



Press Release 3

Opening Ceremony and Cultural Walks

Have you ever wondered why Kwoorabup is the name of the Denmark River? The Kwoorabup River Festival is offering you a chance to find out. We are privileged to have Menang Elder, Aunty Vernice Gillies and Menang Man, Larry Blight, leading guided walking tours along the Kwoorabup river banks after the opening ceremony at 10.45am on Saturday 21 September. You can learn about the flora and fauna, listen to traditional stories and see the land and the river through the traditional owners' eyes.

Aunty Vernice Gillies is passionate about cultural heritage, conservation and preservation of cultural knowledge and traditions. She will be welcoming us to Menang Boodja in the opening ceremony. Larry, who is no stranger to Denmark and especially well known to the kids of the Kwoorabup Nature School. Larry will be sharing his extensive knowledge of local bush foods, medicines, fauna, local stories and traditions.

The Festival opening ceremony will include community singing led by Denmark's local vocal talents, Rhian Bethen and Ashley Schipp of the Understory Choir. They will have us all singing in a moving call out to the river water.

Members of the Denmark Bird Group will be joining the walks to help spot the amazing bird life that thrives along our waterway.

This cultural and environmental experience aims to help us to better appreciate the Kwoorabup River and the Wilson/Nullaki inlet as we paddle, row, and swim through the events of the day. Come and enjoy the spectacle, have coffee at Ben's Place, lunch at Gin Lao in Berridge Park or Reminisce cafe, Rivermouth Caravan Park.

Dust off your your kayaks and paddle boards, get a rowing team together or pull out your wetsuit and participate in a day to celebrate our community and our beautiful waterways. Stay for the Kwoorabup Cordless Drill Boat Challenge. You will be in the safe hands of the Denmark Surf Lifesaving Club in all events.

Entry details can be found at <https://denmarkrowers.org.au/blog/kwoorabup-river-festival/>
A small entry fee of \$10 applies for the on-water events but the walking tours are free. Pay on the day or online at <https://events.humanitix.com/kwoorabup-river-festival>.

For more information go to www.denmarkrowers.org.au or contact Dave Cliff at denmarkrowers@iinet.net.au or follow DenmarkRowers on Instagram and Facebook.

Kwoorabup River Festival Program

Event	Start Time	Finish Time	Start Location	Finish Location	Safety / Support	Course length
Opening Ceremony	10.00	10.30	Berridge Park			
Dragon Boat Race	10.30	10.45	Berridge Park	Rail Trail Bridge	Inflatable Rubber Boat (IRB)	1.3km down river
Kayak Race	10.45	11.30	Berridge Park	Berridge Park	IRBs and Jet Ski	2.5km out into Wilson Inlet and 2.5km back
Heritage Walk	10.45	11.40	Berridge Park	Berridge Park		Kwoorabup Trail 1km (Up river)
SUP sprints	10.50	11.20	Berridge Park	Berridge Park	Paddle Boards	150m out and 150m back
Swim	11.45	12.30	Berridge Park	Rail Trail Bridge	IRBs and Paddle Boards	1.3km down river
Heritage Walk	11.45	13.00	Berridge Park	Berridge Park		Makara Trail 2.5km (Down river)
SUP & Kayak Sprints	12.30	13.00	Berridge Park	Berridge Park	Paddle Boards	150m out and 150m back
St Ayles Skiff pursuit races	13.00	14.00	Berridge Park	Berridge Park	IRB	150m out and 150m back
Cordless Drill powered dinghies	14.00	15.00	Berridge Park	Berridge Park	IRB	150m out and 150m back