

I don't know who was more surprised me or my family when I put my hand up to participate in the Ord River Dragon Boat Marathon; an event that is part of the Ord Valley Muster in Kununurra.

After receiving information on the marathon from Michelle, I quickly dismissed the idea of participating for heaps of reasons – too far to paddle, I wouldn't have the stamina required and, of course, the logistics of getting to Kununurra in the first place needed consideration!

These obstacles were soon challenged 'let's charter a plane' was one brilliant suggestion. We can do extra endurance training volunteered our Coach. We were a tad down on participants in the boat for the event, but were fortunate to combine with a great group of people from another Darwin club, the Sun Dragons.

So here we were in Kununurra after a one-hour flight from Darwin. The meet and greet reception hosted by the Kununurra Dragon Boat Club created an atmosphere that was full of camaraderie, fun and support. Any misgivings I had soon vanished during the reception. They did a great job of organising and running this terrific event.

I found the Ord River to be a beautiful, picturesque waterway, and the 55kms did not seem so far, there was plenty going on during the paddle. We had a film crew traveling with our contingent, collecting footage on the Dragons Abreast movement for 'Australian Story' (an ABC production). The members of the Kununurra Dragon Boat Club, were great sports and incredibly cooperative having mock races with our boat for the film crew.

The support boat had an abundance of goodies to throw at the boats to keep energy levels up, such as chocolate and lollies. The food stops were a highlight for me, and the Kununurra Dragon Boat Club did an excellent job of keeping three dragon boats refueled with a variety of delicious meals throughout the journey.

I enjoyed the experience enormously. It was a wonderful way to spend a mother's day and many thanks to the Kununurra Dragon Boat Club for pulling together such a fantastic event.

Trish G