

Issue No 26: 8 February 2015

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](mailto:thesecretary@wsdragons.com.au)

It has been a long time since our last Newsletter, though of course all committee meeting Minutes are available on our website and emails are sent to members when anything critical arises.

If you like the idea of receiving a Newsletter, please consider being involved in producing it. Any assistance would be invaluable and might mean that an edition is *Spirited* is published more often every six months.

### What's WSD achieved in the last 12 months or so?

#### Urunga Regatta in May

Our 3 paddlers (Brian, Pat and Simone) were in the winning crew in the 6kms regatta and our women's crew (with the Pearls) won a heat for the first time. Yeh!

#### Fund-Raising Bingo Night in October

Kim Manners wielded her unmatched people persuading skills at the Bingo Night on the Saturday of the October Long Weekend. Assisted with funds from the Winter Raffle, just over \$1,150 was raised - sufficient funds to cover our committed payment on the trolley for the small boat and the next instalment on the BUK (Big Ugly Kraft) boat. It was also a good opportunity to encourage attendance at the Come & Try Day that was held 2 days later. On top of that, everyone had an enormous amount of fun!

#### Try Paddling Day in October

The day turned out to be a fun day with 15 people joining us for a paddle. The smiles said it all. Even the audience on the shore enjoyed the scene. While we are unlikely to rope in many new members from the event, given most were weekenders, it was a huge publicity success

**Forster Regatta in November** – WSDers combined with Nambucca on a stinking hot day and had lots of fun. Elaine paddled in her first (and probably her last!) marathon. The guys – Brian and Chris – made it to the final of the men's 10s. More yehs!



Our mob at Forster Regatta



Our mob & the Nambucca mob at Forster

#### Membership

We are very pleased to tell you that our membership has increased by 4 with Natalie Muenger, Christine Rand and Lindy Patterson signing up before Christmas and Cathie Barrington joining us just this week.

We are now 20 and we are hopeful of a couple more in the coming months. Tati & Medi have had a paddle. They're pretty busy at the minute having just moved in, but they enjoyed their paddle and have the advantage of proximity to our paddling site.

### Coaches & Sweeps

Our 2 WSD coaches, Stuart & Elaine attended a training workshop with Anni Yaringa and Elaine went to Physiology for Performance workshop run by Gavin Godfrey.

Chris Hutchison, our Level 1 sweep, is currently seeking Level 2 accreditation and Wendy Rogers is in training for Level 1 sweep accreditation. Of course Sally is very involved with their training, but we hope that in the future this will take a bit of the pressure off her.

### End of year Christmas Party

Paddlers and their partners gathered at Annabelle's place for end of year celebrations and had a relaxing afternoon by the pool. It was a very pleasant day and we would like to have a few more social functions throughout the year.

### Coomba Fest

It started out a bit damp and there were a few sprinkles during the day, but the cooler weather was a great relief and Coomba Fest was terrific.

Once again our Fund-Raising and Catering committee came to the fore in the organisation of the WSD stall selling Hot Dogs and drinks and running the Chocolate Wheel. The only complaints heard were from people who were too late to buy one of the limited number Chocolate Wheel tickets.

The free Face Painting was a great hit with children lining up to put themselves in the hands of our expert face painters. A special thanks to Liz, Tracy, Kayley & Marjorie for their creativity and commitment.



### Coomba Fest – the Raft Race

The highlight of Coomba Fest is the Raft Race and this year was no exception. It will be an event that will go down in history for WSD.

To quote the Coomba Fest co-ordinator...

*A big turnout of rafts both old and new had 7 craft ready to paddle the course.... The new Wallis Spirit Dragon entry "The Saucy Hotdogs" looked very formidable and the handicapper thought 1<sup>st</sup> div, but some fast talking swayed him to put them in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division. At the starters call the fleet was off with a bit of congestion almost causing a few collisions but as the rafts gained a bit of space it was clear that there was a bit of "foxing" as "The saucy Hotdogs" were well out in front..*



Great expectations



85% plus



The faces of victory

### Coomba Fest Raft Race – continued....

It's likely that the 'fast talking' happened after our first practice when it seemed unlikely that we would be able to keep on course at all. Where we wanted to go and where we went bore little relationship to each other. But by the morning of 26 January that problem was solved with a Sweep Chris now being installed on a milk crate at the back of the raft.

We powered through the water and left everyone else behind. It's amazing what a difference paddling in unison makes!

Yes. We were disqualified. But we could have easily rounded the Division 1 buoy and still come in first. We can cry "We wuz robbed!" but just wait till next year.....

### Publicity for WSD

Publicity wise Coomba Fest raft race certainly put us in the limelight even if it was controversial.

And hopefully, the purchase of the sign attached to the tourist sign on Coomba Road is increasing our visibility. (Have you seen it?) One new member (Cathie) said that it was one of the reasons she chose to seek us out. We look forward to more people seeing it and being curious enough to enquire.

### DON'T FORGET...

**Sunday 8 March  
at Coomba Tidal Pool  
starting at 10am**

**50 metre swim test.**

..in paddling gear; no time limit...  
bring a change of clothes

**Capsize Training (on-land)**

..sounds like fun and should be interesting and useful..

**A few helpful Drills**

**Members' Meeting**

..not long..

**BBQ and relaxation**

..and time to chat – don't get much of that while training..

### Farmers Market BBQ

Last year, Chris Hutchison and Ray Reeding explored the possibility of organising a BBQ Stall at the Farmers Market near Forster Visitor information Centre as a fund-raiser for WSD. The markets are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month and they have been running it themselves for quite a few months now. It has turned out to be a consistent and slowly growing source of funds for WSD. So far, just over \$100 has been raised each month – a not inconsiderable amount over the course of a year.

Now that it's up and running, it would be good to have a few other volunteers willing to lend a hand occasionally.

If you can help out please contact Chris Hutchison or any member of the committee 8am third Saturday of month near Forster

A special thanks to Chris and Ray for their time and effort on our behalf.

We would also like to thank Ray for the generous support he has given and continues to give to WSD. Apart from manning the BBQ Ray has put in many hours carrying out repairs to our boat and constructing our winning (well, almost) Coomba Fest raft.

### URUNGA 2015

**Have you put your name down for the Urunga regatta?**

It was great fun in 2014 and could be even better in 2015.

**2 and 3 May 2015**

If you're going...

\*\* is your name on the regatta list on our website??? and

\*\* be aware that local accommodation is filling up quickly.