

Issue No 23: 17 February 2014

All members are encouraged to contribute to this Newsletter and to our website. If you have anything you would like included or if you have any photos you would like uploaded to our website, please contact the Secretary – thesecretary@wsdragons.com.au

This issue of Spirited contains the minutes of the Members Meeting held on 13 February 2014.

MEMBERS MEETING

13 FEBRUARY 2014

COOMBA COMMUNITY HALL

Present:

Lee Newell, Sue Hutchison, Brian Cotterill, Kathy Boyce, Chris Hutchison, Anne Pollard, Wendy Rogers, Elaine Charker, Pat Powell, Mary-Jane Silver, Stuart Silver, Sally Cooke, Di Peden, Deb Gosper, Annabelle Lewis, Kim Manners, Laraine Hattersley

Apologies:

Liz Spinks, Simone Muenger, Jenny Martin.

President Deb Gosper opened the meeting at 7.10 pm with an overview of our development over the last 3 years. She thanked coaches Elaine, Stuart and Sally and turned the meeting over to them.

• COACHES SESSION:

The coaches showed a series of still and movie pictures of our team at the Forster Pearls Regatta in November 2013. They then led discussion on what we could take from the analysis of the pictures that would improve our performance overall. All seemed to agree that timing was an issue that we still need to put a lot of work into.

Coaches then discussed with members, preparation for the next regatta in **Urunga on 3 and 4 May** and asked members to indicate their level of interest in sending a team. At least twelve members raised their hands to agree with striving towards sending a team. **Members**

were strongly encouraged to put their name on the Regatta page on the website as a clear signal of their intention, so that planning for the event can commence.

• WHERE WSD IS HEADING:

Deb resumed the Chair and announced that **Sally Cooke would be transferring to Forster Pearls at the end of March**. She has a place in the regional team, Northern Pride, and needs more opportunities to practise as a paddler.

Consequently, it is **essential that WSD has more Sweeps** and members were asked to take the opportunity to 'have a go' when they were out paddling and to seriously consider training as a Sweep. There was some discussion of the issue and ideas raised included approaching Pacific Palms Surf Club to see if anyone was interested in sweeping for WSD. Wendy Rogers is still interested in principle but cannot do anything till her shoulder injury has been addressed. Lee Newell, Kathy Boyce and Chris Hutchison all undertook to 'have a go'. Sally explained that sweeps in training need to log 20 hours over a year for their initial accreditation.



Our Coomba Fest Award for our 'Scarycrew' installation. Have a look in the display cabinet near the piano next time you're at Coomba Hall.

Though Sally is leaving, she is willing to assist trainee sweeps and to sweep for WSD until she can be replaced, as long as the days do not clash with Pearl Dragon training sessions. There will be some changes to paddling days.

For the time being, **from 25 February**, paddling will be as follows:

TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS

6.15 for warm up, on the water at 6.30 am

SUNDAYS

7.30 for warm up, on the water at 7.45 am.

The main focus of the Sunday paddle will be new and leisure paddlers.

Another change to note is for

FRIDAY 21 February

starting at 6.15 rather than the current 6 am.

• **COME & TRY DAY:**

Deb then handed the meeting to Sue Hutchison to discuss with members, the planned "Come & Try" day at "The Recky" at Pacific Palms. Several alternatives were raised and considered, with the final agreement being that the day would be held on **Sunday 30 March**. The boat would need to be towed to the club and to go ahead 15 or 16 paddlers are needed – some on the boat and some on the ground. Seven people undertook to be involved and Sue recorded those names.

Members were asked to consider this further and contact Sue Hutchison.

• **PURCHASE OF OUR BIG BOAT:**

Deb raised the matter with members and then handed over to Annabelle Lewis to outline the proposal and discuss the matter with members.

*DBNSW have offered WSD the opportunity to buy our current 'big' boat at a cost of \$1,100 which includes GST.

*If we decided to buy we would have to pay our own property insurance the cost of which would depend on how much we chose to insure the boat for – probably around \$300 per year. We could also choose not to carry Property insurance.

*Currently we pay \$1,050 a year to lease the boat and property insurance is covered in that amount.

*The Club's annual payment of \$700 to DBNSW covers Public Liability insurance and this would continue whether or not we buy the boat.

There was discussion for and against. Those in favour pointed out that any expenditure would very quickly be covered by not paying leasing costs and that even if WSD in the future could not sell the boat, they would have had their "money's worth" over the next couple of years. Alternatively, those against expressed concern that WSD would be left with the burden of disposing of an unwanted asset that, should the Club eventually decide not to continue, could be difficult for those who would have to arrange its disposal.

There was further discussion of the possibility of asking DBNSW to reduce the purchase price of the boat.

The following motion was then proposed by Annabelle Lewis & seconded by Chris Hutchison:

...that the WSD Committee be authorised to buy the BUK boat up to the amount of \$1,100 after attempting to re-negotiate a lower price with DBNSW.

The motion was put and accepted by a majority of members by a show of hands, with one against. The caution about being forced into the position of holding an unwanted, hard to dispose of asset was reiterated for members.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Sunday 30 March** – Come & Try Day at "The Recky", Pacific Palms – members needed
 - **Saturday & Sunday 3 & 4 May** – Urunga Regatta – members needed

• NEW MEMBERS

Deb again took the chair and discussion followed about ways to obtain new local members. The idea of a possible subsidy or an 'easy payment' system was discussed, to be offered on a one-to-one basis by the committee to a person or persons who are keen to paddle but who are constrained by financial circumstances. The following motion was put by Annabelle Lewis and seconded by Stuart Silver:

...that the committee be authorised to offer new paddlers who are reluctant to join because of financial concerns, the opportunity to pay half of the membership fees upfront and to repay the balance over the remainder of the current financial year.

This motion was accepted unanimously.

• HOMEBASE DONATIONS

The matter of the member donated \$88 we currently hold for Homebase was discussed and several options were considered. The following motion was put by Chris Hutchison and seconded by Laraine Hattersley:

...that WSD contribute an additional \$62 to the donated \$88 we currently hold and that the \$150 be donated to Homebase.

This was accepted unanimously and members agreed that WSD would no longer be involved in collecting money for charity in an ongoing manner.

• SOCIAL DAY AT COOMBA FORESHORE

The idea of a local Dragon Boat daytime function incorporating the community was discussed. It would be a good opportunity to hand out brochures and perhaps demonstrate the boat. 27 April was proposed. Though there was some discussion, no decision was made and this matter will now go to the committee to consider further.

• GENERAL BUSINESS

The situation regarding the purchase from the Urunga Titivators of the trolley for the small Dragon Boat was raised. We do not particularly want the trolley as we believe we could not use it in our current situation. In addition transporting the trolley presents major difficulties. However, initially the sale of the small boat did include the trolley and we were planning to buy and pay for it when we could afford it.

Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to contact Maureen Shaw to discuss the matter and find out their attitude to our reluctance. The situation needs to be resolved so it was determined that the Secretary would write to Maureen explaining our current situation and asking for a definite formal response.

A suggestion was made from the floor that DBNSW, through Melanie Cantwell be asked to use her expertise to assist and lend support to WSD, as a young club still struggling to get on its feet. It was agreed that this request would be included in the letter to Melanie asking to re-negotiate the purchase price of the BUK.

At 9.20 pm, when all present were wearying, Deb closed the meeting, thanking members for attending and especially thanking Frank Nelson for setting up the video and photo displays and attending to the technical side throughout the presentation.

Members will continue to be kept informed through the WSD website and the *Spirited* newsletter available on the website under the "Social News" menu.

Annabelle Lewis
Secretary
15 February 2014

