



Part of the huge crowd at West Lakes

# Cheers for the river rulers

By ANDY WILLIAMS

BANNERS were draped across waterfront homes, flags waved in the breeze and marquees packed with supporters made up the colorful scene at yesterday's Head of the River regatta at West Lakes.

People lined the banks and threw inhibitions to the wind as they raucously cheered home their crews.

And, of course, there was the traditional involuntary dunking of coxs from winning crews.

Cars lined Military Rd for more than a kilometre as students, parents and friends from the 10 competing schools - eight independent and two State - sought out vantage points.

It took five attempts to get the boys' eights under way as blustery winds forced boats out of alignment at the start of the 2000m course.

St Peter's College had a convincing win over traditional foe Prince Alfred College in the boys' eights, but the loudest cheers were for Wilderness, which downed arch-rival Walford in the girls' eights.

It was Wilderness's first



The Wilderness girls celebrate



... as do the boys from St Peter's

Head of the River cup, which Walford had held for the past five years.

Wilderness stroke Miranda Bennett described the win as "awesome".

"We didn't think we had it won until we crossed the line," she said.

Acting Pembroke principal and regatta spokesman

Mr Tony Houey said rowing took a lot of commitment. "The kids are on the water for one or two hours before school starts a couple of times a week and then there are Saturday regattas."

The Head of the River was first held on the Torrens in 1922 with four

schools competing - Adelaide Boys' High School and St Peter's, Prince Alfred and Scotch colleges. It moved to West Lakes in 1977.

Results: Boys' First Eight - 1 St Peter's College, 2 Prince Alfred College, 3 Pulteney Grammar School. Girls' First Eight - 1 Wilderness School, 2 Walford Anglican School, 3 Pembroke School.