



The Derwent Drum

Derwent Storms Dragon Boat Club Newsletter

Issue 19

July 2015

DAZZLING DABBLE ON THE DERWENT



Was this worth waiting for or what! With so many paddling sessions cancelled because of wind and rain, we thought we would run out of opportunities to paddle under the MOFO-illuminated Tasman Bridge. Despite earlier showers and very nippy conditions, a crew of 13 turned up in winter woollies to claim Thursday 18 June as THE night for a Dark MOFO dabble on the Derwent.



Club Committee 2014-15

President: Angie Turner

Vice president: Alison Mourant

Secretary: Janine Atkins

Treasurer: Jenny Smith

Denise Phillips, Grady Koolhof, Jan Breen, Jane Lovibond, Jenny Willing, Martin Turner, Pamela Hunt

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Great conditions for novice paddlers at Chinese dragon boat festival

The Chinese water gods were certainly smiling for the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival in Hobart on June 21.

It was a colourful event with members of Master Wang's athletic entourage performing a spirited dragon dance and Hobart Lord Mayor Sue Hickey setting a new trend in paddling gear.



The event was co-hosted for the second successive year by Dragon Boat Tasmania and the Chinese Community Association of Tasmania. Derwent Storms, DATH and MoCo paddlers were joined by Kevlyn and Beth from Nipples on Ripples at Devonport to form the basis of four experienced crews to hit the water.

Interspersed among them were excited but apprehensive students and adults, most of whom took on board instructions from the safety briefing and the sweeps. Brendan Breen was the race starter in the MoCo safety boat with Alison and Dean Le Bis, while sweeps Julie Davidson and Pete Essex valiantly kept the boats upright.



DBTas president Donna Fittock maintained a mobile phone link with the safety boat to provide a lively commentary so all those on shore could keep abreast of the activity on the race course.

The Lord Mayor's all-black ensemble - leather gloves, fabulous furry hat, leggings and coat – was topped off by some trendy gumboots ... not necessarily recommended attire for dragon boating. Some of the other participants were reluctant to part with their puffer jackets to go out on the water but most acknowledged safety was paramount.

The Chinese community was very grateful for the assistance from DBTas, and the clubs and the presence of the Lord Mayor and Master Wang was a huge bonus. Together they performed the dotting of the eyes ceremony so our Stormy and DATH's Dragon Fly are now reinvigorated for a new season. It was unfortunate that MoCo's boat trailer was unroadworthy and we were one boat down but a changeover of crews provided fresh paddlers and kept Julie and Pete on their toes.

Special thanks must go to Stormers Andrew Lovibond and Dave Cross. Between them they got two boats (Storms' and DATH's) to and from the venue and supervised boat loading and unloading. Poor Dave spent most of the morning thigh deep in the water and was still smiling back at Lindisfarne unloading the boats.

Thank you too to the Stormers who supported the event by turning up bright and early, erecting our gazebo, unloading and reloading the boats and sharing their day with the Chinese community.

July and August club paddling schedule

Sunday morning training: 9am for 9.30am

Wednesday morning social paddle: 9am for 9.30am

Thursday evening training: 6pm for 6.30pm

Saturday morning training/come and try: 9am for 9.30am

Wednesday evening: extended session with Auroras

No Tuesday evening paddling

Wellington Dragon Boat Festival beckons paddlers across the Tasman

New Zealand's biggest dragon boating festival will be held on March 5 and 6 next year in Wellington. It attracts up to 100 crews and races are staged on the city harbour guaranteeing lots of spectators.

Categories are: Corporate mixed or sports, Premiers mixed, Masters mixed, Women's, Breast Cancer Survivors, Teachers and Parents, Schools. Races are 320metres.

No ID tags are required and there is no pre-qualifier to enter. However, there is no individual registration. You must be part of a team of 10 or 20 paddlers. The event has been going for 30 years and the welcome event includes an opportunity to paddle a traditional Maori Waka. The emphasis is on spectacle and there's a prize for the best team chant.

Registrations open on 15 October 2105. The Australian contact is Wendy Smyth who is based in Sydney (02) 9982 80000 or email the Wellington festival office on crew@dragonboat.org.nz For more information, go to www.dragonboat.org.nz



Stormers thanked for huge contribution to Auroras' fundraiser

Dragon Boat Tasmania has extended a huge thank you to all the Stormers who supported the Canadian Trivia Night fundraiser. Belinda Kendall-White and Helen Russell did an absolutely magic job to secure fabulous auction items and prizes from supportive businesses around Hobart. Who could say no to these lovely ladies whose persuasive powers seem to know no bounds?

A big thanks to James Dunbabin for donating Shaun's cousin (neatly butchered, sliced and diced), to Leigh Becker for her great contacts at Cadburys and Coles Bay, to Mary McCulloch, Helen Cordell and Penny Zucchi for their great prizes and to those who made contributions but were unable to attend.

Particular thanks to all who provided supper and nibbles and helped in the kitchen and to the paddlers who put together a table of friends and family.

It was a fun night and who doesn't love a man in uniform, especially a red jacket and smart hat? It's hard to believe the Canadian Mountie livery was voted only the fourth sexiest in world! (Question from the True and False Round). Just for those who missed out on some of the more quirky questions, try these true (T) or false (F) mind benders: Canadians built the first UFO landing pad (True); Winnie the Pooh was named after a bear from the Winnipeg Zoo (True); Canadians call their one dollar coin the Boonie (False, it's a Loonie); A Newfoundland screech is a type of seabird (False, it's a locally-bottled rum from Jamaica).

The event raised around \$5,000 which will contribute to the Stormer Auroras costs to attend the World Championships in Welland, Canada.



Captain Andrew with his Canada-bound Auroras



In Canadian red and white are barmaids Sue, Lyn and Annette

NEWS IN BRIEF

Leadership course: Vice president and head coach Ali Mourant recently attended a sports leadership session hosted by Womensport & Recreation Tasmania. Ali says that overall it was very helpful but was disappointed that the guest speaker Skype connection was so poor it was transferred to a mobile phone on loud speaker. It lacked the interaction factor and impacted on the question and answer session at the end.

On vacation: While most of us are enjoying the brisk Hobart weather, a few Stormers are savouring the climatic and other delights further afield. Grady and wife Mary are touring the outback in their fabulous caravan, Vicki is horse riding in France and Outer Mongolia, Roz is in Iceland and Karen is soaking up the sun in the Greek Islands.

New dress code: New Stormer Geoff Andrews has wasted no time in getting into the swing of paddling and has a wardrobe to match. His gorgeous green/black neoprene shoes are spectacular, his paddle is sparkling clean and the new race shirt completes a great ensemble. Watch out Daviepops, you could be upstaged in the immaculate dress stakes!

Head coaching job: If you think you have the credentials to become Australia's new head coach for dragon boating, AusDBF wants to hear from you. A Request for Tender has been issued for a two-year period from October 2015 to September 2017.

Dragon Boating Calendar

July 2015

Sat 4 Club dinner MYCT

October 2015

9-10 Australian Masters, Adelaide

February 2016

Tasmanian Dragon Boat Champs, Lake Barrington

20 Four Bridges Marathon

March 2016

5-6 Wellington Dragon Boat Festival NZ

23-28 National Championships, West Lakes, Adelaide SA



Saturday mornings continue to be really popular sessions with technique improvement for the regulars and a great opportunity for newer paddlers and come-and-tryers to have a splash.