

Summer Triumph at Taree

One of the biggest rowing regattas held in New South Wales was held at Taree last weekend. The Taree Summer Regatta, run jointly by Port Macquarie Rowing Club and Manning River Rowing Club, is run over three days. With Competitors, officials, coaches, workers and families bringing the estimated total to well over 2,500 lining the river bank for a big weekend.

Port Macquarie Rowing Club members and families worked hard at the regatta, volunteering for official and non-official duties including assisting rowers to enter or exit the water. The friendly atmosphere on the river between the clubs made for a very enjoyable weekend.

With extreme weather conditions, from hot and sunny, to rain and strong winds, the regatta had all seasons thrown into the three days, with the result that the last couple of hours of Saturday afternoon were cancelled due to storm conditions and capsizing of several boats occurring in rough conditions.

Port Macquarie rowers, however, managed to excel over the three days in their varying events.

The Womens C Grade Quad Scull event, rowed by Aimee Gardner, her mum, Debbie Gardner, Sheridan Duck and Savana Purss obtained the first gold medal for Port Macquarie at the regatta.

Purss and Duck, backing up after this race, took out the Womens D Grade Double Scull event adding to their medal tally. Purss and Duck again teamed up to win the Women' s C Grade Double Scull event. Duck and Purss, not content with their wins so far and entering their individual Women' s D Grade single scull races obtained a further 1st place each.

The Gardner' s (mother and daughter) rowing in their Womens D Grade Double Scull event together obtained a 2nd placing. Aimee Gardner also obtained a second in her Women' s D Grade Single event.

The composite team of Sarah Kitcher and Georgia Philp both of Grafton, Calla Gould-Whaley, Lismore, Sheridan Duck, Port Macquarie successfully won the Women' s under 19 quad scull event – a great effort for the girls as they are all under 17 years of age.

Kim Chilton teaming up with Tamsin Brew (Northshore) and Andrea Cooze and Krystine Macready (both of St George Rowing Club) won their Womens Masters quad. Chilton also obtained a second placing in the Women' s B Grade Single Scull event.

Jeremy Campbell rowing with Matthew Begg and Andrew Smith (Lower Clarence), and Timothy Van Dalsen of Grafton obtained a 1st place medal in the Men' s under 19 quad scull event. Campbell rowing with Begg obtained a second placing in the Men' s under 19 double scull event. Campbell also obtained a second placing in the Men' s under 19 single scull event.

Carry Williamson of Port Macquarie compositing with Francesca Kelleher and Jeanette Beeton (Lake Macquarie Rowing Club) and Jill Carlstrom of Endeavour Rowing Club, won the womens Masters quad event, showing that mature age is not a barrier to rowing. A job well done Ladies.

Williamson rowing with Lynette Skelton of Sydney Rowing Club also obtained a second placing in the Women' s Masters double scull event.

Port' s youngest member, 12 year old Bryce Gardner, made a valiant effort against some tough competition racing against adults in grade races, and competitors in age races over 15 years to obtain two 4th placings.

The team brought home 14 medals between them for their awesome efforts.

The Club is gearing up for a busy couple of months with State Championships on the horizon for a couple of the younger members, and State Masters Championships for those over 27 years in the not too distant future.