



2025

Paddle in paradise!
CAIRNS

2 EPIC RACES ACROSS 2 WEEKENDS

31 May & 6 June





Welcome to *paradise!*

Our Hekili family is thrilled to be welcoming you to Cairns for the Great Barrier Reef Ocean Challenge and MINI G Downwinder, on Yirrigandji land and sea country.

One of the best parts about living and paddling in tropical North Queensland is that while as the rest of Australia settles into winter, it's our moment to shine!

With sunny days and reliable south-easterly trade winds sweeping along our beautiful coastline, we're gifted with some of the finest downwind runs you'll find anywhere.

Test yourself on not just one, but two incredible downwind paddles across consecutive weekends—MiniG Sunday May 31 and GBROC 2026 Saturday June 6.

Stay for the week! Enjoy social paddling with your Hekili family and explore the natural magic of the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef and the ancient Wet Tropics rainforest.

Leave the wetsuits and winter woollies behind, pack your paddle, and bring your sense of adventure—because that's all you'll need for what promises to be an unforgettable week of paddling.

We can't wait to welcome you to our backyard and help make your experience—on and off the water—truly memorable.

Yours in paddling

Rangi Waitoa-Drewniak
PRESIDENT ~ HEKILI OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

HEKILI 

HMING

Yorkeys Knob to Ellis Beach
Sun 31 May 2026

20km

Race Co-ordinator | Jude Kennedy

hekili_gbroc@outlook.com | 0417 030 957

MINI G is an open ocean race - every effort will be made to keep you safe on the water but novice crews must be realistic about their experience and capability.

Please note: An alternative short course may be offered at the discretion of the director, based on conditions and support boat availability.

ELIGIBLE CRAFT

- OC6, Unlimited ,V3
- OC1 ,V1, OC2
- Ocean Ski
- Double Ski/Spec Ski
- SUP/Prone/Foil SUP
- Novice, 19U & 16U

NOMINATION FEE

Includes Race Shirt

Early bird discount

[BEFORE 30 April 2026] : \$90/paddler

[AFTER 30 April 2026] : \$110/paddler

Payment deadline May 17, 2026

Late nominations [After May 17] : \$140/paddler

REGISTRATION

Enquiries [Ivan Ridley](#)

hekili_registrar@outlook.com
0407 117 242

Go to Australian Outrigger www.aocra.com.au
click on 'Race Registration' & enter Member ID



| Not a member?

Click on 'I want to nominate for an event'.

| Non AOCRA

(Paddle Australia, non PA and international paddlers).
Scan QR code to complete the Visitor & International Indemnity Form
https://form.jotform.com/hekili_gbroc/visitor_form



| International paddlers recommended to have own travel insurance cover

MING 20km

OC6

MEN : WOMEN : MIXED
All senior divisions; novice; 16U & 19U

OC 1 | OC2 | V1

MEN : WOMEN : MIXED
All senior divisions

V3 | DOUBLE SKI | SPEC SKI

MEN : WOMEN : MIXED*
Open division *[MIXED Min 1 Woman]

SUP | PRONE

MEN : WOMEN
Open division

FOIL BOARDS

MEN : WOMEN
All senior divisions

OCEAN SKI

MEN : WOMEN
All senior divisions

8.00am

Race Registration & Entry Point

Meet at Yorkeys Knob foreshore
Sims Esplanade, to rig, register,
confirm craft number, emergency
contact and collect race shirt.

9.00am

Safety Briefing

Please assemble at the briefing
station promptly. Blessing will take
place directly after briefing and
immediately prior to race start.

9.30am

Race Start ALL DIVISIONS

Craft to assemble between two
starting buoys adjacent to the beach.
Flags will be signalled from the start
boat

Presentation & BBQ After the race

BBQ will be provided

AOCRA SAFETY REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO ALL CRAFT

MING 20km

The Course

Yorkeys Knob to Ellis Beach
Sunday 31 May 2026

Competitors paddle ESE (110°) for 4km
Rounding a buoy with an ama turn and
paddle NW (315°) for 12km towards
Haycock Island (Scouts Hat) and Double
Island before heading into Ellis Beach
4km WNW (290°)

TIDES

HIGH: 8.21am 2.08m
LOW: 14.42am 0.81m

SUNRISE 6.38am

SUNSET 5.50pm





Yorkeys Knob to Four Mile Beach, Port Douglas

Sat 6 June 2026

IRON &
CHANGEOVER
45km

Race Co-ordinator | Jude Kennedy

hekili_gbroc@outlook.com | 0417 030 957

Registration Enquiries | Nora Pennefather

hekili_gbroc@outlook.com | 0427 768 375

ELIGIBLE CRAFT

Changeover crews must have own support vessel. No beach changes. (U19 with coach/team manager on board).

- | OC6, Unlimited
- | OC1 | OC2 | V1 | V3
- | Ocean Ski | Double Ski | Spec Ski
- | SUP | Prone | Foil

NOMINATION FEE

Includes Race Shirt



REGISTRATION

Enquiries Nora Pennefather
hekili_gbroc@outlook.com
0427 768 375

IRON Early bird discount
[BEFORE 30 April 2026] : \$130/paddler
AFTER 30 April 2026 : \$150/paddler
Payment deadline May 17
Late nominations [After May 17] : \$180/paddler

CHANGEOVER

Early bird discount
[BEFORE 30 April 2026] : \$100/paddler
AFTER 30 April 2026 : \$150/paddler
Payment deadline May 17
Late nominations [After May 17] : \$150/paddler

Go to Australian Outrigger www.aocra.com.au
click on 'Race Registration' & enter Member ID



- | Not a member?
Click on 'I want to nominate for an event'.
- | Non AOCRA
(Paddle Australia, non PA and international paddlers).
Scan QR code to complete the Visitor & International Indemnity Form
https://form.jotform.com/hekili_gbroc/visitor_form
- | International paddlers recommended to have own travel insurance cover





OC6

MEN: WOMEN: MIXED*

All senior divisions

19U Changeover only

[*MIXED Min 3 women]

OC 1 | OC2 | V1

MEN: WOMEN: MIXED*

All senior divisions [*MIXED Min 3 Women]

V3 | DOUBLE SKI | SPEC SKI

MEN: WOMEN: MIXED*

Open division [*MIXED Min 1 Woman]

SUP | PRONE | FOIL BOARDS

MEN: WOMEN: Open division

OCEAN SKI

MEN: WOMEN: Open division

MEN: 9 paddlers [Golden/Platinum 10]

WOMEN: 10 paddlers max

[Senior/Golden/Platinum 12]

MIXED: 10 paddlers max

[Golden/Platinum 12]

19U: 10 paddlers max

Fri 5 June 2026

4-7pm

Registration

Sat 6 June 2026

8.00am

Race Sign In

Beach Foreshore Park opposite CaféTen06, 79 Sims Esplanade, Yorkeys Knob.

Register for your race, collect rashie/s, confirm canoe/craft number and emergency contact.

*NOTE: Team rashies to be collected by 1 person.

Drinks & meals on sale. All competitors & supporters welcome to join us for a catch up.

9.00am

Safety Briefing & Blessing

Blessing will take place directly after briefing and immediately prior to race start.

9.30am

Race Start ALL DIVISIONS

Craft to assemble between two starting buoys adjacent to the beach.

Flags will be signalled from the start boat.

Paddlers take best line NNW to Haycock Island (Scout's Hat). Smile for the cameras on way past Double Island, then run home to Port Douglas.

1-2pm

Race Finish

Allow about 1 hour to return by car to Yorkeys Knob. Talk to organisers about shuttle bus or share ride options.

Cross the finish line between two large orange buoys, directly adjacent to Four Mile Beach Park, Port Douglas, 22 Reef Street (Port Douglas OCC).

Paddlers should anticipate and prepare for being on the water for 3 1/2 to 5 hours. Cut Off 5 1/2 hours.

Note: if you have passed the prominent headland (known locally as Moby's Dick), you've gone too far!

Presentation Night Sat 5-10pm

Macalister Brewing Co. Food trucks and entertainment from 5pm

AOCRA SAFETY REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO ALL CRAFT



The Course

Yorkeys Knob to Four Mile Beach, Port Douglas
Saturday 6 June 2026

From the start line, competitors will paddle NNW (340°) rounding the southern side of Haycock Island (Scouts Hat), keeping Double Island on the left for 10.2km (5.5nm)

Competitors head NW (315°) directly to Port Douglas.

A vessel north of Alexandra Reefs will mark the final 3km (1.4nm) leg. Keep it ama side to avoid reef.

TIDES:

Cairns LOW: 9.52am 1.55m
 HIGH: 12.39am 1.62m

Port Douglas LOW: 9.56am 1.46m
 HIGH: 12.45pm 1.51m

SUNRISE 6.40am

SUNSET 5.50pm



ALL SAFETY CRAFT MUST HAVE EPIRB

Local Info



MINI G Parking

Race start: Yorkeys Knob Beach, Sims Esplanade

Race finish: Ellis Beach, Captain Cook Hwy, north of Ellis Beach SLSC

Canoe trailer parking: Directly opposite race start and around the corner at YKBC Buckley Street.

GBROC Parking

Race start: Yorkeys Knob Beach, Sims Esplanade

Canoe trailer parking: YKBC Buckley Street.

Race finish: Port Douglas OCC
Four Mile Beach Park, 22 Reef Street Port Douglas

Canoe trailer parking: Port Douglas OCC

Canoe Hire & Support Boats

Hekili is able to loan canoes for a fee. We can also put changeover crews in touch with experienced local boaties willing to assist.

Crews will make their own arrangements directly with the boat driver to help cover fuel costs.

Contact: Emma Morgan
hekili_gbroc@outlook.com | 0432 810 520

Good Food & Coffee

Memories Cafe: Varley St, Yorkeys Knob Beach
On your way to the beach.

Mention to Amanda you're a paddler.

TenO6 Cafe Bar: Sims Esplanade, Yorkeys Knob
Opposite GBROC / MiniG race start

Yorkeys Knob Boat Club: Buckley St, Yorkeys Knob
Relax on the deck for dinner, drop in for coffee or sundowners, before or after your races.

Local Info



Be croc wise & sun smart

Cairns is in croc territory. Local paddlers are aware of this but most have never seen or encountered a croc while paddling. We avoid paddling in rivers and estuaries, particularly at dusk. Your marine encounters are more likely to be with a turtle or dolphin. Box jellyfish are not present in our waters between May and November. You may still consider wearing long sleeves and leggings for sun protection.

Keep Hydrated

Even in winter, it's warmer than you expect and conditions are likely to be different to what you have been training in. It's imperative paddlers keep well hydrated during and in the days leading up to races. Carry enough water and food with you to stay energised, particularly during GBROC, when you can be on the water for up to four hours or more.

Accommodation

Convenient locations:

Yorkeys Knob and Cairns Northern Beaches

Hotels: Trinity Beach, Clifton Beach, Palm Cove and Cairns CBD

Air BNB: Yorkeys Knob, Trinity Beach, Palm Cove, Holloways Beach, Machans Beach

Paddling Community:

Share a room or bunk with someone local!

Cancellation and Refund Policy

- The Host, Zone or AOCRA may cancel an event inline with the AOCRA Rules.
- Cancellation more than 30 days before the event is at minimum a 80% refund of the Host, Zone and AOCRA portion of the nomination fee.
- Cancellation more than 7 days before the event is at minimum an 70% refund of the Host, Zone and AOCRA portion of the nomination fee.
- Cancellation more than 1 day before the event is at minimum a 60% refund of the Host, Zone and AOCRA portion of the nomination fee.
- Cancellation on the day of the event is at minimum a 40% refund of the Host, Zone and AOCRA portion of the nomination fee.
- The Host, Zone and / or AOCRA reserve the right to refund at a greater value of their portion above.
- Refunds will be processed within 30 days of cancellation via the same method used for payment.

Postponement

- Should the Host, Zone or AOCRA postpone an event, they are required to give notice at any time prior to the scheduled start time of an event.
- A date for the rescheduled event must be announced within 7 days of the original event date in writing by: email, sms alert notification or text message to your mobile device, Host Facebook page, written announcement on the AOCRA website. The Host reserves the right to postpone the event (where no refund will be issued).
- The rescheduled event program content/ format may change including scheduled times which is at the discretion of the Host and they reserve the right to do without notice.
- The Host, Zone or AOCRA may continue to postpone an event following the same process as above.

Nominee cancellation

- Once the nomination fee is paid there is no refund for change of mind.
- If you have paid the nomination fee and are unable to attend the event due to extenuating circumstances outside of your control, you may apply in writing using the AOCRA Request for Refund Form on the AOCRA website and email to support@aocra.com.au giving details of the reason for requesting a refund.
- The Host, Zone and AOCRA are not obligated to refund their respective portions of the nomination fee, and if a refund is approved it will be processed in full less an administration fee of up to \$10 for processing the refund.
- AOCRA determines the administration fee at the time of processing a refund and retains the administration fee to cover their processing costs.
- The nominee cannot request a refund on the day of the event or after the start date of the event.

Fee breakdown

NOMINATION PER PADDLER	CLUB	NQ ZONE	AOCRA LTD	TOTAL	RACE SHIRT INC.
GBROC IRON [Early Bird]	\$123	\$5	\$2	\$130	YES
GBROC IRON	\$143	\$5	\$2	\$150	YES
GBROC CHANGEOVER [Early Bird]	\$93	\$5	\$2	\$100	YES
GBROC CHANGEOVER	\$113	\$5	\$2	\$120	YES
MINI G IRON [Early Bird]	\$83	\$5	\$2	\$90	YES
MINI G IRON	\$103	\$5	\$2	\$110	YES



CAIRNS • AUSTRALIA

HEKILI
OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB



hekilioutrigger.com.au

MING
31 May 2026
20km

GREAT BARRIER REEF
GBROC
Ocean Challenge
6 June 2026
45km
IRON &
CHANGEOVER