

Iron Cockatoo Race Report, 17 June 2023

Race 3 of the 2023 PaddleNSW Harbour Racing Series

Compared to last year, this year's Iron Cockatoo Race had pristine weather! It was chilly winters morning, but the sun was out and the wind was light so it made for some fast course race times.

This time around the race was Race 3 of the Harbour Series. Situated on Wangal land and located in the far west of the Sydney Harbour National Park, the course takes in 4 of Sydney's working islands: Snapper, Spectacle, Cockatoo and Rodd, who all played a significant cultural and historical part of Sydney's early development.

The host club, Pacific Dragons, were at Salton Reserve early to set up the race course and site, directing paddlers were to park and set up the craft. Thanks to paddlers for turning up on time which meant we could run the event as smoothly as possible with the race briefing, and all waves starting exactly on time.

Congratulations to everyone who competed. Of the 104 entries, there were a few no-shows, however a strong field nonetheless. Only one incident out on the field where a paddler lost his rudder and made it back to the start line, all other starters returned safely.

- Long Course: 55 craft including 7 U18s and 2 double skis with adult/juniors racing and the overall fastest time taken out by Cade Barnes in 1:08:02.5
- Short Course: 31 craft of which 45% were female and including 4 juniors and 1 SUP and the overall fastest time taken by Viliam Mako 39:03.5

The full results can be viewed [HERE](#)

Race photos can be found [HERE](#)

A special thank you to the Pacific Dragons volunteers who helped make the day possible: the set-up & pack down crews; the parking crew; the on-water safety crew; rego team; finish team; and the BBQ & Raffle team.

Thanks also to PNSW and all entrants who came along and supported the race.