

# Outrigger Masters Paddlers Shine at the World Sprints

By Bill Johnson



OCC Men's 70 crew on the Gold Coast: Ron Hochuli, Chris Crabb, Marshall Giddens (Lokahi CC), Steve Arnett (Kai Ehitu CC), Billy Mowat, Bill Johnson.

Several Outrigger Masters Paddlers in the 50s 60s and 70s competed at the World Sprints in May 2016 at Lake Kawana, Australia just north of Brisbane. Paddlers raced on teams with other paddlers from all over the state representing Team Hawaii.

Numerous medals were garnered in the V12 500M and 1000M straightaway and V6 500M with a turn, V6 1000M with 3 turns and V6 500M and V6 1000M straightaways. The following OCC members competed at the following age groups:

50s Women: Karin Del Ray, Laurie Lawson, Linda Fernandez, Kim Heyer.

60s Women: Laurie Lawson, Linda Fernandez, Kim Heyer.

70s Women: Barbara Bryan.

60s Men: Cormac O'Carroll.

70s Men: Gaylord Wilcox, Tay Perry, Glenn Perry, Uli Klinke, Billy Mowat, Chris Crabb, Ron Hochuli, Bill Johnson.

The following medals were awarded to teams with OCC members:

50 Women: One Gold and one Silver

60 Women: Three Golds

70 Women: One Gold and two Silvers

60s Men: One Silver

70 Men: Two Golds, one Silver and two Bronze

Particularly impressive were the trio of OCC paddlers of Laurie Lawson, Linda Fernandez and Kim Heyer whose teams were awarded a gold and two silvers in the 50s and three golds in the 60s.

Also the 70s Men quartet of Billy Mowat, Chris Crabb, Ron Hochuli and Bill Johnson garnered two golds and one silver and 50s woman paddler Karin Del Ray gained one gold and two silvers as did 70s woman Barbara Bryan.

All in all it was an impressive tally for our Outrigger contingent at this beautiful venue at Lake Kawana in Mooloolaba. Our good friend Ron Grabbe, President of the Mooloolaba Canoe Club, graciously loaned his canoes to several teams for practice runs on the estuaries near the race site. The local area was blessed with excellent weather, beaches, restaurants, shopping and friendly people. A grand time was had by all competitors.