

Masters Enjoy Hamilton Island Race

By Bill Danford

Our Ansette Jet descended along the Hamilton Island runway capable of accommodating a 747. Keith Wilkins, the owner and developer of Hamilton Island resort and town, has always been very futuristic and creative in his planning.

He has surrounded himself with a fantastic staff headed by GM Dale Saint George and his assistant Scott Cogar who also doubles as race coordinator/director of the Hamilton Cup.

Scottie has put together his racing staff utilizing the same team that runs the resort.

Three minutes time from the airport is the resort and the new Hamilton Towers. From our spacious rooms, we could walk out to the large lanai overlooking the resort and Cats Eye Bay.

Along the entire beach front, you could look down and read the major sponsors of the Hamilton Cup in bold



The OCC Masters Ironman crew won the 19K Championship at Hamilton Island, Australia. From left, Mike Clifford, Tom McTigue, Mark Buck, John Finney, Kala Kukea and Tim Guard.

lettering on multi-colored tents, new Hawaiian class canoes, kayaks, one-man canoes and a large blimp floating over the bay.

Bright blue skies and somewhat emerald colored water ways provided a backdrop for this brilliant kaleidoscope of colors.

You have to be impressed with this

three-day event, especially when you consider that the resort operates 800 rooms, a town, continuing development and all the necessary services.

This small island, 10 miles off the Australian coast is what they refer to as a self-sufficient community.

There is so much I would like to say about the community at Hamilton but instead I will invite you to join us next year to personally see for yourselves what the Hamilton Cup is all about.



Coming home with a gold in the 9-Man Marathon 26.1 mile race were Masters paddlers, front, Brant Ackerman, Henry Ayau and Mark Buck. Standing, Kala Kukea, Bill Danford, Tom McTigue, Tim Guard, John Finney and Mike Clifford.

- Outrigger Whit Sunday*
- Ko-Huma*
- Mackay*
- Rock Hampton*
- Caloundra*
- Bowen*
- Hamilton Island*
- Hayman*
- Marei, N.Z.*
- Mooloolava*
- Byron Bay*
- Outrigger Australia*
- Sydney*
- Great Keppel*
- Taimanu*
- Brisbane*
- Surfers Paradise*
- Linderman*
- Capricorn Coast*
- North Cliff*

These are just a few of the clubs represented in Australia that participated in the Hamilton Cup. Remember their names because I'm sure that in the coming years you'll see one of these clubs winning the Molokai Hoe.

If you meet any of these club paddlers in Hawaii, please extend the aloha spirit to each and everyone of them. They have always rolled out the carpet for all the Hawaii team members.

Our Masters team has travelled and participated in Australia the last three years. We are very proud of our showing in the competition but more important, we have made ourselves available to the sponsors, the community, and other teams interested in our experience in the sport.

Each year, the competition gets better and we know that next year will be closer. This was too close and all of us know that the Australians are fast learners.

Masters Results

6-Man 2000-Meter Sprint

1. Airlie Beach
2. Outrigger Masters (Mike Clifford, Tom McTigue, Henry Ayau, John Finney, Bill Danford, Brant Ackerman)
3. Hamilton Island

6-Man 9-Mile Marathon

1. Outrigger Masters (Tim Guard, John Finney, Tom McTigue, Mike Clifford, Mark Buck, Kala Kukea)
2. Hamilton Island
3. Airlie Beach



Outrigger's open crew also competed at Hamilton Island. Front, Mark Sandvold, Chris Kincaid and Geoff Graf. Standing, Bruce Eliashof, Tom Conner, Walter Guild and Courtney Seto.

9-Man 26.1 Mile Marathon

1. Outrigger Masters (Mike Clifford, Tom McTigue, Bill Danford, Henry Ayau, Kala Kukea, Mark Buck, Brant Ackerman, John Finney, Tim Guard)
(OCC Masters were 8th overall out of 16 teams)

All of the participants in the Hamilton Islands competition would like to extend their thanks to Russell Allen for the support that he has given to the sport.

Again this year, Russell's associates at Development Corporation of Hawaii put up a cash prize to the first Austra-

lian finisher of the Hamilton Cup so that they could come and compete in our own Molokai Hoe in October.

Tim Guard of the Masters crew will again provide a new Hawaiian class racer along with his support. Aston Hotels have also pledged hotel rooms for the men's and women's teams traveling to Hawaii.

Because of everyone's support, both the Hamilton Cup and Molokai Hoe continue to draw the finest athletes in water sports.

Join us next year at Nellie's. Support your club and the sport of canoeing. 🚣

PERSONAL HAPPINESS.
PEACE OF MIND. KEEPING
A SENSE OF HUMOR.
ATTITUDE. YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE
FOR YOUR SENSE OF WELL BEING
AND YOU KNOW IT. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE COMMITTED
TO THE BEST LIFE HAS TO OFFER. SO ARE WE.

Reyn's

KAHALA MALL
KAHALA HILTON HOTEL

