

Port Macquarie NEWS

Monday, March 3, 2008

Forget smoke, there's mist on the water

A TEAM of plumbers claimed first place in yesterday's corporate canoe challenge on the Hastings River.

Blue Mist Plumbing – the company which put out the challenge to other plumbers and suppliers to compete in the day – came in first, followed by the John L. Fisher team and Rif Construction.

Just over 20 teams paddled a 250 stretch of the Hastings River in three races as Port Macquarie Maroro Outrigger Canoe Club gave the community a taste of its sport.

The club is now one step closer to buying a new canoe thanks to the fundraising day.

Club president Garth Norris said the event also gave businesses and community groups the chance to get some exercise, build their teamwork and have a bit of fun.

Strategy First Financial Planning staff members travelled from Sydney to be part of the day.

The firm, which has one Port Macquarie-based employee, plans to open an office in town later in the year.

Managing director David Price said the day was terrific fun.

"When you get in the boat you realise there's a lot of technique and it's about how you hold the paddle and work together as a team," he said.

Our outrigger canoeing draws its origin from the Polynesian islands where islanders would paddle from island to island.

It has developed into a competitive sport.

Port Macquarie Maroro Outrigger Canoe Club is in its fifth year and members compete in about five regattas annually.

The \$3500 raised yester-



□ Dig deep: The Newcastle Permanent team (from front) of Bob Higham, Tamara Burns, Clint Mitchley, Jose Ustariz, Samantha Cullen and Lincoln Beddoe compete in the outrigger canoe day.

day will go towards equipment, with the ultimate goal of buying a new canoe expected to cost about

\$18,000. The club bought a \$5000 secondhand canoe last year from money raised at the past three

corporate days.

Members also support other community organisations.