

Issue No 25: 20 June 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

PADDLERS...



...to paddle on Saturday
2 August at 9.15 am,

because we need to get the big boat out that morning.

Chris Hutchison and Lee Newell are working towards their L1 (unsupervised) sweep accreditation. Anni Yaringa (Walsh) is coming out on **Saturday 2nd August** at 10.30am to conduct their assessment.

We plan to have our "normal" Saturday paddle at the later time of **9.15am for 9.30am** on the water. We will then pick Anni up on the shore at 10.30 and she will assess Chris and Lee for 10 minutes each. Anni then needs to return straight away to Port Macquarie. As you can see, her time is really tight so we are grateful that she's able to come to Coomba and help us get our sweeps up and sweeping!

**For this to work, we need to get the big boat out.
And for that , we need 12 people on the boat.**

Please put this day and time, **Saturday 2nd August at 9.15 am**, in your diaries/calendars/smartphones **now**. Then go to the website (<http://www.wsdragons.com.au/>) and register for the SPECIAL paddling session on 2 August. See **page 2** for details of how to access the SPECIAL PADDLE SESSION webpage.

PORT MACQUARIE REGATTA

With so many paddlers having so many commitments elsewhere, unfortunately we were unable to make up a group to participate in the sprint races. However, two members, Pat Powell and Simone Kirk joined a mixed team for the 18kms (yes- **18 kms!!!**) marathon. There were 8 crews and Pat & Simone were in the crew that came in 4th place.

As they were there, they were able to share a position on the Pearls' Mixed crew boat for the 200m sprints on the Sunday. Simone paddled in Heat 2, Pat and Simone in Heats 1 and 3. Both were reserves, so had to wait till all the heats were paddled – but both enjoyed the day so much, they didn't mind at all.



HOW TO REGISTER on the SPECIAL PADDLE SESSION webpage:

1. Hover your cursor over the words "Paddle Sessions" to bring up sub-menu for SPECIAL Paddle Session on 2 August.

2. CLICK HERE to bring up page to register for SPECIAL Paddle Session on Saturday 2 August at 9.15am.



Paddle Session 29th July - 2nd August

Please register your preferred paddle sessions for the coming two weeks by selecting the days and choosing (Paddle 1-20, Sweep or Coach) and entering your name and email address, then click SUBMIT.
5pm deadline the previous day for registrations each session.

Position	Tues 29th July 6.15am	Thurs 31st July 6.15am	Sat 2nd August 9.15am
P 1			
P 2			

WSD Paddle Session *Special*

Name *

Email *

WSD Saturday 2nd August
9.15am

Paddle 0

WSD Saturday 2nd August
9.15am

Sweep NO

WSD Saturday 2nd August
9.15am

Coach NO

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wallis Spirit Dragon's AGM is scheduled for the evening of
Monday 11 August**

Please put the date in your diary.
More details will be sent soon.

At the AGM the **Medical Forms** that you completed, signed and sealed previously will be distributed for updating and re-signing and will again be sealed in an envelope, not to be opened except in an Emergency.

URUNGA REGATTA - WHAT A WEEKEND

Arriving after lunch on Friday at the Urunga holiday park we (Lee,-Simone,-Pat-& Kim) unpacked, met up with Deb & Brian (who were also staying at the park) and had a look around. It was a really beautiful and comfortable spot to spend a weekend.

Lee, Simone and Pat went for a walk while Deb, Brian and I also went for a walk, across the road to the local pub to suss out the dinner menu. Yes it took quite a while and three beverages later to decide this was a good place to eat but we wanted to be sure.

Kathy and her hubby Frank arrived later in the afternoon so we all got together and had happy hour again before going to dinner. A delicious meal and a few more drinks had, it was time to retire for some of us. Lee chaperoned Simone and Pat (who were competing in the 6-7km race on Saturday) back to the cabin while the rest of us, under sufferance, stayed on for just 1 or 3 or possibly 4 more.

I awoke on Saturday morning to a very quiet cabin and two heart beats, (one in my chest and one in my head.) It was Deb's fault - she twisted my arm The ladies had decided to go for another board walk. I dressed, visited the Gospers, and went for a walk into town. I found a few second-hand shops to browse in and bagged a few bargains. I also bumped into Sally who also found a bargain.

Returning to the cabin the ladies were back from their walk. On hearing about my finds it wasn't long before they too were off on a mission to seek out that missing piece from their wardrobe.

At 12.30pm it was time to get Simone and Pat to the meeting point for the 6/7km race. On arrival we met Brian who was also competing in the race. We watched as the starters gun sounded. They were off and racing and they looked amazing. Deb, Brian, Lee, and I returned to the

cabin for a bite to eat. With time to spare Deb & I decided it would be a wonderful gesture to make Elaine's bed for her, as she hadn't arrived as yet. (YES we short sheeted it. We couldn't help ourselves).

We returned to see the end of the race. Although the start and finish was staggered I just 'felt it in me water' that they were winners. But the results would not be revealed until the end of the regatta on Sunday afternoon.

Back at the cabin the air was electric. Simone and Pat were still running on adrenalin, while my head was just starting to clear. Deb and I went off to a DBNSW regional meeting late afternoon (which was quite interesting) while the rest of the gang prepared tasty salads for the BBQ dinner, we were invited to by the Pearl Dragons. Chris and Sue (who were also staying in the park) and Elaine had also arrived. Brian and his wife Jenny, and Annabelle and Laraine also joined us for dinner.

The meal was delicious, the company was great and the alcohol flowed once again. As the evening went on the music got louder and fingers and toes started to tap. It wasn't long before we were up and dancing. Laraine and Annabelle belted out a song- "Bohemian Rhapsody" - to thunderous applause. I was dirty dancing with some of the ladies from the Pearls.

As we had a big day ahead of us on Sunday those of us who were responsible retired at a reasonable time. Then Deb and I arrived home. Everyone was ready for bed, but we suggested another drink (just one more.) Pat said I'll have a drink with you, followed by everyone else - one more won't hurt! So one more bottle of white wine, a bottle of red wine, and oh look says Lee I found a bottle of Kahlua.

Later it was time for bed. Deb hung around for as long as she could stand waiting for Elaine to hop into bed. Elaine kept fluffing about so Deb bade us goodnight. I should have realized we

could not fool Elaine (she read me like a book). As she pulled the covers back she took one look at me and knew what we had done. After tucking the girls in and closing their door I think I went to bed. Although next morning some complained about the noise being made in the kitchen by the maid after they went to bed. (I didn't hear it.)

Sunday morning was freezing. We packed up and left for the regatta. The weather didn't get any better but we did. As the day went on our racing times improved. In the second last race of the day for us the weather really deteriorated. It was blowing a gale, the water was like ice, and it felt like we were riding the waves on the ocean.

Relief washed over us, just one more race to go. HOLY SHIT WE WON!!!! You would have thought we had won a block of flats in the Bahamas. We hugged, we kissed, we yelled, we screamed, we danced. Although we did not make it into the finals 'WE DONE GOOD'. Could it get any better? You bet it could.

Waiting for the results for the 6/7km race was agonising. There were 7 teams who competed, with 3 of our very own WSD,S (Brian, Pat, Simone) paddling with GLPD. It got down to the first three places and we were still in with a chance. 3rd went to Rainbow Region, 2nd went to Armidale/Deepwater, 1st went to GLPD/WSD. If there was a roof it would have been lifted, if you were not hoarse from the last win you were now. WE DID IT AGAIN!!! WE WERE WINNERS!!!! (My waters never fail me.)

Brian's face was a picture. Simone and Pat danced and hugged. All the hard work our wonderful coaches (Elaine, Sally, and Stuart) had put us through had paid off.

I have been to many regattas but this one for me was the best by far. They say life is only what you make it, but good food, good wine and great friendships certainly help.

Kim Manners

(Wish there had been a photographer on the Saturday night! – Annabelle)



Pat Powell, Brian Cotterill and Simone Kirk with the Regatta Marathon Trophy



FUND RAISING PLANS

In the coming months there will be quite a few calls in WSD funds. There's the purchase of the big boat, payment for the hand trolley that was part of the package deal with Coffs Harbour Titivators when we purchased the small boat, club membership to DBNSW and repairs to both boats.

With a view to improving our bank balance, the fund-raising committee is looking to have a "Winter Raffle" and perhaps a Bingo night in early September. More information soon and **we would be very pleased to hear any suggestions from you too.**

BOAT REPAIRS

Both of our dragon boats are showing signs of wear and tear. Turning the boats frequently has taken its toll and there are quite a few areas that need cutting back and re-fibreglassing.

Ray Reeding, assisted by some of our members including Chris Hutchison, has volunteered to make the repairs with WSD only needing to supply the materials.

The work will be carried out in July-August and will probably require that one or both boats be 'out of action' for a week or two. When we have details we will let you know how this will affect paddling sessions.

TROLLEY DELIVERY

As mentioned before, when we bought our small boat, we also undertook to take the hand trolley that goes with it as part of the deal. We were able to delay taking delivery of the trolley until we had accumulated some more funds and organised to transport it from Coffs Harbour to Coomba. In the meantime, we were very fortunate that the Titivators offered the trolley to us for half the original cost and offered to organise transport to us at a reasonable cost.

It was delivered on Monday, 16 June. Thank you very much to the members who turned up to help get it off the trailer and down to the shore. And thanks to Jock & Maureen of the Titivators for driving down to deliver it – and headed back that afternoon.

Fortunately the process of unloading turned out to be a lot easier than expected.

MEMBERSHIP

We are rapidly approaching the renewal of our individual membership with Dragon Boats NSW. The renewal page on the DBNSW website will be active from the 1st of July. For those of you have forgotten those weird and wonderful user names and passwords you had before, you can change them to something more memorable.

AFTER 1 JULY ...

when you are ready to register (and it must be after 1 July), go to the DBNSW site. On the right hand side there is a box for renewal of membership. Once you have entered there, you are in Smartspace.

Enter your user name if you remember it. otherwise I have a copy. For those who have forgotten their password hit the icon for "forgot my password" it will then be emailed to you. Please enter that password to get to the next page.

There is a menu to update your details, click on this site and you will come to a page where all your details are listed and at the bottom of that page you can update your login user name and password to something more user friendly.

Save these details and return to the main menu to pay your membership.

I would love to do a test run but the renewal membership site as stated is not active.

I am still away at the moment but have on file your original username and password. If you require them just email me.

Sue Hutchison ☺