



World Championship Gumi Races

Saturday, February 16



Make a splash at this year's Gumi Races

SOUTH Wagga Apex Club are calling on the people of Wagga not to be "re-tyre-ing" types on Sunday February 16 and turn out in force for the big annual race which stops The Garden City.

The 2014 World Championship Gumi Races promises to be bigger and better than ever with hundreds of entries all ready lodged for the five race card on the Murrumbidgee River, which kicks off at Eunony Bridge Reserve at 10am.

The last race will start at noon and the winners will be holding their trophies high at the finish point 7km away at Wagga Beach from 2.30pm.

But the end of the races will only be the start of a big day out - there will be plenty of family entertainment. The Army Band Kapooka will be performing, there will be a waterslide and amusement rides and plenty of food and drink to replenish your energy after the big race.

You can enter on the day or download an entry form at: www.waggagumi.com.au



Rules for Gumi race craft

- 1 All craft must be constructed and all entries entered in the spirit of the event
- 2 The means of floatation must be at least 80 per cent by inflated inner tubes and that the craft must be manually propelled.
- 3 Tubes can be held together by any means whatsoever, provided that river water flows directly and freely through, around and/or over them.
- 4 The Committee reserves the right to reject any entry which they may determine as being offensive because of any sign which may be painted on or carried by any craft.
- 5 Any hull design may be used so long as, in the opinion of the Committee, the craft is considered reasonably safe.
- 6 A tow rope shall be attached to all craft at the bow and shall be at least 3.5m long.
- 7 All crew members must wear a suitable flotation jacket.
- 8 All crafts must be manually propelled - no motors allowed.
- 9 No entrant is to assist any other Gumi except if Gumi is in difficulties.
- 10 In all matters, the decision of the Committee shall be final. Crafts are to be no wider than three metres when transported by road.

Gumi Races 2014 program

- 10am Turks Electrical WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAMS
- 10.30am Lake Village Auto FAMILY FUN EVENT
- 11am N.R.M.A Service WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OPEN TEAMS
- 11.30am Hume Build Society DEFENCE FORCE, BUSINESS HOUSE & SCHOOLS CHALLENGE
- noon Riverina Plasterworks ODD BODS EVENT
- 2.30pm PRESENTATIONS OF TROPHIES AT WAGGA BEACH, FAMILY FUN DAY WITH RIDES, MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT AND RIDES.

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World Championship Gumi Races

Saturday, February 16



Wacky races put Wagga on world map

ORGANISED by the Central Wagga Lions Club, the inaugural Gumi Raft Race was staged in March 1976, with competitors sailing from Eunony Bridge (Brick Hill Reserve) to the Wiradjuri Reserve.

A total of 16 rafts took to the water during this first race.

At the height of its popularity, the Gumi Race drew international competitors, hundreds of entrants and crowds of spectators lined the route.

They were to launch a Wagga leisure phenomenon which would last until 1995.

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"Gumi" the Pidgin English word for [rubber] inner tube, also became a byword for ingenuity, engineering genius and at times just good old "rat cunning"!

Families, friends, neighbours, sporting clubs and business firms were pitted against each other, all in the name of fun.

The World Championship Gumi Race was part of the larger Wagga Wagga Gumi Festival, which usually ran for a week and featured events included the Gumi Street Parade where Fitzmaurice and Baylis Streets came alive with colour and activity.

Many of the floats and displays were created by Wagga businesses and community groups. The floats were judged and prizes awarded.

In 1984, prizes were awarded in seven categories: Best Decorated Gumi, Best School Float, Most Humorous Float, Best Business House Float, Best Out of Town Float, Best Decorated Window Display and Best Sporting Club Float.

Gumi photo competitions were also run, and the Miss Gumi Queen

Quest, crowning of the Gumi King and Gumi Festival Balls were also enjoyed by the community.

In 1985, a carnival in Bolton Park was held at the finish of the Street Parade and it featured a Competition Bed Race with a first prize of \$75 and a \$25 consolation prize. Other events during the history of the festival were the Gumi Festival Marathon Canoe Race, the Gumi Aquathon at Lake Albert and the Gumi Twilight Tennis Tournament.

Sadly the halcyon days of the first Gumi era ended in 1995 due to insurance, environment and health and safety issues ... but they will never be forgotten.

In 2011 the iconic race was revived by the South Wagga Apex Club as one of its major fundraising events.

Although Apex is yet to reach the dizzying heights of the former Gumi Glory, each year their event attracts more entrants and 2014 promises to be their biggest yet.

The club has 24 members and meets every second Wednesday as well as hosting family and social events throughout the year. Apex South Wagga leases the Beckwith St Tennis Club which can be hired for Tennis or events in the Club House.



South Wagga Apex members and World Championship Gumi Race organisers Neal Molineaux and Glenn Maslin with Reg Whitelaw, centre, who was one of the organisers of the first race



world championship gumi race 2014

SUNDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2014

Starts 10am at Eunony Bridge & finishes at Wagga Beach



PRESENTED BY THE SOUTH WAGGA APEX CLUB



Rego forms available at Tourist Information Centre, Riverina Marine Centre and online at www.waggagumi.com.au

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