

Stormy fleet boosted with shiny new machines



Nothing quite beats the excitement of the arrival of a new boat - except two new boats!

It was quite a logistical exercise to unload “Greenie” and “Blackie” which were stacked on top of each other on a semi-trailer. But an eager group of paddlers, itching to see their new toys, soon had the task well in hand. With Dave Cross calling the shots, the crew tore back the black plastic wrap to reveal our shiny new machines.

On initial inspection all seems to be in order. The seats and gunwales are already varnished so it won't be too long before the Champion twins are surging down the Derwent. **More on page 2**

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

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WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Our new boats	P 2
Winter break working bee	P 3
Wooden Boat Festival paddling event	P 4
Storms Annual General Meeting	P 4
Masters Games update	P 4
Ord River extravaganza	P 5-6
Paddling Calendar	P 7
News in Brief	P 7



Top: An eager crew was waiting for the SeaRoad truck to arrive so they could unwrap the new boats.

Middle: A few tentative moments as the boats were unstacked.

Left: Carefully does it. The second boat is lowered off the truck to waiting arms.

Below: After all the hard yakka of ordering the boats and planning their arrival, our proud coach Ali Mourant was overjoyed. Dave Cross signs the delivery docket. A big thank you to all the boat unloaders.



All hands on deck for a seamless and safe boat unloading operation

Our beautiful sleek craft survived a tortuous crossing of Bass Strait in their snug container so everyone is eager to see how they perform on the much calmer Derwent.

The tired and much-patched Swifts will soon be put "out to pasture" at paddler James Dunbabin's property at Orielson but they won't be retired completely. They'll be used as back-up boats for special events.

It is fabulous that we have built our assets base so let's all look after our equipment to make sure it's treated with the utmost respect and kept in tip-top condition.

This means "kid-glove" launching and retrieving and taking care getting in and out of the boats. Definitely no standing on the seats!



Wintry weather abates for essential boat maintenance

Wouldn't you know it! As soon as we shut up shop for our mid-winter break, the weather takes a break as well. We have missed some beautiful days and evenings on the river during July but our faithful well-used boats are better for it.

After a good scrubbing and rubbing, they look a million dollars (well nearly) and the two blue Swifts and "pretty boat" have metal protection strips on their underbellies. After-hours sessions by the "boat boys" have prolonged the lives of Stormy 1 and 2 so they will continue to be used on special occasions to supplement our new craft.

The lay-up time enabled Secretary Kathryn, President Angie and Vice-President Alison to spring clean the "cubby" filing cabinet and complete an inventory of equipment. Jen W led a clean team to spruce up the red and yellow Stormy life jackets before some of them are mothballed pending the introduction of new jackets. Thanks to everyone who assisted at the working bees. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

New paddling event on horizon

We all enjoy a strenuous paddle – in shorts bursts. Come February next year we will have a real chance to flex some muscle in front of an enthusiastic and large audience.

Storms has been invited to stage tug of war paddling demonstrations over three days at Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart.

It is anticipated there will be two short events each day in Constitution Dock as part of a rolling series of crowd-pleasers.

It will be “quick and dirty” and probably very wet but it will give the club a chance to promote the lighter side of dragon boating to a very wide audience in a fantastic location.

The finer details will be sorted out in coming months.



To illustrate a tug of war event, take a look at the Youtube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbNaRE0gbXg>

Save the date: AGM 17 September

The club AGM will be held after paddling on Saturday 17 September.

As well as seven committee positions, the job of president and secretary are up for grabs.

Please consider putting up your hand for the committee. It would be great to have some new blood.

The club is always on the lookout for skilled people so if you have expertise in secretarial duties, finance, book-keeping, spreadsheets, website management, event planning, administration, marketing, entrepreneurship or even rocket science put your name forward.

We are fortunate to have a well-rounded club with elite paddlers mixing it with raw recruits with many levels in between.

While we don't all aspire to represent Australia in the Auroras paddling team, we all want what is best for our club. This can be achieved by helping us work towards the goals of our strategic plan.

Nominations for the committee will be called soon.

AusDBF course a pathway to better coaching

Club head coach Alison Mourant is now part way through a Level 2 Coaching Course - the first to be run by AusDBF in conjunction with the Australian Sports Commission.

AusDBF believes Level 2 coaches will better educate our coaches who, in turn, will be more ably equipped with skills, knowledge and experience to pass onto our members.

Ali says it's been a very valuable learning experience. Vast areas of coaching have been covered including some valuable on-water exercises and analysis.

As part of her assessment, Ali is required to conduct 12 training sessions with the club so we will be seeing a lot of her on drummer seat calling the shots.

Meanwhile AusDBF has assigned Ali as the Tasmanian Level 1 Coach Assessor. Once the course content has been ironed out, courses will commence in Tasmania.

The first mission will be to offer a course to the current Level 1 coaches whose accreditation is due to expire in December this year. After that there will be a course for up and coming coaches nominated by clubs.

2017 Masters Games update

Planning is moving forward for Tasmania to host next year's Masters Games on the North-West Coast.

Dragon Boat Tasmania has met with the organisers and the plan is to have dragon boating events at Lake Barrington over two days.

Rowing Tasmania will officiate on the race course as they do for the State Championships but volunteers will be need for marshalling, time keeping and other duties.

It is hoped that as well as providing lots of willing volunteers, the Tasmanian dragon boating community will also boat crews for the competition.

The first major task is to organise boats for the games and Derwent Storms has offered its three Champions vessels.

It is hoped at least eight Champion boats can be sourced from Tasmania to enable a program of 20s racing.

It is hoped to offer a training course for Tasmanians willing to be officials at the games. DBTas is negotiating with AusDBF about this. More information will be available later in the year.

Stay tuned for updates on the games. It will be great to be part of this. If it's a success, Lake Barrington could become a venue for the Nationals. Imagine that!



Stormers hit the Ord

Awesome – a word so over-done it's become a cliché; it's been used to describe a cup of coffee or the fact you made it out of bed and got dressed without assistance. To rediscover the real meaning of the word, visit The Kimberley and paddle the Ord. The sheer size, landscape and antiquity are worth the trip.

Fourteen paddlers and two sweeps under the Derwent Dragons banner, plus companions, took various routes from sunny Hobart to experience this Wild West and tackle the 55 km paddle down the Ord River.

Four road trippers, Gaylene, Pam, Anne and Denise, drove up the West Coast from Perth to Broome. What happened in the car stayed in the car but there are tales of one passenger being dragged out of the path of a whale shark during a stopover to do the tourist thing.

No such excitement for the other groups of travellers despite the airlines doing their best to disrupt their journeys. At least James and Robyn got to visit family and fly- in- fly- out paddler and newly minted L3 Sweep, Geoff, got the precious cargo of paddles and prototype seat pads safely to the start of the event.

If you ever do the trip, pick the brains of people who've done it. There are a host of guided tours of varying quality, and activities to tack onto the Ord paddle and the advice we received was much appreciated.

Mike and Marilyn suggested taking a tour down the Ord after the event so you can appreciate the distance paddle and see all the sights you missed while concentrating on the strokes. One of our crew, who took the tour before the paddle, didn't appreciate the bout of nerves from thinking about what was in store for us but was happy with her performance after finishing the event.

Another suggestion from M&M was to do a 4WD trip and nine of us preceded the Ord run with a 7 day, 6 night 4WD venture up the Gibb River Road: 700 km of teeth-rattling corrugations interspersed with stunning gorges, billabongs, incredible landforms and... tent accommodation. The tents were pretty comfy despite record high overnight temperatures and only one camper threatened



suicide with a rusty nailfile. I didn't ask if that had anything to do with her temporary imprisonment in a camp toilet.

If the Ord run itself seems like an afterthought, a 55 km paddle down a river shaped lake (which the Ord is, apparently) could never be that. A 4.15am pick up and hour- long bus trip to the start didn't impress me but Lake Argyle and the dam wall that holds it all in certainly did. Photos can't do it justice. **More next page**

from page 5

The fleet consisted of six dragon boats, two kayaks and one surf boat that had been dragged all the way from Darwin.

Paddling the heavy aluminium boats supplied was challenging enough, not to mention the agricultural steering, as well as the heat (not as bad as feared) and the roughest conditions the organisers had seen. Certainly not as rough as our river can be. Our experimental seat pads, taped on before we started were a success and the envy of everyone who spent the 6 hours paddling time on bare aluminium seats.

Thumbs up to Geoff, who handled his first long stint as a sweep like a pro. A big round of applause to our crew as well for the discipline during the fast water stage and the seamless changing on the run that impressed most of the other crews. Nice work too from those up front, who kept up a good rhythm, rate and power for the whole day. A big thumbs down to the makers of our shirts; they shrank in the (cold) wash, a fact that was lost on me till I tried it on the day before we paddled. Kathryn to the rescue with a dash into town, returning with a fluoro yellow safety shirt. I didn't get lost in the crowd.

There's myriad wildlife on the river that you just don't see while you're paddling, including thousands of freshwater crocs that are more interested in nibbling insects and frogs than human hands holding paddles.

The whole thing went well, despite a few blisters. We were well watered, and cooled from the fresh water in the lake (river?) and no one went hungry till there was a delay with the end-of- paddle meal that didn't arrive till 8pm. Reports that hungry paddlers were fighting over tasty looking paddle shoes have been denied.

Fifty five kilometres is a long paddle in anyone's book and by the end, all the Tassie paddlers felt they'd achieved a Big Thing. It's no wonder the Ord Paddle is one of Dragon boating's iconic events. Well done organisers.

What was the two week Kimberley adventure like?

Awesome!

- Peter Essex



Many thanks to our friends at Hervey Bay DBC for these great pics from their Facebook page.



New Constitution for DBTas

Dragon Boat Tasmania (DBTas) has followed the lead of the Australian Dragon Boat Federation and has renewed its efforts to review its constitution to produce a more relevant, contemporary and workable governance structure.

Demands on sports governing bodies have grown and a higher level of professionalism is expected from sports administrators. Given the widespread use of technology it is essential that board members are tech-savvy. They need to have specific skills to make a genuine and useful contribution to the business of overseeing, to the highest possible level, the management of their sport.

Therefore, the DBTas understands that we have to step up to a higher level of accountability and operation.

The basis for the proposed new constitution is a template provided by the Tasmanian Government's Division of Communities, Sport and Recreation. It is a blueprint for State Sporting Organisations and can be tailored to reflect the requirements for particular sports.

Key changes of the proposed constitution

1. Voting system, including voting for representatives to the DBTas board: one vote per club
2. Reducing the board from 10 members to up to 7
3. Giving the board power to appoint two additional directors from within or outside the dragon boat community
4. Giving the board power to appoint subcommittees
5. The board to elect its own office bearers including the chair (formerly the president)

Club committees have been asked to consider the proposal. If there is general agreement, a special meeting of registered paddlers across the state will be held to vote on the adoption of a new constitution. If passed, the annual general meeting in October will be held under the new rules.

You can read more about the proposed changes on the [DBTas website](#).

The documents are:

- The Draft Constitution
- A discussion paper with a questions answers section
- A timeline showing likely dates for a special meeting of members and the AGM.



Dragon Boating Calendar

2016

July 30 End of season dinner and presentation night MYCT

Sept 17 Storms Annual General Meeting

Nov 5-13 Pan Pacific Games, Gold Coast

2017

January 15 Help needed for Triathlon South event

January 26 Sandy Bay Regatta

February 10-13 Wooden Boat Festival, Hobart

February 11-12 DANWT Regatta, Lake Barrington

February 26 DATH Corporate Day

March 11-12 State Championships, Lake Barrington

March 19 Help needed for Triathlon South event

April 19-24 Australian Championships, Albury Wodonga

April 29, 30 World Masters Games, Auckland New Zealand

October Australian Masters Games, NW Tasmania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Welcome to our newest members:

Ailsa Bennell and Christine Gordon.

New PFDs: Our spanking new PFDs have arrived - black with a sparkling white club logo. Please treat them carefully. The club has continued to support local manufacturer Stormy Seas with this major purchase.

State Championships: The state titles will be held a month later than usual - the long weekend in March. This will enable southern crews to travel to Lake Barrington on Saturday, spend Sunday on the lake racing, and then enjoy a leisurely drive home on Monday.

Paddling times: Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday (evening) paddling sessions have resumed. The weekend sessions will be at the later time of 9am for 9.30am on the water until the weathers warms up a bit. Stay tuned for a resumption of Tuesday evening paddling.