

# Wilderness reign supreme

By MATTHEW BOWMAN

WILDERNESS School caused a thrilling upset in the Head of the River Schools Regatta at the weekend, beating Walford by less than a second to win the Florence Eaton Cup.

The shock win over Walford, who went into the Schoolgirls First Eight event favorite after rowing at the recent Australian Nationals in Nagambie, was one of the closest finishes in the regatta's history.

Wilderness last won the event in 1996.

The Boys First Eight event was also an upset - St Peter's Col-

lege beat Prince Alfred College to take the Gosse Shield. St Peter's came from behind to win the race by more than a length, its third straight victory in the event.

Chairman of the Heads of Schools Rowing Committee, Mr Peter Took, described the event as a success.

"It was a successful regatta with good spirited competition and good racing throughout," Took said.

"All season Saints and Prince Alfred have been vying for ascendancy," he said.

"Both these crews have set a new standard for schoolboy rowing in South Australia".

Prince Alfred went into the event as favorite, performing well throughout the season to win *The Advertiser* Shield State Championship for Schoolboys First Eights.

St Peters' victory will intensify a strong rivalry between the two clubs, who have battled closely for several years.

At a recent regatta, they were responsible for the first ever dead heat in their class after the rivals could not be separated despite the use of video footage.

More than 10,000 spectators attended the traditionally popular event which is renowned for its color and close racing.