

# Henley-on-Todd Regatta

One of the most unusual **regattas** anywhere is held each year in Alice Springs on the Todd River. Like other regattas, it involves a series of boating events, such as Mixed Maxi-Yachts or Rowing Fours. But there is just one little hitch.

There is not a lot of water. In fact, there is none. The Todd River is a dry riverbed. The nearest large body of water is 1500 kilometres away.

The boats in the Henley-on-Todd Regatta usually have no bottoms. Competitors hold them up and run along the sandy riverbed.

In the Mixed Maxi-Yacht race, for example, teams of ten hold up their bottomless boats and rush over the riverbed sand. They turn at a **buoy**, and race back to the finish line. First across is the winner.



Competitors racing at the Henley-on-Todd Regatta

There are other similar races. The Mini-Yacht Cup features teams of four. The White Water Kayak is for individuals and their bottomless kayaks.



Competitors racing in the White Water Kayak event

How popular can something like this be? Well, it is very popular. Thousands of people crowd the banks of the dry river to watch the hundreds of competitors. It is a big day on the Alice Springs social calendar.

### What if it Rains?



What happens to the Henley-on-Todd Regatta if it rains and there is water in the Todd River?



They have to cancel the Regatta. It happened once, in 1993.