

Big Brook Relay - the official version

THE eighth annual Big Brook Relay was run one Saturday in November under fine Pemberton skies.

The Kirup Operations District Staff (KODS) team was victorious for the third year running, with a record time of 1:32:58 - a challenge that is sure to spark fierce competition next year to end Kirup's run of dominance.

Cape Cougars (Busselton/Margaret River) came in a close second with Swans '94 (Swan region) finishing strongly in third place.

The Flying Matildas exemplified what the Big Brook Relay is all about; they thoroughly deserved the 'Derriere Award' for

by David Meehan

the hardest-trying team.

Fifteen teams competed, with the event attracting more than 200 people.

Matt Lloyd from KODS took out the match-splitting competition after a three-way split-off was required to separate the top contenders.

Second place-getter was the gentleman of the relay Brian Fitzgerald, with Kevin Hatherley finishing third.

Wayne Schmidt (who owes me a new axe handle) deserves special thanks for running this event in a truly professional manner.

The top-of-war was won

by the Mornington team, when it pulled the Pemberton 'B' team the required two metres across the line.

The final event was volleyball and the Dwellingup team showed its class by decisively beating the Pemberton 'C' team 13-5.

As the sun dropped behind the 1930's regrowth forest and the dust from competitors' heels settled, it was agreed that yet another successful Big Brook Relay had been run.

Pemberton district staff hope to see everyone back in 1995 for this great fun day.

Next year's relay will probably be held on November 18, so mark this day in your new diary.



The cross-country relay event. Photo by Tammie Reid

... and what really happened

WE reckon it was rigged - with the Kirup KODS taking out the title for the third year in a row at the 1994 Big Brook Relay at Pemberton.

David ('Doc') Meehan, the Pemberton forest ranger who leads a team of dedicated people organising this great annual event, denies any local help and pleads with other workplace teams to knock these Kirup lads off their perch.

It dawned a normal day at Pemberton, with a little south coast drizzle creeping up into the karri country to welcome the 15 teams and their supporters to the dam.

The relay began with the cross-country event which saw the Flying Matildas, an all-female team from Crawley, who had been in training but had yet to

by Tammie Reid

use their trusty saw. This proved to be their undoing and they went on to take out the much-coveted 'Derriere' award.

The cycle leg is a challenge for both participants and their machines, trying to remain on the gravel-roads course.

Nick Wolfbey of Kirup did a scorching leg, and Ian Freeman, always a crowd pleaser, provided a spectacular sliding finish.

Woodvale entered two teams this year, but have yet to co-ordinate their team chaperones: it seems Tony Friend, the runner, was caught completing his 'change' in the men's toilets (if 'd'better be the men's toilets) when the cyclists pedalled in.

The Dwellingup Des-

perados kept their Canadian canoe under wraps until the last minute, when the secret design and trendy paint job gave them enough edge to overhaul most of the field before them.

In the water, health and fitness co-ordinator Linda Gilbert poured on the pace for the Wild Oats from Como, but it was still Kirup that struggled over the line to first position - a sweet victory for coach Brian Fitzgerald who came out of retirement for the event.

Predictably, there was a protest - this time for a definition of 'work experience'.

It seems that a nephew of a staff member in one of the teams suddenly found himself running as part of a work experience stint for which he was feverishly signed up by ob-

viously desperate people.

Swan region now intends drafting short-term unpaid employment running contracts - with the unpaid employee, not necessarily the contractor, doing the running - for 27 minutes, with a time penalty clause for last-minute ring-ins next year.

The regulations will definitely be closer scrutiny before next year, so the event will continue to attract good, healthy fun and competition.

After colourfully worded insults had been traded, and Academy award-winning acts of mock indignation died away, it was unanimously agreed that, once again, the Big Brook Relay was an unqualified success, greatly enjoyed by all, thanks to those worthy people from Pemberton.

Results		
Teams	Time	Place
1. King Kats (Wheatbelt)	2:05:43	14
2. Swans '94 (Swan region)	1:37:20	3
3. Flying Matildas (Crawley)	2:18:07	15
4. Desperados (Dwellingup)	1:45:12	7
5. Woods (Woodvale)	2:04:29	13
6. Valiums (Woodvale)	1:51:13	11
7. EFFMEE (Man)	2:03:31	12
8. Mornington Masochists (Collie-Harvey)	1:51:09	10
9. KODS (Kirup district)	1:32:58	1
10. Bunbury Bulls	1:44:29	5
11. The Wildbunch (Wildlife branch)	1:44:36	6
12. The Cape Cougars (Busselton)	1:38:53	2
13. Regional Bards (Man)	1:45:22	8
14. Warren Whir Wooters (Pemberton)	1:43:28	4
15. MJP Blackbutts (Man)	1:45:35	9

Return of tammars

by Carolyn Thomson

ENDANGERED tamar wallabies have been returned to the northern jarrah forest for the first time in more than 10 years.

They had gradually disappeared from the area over the past 40 to 15 years and now are found only at Perup forest, east of Manjimup, a few offshore islands and some nature reserves in the Wheatbelt.

CALM forest officer Rob Brunell said the release of 25 tamar wallabies at Battaling Forest east of Collie had been made possible by intensive fox control in the area.

The task was carried out by CALM Collie and Manjimup operational staff.

Rob said the tammars were captured from Perup and tagged and weighed before being released at

Battaling Forest.

"Capture of the animals was carried out by CALM Manjimup staff, comprising senior operations officer Rod Simons, forest officer Tim Foley, and forest worker Brian Whitford, who deserved special thanks for a job well done," Rob said.

"A number of the tammars were radio-collared to CALM staff can determine where they go and how they use the forest."

"Tammars inhabit melaleuca and heathland poison thickets at Perup and Gardes Island and there are several suitable areas of thickets at Battaling Forest."

Rob said the tamar wallaby was the second

species to be reintroduced to Battaling since intensive fox baiting began there three-and-a-half years ago.

"Numbats have been released in the area each year for the past three years," he said.

"The reintroduction of tammars to Battaling illustrates what can be achieved with Operation Foxglove in the northern jarrah forest."

"Large scale fox control means that in future we may once again see tammars and other native species in many more areas of our forests."

The release of tammars will bring the number of endangered species at Battaling to five, along with the numbat, woylie, southern brown bandicoot and chuditch.



Dwellingup's Ian Freeman (foreground) finds time to grin at supporters, while Kirup's Nick Wolfbey concentrates on getting away to an early start in the cycling event. Photo by Tammie Reid

... and of dolphins

FOUR bottlenose dolphins stranded near Mandurah in early December were successfully returned to deeper water by CALM wildlife officers.

The mammals were trapped in 20 cm of water and nudged by a low tide on the northern side of Peel Estuary between the old and new traffic bridges.

Before their release, the four young males were captured, measured, weighed and marked to

aid in future identification.

The four dolphins were taken by trailer to a nearby marina and released in deeper water.

CALM wildlife officer Doug Coughran said that the dolphins, which seemed to be in excellent health, were released at the same time to keep the group together.

He thanked the City of Mandurah, the Peel Inlet Management Authority and the many volunteers who

turned out to help.

Bottlenose dolphins have a history of becoming stranded in the shallow waters around Mandurah. In 1990, 11 dolphins were freed from the shallows in Lake Goegrup by CALM officers and volunteers.

Two of the beached dolphins were resighted two days later under the bridge at the Duvesville Cut heading west. They were travelling with two other dolphins that weren't beached.



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