20KM · 30KM · 50KM

28-29 MAY 2022 BARRON RIVER CHALLENGE

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BRC20 28 May - BRC30 29 May - BRC50 28-29 May

Find race information on facebook BRC 50/12

or tinaroo.paddle.org.au

Mareeba Leagues Club

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THE BARRON RIVER CHALLENGE

50km - 30km - 20km paddle down the Barron River
Mareeba to Kuranda, Far North Qld
28th and 29th May, 2022

COURSE DETAILS

The Barron River Challenge 50/30/20 is held on the Barron River, Far North Queensland.

All three race distances utilise progressively longer distances down the Barron River. The BRC20 and BRC50 waves start at the low bridge, Herberton Street, Mareeba on Saturday afternoon 28th May 2022. Registration and scrutineering is on Saturday morning at the race start. The BRC20 course finishes at "Bilwon-on-the-Barron". For BRC50 paddlers this is also the finish of Day 1. BRC50 and BRC30 paddlers start at Bilwon on Sunday morning and paddle the more challenging final 30km to finish in Kuranda around midday.

In 2022 Canoe Relay Teams will be able to compete in the BRC20. Change teams at Biboohra checkpoint (12km from start). By popular demand, the BRC50H is back in 2022. **BRC50H competitors are allowed to change their craft for day 2.** Competitors must nominate which race they are competing in at nomination; BRC20, BRC 30, BRC50 or BRC50H and cannot change race after the start.

It is expected that all paddlers will have experience in moving Grade 1 water. Paddlers in the BRC20 have a number of water races to negotiate, most requiring precise line placement and evasive turning strokes to avoid tree snags.

The BRC30 and BRC50 require high degrees of stamina and experience in grade 2 river paddling. Depending on prevailing water levels, you may encounter one Grade 3 rapid and a number of Grade 1-2 rapids by the time you get to Kuranda.

From Bilwon the Barron River winds through close overhanging trees for 4 km till Koah reef where the river opens to reveal a myriad of turbulent Grade 1-2 races where line selection is paramount.

It's all noticeably downhill after the 31km Koah checkpoint, firstly twisting through the Clohesy minefield and then at the around the day 2 half way point where some paddlers will brace for the more challenging Oak Forest rapid while most will portage on river left. Three low bridges/ causeways bring the spectators close to the action on Day 2- the best being Russet Park bridge just under 8 km from Kuranda. Two kilometres from the finish, Ireland Rapid on river left may be the final reason to swim for many tired BRC50 paddlers.

With the high Kuranda Bridge overhead, the final smooth water sprint to the finish at Kuranda Beach makes the true *Barron River Challenge.*

RACE DAY SCHEDULE

Check for your start sequence and class on the noticeboard found at the race start. If you feel there is an error contact a race official immediately. BRC50 day 2 wave starting times will be determined Saturday evening.

Saturday 28TH May 2022 - Registration and Scrutineering

10.00 am	Complete Registration paperwork and craft/ equipment scrutineering.
12.00 noon	**All Registrations completed**
12:30 pm	Official opening and briefing on course conditions.

Saturday: 28th May 2022 - BRC20 and BRC50

Start at Low Bridge, Mareeba and finish at Bilwon

1.00 pm	**Intermediate** start BRC20 and BRC50
1:30 pm	**Elite** Staggered start for BRC20 and BRC50

Sunday 29th May BRC 50/30

Restart at Bilwon, and finish at Kuranda Beach, Kuranda.

7.45 am	Briefing on course conditions
8.00 am	Staggered Restart of Open 50/30 Race
8.30 am	**Elite** paddlers staggered start

Cut off times are enforced for paddler safety in the BRC50. Cut off times are reviewed on race day depending on river heights. Paddlers arriving at the checkpoint after the cut off will be removed from the race. Race Officials reserve the right to alter cut off times according to prevailing river conditions.

REGISTRATION and SCRUTINEERING

Paddlers ***must*** register between ***10.00am & 12 noon on Saturday, 29th May,2021. Personal contact must be made with TCC committee if you are a BRC30 paddler and cannot make it to Saturday Registration.***

The registration venue is at the Race start, **John Doyle Bridge (Low Bridge), Herberton Street, Mareeba.**

At the registration desk you will be issued with a registration/scrutineering form. This form will be signed/stamped at each scrutineering point. Please ensure that each paddler/craft is equipped with all compulsory equipment. If a paddling partner is absent, you must have all their compulsory equipment available for checking also.

The craft will not be accepted for registration until all requirements are met.

For hire of kayaks contact Tinaroo Canoe Club or Joel Savage Townsville.

MARSHALLING

Craft will be marshalled approximately 20 minutes before each race start. Essential equipment will be rechecked by race officials. Competitors and Numbers will be checked off.
You must enter the water upstream from the start.

COMPULSORY SKILLS FOR PADDLERS in BRC

(adapted from RTG Rescue Training Group materials, with permission)

It is expected that the following swiftwater swimming skills, knowledge and communication signals have been gained/noted before competing in the Barron River Challenge.

SWIFTWATER SWIMMING

Defensive swimming: On your back, feet downstream and near the surface, using ferry glides to move away from hazards.

Offensive swimming: On your front, swimming aggressively away from hazards or towards safety.

AVOIDING FOOT ENTRAPMENTS

- Do not attempt to stand up when moving downstream
- Make sure you are completely stationary or in an eddy before putting your feet down
- Test your footing before committing to standing up
- If going over a drop feet first, tuck your legs to avoid them being sucked down into a possible entrapment

COMMUNICATIONS

Hand Signals

- One hand waving above head=Distress, need assistance
- Two hands extended above head (then point left or right) = Move/swim or move boat in the direction indicated
- Two hands extended above head = Eddy out in that direction
- One hand on head = OK
- Both arms crossed in front of chest = Need First- Aid Kit/ Help

Whistle Signals

- 1 blast Stop or Attention
- 2 blasts Upstream
- 3 Blasts Downstream
- 3 Blasts repeated Emergency

COMPULSORY EQUIPMENT FOR PADDLERS

- PFD - type 2 or 3 (no inflatable PFDs)
- Helmet (canoe)
- Whistle - pea-less
- Closed footwear - no thongs
- Sufficient solid food and drink
- First aid and repair kit
- Designated land crew

Personal Flotation Devices

All paddlers **MUST** wear an Australian Standard PFD. The type (1, 2 or 3) indicates how well the PFD will support you in the water. All seasoned paddlers expect to capsize and swim occasionally and it is reassuring to have a PFD on if you take an unexpected dip.

For this race it is **COMPULSORY for all paddlers to wear either a Type 2 or Type 3 PFD, securely fastened, at all times whilst on the water.**

FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.

Helmet

There are numerous strainers and other potential hazards on the sections of the Barron River over which this race is being run. Appropriate helmets are ***mandatory and must be fastened at all times whilst on the water.***

Whistles

You must have a pea-less whistle, i.e. a whistle without a pea that works even when wet. This must be attached to your PFD. Please note communication signals used in this race.

Safety Gear/ Footwear

It is the responsibility of every competitor to comply with the QC Sun Safe Policy, and dress appropriately. Use of sunscreen is advised. As would be expected in any rural area, the Barron River has its share of sharp rocks, snags, bits of barbed wire etc. Protective footwear is required—no thongs or similar permitted! A comfortable pair of river booties are recommended.

Food/ Water

Enough food and water for a Marathon event must be carried. Though we are now into Autumn, temperatures in FNQ can still reach the high 20's and early 30's. Dehydration can be prevented by drinking approximately 150 – 250ml every 15-20mins. Make sure you have a supply of high energy foods to consume during the race.

First Aid Kit & Repair Kit

A Basic First Aid Kit and a small Repair Kit are recommended. It is advised that any First Aid kit includes two snake bandages**. Use of a 'dry bag' (waterproof container) advised.**

LANDCREW

No entry in the BRC50 event will be accepted without a land-crew. Interstate paddlers are to contact Race coordinator for support in this area if required. The main job of the land-crew is to support and keep an eye on the paddler/s.

Some hints include:

- Driving to the start of the race so the paddler isn't fatigued.
- Help at scrutineering, ensure they have all the appropriate paperwork
- Help to get them on the water
- Once the race begins, motivate them if they feeling fatigued
- Monitor their progress
- Don't forget the repair kit!
- Assist at the get-out
- Congratulate them on a job well done

Land-crew must be available to look after their paddlers at the start, checkpoints on the route, and the finish. Land-crew must be prepared to pick up their paddler/s as soon as possible after notification of withdrawal at an upstream minor checkpoint. Directions will be available if required. Don't forget seating, cameras, food and drink for yourselves.

RULES ON THE WATER

- PFD's and Helmets must be worn and fastened at all times when on the water.
- The lead craft has the right of way at all times.
- Do not cut in close to a slower craft if overtaking – the overtaking craft must pass safely.
- Paddlers **MUST** assist another paddler in difficulty. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- **Redress** will be considered for paddlers rendering assistance in an emergency. If assistance is given, details will need to be recorded: time when paddlers stopped, time when they re-joined the race, where the incident occurred, name and craft number of the person given assistance. These will be checked, and times adjusted accordingly.
- A paddler may not be accompanied or assisted by another craft/paddler who is not entered in the race.
- Assistance from land crews is permitted for: first aid, food/ drink supply, help with repairs, replacement of faulty minor equipment e.g. paddles
- ***No exchange of paddlers or craft is permitted.***

CANOE RELAY RULES

The following rules *must be followed,* when participating in the Canoe Relay event:

- Teams are to consist of 4 to 8 previously registered paddlers.
- Any change to participating paddlers must be notified to Race Officials prior to commencement of the race.
- Craft used is to be a Canadian Canoe using *single bladed paddles only.*
- The same craft is to be used throughout the race—no substitution permitted

- Mandatory equipment requirements apply for each team member.
- It is the teams' discretion which sections of the course are paddled by each team member.
- In a *Mixed* Team entry, there must be one male & one female paddler in the boat at all times for the duration of the race.
- Team changeovers can only occur at the 5 major designated checkpoints and at Russet Bridge. Team members will choose their preferred entry point.
- There will be signage directing paddlers and land-crew to these checkpoints.
- Please follow the instructions of Race Officials at changeover.
- Names of paddlers on the water at each section must be communicated to race officials.
- Each paddler will be checked for compliance with Mandatory Safety Equipment prior to entering the water.
- Any team withdrawing ***must notify the nearest checkpoint of their canoe number.*** Once withdrawn, a team cannot re-enter the race

CHECKING IN/OUT

It is the responsibility of all paddlers to ensure that their craft number is recorded at every checkpoint. Paddlers need to call out their craft number to race officials when passing or stopping at a checkpoint.

Paddlers withdrawing ***must notify the nearest checkpoint of their canoe number.*** Once withdrawn, a paddler cannot re-enter the race.

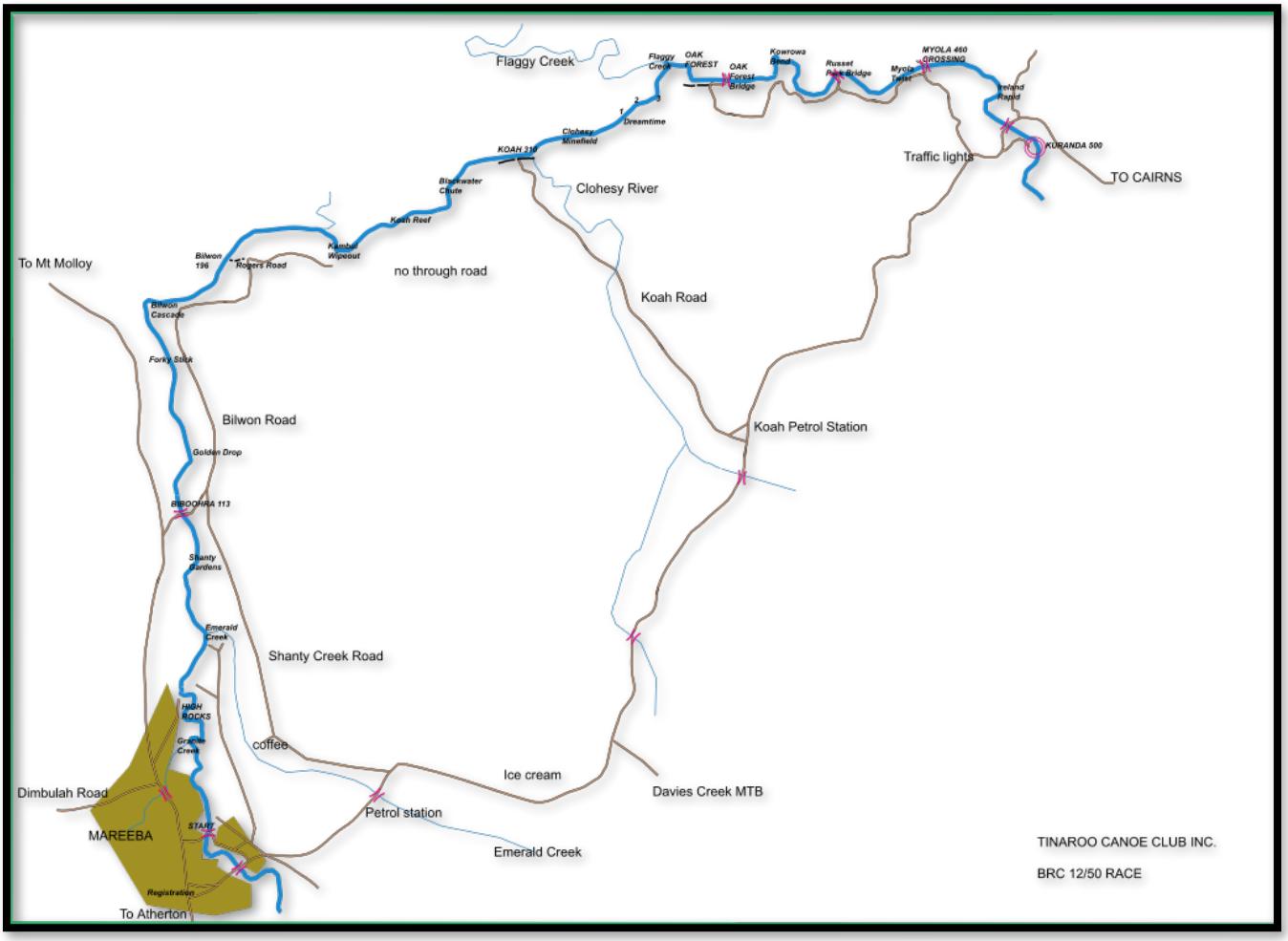
MAJOR CHECKPOINT LOCATIONS

Start: "John Doyle" Low Bridge, Herberton Street, Mareeba
CP A: Biboohra Bridge - 12km. Access is via the Mulligan Highway, north of Mareeba.
CP B: Bilwon – Bilwon Farms – Rush Road turnoff via Bilwon Rd (Overnight stay possible. Restart site for day 2 BRC50)
CP C: Koah - 31km, Koah Rd, left at Koah Roadhouse if travelling from Mareeba.
CP D: Oak Forest Bridge, via the Oak Forest/Myola Rd (11 km from Kuranda lights)
CP E: Myola causeway, on Little road via Myola Rd
FINISH: Beach at Kuranda – accessed only via walking bridge at Kuranda Railway Station.

COURSE	DISTANCE km	Progressive
Mareeba to Biboohra	12	11.85
Biboohra to Bilwon	10	22.46
Bilwon to Koah DAY 2	9	31.61
Koah to Oak Forest c/w	8	39.31
Oak Forest to Myola	8	47.00
Myola to Kuranda Beach	5	51.61

Some of our checkpoints are on private land, please show respect.

Course map



RACE RESULTS

You will receive your race time as you cross the finish line, and will also be issued with a race certificate shortly after the race. We aim to post results online within one week.

PRESENTATIONS

The BRC20 presentations are scheduled to take place from 5.30pm at Bilwon on Saturday 28th May.
The BRC50/30 presentations will take place from 1.00 pm on Sunday 29th May. Paddlers are encouraged to stay for the presentations and enjoy the camaraderie with your fellow paddlers.

ACCOMMODATION

Stay in beautiful Mareeba or Kuranda before and after the race. Competitors and land crew may stay overnight at 'Bilwon Farms' on Rush Road, via Bilwon Road on Saturday 28th May. This is the location for the BRC20 presentations and the starting point for BRC30 and BRC50 races. Accommodations are basic and include limited cabins and ample camping and caravanning. Toilets, showers, camp kitchen and undercover areas are available. Please contact a race official to register your interest.

WHERE TO EAT

The start on both days: at local Mareeba eateries and bakeries.
At the finishes: there will be sausage sizzle/ burger fare available at each finish for spectators & competitors.
BRC20 at Bilwon from 5.00pm Saturday.
BRC50/30 at Kuranda beach from 12.00noon Sunday
Meals are available at the Lower Kuranda Hotel Motel (in close proximity to the Railway Station) or at other Kuranda eateries after the BRC50.

No refreshments will be available for paddlers once on the course, unless supplied by their land crew, at designated land crew access checkpoints. Koah Service station has good supplies.

AMENITIES

The closest amenities to the Low Bridge (race start) are at Coles Mareeba, Centenary Park Mareeba or Byrnes Street Mareeba. There are no public facilities at race checkpoints, although Koah Service Station is on the way to the Koah checkpoint. Kuranda Railway Station are the closest toilets at the finish line.

The Tinaroo Canoe Club

River Race events are held all over Australia on an annual basis. It had long been felt by those who paddle our mighty ‘Barron’, that a river race in our own backyard was long overdue.

The inaugural *Barron River Challenge 50/12*, co-ordinated by the Tinaroo Canoe Club (TCC), was successfully held in 2011. Now in its 10th year, the race has been growing moderately each year. Our club works closely with the Northwest Canoe Club; *Gregory River Marathon*, to facilitate over 90km of river paddling races in the Month of May.

It is hoped, with your continuing support, that the BRC50 will remain a regular event on the North Queensland, and Australian wide, paddling calendar.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chief Official Race Coordinator: Terry McClelland	**Course Umpire:** Greg Woon	**Safety Officer** Peter McAuley
Sponsorship: John van Ryt	**Competition Manager** Rachel Bernays	**Competition Secretary** Shirley Bradley

Committee Members: Paul Lillingstone, John van Ryt, Terry McClelland, Rhet Rutherford, Joy Tusa, Steve Brunn, Ben Sellers, David Maxwell,

Tinaroo Canoe Club would like to thank Kim McClelland, Lindsey Cullington, Natasha van Ryt, Linda and Barry Dick, Jason and Masie van Ryt, Peter Newlands and the many volunteer helpers who have provided invaluable assistance and contributed to the success of the *Barron River Challenge 50/20/30.*Thanks to officers at our parent bodies: Paddle Australia and Paddle Queensland as well as the Mareeba Shire Council for their continuing support of our local canoe race.

Tinaroo Canoe Club would like to thank our sponsors for 2022

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