

Swan Canoe Club, Inc.

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Club Sponsors 2002-2015

www.mainpeak.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT to the AGM – June 2016

Introduction

This reports on my second year at the 'helm', and being ably assisted by our Committee and a few generous volunteers, I feel that we've had another successful year as I will detail below.

Membership

Our numbers continue to rise with 375 full members (up from 351 last year) comprising 152 Adults, 32 Couples, 45 Seniors, 10 Sen Couples, 7 Young Adults, 5 Life Members and 22 Families.

Boat Replacement and Repair

As I mentioned last year, a priority has been to upgrade our aging fleet of Club boats since our money situation is again very healthy. Asset Officer Andrew Maurice (many thanks), David Worthy and I audited our fleet, and identified about 15 to dispose – most can be sold but this has not been done yet.

However we have found space for four new longer craft: two very light weight plastic sea kayaks (Barracudas) and two Stellar S18 composite skis, and these are proving popular additions. We have yet to find now decide on replacements for our shorter boats such as the Dancers and Corsicas, as used mainly for lessons by the juniors and adults.

Dave Worthy has been contracted a few times to do a range of repairs on boats

Boat Storage

The new storage area have been full all year, and there is a waiting list for seven spaces in that area (three of these are members with spaces in the old area). There are six less than ideal spaces available in the old area. Several boats do not have their owner's details on them: it is essential that all boat owners put their name and contact details on their boat using waterproof marking. If any members do not intend to renew their boat spaces we would appreciate them letting us know as soon as possible so we can reallocate spaces.

Many thanks to Chesson Henshaw for continuing in this important role.

Junior Program

The Junior Program operates on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as well as programs in warmer holidays and we had up to 20 kids in the beginner classes in any one term.

We have a great relationship with Cottesloe Primary School over the past 4 years and have had between 25 and 30 kids coming for classes term 4. We also experimented with combined activities with the Town of Mosman Park.

Our coaching group has expanded with our senior juniors being skilled up by head coach Zlatan with Isabella Choate and Demelza Wall have taken over the beginners. Nick and Georgia Rankin and two visiting Juniors, Max and Tarryn, have all been taking the classes.

Amanda Simper has also been very proactive with the guppies and also started a training session on Sat mornings for the adults who are joining Swanbourne Surf Club paddlers.

Alexandria Choate, Billie Knell, Kira Wall and Louis Richardson are all currently in Europe preparing for the Junior World Championships and Georgia Rankin is representing Australia in the U23 World Championships and will get her first taste of the Senior team at a World Cup.

Zlatan has quite a few other younger juniors who have all performed exceptionally well at a National level and are itching to take over from their older siblings and friends.

The Junior Program usually leads to the parents also joining the club which is a wonderful bonus. Many thanks to Zlatan and Amanda for your continued contributions, and to Marion Ewing who manages the junior programs.

Building and Maintenance

Thanks largely to Kerry Hughes, we are actively working towards being able to complete the balcony upgrade and extension. On applying to renew our building license we found that new building regulations required us to provide access for wheel chairs to the first floor. After investigating several options it was decided to widen the main stairway and install a wheel chair stair lift. We applied for \$20,000 from the Federal Government's Curtin Electorate Stronger Communities Program and we granted \$12,500 which has been received.

We also found that Lotterywest have funds for such projects and have recently applied for a grant of \$65,000 which also includes new ramps outside the other roller doors. This was supported by Rocky Bay who bring disabled clients to the Club regularly. We will learn if this application is successful in about September.

We lease the clubrooms from the Town of Mosman Park and they are responsible for structural and roofing maintenance, and replace the rusted structural columns in the old boat storage room recently.

Kerry and son-in-law Pat constructed a new T&D wet area storage cage and moved and improved the PFD and spray deck storage to be near the paddles.

Apart from replacing our vandalised TV aerial and completing the fit-out of the disabled shower and toilet room, little other maintenance has been required this year.

Electronic Access Issues

The electronics which runs the keyfob access failed once this year. However our supplier found a potential issue during his last visit and is confident the failure mode we have experienced about five times since installation 4 years ago is cured.

Floating Ramp and Sand Issues

Sand has been slowly returning west of the ramp after we added some sand bags over a year ago to both make the step up/off the ramp easier and reduce the scouring by tides and waves. However it could benefit with an additional measure under the ramp, since swirling still appears to occur there.

Hiring of Clubrooms

With the expanded clubroom and audio-visual system in place we have again been successful in hiring the first floor room to a few groups this year. But with no one volunteered to actively promote our facility, the potential for its use and resulting income has been unrealised.

Website

The new Australian Canoeing provided website has been working pretty well this year, after the teething problem I reported last year. We have not yet found someone to improve the design, although Karen Green has volunteered to fill this role and other web duties, so we look forward to her input. And I thank Colin Priest for his continued efforts as our Webmaster.

Canoeing WA announced a few weeks ago that they planned to abandon the above AC system, and create a different and totally separate system and sites for all WA clubs – a shock to most of us! There have since been meetings and a lively email discussion, since the AC system has some warts, but not enough to warrant yet another change, since the proposed system appears to have lots of negatives for most clubs, and questionable positives.

Sponsors

Mainpeak continue to be our only sponsor and a new agreement has been recently sent to the Committee for consideration, and I thank Mainpeak and Richard and Sue Lushey. Ideas for other potential sponsors would be very welcome.

Town of Mosman Park: Fair & Stomp

We again participated in this annual fair in March – our second involvement. We displayed a pull-up poster about the Club, a PowerPoint animation of photos on a large computer screen and two plastic kayaks. Several members volunteered to chat with visitors and it again proved quite successful, and I recommend we should participate every year to support the Council and attract new local members.

Council also held a 'Stomp' late in 2015 where many groups of teenagers run around the suburb and do set activities at about 20 locations. At our station they donned paddling safety gear and dragged a couple of short kayaks across the lawn.

We continue to do no Club promotion other than our annual Open Day and the fair, so this should be discussed in future to ensure continued healthy membership numbers.

Events

We ran the Open Day in October with nearly 100 people attending and having a tryout paddle, and some subsequently joined the Club. Thanks to Gill Palmer for again planning and running the day, as well as our Instructors and the other helpers who made it very successful.

The Rod Fry race happened in April and saw about 79 people registering – another good improvement from the previous year, and we received lots of very positive feedback about the race compared to others on the WA calendar. Many thanks again to Lee Edwards for coordinating this event and to the many other helpers on the day.

Several day and overnight paddling events have been arranged such as Broke Inlet, Moore River, Penguin Island etc and I thank the instructors who have arranged and led these trips.

We have been lacking an active Social sub-committee this year and so have seen few social events other than our Christmas Party in December very ably arranged by Julia Davies, and a party in April arranged by Andy Hewlett, so I hope we see some volunteers emerge to energise this aspect of the Club again.

Awards

Julie Wheelhouse was awarded Club Member of the Year, Russell French was presented with Paddler of the Year, and Demelza Wall was crowned Junior Paddler of the Year.

Treasurer

We've had two people in this role: Sousi Leong took over last year, but decided to resign in March. So ex-treasurer Julie Wheelhouse agreed to take it on again on the condition the Committee approved paying for bookkeeping assistance, which was done – many thanks again Julie. However she is resigning again soon, so we need to find a new Treasurer.

50th Anniversary

A sub-committee of keen members are well into searching the archives and organising our 50th celebration on the 12th November with an afternoon tea party for past Presidents and significant contributors, and then a big party in the evening for current members.

Thanks

Lastly I would like to thank the many people who have made this year a good success – especially our Committee and the Training and Development sub-committee and our Instructors who continue to provide a wonderful service to the Club.

Peter Ewing – 28/6/2016