor Education Centre. The event was marked by a huge fireworks display. No race was held. Just like minded people getting together on the river.

In 2006 20 paddlers took to the Lower Murray in what was known as the "Murray Madness Festival". This event was Not sanctioned by Australian Canoeing. We held the first Head to Head Race and Freestyle event. Mike Collister claimed the first ever King Of The Murray whilst in second place was Ryan Cotterell. A few hardy fellows then kicked on to celebrate the crowning at Icy Creek Camp. Good time, good people...

In 2007 a formal sanctioned event was arranged – PCPC hosted the event with the support of CWA and AC... 36 paddlers took to the water. Mike Collister made it back to back crowns and Hamish Clark won the freestyle event. Belinda Stagnol was crowned queen of the river. Ben Jeffrey was crowned Murray River Swim Team Captain. Approx 60 odd competitors and supporters headed back to Nanga Bush Camp to celebrate in full festival style. The Sunday included WA's first ever kicker ramp. Only those with big balls stepped up to the plate.

In 2008 the event was again hosted by PCPC. 37 paddlers took to the water and again it was Mike Collister who made it a hat trick of crowns. This year was the first full womens race. Previously the girls had to mix with the guys. Kirsten Mayley took out the queen of the river title. Hugh Roberts was voted best freestyle paddler. Chris Bradshaw was the swim team captain.

Approx 80 festival goers made it back to Nanga Bush Camp for presentations, dinner and band.

The Sunday included an even bigger kicker ramp than 2007. Mach 2 lived up to expectations with all sorts of thrills and spills.

The event has run annually since, going from strength to strength.

What Craft Can Compete

The Murray Whittewater Festival is open only to short plastic whitewater kayaks. Boats competing in any of the events must be no longer than 2.2m. Either playboats, river running boats or creeks boats under 2.2m are acceptable. **Boats "along for the ride" may be up to 3m in length.**

Conditions

The event can be dynamic as water levels in the Murray River can produce dramatic changes in race conditions. Intending competitors should have a high level of fitness and provide evidence of competency as required. Novices should not undertake this event.

Details of The Event

- The trip is 12km in length. It starts at Scarp Pool and Finishes at Murray Farm.
- Freestyle moves will be judged progressively throughout the river trip. The best Freestyler will be judged via a 3, 2, 1 voting system. All paddlers on the water must vote... This will be done as soon as we get off the river...
- The Head to Head race will be held in the Steps section of the river.
- After the Head to Head race all paddlers will paddle down together and exit through Murray Farm together.



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Timeline of Event

Date / Time	Event	Location
20/08/11	Entries Close	
27/08/11		
8.00am	Event Registrations -	Registration Desk - Scarp Pool – Upper Carpark
8.30am	Information and Safety Briefing – Paul Skuse	Scarp Pool – Upper Carpark
8.45am	Scrutineering - Competitors get changed into paddling gear and prepare themselves for river trip.	Scarp Pool Carpark (Toilets)
9.00am	Final Head Count Move on down river to Maddogs Rapid (alternatively Columbines Hole)	Scarp Pool
9.30am	Rodeo Begins	Maddogs Rapid or Columbines Rapid
11.00am	Head to Head heats begin	The Steps
12.30pm	Paddlers either walk out to Scarp Pool or continue via river	
3.00pm	Bus Pickup	Wylies Farm Takout (Private Takeout)
3.30pm	Bus Arrives	Scarp Pool Carpark
7.00pm	Presentations and prizes	Nanga Bush Camp
7.30pm	Closing Ceremony	Nanga Bush Camp
28/08/11		
9am 'ish	Big Breakfast	Nanga Bush Camp

Paddler Equipment Checklist

Paddlers in the event must supply the following;

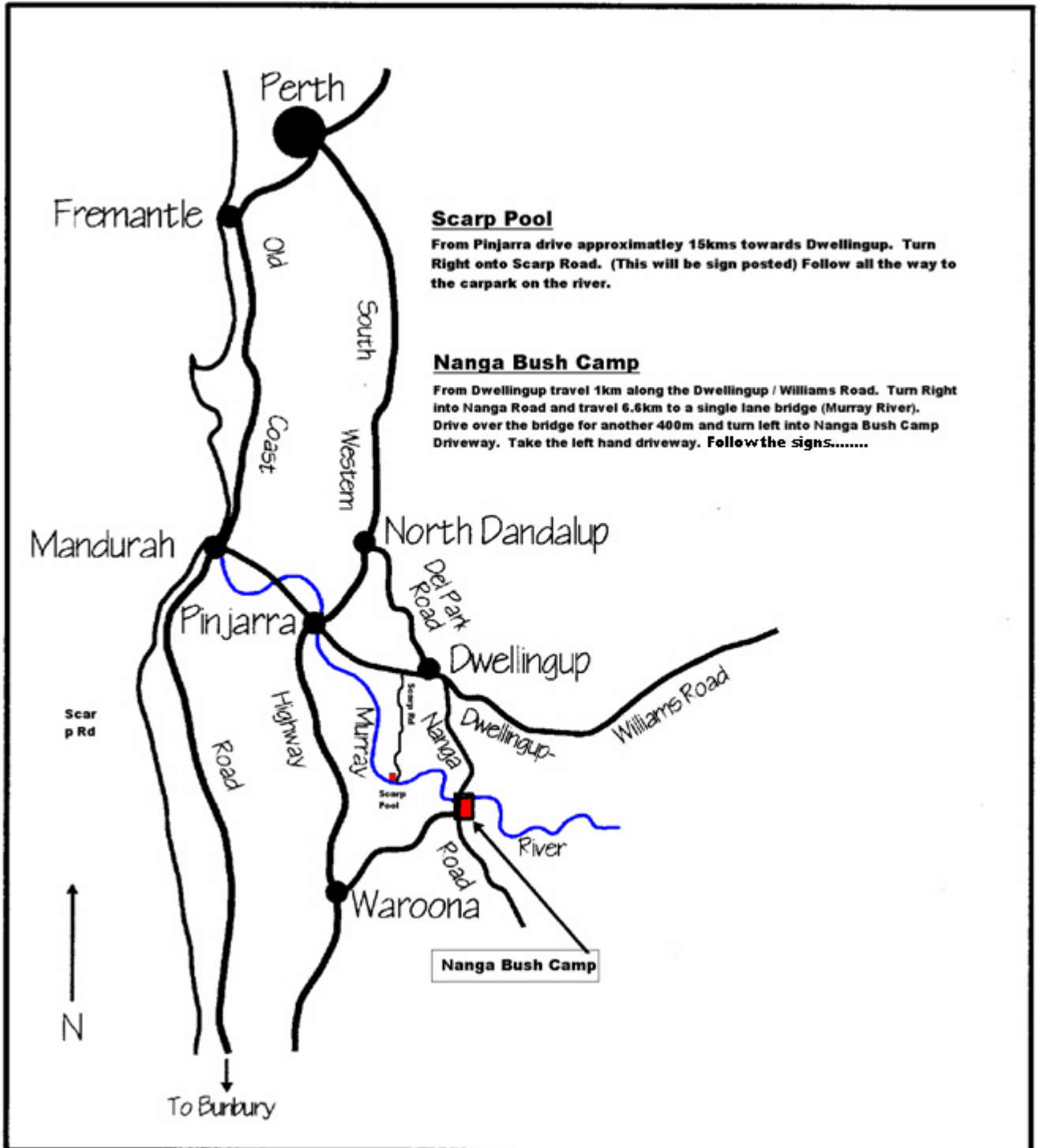
- Plastic Whitewater Boat <2.2m
- Spray Deck to Suit Boat
- Paddle
- Throw Bag
- Helmet
- PFD
- Appropriate Clothing and footwear for the Lower Murray River in August
- BYO Snacks & Water

Tips

- Practice your whitewater skills. Get to know the river. We recommend paddling the river a minimum of two occasions prior to the event.
- Drive Safely. The road into Scarp Pool is gravel road.
- Come Prepared with good equipment
- Bring the right attitude for a safe event
- Event organisers have gone to a lot of trouble to sanction this event. Please consider this by acting responsibly. We will be expecting all competitors to help promote safe and accident free event. What you do in your own time is up to you. Lets help to make future events easy to sanction and support.

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Map





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Entry Requirements

Entries

1. The entry fee must accompany all entries and is not refundable.
2. MWF does not accept entries from competitors with outstanding fines to MWF or other affiliated Associations or Clubs. Payment of fines will be accepted with entry.
3. Entries close at **5:00 pm on August 20th 2011**.
4. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Information Manager. An additional fee will be charged.
5. MWF reserves the right, if deemed necessary due to the condition of the river and in the interest of safety, to limit the number of competitors and, if that right is implemented, to accept entries in the event in order of application acceptance.
6. By submission of the Official Entry Form it is considered that competitors are aware of the potentially dangerous nature of the course, acquainted with these Rules and are medically fit to participate.
7. The minimum age of competitors is eighteen years at the date of the event. Please contact us to discuss exemptions.

Eligibility to Participate

Paddlers

8. Intending paddle competitors are required to provide evidence of competency to participate.
9. Competency can be established through the following criteria:
 - a. Recent Whitewater experience – have completed the Competency Assessment Form as part of the Entry Form
 - b. Completion of MWF Competency Skills assessment – for participants who cannot provide evidence of paddle competency (valid 3years).

Prizes/Trophies General

10. Prizes will be awarded to the following;
 - a. King of the Murray
 - b. Queen of the Murray
 - c. The paddler voted as the best playboater
 - d. Swim Team Captain
 - e. Spot Prizes
11. Goods, trophies and certificates may not be converted to cash.
12. Be thankful as prizes are donated

Presentation Function

13. Prizes and awards will be presented at Nanga Bush Camp at 7.00pm after the event

Pre-Event Requirements

Authority

14. The Murray Whitewater Festival (MWF) is conducted on the Murray River between Scarp Pool and Murray Farm
15. The Paddle section is conducted under the auspices of Canoeing Western Australia (Inc)

Board of Directors

16. Management, organisation, direction, development and promotion of the MWF is undertaken by an organizing committee from Perth Canoe Polo Club. This Committee meets each month throughout the year to determine the direction and success of the Event.

Presentation Function / Logistics / Complaints Ombudsman – Josh White

Promotions / Marketing / Entries – Andy Sorensen

On Water Safety and Technical Rescue – Josh White, Paul Skuse, Ryan Cotterell, Mat Hyland, Mike Collister, Andy Sorensen



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Paddle Craft

17. The boat must be river worthy. Have grab loops and suitable floatation. Be less than 2.2m in length.

Personal Flotation Device - PFD

18. The PFD must have sufficient buoyancy to float a 6 kg legalised lead weight and be in good condition.
19. Particle -filled or inflatable PFD's are not permitted.
20. A waterproof whistle must be attached to the PFD and is to be used to attract the attention of rescuers.

Helmet

21. Each craft must have one helmet per competitor that shall be of a design and material that is safe and strong.
22. The helmet shall provide solid protection to the forehead and temple region.
23. The helmet must be an approved water sports / paddling helmet and:
 - a. be of fitted skull cap design
 - b. or if not fitted allow the passage of water when held at any angle.
24. The helmet must be in good repair with particular reference to buckles and straps.
25. Motorcycle helmets, non-paddling skull caps, industrial safety helmets and other types of helmets, regardless of modifications are not approved.
26. Elastic chin-straps are not allowed.
27. Canoe helmets and approved surf helmets are preferred.
28. "Gath Hat" as manufactured by Gath Helmets with visor attached is an approved helmet.

Paddles

29. Kayaks may have double bladed paddles.
30. Canoes must have single bladed paddles.
31. Paddles shall be of strong and safe construction and shall have no sharp edges.
32. Replacement paddles are permitted.
33. Paddles in use shall not be attached to the craft by any means whatsoever.

Throw Bag

34. Must be carried by each competitor
35. Must be made of nylon (floating rope) and be between 10m and 25m in length
36. Must be approved by safety officer

Other Equipment

37. All equipment must be in good order and repair (buckles, straps etc). Particular attention should be paid to equipment that may be sun damaged.

Handholds

38. Craft must be securely fitted (not taped) with hand holds of non elastic material.
39. The minimum diameter of the hand hold material shall be not less than 6mm or a cross sectional area of not less than 10 mm x 2mm.
40. Handholds must be securely attached within 300mm of each end of the craft. Handholds must be in the form of loops to allow a 100 mm x 20 mm end radius measuring gauge to pass through them.

Scrutineering of Craft and Equipment

41. Pre Race Scrutineering for all craft, Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) helmets and throw bags will be held at Scarp Pool on the morning of the event. Competitors will not be allowed on the water if they have gear that has been deemed by the safety committee as unfit for river travel.
42. Craft and equipment will be checked for compliance with the Specifications.
43. The Scrutineer is a "judge of fact" and a protest may not be made against their decision.

Safety Briefing

44. Each paddler must attend a compulsory pre-race safety briefing at Pre Race Scrutineering. Evidence of attendance will be established.
45. Competitors who have not attended a pre-race briefing will not be eligible to start the event.

Practice Days

46. Participation in the Practice Days is the responsibility of the entrant and is undertaken at their own risk.



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Registration

47. Each participant must register on the morning of the event at Scarp Pool at 8.00am
48. Competitors must undertake clothing and equipment scrutineering before getting on the water. Those that have not passed scrutineering will be unable to travel down the river.

Racing Rules

Competitors

49. Competitors must wear a PFD and helmets at all times when on the water during the event
50. MWF committee reserves the right to test any competitor for competency (including blood alcohol testing by breathalyser). At the request of an authorised race official competitors shall submit to such a test. A competitor who refuses to submit to such a test will face a penalty. See [Penalties](#).
51. Competitors may not obstruct or deliberately go out of their way to cause harm or create risk to another paddler at anytime during the event.
52. Competitors have a responsibility to watch each other and be prepared to assist if necessary.
53. Competitors have a responsibility to raise the alarm and alert others if a competitor is in need of help / rescue.

Race Procedure

Environmental Procedures

54. Participants in the event must not deliberately or carelessly commit any act that will adversely affect the environment.
55. Any competitor found littering will be subject to penalty. See Penalties.
56. Competitors and spectators are responsible for the cleanliness of all areas.
57. All participants and spectators shall respect the rights of property owners prior to, during and after the event.
58. Competitors and spectators shall follow the directions of officials with respect to courses to be taken to avoid disturbing native fauna.
59. Penalties for breaches of the Environmental Procedures are listed in Penalties.

Collisions

60. A competitor whose craft deliberately collides with another or damages the craft or equipment of another may be penalised. See Penalties.

Overtaking

61. It is the duty of the overtaking craft to keep clear of the craft being overtaken and not deliberately create a hazardous situation at any time during the manoeuvre.

Penalties

62. Breaches of these rules by competitors or support crew may result in a penalty as listed. BREACH
MAXIMUM PENALTY
 - a. Environmental damage (felling trees, branches, etc)
 - b. Disqualification and cancellation/suspension of Competition Licence
 - c. Failure to assist in an emergency situation Disqualification and expulsion from MWF
 - d. BAC > 0.00% or refusal to submit to a BAC test Disqualification
 - e. Failure to notify an official of withdrawal from the Event \$550.00 fine
 - f. Failure to leave the water after having been withdrawn by official. Disqualification and cancellation/suspension of Competition Licence
 - g. Abuse of an official \$110.00 fine
 - h. Offensive behaviour at any time by competitors or support \$110.00 fine crews during the event, testing day or presentations
 - i. Littering \$110.00 fine
 - j. Any other breach not listed above, A penalty relative to the breach in line with the above, and determined by a panel appointed by the Board of MWF
63. Monetary fines are payable to Perth Canoe Polo Club



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Protests

64. The right to protest lies solely with any competitor who may consider themselves aggrieved or affected by any decision, act or other person connected with MWF except that there shall be no right protest against a refusal of entry or a judge of fact.
65. Persons aggrieved or affected are those who have gained a place or prize or stand to gain a place or prize.
66. Nothing in this rule shall affect or prejudice the right and duty of an official, acting in their official capacity, to take such action as they may deem proper in any circumstances regardless of whether a protest has been lodged.
67. Protests shall be in writing signed by the entrant, accompanied by the fee of \$110 (payable to Perth Canoe Polo Club) and addressed to the MWF Organising Committee. Nothing in these rules shall be deemed to prevent the withdrawal of a protest before the hearing.
68. A Protest as to the validity of an entry or entrant shall be lodged not later than one hour prior to the start of the Descent. Protests of this nature shall be required to specify the details of such alleged ineligibility and shall not be accepted otherwise. Protests lodged under this section must be heard by a Protest Tribunal
69. Protests against any mistake, irregularity or act to the prejudice of the event, or other matter occurring or becoming apparent while the event is taking place, shall be lodged as soon as possible after the occurrence but in any case not later than 30 minutes after the last craft has finished the event.
70. A Protest against the compilation of results or the decision of a race official that affects results shall be lodged as soon as possible after the occurrence but in any case not later than 30 minutes after provisional results have been published or generally made known to competitors.
71. Protests arising out of post race scrutineering must be lodged within 30 minutes of scrutineering results being announced.

Adjudication of Protests

72. Protests will be heard by a Protest Tribunal (Panel appointed by the Board of MWF).
73. No person may sit on a Protest Tribunal who may be directly concerned or involved in the matter under consideration. They will be replaced by a person appointed by MWF Organising Committee.
74. The hearing of protests shall take place as soon as practicable after the lodging of the Protest.
75. All parties affected or aggrieved shall be given adequate notice by the Controller of the relevant section of the time, date and place of the hearing of the protest. They shall be entitled to call witnesses, but shall state their case in person.
76. All parties affected or aggrieved by the decision of a Protest Tribunal shall be bound by the decision given and there shall be no further right of appeal.
77. Unless otherwise decided by the Protest Tribunal for special reasons, the protest fee shall be forfeited if the protest is dismissed.

Results

78. Results are provisional until after the completion of Post Race Scrutineering and after all Protests and Appeals have been heard.