



YMCA Mini Canoe Marathon Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 October 2012

The **VicSuper Murray Marathon** is a well-known five-day event taking place between December 26th and 31st Each Year, and covering over 400 km of the Murray River between Yarrowonga and Swan Hill. As such it is a challenge to paddlers, land crew and volunteers. The Mini Marathon provides training for paddlers, land crew and volunteers, in preparation for the main event in December.

The role of WICEN is to supply safety and logistics communications for and on behalf of the Safety Group of the Murray Marathon Committee.

The Safety Group, under the control of the Chief Safety Officer (CSO), comprises of the following main organizations:

- **Land Patrol**, performed by members of the Land Rover Owners Club (LROC), and looking after road signage and traffic control to and from checkpoints, and traffic control at checkpoints;
- **Water Patrol**, under control of the Water Safety Officer (WSO), is responsible for organizing and maintaining control of the fleet of canoes and support vessels for the event, as well as the restricted use of the river during the event. For river closure and compliance the WSO is assisted by NSW Waterways.
- **Health and Wellness** (including First Aid);
- **Traffic and Camp Management**; support performed by YMCA volunteers.
- **Communications** support performed by WICEN volunteers.

As of last year the YMCA Management Committee and the Operations Group have expanded the Mini Marathon from a one-day, to a two-day event.

Day one of the Mini Marathon is identical to previous years with a start at Barmah, and Finish at Echuca boat ramp.

Day two will be integrated with the Sweat vs Steam festival in Echuca, with a canoe race versus a paddle steamer.

The Sweat vs Steam is a 13 kilometers footrace against the world's oldest wooden hulled paddle steamer - the PS Adelaide. The Greater Murray YMCA conducts the annual Sweat v's Steam Fun Run each year, with all money raised being donated to the Echuca & District Youth Services Fund, auspiced and run by the YMCA Greater Murray.

Canoes will be on the river between the main bridge and the turning point at Morrisons Winery, competing with one or two paddle steamers.

Canoes will launch from the area west of the main Bridge. Then move downstream to the start. Finish line. Start and paddle down stream to the turning point opposite Morrisons Winery. (Also checkpoint Alpha). Then back upstream past the Start Finish to the turning point around one of the pylons of the bridge (checkpoint Bravo). Then turn around the bridge pylon and downstream to the Finish line.

Canoe and support vessel recovery will be from the ramp downstream from the Finish at the Victoria Park Reserve.

Catering

For breakfast and lunches you will need to be self-supporting. There may be some catering available via YMCA, but no details are known at this time. YMCA is planning to organize an event dinner for participants and volunteers on Saturday evening. Location and pricing details are to be confirmed closer to date.

Campground

YMCA will provide a camping area (at no cost) for volunteers, event participants and support crews, close to the oval at the Victoria Park Reserve off Crofton Street. (This is the old Red Cross marathon camping site). There are only basic camping facilities for tents and caravans.

Of course if preferred, you can organize your own camping spot, or accommodation in or around Echuca (at your own expense). Ensure to book well ahead, as accommodation is in high demand at this time of the year.

Social Net while traveling from Melbourne to Echuca

Repeaters Mt.Macedon VK3RMM (147.250 +) or Shepparton VK3RGV (146.650-), or 147.300 Simplex.

A WICEN camp radio will be operational on 147.300 Simplex on Friday late afternoon, and Saturday morning until Net Control is on air.

Event Commander
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