

## Athletes flock to River Event

Perfect weather greeted competitors taking part in Saturday's Jackson Holmes Salmon Run multi-sport event in Rakaia.

The race featured a number of challenges, including bike, walk, duathlon and multi-sport options.

A record number of multi-sporters took the opportunity to race on the river in preparation for February's Coast To Coast and overall numbers were pleasing, said organising committee member Mandy Hurst.

She said positive feedback justified the hard work put in by Rakaia Lions and others in organising the event.

Committee members had set up in "awful conditions" on Friday and had been happy that the weather had played its part on the day.

"We ended up with close to 300 competitors, which was pretty good considering there were other things going on over the weekend," said Mrs Hurst.

The continually changing river flow had caused some concerns on Friday, but close to 100 kayakers had got what they came for - "a great paddle that challenged them".

"We knew we had a great MTB course and the response from mountain bikers reinforced this.

"Local competitors increased this year, which was also a real positive."

Mrs Hurst said Rakaia Lions were appreciative of all the sponsorship and support received this year.