

CSU Regional Archives to open the first Saturday of every month. Beginning in February 2011, the CSU Regional Archives will be extending its opening hours to include the first Saturday of every month. On these days the archives will be open from 10am to 3pm. The next Saturday opening will occur on March 5, 2011. This trial initiative has been put in place to cater for those researchers who are unable to visit the archives on weekdays during normal business hours. It is hoped that enough researchers and visitors will avail themselves of this service to warrant it becoming a permanent occurrence.

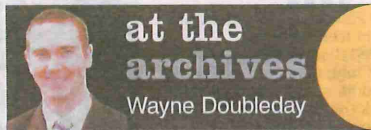


The "We'll Endeavour 2" takes off for the starting line at the Brick Kiln Reserve (RW2612/10).

Wagga floats Gumi idea

what you need to know

■ The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building on South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with inquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straight-forward inquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information, phone 02 6925 3666, email archive@csu.edu.au, or visit our website at www.csu.edu.au/research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.



at the archives

Wayne Doubleday

As strange as it may seem, the World Championship Gumi Race did not emerge fully-formed from the depths of the Murrumbidgee.

The idea for a gumi race was reportedly brought back from Papua New Guinea, where such races were very popular, by a member of the Central Wagga Lions Club as a way for the newly formed club to raise funds for charities.

On Saturday, March 27, 1976, a half-page advertisement in *The Daily Advertiser*, boldly announced the "Central Wagga Lions Club presents the First Annual Bridge to Bridge Gumi Race and Carnival".

The race was to commence at 1.30pm that day with a street parade to precede it at 10am.

The advertisement also revealed that there were to be displays by the Wagga Rescue Club and the Judo Club, a merry-go-round, train rides, chocolate wheels, pony rides, and a barbecue.

The Daily Advertiser reported on the Monday after the race that 16 teams had entered and the record had been set at 77 minutes and 40 seconds over 11km.

The winners, who set that record, were the Friends of Timor Place Association (FOTPA) team, who were a group of young officers from Kapooka.

Second place went to a team from the Kapooka Sergeants' Mess; the third team to cross the line were physical training instructors, also from Kapooka.

The event was declared a rousing success and promises were made to be back next year.

Eight events were organised for the 1977 Gumi Race and it was expected that approximately 50 gumis would enter.

It was revealed on the day that this estimate was somewhat out, when 119 gumis took to the water with approximately 350 people in or on them.

Every year after this, the Gumi Race grew exponentially, and not just on the water. The events surrounding the race were also

THE TEN GUMIMANDMENTS

1. THOU SHALT ENTER THE EVENT IN THE RIGHT SPIRIT - To have a bloody good time.
2. THOU SHALT CONSTRUCT THY CRAFT WITH GUMIS AS THE MAIN MEANS OF FLOTATION - All shapes and sizes of rubber inner tubes may be used.
3. THY CRAFT SHALL FLOAT BY GUMIS ALONE - Gumis must be the major part of your craft's flotation.
4. THOU SHALT NOT DROWN - Any design is acceptable so long as it is safe. Every crew member must wear a proper flotation jacket.
5. THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THY CRAFT IN VAIN - Craft bearing signs or names that may be offensive will be barred from competing.
6. THOU SHALT PROCEED ALONG THE RIVER IN A DOWNSTREAM DIRECTION - Not end up in Gundagai.
7. THOU SHALT NOT PROTEST UNDULY - All protests will be heard by the appointed Committee and their decision is final.
8. THOU SHALT HONOR THY COMMITTEE - Swearing, threats, stamping of feet, etc. will have no effect on Committee decisions. Bribes of strong drink will be accepted (in copious quantities), but should not affect decisions.
9. THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY - This has nothing to do with the race but it gives us an air of responsibility and respect.
10. THOU SHALT NOW GO BACK AND READ THE FIRST GUMIMANDMENT ONCE AGAIN - And enter the race in the right spirit!

"GUMI"

To protect and reserve the word "GUMI" for use by Central Wagga Lions Club, our Club has now registered "GUMI" under the Registered Business Names Act. This name can only be used with the Club's permission.

The 10 Gummmandments (from the *Wagga Gumi and Arts Festival* booklet, 1982, RW2612/30)

added to with the result that by the 1980s, the World Championship Gumi Race Festival was in full swing.

For an example, just a few of the 1988 Gumi Festival events were: the Great Gumi Scavenger Hunt, Gumi on Ice at the Plaza Ice Palace, the Gumi Festival Cup Race Meeting at the MTC, the Gumi Festival Open Stableford Competition at the Wagga Country Club, the Gumi Bush Dance, the Gumi Round Robin Tennis Tournament, the Schwepps/South Wagga Apex Pool Party at the Wagga Baths, the Sports Trivia competition at

the Leagues Club, the Riverina Aquathon Championships, a fireworks display at Lake Albert, and of course, the street parade.

As with many things, the Gumi Race was, perhaps, a victim of its own success; problems arose and in 1995 the Gumi Race was run for (what was thought to be) the last time.

References: *The Gumi Festival Committee records*, RW2612 [CSURA]; *The Daily Advertiser*, March 27 & 29, 1976; *The Daily Advertiser*, March 3 & 7, 1977.

■ Compiled by Jillian Kohlhausen