

Life's work captured iconic Aussie images

By NIGEL DIQUE

VIVIAN Jenkins was an outstanding, versatile news photographer who produced his best work as a freelancer, capturing some of the biggest moments in Australian culture and sport.

In 1972, he photographed actor Jack Thompson as the first nude male 'Playmate of the Month' centrefold for Cleo magazine on the invitation of founding editor Ita Buttrose.

That hugely controversial picture set the tone for Cleo, a magazine whose pictures and articles challenged current thinking in publishing.

On November 28, 1978 as the official photographer for the late Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket, Jenkins recorded the first night game at the Sydney Cricket Ground that drew a crowd of 50,000.

He covered all the big World Series Cricket matches for PBL

OBITUARY Vivian Jenkins

Marketing and the Australian Cricket Board and later produced two illustrated cricket books, *Fields of Glory* (HarperSports) and *The Baggy Green* (New Holland Publishers). His exclusive pictures were also used in *Wide World of Sport Cricket Year Books* edited by Richie Benaud, and an Ian Chappell book on the 1983-84 tests against Pakistan.

Vivian Jenkins, who died at 74 in Coffs Harbour on Saturday after battling cancer, was to his friends – who include cricketing greats like Viv Richards, Richie and John Benaud, Ian and Greg Chappell, Mark Taylor, David Boone and tour manager Ian MacDonald – much more than a remarkable professional photographer.

He was a loyal friend, raconteur and wit who enjoyed nothing

better than a good lunch with friends and copious amounts of wine. His self-deprecatory humour usually focused on his experiences as a news photographer.

At age 14 he migrated from Wales to Australia with his family and commenced journalism as a copy boy on the *Sydney Morning Herald* in the late 1950s, moved to *Melbourne Age* and back to the *Daily and Sunday Telegraphs*, then under Packer ownership.

In the 1960s and early 1970s he was always close to the action, covering events from horse racing and bushfires to the social scene, before finding a niche working under Ita Buttrose for the *Sunday Telegraph* magazine and *Cleo*.

He always said that in news photography you only got one chance to record that memorable moment and that meant total concentration.

He is survived by Jan, sons David and Tim from a previous marriage and three grandchildren.



Proud . . . Tim Jenkins (left) and brother David pay tribute to their photographer father.
PHOTO: BRUCE THOMAS

Not only did the crews compete against the best but took out two raffles

Dragon boat crews row past the best

COFFS Coast Dragon Boat Club members have rowed passed national competitors, both on and off the water.

Twenty-three members of Coffs Coast Dragon Boat Club travelled to Sydney recently to compete in the Chinese New Year Dragon Boat Festival Regatta hosted by Dragon Boat NSW on Darling Harbour – and not only did they take out third place in the regatta – they also took out two of the prizes in the national raffle.

The team from Coffs Coast Dragon Boat Club included six breast cancer survivors, who are also members of Dragon Abreast Coffs Coast, who combined with Dragons

Abreast Melbourne for the Sunday racing schedule.

After three close heats, the combined Coffs Coast/Melbourne team made it to the major final. The race for second, third and fourth places had only four tenths of a second in it and the local girls did us proud by coming third in the final, beating some of the hot favourites.

"It was a thrill and a terrific experience to do so well in this Regatta, considering we were unable to train with our Melbourne team mates prior," Margaret Joannou, co-ordinator of Dragons Abreast Coffs Coast, said

"Although obtaining



Boat people . . . Angie Walter, John Senes, raffle winners Caroline Church and Janet Coleman, Kay Bernard and Margaret Joannou.
Below: Dragon boats on Darling Harbour.

third place was great, being able to participate and further raise breast cancer awareness felt even better," Margaret said.

On the Saturday night, the national raffle was drawn and, even though 11,000 tickets were sold across the nation, two of the prizewinners were Coffs Harbour locals.

"Although this seemed unbelievable, it was not a total surprise considering the Dragons Abreast Coffs Coast group, alongside one very special National

Volunteer, Kay Bernard, also a Coffs Harbour local, were amongst the three top selling member groups in Australia," Angie Walters said.

Coffs Coast Dragon Boat Club paddles twice a week and are always looking for new members. Membership inquiries call Col Green on 0427 543 419 or email coffscoastdragonboatclubinc@hotmail.com. For Dragons Abreast inquiries call Margaret Joannou on 0438 907 542 or email coffscoast@dragonsabreast.com.au

