



The Derwent Drum

Derwent Storms Dragon Boat Club Newsletter

Issue 21

October 2015



The cheerful faces say it all - the Derwent Dragons (comprising Derwent Storms and DATH) had a blast at the Masters Games in Adelaide. Read more about their exploits inside.

Home and away paddlers are back on deck for new season

It's been an eventful winter and early spring with many paddlers abroad and aboard and in some cases combining the two. Welcome back to globetrotters Janice, Karen, Helen B and Gaylene who have been soaking up the culture, wine and sun in Europe. Janice was indeed the migratory bird spending time in the UK and with family in beautiful Portugal. Karen is back from her second northern hemisphere odyssey, this time to Spain, and those wild women Helen and Gaylene, well, where didn't they go on their tour de force! (Continued on Page 2)

Club Committee 2015-16

President: Angie Turner

Vice president: Alison Mourant

Secretary: Kathryn Essex

Treasurer: Jenny Smith

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

www.derwentstorms.com.au/

derwentstorms@gmail.com



New committee members welcomed

Many thanks to club members who attended the annual general meeting and particularly to those who put up their hand to take on a committee position. Sincere thanks to Janine Atkins for her fine secretarial work over the past few years and we all send positive thoughts of a full recovery to Janine's shoulder. Welcome to the new "Madame Secretary" Kathryn Essex who has already taken on her new task with gusto and to new committee members, Matt Davies and Peter Essex.

- Angie Turner, President

Derwent Dragons live it up in Adelaide

Back from the Masters Games in Adelaide, the Storms reps in the composite Derwent Dragons are still on a high. First time Masters - Moira, Andrea, Judelle, Mel, and Geoff - loved the competition and being away with such an enthusiastic group. Geoff's "bear" hat, presented at the mid-year dinner, made several appearances and became the unofficial mascot. And to add to the fun, Anne could not resist making sure her life vest actually worked much to the amusement of all.

The most successful DD crew competed in the Senior A Open. With a sprinkling of "youngsters" under 50, the crew had its fair share of Senior Cs as well so it was a great performance. The DATH members of the Derwent Dragons received some great news when they arrived home. Their bronze medal in the Breast Cancer Survivors race was replaced by a silver! Howzatt!

As with all our sojourns interstate, business was mixed with pleasure and memorable wine tours were enjoyed in the Barossa and McLaren valleys.



Geoff's mascot bear hat was a secret weapon in Adelaide Cooling off in the club tent

Dublin or Nothin' hit the Emerald Isle

Nine Stormers flew our flag on the Grand Canal in Dublin, teaming up with a group of American paddlers to form the Dublin or Nothin' crew to compete at a mini international regatta. They proved to the younger crews that age is no barrier to paddling prowess! And they displayed real Stormer discipline in the boat despite their more vocal crewmates having plenty to say before, after and DURING the races! The Nothins were third (to the composite Irish/English and the Germans) in the 200 metre dash and second to the Germans over 400 metres in the mixed category. Our women's crew came in fourth to the English 2013 European championship U30s crew, County Carlow and the host club team. The Irish paddlers were thrilled that the Aussies had come such a long way to compete and our crew song was such a hit, several encores were performed!



To be sure, to be sure it's the Stormers in Dublin A just reward of medals for a super-human effort

The Auroras return medal laden from their Canada Campaign

Our five Auroras returned triumphant from Canada sharing the spoils of a great campaign at the World Championships. The Australian team of 316 paddlers won 63 medals (16 gold, 30 silver and 17 bronze) from 83 races. It is the best result ever by Australia at a world championship event. Congratulations to Ali, Angie, Jan, Jen and Martin. An absolutely fantastic effort.

Tales at sea get bigger and better

The River Derwent's resident seal made another appearance at training on Sunday, October 18, and there was much finger pointing, ooh-ing and aah-ing: "Did you see that? Wow!" Then the one upmanship started. "But did you see the dolphin?" asked Dave Cross. "No but I saw the killer whale," announced coach Ali. "It came right up under our boat and lifted us out of the water." Donna was quick in response: "Oh is that why our crew beat you to the red stick!"



Gerwyn goes wild to paddle for diabetes

Club paddler Gerwyn Wright is taking to the water in a kayak rather than a dragon boat to support a fundraising bid for Diabetes Tasmania. Gerwyn will be making a splash in Bathurst Harbour and Port Davey from November 15 to 21 in the wake of World Diabetes Day.

As well as supporting a very worthy charity, Gerwyn's all-women paddling and wilderness camping expedition will raise awareness about diabetes. The trip organiser is fellow Hobartian Caroline Thomas who has set up a supporter website at www.southwestseakayak.everydayhero.com.au/caroline

Good luck Gerwyn. We hope that the weather is kind and you have a successful mission.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Club Facebook Page

Members are welcome to post items on the Derwent Storms Facebook page but don't worry if they don't appear immediately. The page is now being administered by the club and your post will appear as soon as it's ticked off. This move is a safeguard against unsolicited or inappropriate posts from outside our paddling community.

Dragons on the Esk

There has been huge interest in the second dragon boat festival in Launceston on November 14. Twenty eight Stormers have put their names down for the event so the practical thing to do is car pool. Some people may want to stay overnight so please make your own arrangements. Don't forget to pay your \$10 paddling fee ASAP.

New sweeps

Have you ever contemplated having a turn at the sweep oar? The club needs more sweeps to add to our pool so please think about giving it a try. Let Jen W or Pete Essex know if you are interested. Your first try would be on a calm day with a half boat of paddlers. Not intimidating at all; well, perhaps just a bit. You never know until you give it a try.

Club Xmas party

This year the club will celebrate the end of the year and a break from paddling with a Christmas barbecue. Venues and dates are being sought so stay tuned. We hope to make it a family affair to involve the wonderful supporters out there in Stormerland. Any volunteers to be the big fella in red?

Sandy Bay Regatta

We had such a blast at this event last year that arrangements are being made to be involved in the Australia Day regatta at Sandy Bay again. If you want to be part of the fun, keep January 26 free.

Dragon Boating Calendar 2015-2016

October

31 MoCo Dragons Halloween Party, Glenorchy Rowing Club 4pm-10pm

November

8 DBTas AGM 11 for 11.30am at Lindisfarne Rowing Club. Morning tea provided.

14 Dragons on the Esk Dragon Boat Festival

December

12-13 Penang International Dragon Boat Festival

19 Last paddle for 2015 (with DATH)

Derwent Storms Christmas celebration .Date and venue to be confirmed

January 2016

26 Sandy Bay Regatta

February 2016

6-7 Tasmanian Dragon Boat Champs, Lake Barrington

20 Four Bridges Marathon

28 DATH Corporate Regatta

March 2016

5-6 Wellington Dragon Boat Festival N.Z.

23-28 National Championships, Adelaide

MEMBER REMINDERS

Bring your runners

Remember to bring along your runners/sneakers to each paddling session so that if the weather doesn't allow us to go out for a paddle we can still have an alternative team activity.

Longer sessions on Sunday

Sunday sessions during Spring and Summer will be approximately 1.5 hours duration giving us more time for fun on the water.

Parking on Thursdays

On Thursday nights (a big night for the MYCT bar and bistro) we have to park our cars in the lower car park (ie near our boat storage area). The MYCT has asked that the upper car park (by our cubby house) be reserved for diners. We have been reminded about this several times. Please do the right thing by the MYCT.

Ian and Janine our team managers for the 2016 Nationals

Janine Atkins and Ian Mourant will be taking on the Club Crew Team Manager roles this year. A lingering shoulder injury has ruled out Janine competing in the event but while the body may be weaker, the mind is still sound! She proved that last year in Perth, ably assisted by Louis the Lemur mascot who clung desperately to her shoulder sling as Janine led the Storms cheer squad!

It is great that Janine will be part of the Adelaide Nationals campaign as it will enable her to stay involved with the club while she is still unable to paddle. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes for Nationals so many thanks to Ian and Janine for taking on this major task.

Marathon on the Ord River

Gaylene Taylor would like to organise a group of Stormers to take part in the 2016 Ord River paddle. The deadline for EOIs by Friday 30 October (this Friday).

Please get in touch with Gaylene NOW if you are interested: gaylenetaylor@yahoo.co.uk

Four Bridges update

Please keep the weekend of 20-21 February free for the Four Bridges paddle. It is a huge fundraiser for our club and everyone will be needed to help out. There may be an opportunity for some to paddle but this event is primarily to showcase Tasmania as a dragon boat destination to interstate paddlers. The huge task list is being finalised and it will be ALL hands on deck. Stay tuned!