

Our courageous crews bring back the **BLING**

Derwent Storms paddlers representing the club and Tassie have returned triumphant from the 2016 Dragons Down Under Australian Dragon Boat Championships in Adelaide after their best Nationals competition performance to date.

The Storms-dominated Tasmanian squad won its first-ever national medal with the Senior B Mixed 20s storming home in the 500 metre final just behind NSW and South Australia.

The powerful finish followed another superlative effort at the championships by the Derwent Storms Senior B Mixed 10s in the club comp. They had nothing left in the tank after their brilliant 500 metre final which earned them a well-deserved bronze medal.

It was such a great effort, placing Storms among the cream of the nation's 59 clubs represented at the regatta. Derwent Storms made it to three grand finals: 500m Senior B Mixed, 500m Senior B Women's and 500m Senior B Open.

More news from the Nationals, including those infamous "Tippy 10s" on Page 3



Above: Storms paddlers made up the majority of the State team. Looking resplendent in new tops and bronze bling with the super support team

Below: Our gutsy Senior B 10s Stormers with their bronze medals and huge smiles
Photos - Di Scarlett



Club Committee 2015-16

President: Angie Turner

Vice president: Alison Mourant

Secretary: Kathryn Essex

Treasurer: Jenny Smith

Jan Breen, Jane Lovibond, Jenny Willing, Matt Davies, Peter Essex

www.derwentstorms.com.au/

derwentstorms@gmail.com

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Australian Sports Foundation offers online fundraising possibilities

The club has broadened its fundraising potential with the Committee's decision to sign up to the Australian Sports Foundation's (ASF) tax deductible F4S (Fundraising 4 Sport) Programme.

This Federal Government programme which began in 1986 involves an agreement between Derwent Storms and the ASF.

We are listed on the ASF website www.asf.org.au with our club's story, projects that we're seeking funding for and images that best represent what we're all about. We will also devise fundraising strategies that will bring the philanthropic dollars rolling in. In return, we benefit from the ASF's tax deductible status which means that any donation over \$2 to our projects will be tax deductible and donors will receive an emailed receipt from the ASF.

The Committee will be working on a number of fundraising ideas but to get our message out as quickly and broadly as possible, the first strategy would be to ask members to spread the word among family, friends and business contacts so that the ASF site and our page in particular gets plenty of hits and hopefully plenty of donations.

Our first big project is to pay for a new two-boat trailer so that Stormers can continue to assist the running of dragon boat events around Tasmania and spread the word of the joys of dragon boating at community events like the Sandy Bay Regatta.

Donations can be made on-line, off-line and manually. We are set up with an on-line donation facility and promotional page on www.asf.org.au and are provided with an off-line donation form from the ASF for those who prefer to donate that way. On-line donations are simple and can be made by credit card or EFT. Credit card transactions incur a fee of 1% for Visa and Mastercard, 2% for Amex. All donations incur a 5% admin fee charged by the ASF.

Committee member, Peter Essex, will be coordinating the programme. Our site needs to be kept fresh with regular photo updates and Peter hopes that no one objects to being photographed at paddling sessions, regattas and other dragon boating activities.

Corporate regatta showcases dragon boating to diverse audience

Once again Storms were very happy to help our colleagues across the bay with their major fundraiser for the year.

DATH's corporate regatta is a great event and showcases our sport to huge cross section of the community.

The presence of Derwent Storms assisting with sweeping, drumming and paddling and the prime location of our gazebo raises the profile of the club.

Storms attracted enthusiastic recruits from this year's event so our efforts have been well rewarded.

Assisting with these types of events is a great learning experience and by making a contribution we can all take away something as well.

We are really fortunate to have DATH as our near neighbours and Derwent Storms look forward to building the relationship into the future.



Grady and Geoff stroked for the St John Ambulance crew

The Nationals: Tippy 10s, sensational sweeps, daring drummers



A new fleet of shiny Pei Sheng 10s and 20s dragon boats looked the goods on the sandy shore of Adelaide's West Lakes ready for the 2016 Australian Dragon Boat Championships. However, it took only a practice run with a couple of dunkings for the Storms' Open crew to prove that these brand new bucking broncos would test the most seasoned cowboy.

The 10s in particular were extremely unforgiving. Paddlers required a steady, "forward-and-back" paddling technique with a 100% effort to keep the weight centred in the boat. Drummers needed core muscles of steel and unyielding focus to remain seated, while sweeps had to summon super-human courage and strength to stay in control. Hats off to sweeps Sue, Lyn, Jen and Pete for their sterling efforts in very trying windy and rough conditions.

There were many capsizes during the competition: at the start, during the racing and at the finish line.

We were fortunate to get our unscheduled swims over and done with before the actual competition began but it made everyone very wary and super-attentive. The challenging craft certainly were a talking point at West Lakes, and the wild rides they provided made for spectacular viewing from the shore, on the big screen at the course, watching the live streaming and following up on You Tube. Needless to say our club is very grateful for its current fleet of recently-refurbished Stormy boats and Champion "pretty" boat.

The adverse conditions helped to bond an already tight team even further and the jokes about the Tippy 10s nearly surpassed the light-hearted comments about our less-than-desirable mid-city accommodation houses. The Paringa "resort and spa", with its pull-chain toilets and antiquated decor, was a step above the Spartan bungalows at Vineyard (2014 Nationals) but no doubt will prompt some colourful comments on Trip Advisor.



It was great to meet up with old pals Val and Tony Harris now paddling with the Manly club in Qld

Our Nationals "virgins" - Andrea P, Mel, Teena, Chris, Anna, Gaylene, Helen B, Geoff, Pete, Grady and Kathryn - revelled in the competitive atmosphere and after-hours fun in Adelaide.

How lucky is Derwent Storms to have this great bunch contributing to such a talented squad to field crews across Senior Cs, Bs, As and Opens! To come home with club and state medals speaks heaps for great squad discipline, a fantastic training program, wonderful team management and lots of guts. We owe so much to our superlative coaches - Ali, Donna, Jen, Martin and Kathy - for preparing us so well and having such faith in us all.

Clarence Mayor Doug Chipman and Ald Sharyn Von Bertouch sent messages of congratulations to all.

Accolades for 4 Bridges: Crews are lining up for next event



Requests already are coming in from interstate clubs to be put on the wait list for the next 4 Bridges event.

The February 20 event was so successful and word has spread far and wide about the fantastic 'Descent of the Derwent'. We even have paddlers from Kangaroo Island inquiring about a follow up.

Despite a week of strong wind preceding the 4 Bridges, all the ducks lined up on the day and 10 crews enjoyed an outgoing tide, a reasonable current and a tail breeze to scoot down the course.

The departure from New Norfolk was 15 minutes behind schedule but the fleet arrived bang on time at the Tasman Bridge with all crews in very high spirits.



Full credit to the steering committee who worked so hard. Their meticulous event planning ensured a seamless 'execution' albeit with some help from the weather gods.

The paddlers remarked on the superb organisation, the friendly and focused boat handling crews, the fantastic catering and the hassle-free bus transport that bookended a truly magnificent event.

Pats on the back to all concerned. It was a superb team effort and we are so fortunate to have such a

broad cross-section of member skills. The feedback from Clarence Alderman Sharyn Von Bertouch, who attended the lunch, was fabulous.



She was completely blown away by the scale of the event and the spectacle of the boats heading into Lindisfarne Bay. Sharyn competed in the Corporate Regatta the following week and wants to be our go-to person on council.

Among the multitude of event tasks was a visitor/paddler survey the steering committee conducted on behalf of Events Tasmania (as part of its \$3000 grant). The survey asked participating paddlers how long they stayed in Tasmania and where. It revealed that interstate participants spent a total of visitor 797 nights in Tasmania. How good was that for the state!

More next page



Top left: An early start at New Norfolk

Above left: Crews assemble for the event safety briefing

Top: The Derwent swans were a-flutter

Above: Bridge # 2 at Bridgewater

Left: The fleet surges past Nyrstar



The Derwent Storms Dragon Boat Club is indebted to its talented and hard-working members for organising and staging the event in association with Dragon Boat Tasmania. Storms also thanks DATH, Dragons Abreast North West Tas, North Esk-DANTI and MoCo for providing dragon boats, support vessel and great assistance in catering for the 4 Bridges.

Generous sponsorship from Events Tasmania, the Derwent Valley Council, the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania, Typhoon 8 and the Clarence City Council as well as support from wonderful Tasmanian businesses ensured the event was on a sound footing.



DBTas is finalising the event financials and will report the final dividends soon.

- Event director Andrew Lovibond

Here's just some of the great feedback:

Port Lincoln: What a fantastic day!! We are sooo impressed with your organising and play out of the organisation of this 4 Bridges event. A huge thank you to all your supporters and workers. What fantastic ambassadors for Tassie and Dragon Boating. We were grateful to have both Anne and Melissa from Derwent Storms in the boat who also provided commentary and valuable information to our sweeps. Please thank them for us as we did appreciate their guidance and camaraderie.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Eyre Peninsula and continuing to foster new friendships.

Pinnacle Dragons Abreast: Thank you and your team, we so appreciate all the work that you've put in over the



last few months, great result, you should be very proud of yourselves. Keep on doing what you're doing.

Kombo Dragons: There were so many nice touches - I loved the bun at morning tea and the delicious little apples. Everyone raved about the salmon when we arrived at the Rowing Club. The fresh fruit at lunch was most welcome and so were the cakes! A well-run and most enjoyable day.

Ald Sharyn Von Bertouch: I was honoured to be involved in the welcoming of the teams, and learning about the various positive aspects of dragon boating.



Top: On the homeward stretch to the Tasman Bridge

Above left: Boat handlers assist crews arriving for morning tea

Above: Our catering wizards with those superb platters

Middle: Our fabulous hard-working boat handlers

Left: A happy, smiling face says it all - A job well done!



Storms membership on a roll

The club is enjoying a membership surge with lots of interest in come-and-try sessions which are resulting in lots of new members, including our first Premiers and more Senior As.

Storms welcomes: **Clarissa Hughes, Melanie Morris, Vicki Veness, Christine Alcock, Deb Fulton, Andrea Scott, Judy Dunsby, Warren Gowing and Claire Harrison.**



Anyone for New Zealand?

The World Masters Games will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, on April 29 and 30 next year.

Anne Carey is seeking paddlers for Senior B and Senior C crews. About 30 paddlers have flagged an interest in attending so please let Anne know (careyanne07@gmail.com) if you would like to join the throng.

Please note that this event will be held around the same time as the 2017 Nationals in Albury-Wodonga.

Best of luck to Anne who is on the road to recovery after breaking her ankle. She is "plastered" and temporarily immobile.

City to Casino fun run

Is anyone up for a little jog? Mike Percy is doing the City to Casino 7 Km Fun Run on Sunday 15 May and wants some company.

There is also a 7km walk and a 11km Fun Run. See Mike if you are interested.



For all your wardrobe needs

Need to add to your Derwent Storms wardrobe? Just see Jan Breen who may be able to deck you out in a new top from available stock. Please email janbreen40@gmail.com or ph 0407 564 450 and Jan will bring the stock to a paddling session for your perusal.

Sunday breakfast at MYCT

The MYCT is now offering breakfast as well as coffee and cake on Sunday mornings. Those who tried it after paddling this week enjoyed the experience. Coffee and cake \$8.50. Great value.



Sweep training weekend

Guest sweeps from the Merimbula Water Dragons, Pat and Charles Helmore, will conduct a two-day training session for novice and experienced sweeps on the weekend of 20-21 May.

Pat is the NSW southern region sweep coordinator and both she and Charles are well credentialed to lead the sessions.

DBTas is organising the weekend at the MYCT so stay tuned for more details.

Major refurbishment of club boats a reminder to take care

The old Stormy boats are back in service after a very necessary but expensive trip to the workshop. Our faithful craft were in a sorry state and one in particular required major repairs by professional boatwrights. This came at significant cost (just over \$9,000) and should serve as a wakeup call to all paddlers to treat our boats with the utmost care.

Despite taking a pounding on the water, they are fragile and we all need to be extra careful when launching and retrieving the boats as well as loading and unloading on to the trailer.

The winter recess during July will provided a great opportunity for the club maintenance team (Dave Cross, Steve, Grady, Ian and Andrew) to organise some cosmetic work on our fleet. These crafty lads do a great job and we are indeed indebted to them for their work they have done in the past and hopefully will continue to do.

Paddling session times over winter

With the onset of colder weather, club paddling sessions will change to a winter program from May.

Tuesday evening sessions will cease after May 3. Thursdays will go ahead as usual.

From Saturday 7 May, Saturday and Sunday morning sessions will start an hour later: 9am for 9.30am on the water.

The mid-winter recess (ie no paddling) will commence after the Thursday evening paddle on 30 June. There will be no paddling for the first three weeks of July.

Boat maintenance will be undertaken during the break.

Everyone is encouraged to keep up their fitness during this time, even if it's just a daily walk.

We will return to the water on Saturday 23 July.



Visitor paddler gold coin donation

Paddlers visiting from other clubs, particularly on Wednesdays, are being invited to make a small contribution to the upkeep of our boats and other equipment. Given the recent boat repair costs and the need to replace the club life jackets, all users now have the opportunity to feed the donation tin in the cubby. Please tell your visiting paddling buddies.

Committee wants your input

The Derwent Storms committee meets on the third Wednesday of every month. Your input is invited.

Please email derwentstorms@gmail.com a week before the meeting and lodge your requests/issues with Secretary Kathryn Essex.

The intoxicating power of youth



They might not have been stylish paddlers, but a group of Rosny College students certainly demonstrated the power of youth at a come and try session recently.

Twenty-five grade 11s adapted to dragon boating very quickly and within an hour had graduated from an unsteady mob into a strong, cohesive crew.

It's often a challenge to manage enthusiasm, excitement and showmanship but full credit to coaches Ali and Donna and sweeps Pete and Mike had these young things eating out of their hands.

Fortunately the water conditions were near perfect allowing us to cruise under the Tasman Bridge and perform the traditional 'yahoo'. The vocal drill went down exceptionally well as did the repeat yodel on the return from Montagu Bay.

The establishment of a junior squad would be great for dragon boating in Tasmania and the club is keen to support any moves in this direction.

Come and Try sessions during the school day offer the best opportunity to get young people on the water and the club thanks those members who were able to help out with the Rosny students.

Derwent Storms will be working on this concept to develop further interest in schools.



Dragon Boating Calendar

2016

May 3 Last Tuesday night paddle

May 7 Winter sessions start 9.30am

May 15 City to Casino Fun Run

May 20-21 Sweep training weekend

July 1 - 22 Winter recess for Storms

Nov 5-13 Pan Pacific Masters Games, Gold Coast

2017

January 26 Sandy Bay Regatta

April Australian Championships, Albury Wodonga

April 29, 30 World Masters Games, Auckland New Zealand

October Australian Masters Games, NW Tasmania

Paddles to try before you buy

Storms now has a full size range of carbon fibre paddles to be used by club members who are considering buying a new paddle. The opportunity therefore exists to 'try before you buy' - particularly beneficial if you are unsure what size suits you.

Please see Angie Turner if you would like to borrow one for a training session.

Sorry come-and-try paddlers, these paddles are not for you!

PADDLE FOR SALE

Adjustable Trivium Paddle

Black, as new condition \$300.

Come see. It's in the club cubby.

BURNWATER SOFT SEATS

If you would like to order a comfy, soft 'wraparound' seat, please email Helen Byrne at hmbelle@bigpond.net.au Helen will place a bulk order.