

THE “BOXING DAY CARDBOARD BOAT RACE” REPORT

A SWAN BAY EVENT 26.12.17

In balmy conditions, on Boxing Day 2017, the Moorhouse family and friends gathered at Swan Bay, at the Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff Yacht Club for an epic challenge to find out

- can a boat made of cardboard be paddled in a race around a buoy on Swan Bay?

OF COURSE IT CAN!!



Three evenly divided teams had one hour, a pile of stiff and thick cardboard, box cutters and packing tape to design and create their crafts...

Cheered on by members of the Yacht Club (who were watching the real Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race) and by partygoers who had hired the club for a private function, the 20 + strong Moorhouse clan plotted, stole, cheated and skilfully created their best boats...

So, will the boats float, we wondered? Can they be paddled? How long will they last? And which design will be the ultimate winner?

Will the winner be the huge, double hulled, two man “Manatee”?



Or is the slim lined, bathtub shaped single person “La Petite De Jeunier” the best design?

Or maybe the flat tube raft simplicity of the “S.S. Cinatit” (that’s Titanic backwards!) is the most buoyant?



AND THEN THEY WERE RACING !

Crews jostled as they carried their crafts to the water, choose the paddlers, and launched their cardboard boats to a rousing cheer.

Flour bombs were thrown, kayaks were interfering with the course, paddles splashed, rowers were slip sliding around, and there was much general mayhem.



AND THE WINNER WAS

'LA PETITE DE JEUNIER' !

The crew were thrilled to be presented with the cardboard trophy cup, a fitting prize for a cardboard boat race.

Protests and accusations of cheating (after all, there was a thick printed coating around the cardboard on their boat) were duly thrown out in the spirit of healthy family rivalry and the smell of sausages cooking...



Finally, all boats were given a work out, and surprisingly, most vessels stayed buoyant for over an hour!

The event instigator, creator, designer and proud competitor Hamish Moorhouse, 10 y.o. from Coburg (a regular Queenscliff beach house visitor), is already campaigning that the "Cardboard Boat Race" may become an annual Boxing Day Swan Bay challenge!

The Moorhouse clan and friends hope to be back next year...