

Wagga Beach and the Gumi



Wagga beach is a favourite place to cool down, and it has been for many years. There is special section of the Museum of the Riverina's collection dedicated to Wagga beach, including photos, objects and even a short film telling the story of the world famous Gumi Race.

- The World Championship Gumi Race was first staged on the Murrumbidgee River in Wagga in March 1976 and lasted until 1995. Competitors of all ages sailed from Eunony Bridge to the Wiradjuri Reserve in their Gumis made of rubber tyre tubes and anything else they could find.
- The Gumi Race was part of the larger Wagga Gumi Festival. Other events included a street parade with decorated floats, the Gumi King and Queen, a festival ball, photo competition, marathon canoe race, aquathon at Lake Albert, a tennis tournament, even a bed race!
- The Crabcycle Gumi boat was built by Maure Kramer in 1976 and travelled sideways down the river. It is made of a tractor inner-tube with steel framework, a saddle, bicycle pedals and handlebars and a motor boat propeller.
- Possibly the only remaining Gumi in existence, Maure and his Crabcycle Gumi were first across the finish line in the 1977 Wagga Gumi Race. He competed in all but two Gumi Races.
- In December 2004, Maure took his Crabcycle Gumi to the Wiradjuri Reserve, where the final stages of a Gumi Race were re-enacted right down to the cheering onlookers! Two film makers captured this historic moment.

Learn more about the Gumi Race and look at the Crabcycle Gumi at the Museum of the Riverina Botanic Gardens site.

Did you know?

"Gumi" is the Pidgin English word for rubber.