

Issue No 21: 10 December 2013

FORSTER REGATTA REPORT

24th November 2013

Wow! What a team! What crews! Have we come a long way!

THE WAY WE WERE

This time last year, the guys couldn't paddle in the regatta because of the rules. The women's crew paddled in 3 heats and by the third were almost unable to paddle because we were so exhausted. We didn't have a qualified sweep and had to borrow one.

THE WAY WE ARE

Move forward 12 months and our 4 men competed with our women in the 2 heats of the mixed sports category. 2 of our men competed in the men's 10 with Armidale and our women's team competed in 2 heats. So, most of us paddled four times and we could have paddled more (like a final!)

We have a qualified sweep who not only swept for our club crews but also for the men's 10 (Armidale) and a community team.

THE WAY WE ARE NOT

- Young
- 50/50 men and women crew
- Able to fill a boat

All of which puts us at a disadvantage in the mixed (and the women's and men's categories if you ignore the second point above) but doesn't stop us having a great time.

THE HIGHLIGHTS:-

- the women's crew came 2nd in both their heats which included equal 2nd with Manning
- the mixed crew improved in their second heat
- Chris paddled in the Armidale Men's 10 crew heat. Chris became Terry to compete in the final with the same crew

- our cousins across the lake - the Pearls - said how much we've improved - and they weren't just being kind.
- Geoff Roberts was impressed with our progress but he thinks maybe we're too polite. "Attack the water" (difficult when there are jelly blubbers in the way!) was his observation
- Simone won 2 of the raffles and was happy to share the prizes with the rest of the team - prawns and blue swimmer crabs - yum! Thank you Simone for a great finale to the day
- the atmosphere and the weather. The area was buzzing, the regatta went really smoothly and the rain stayed away. Perfect.



Our paddling crew and local Member Steve Bromhead at Forster Regatta.

Our times were (winning time for the heat is in brackets):-

Mixed Heat 1 1.05.32 (1.02.13)
Heat 2 1.04.41 (59.4)
Women Heat 1 1.03.84 (1.03.19)
Heat 2 1.04.57 (1.02.94)

The team that beat us in the first heat of the women's category (Flamin' Dragons) won the final.

The full race times of all competing crews will be up on the DBNSW website in due course.

WHAT WE LEARNED:-

- the success of the women's crew is proof positive that being in time works

- we are still easily distracted - a constant theme
- our fitness and endurance has really improved

Some important thank yous to:-

- Bill Martin for being a volunteer and a great boat wrangler (it always helps having a local cheer leader as the crew boards - but you're not biased are you Bill?!)
- Brian Gosper - as always, a great supporter
- Paddlers and members who couldn't come along but were equally important in helping us prepare
- Coomberites who were there cheering us on - Helen and Jimmy Higgins, Val and Bill Cooke, Gillian Lewis, Russell Burke and Ken Brown (and I know there were others but I can't remember them!)
- The Pearl Dragons who started us off on this journey and are so supportive.

WHERE TO FROM HERE:-

Our intrepid coach/observer/debriefer aka Stuart, along with photographer extraordinaire Brian Gosper, recorded our participation for posterity via photographs and videos which we can use as a great aid to improve our individual paddling and, just as importantly, our paddling as part of team Wallis Spirit Dragons.

GO THE WALLIS SPIRIT DRAGONS!!

Now we need to work out where we're going and how we're going to get there!

Elaine Charker
Team Captain



DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING

WSD committee met on Tuesday 3 December. Apart from discussing our improvement in the Forster regatta, the highlight of the meeting was the report from the **Fundraising and Catering** committee. The Movie Night was a great success. Income from the event was \$3,477.30 and expenses - \$1,909.21, leaving us with a profit of \$1,568.09 - enough to purchase the trolley that we undertook to buy when we bought the small boat. The matter of transporting it here has not yet been resolved but several people are exploring possible solutions.

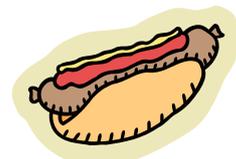
The next event being planned by the committee is our involvement in COOMBAFEST on 26 January. Free Face Painting should be a popular item with children at Coombafest and to raise funds we will again sell Hot Dogs.

At Coombafest 2014, WSD will also be running the Chocolate Wheel. It is proposed to sell 100 tickets at \$5 each. There will then be 25 wheel spins with a prize for each. (Tickets remain current for all spins.)

To achieve this we need 25 prizes. These will be gathered in various ways, but you may be able to help out.

IF you have any new, good quality items – perhaps an unwanted gift – that you could donate it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Kim Manners or Sue Hutchison to let them know. If you don't – don't worry. There will be plenty of other ways you'll be able to help!

As has happened with our previous fundraisers, all members are asked to contribute \$3 towards items for the Hot Dog stall. You can bring your \$3 to paddling or catch up with Kim or Sue elsewhere.





For the 2014 COOMBAFEST, the traditional Scarecrow display has been reinstated. The WSD committee is keen for us to have our own scarecrows to display, so....

All members are invited to Sue Hutchison's place

on **WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY**
between **9am and 1pm**

to make a Scarecrow WSD team.

If you possibly can, please bring

old pantihose (to stuff)

old shorts (for the scarecrow, not you)

old scarecrow type hats and

BYO meat etc for a BBQ after.



Before the Scarecrow Making Day, Sue would like to dye some old T-shirts for the project. If you have an old white T-shirt could you get it to Sue as soon as you can. She will need to dye them all at the same time.

MEMBERS MEETING

A general meeting of all members will be held on Thursday 13 February at 7pm at Coomba Hall

There will be several items on the agenda, including:

- discussing Regattas coming up soon (including Urunga on 3 & 4 May)
- viewing and discussing some paddling videos and photos taken recently

and especially

- whether or not to buy the BUK (our big boat).

WSD has been offered the opportunity to buy our big boat – the one we are currently hiring. There are quite a few things that need to be taken into account before making the decision. Your committee believes that such a decision should be taken to a meeting of all members.

We look forward to seeing **everyone** there. We need as many members as possible to come along and be involved in planning our future.



Wallis Spirit Dragons



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 21 December – last paddling day this year
- 21 December – Carols singing night – mostly community singing lead by Coomba Choral group – at Coomba Hall at 7pm
- 24 December – Santa Claus is coming tonight
- 2 January – first paddling day next year
- 15 January – 9am – 1pm Scarecrow Making Day (and BBQ after) at Sue Hutchinson's – 404 Burraneer Rd
- 26 January – Coombafest at the Foreshore
- 13 February – Members General Meeting at 7pm in Coomba Hall.