



Newsletter of the
BURLEY GRIFFIN CANOE CLUB

Volume 29 Issue 7, May 2019

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Treasurer: Trent Burkitt

Safety Officer: Vacant

Membership Secretary: Helen Tongway

Public Officer: Bob Collins

Editor: Michael Thomas

Burley Griffin Canoe Club Inc.
PO Box 341
Jamison Centre ACT 2614
www.bgcc.org.au

In this issue:

- Antarctic adventure
- Lane Cove, Bateman's Bay and "Great Toro" race reports
- Tentative date for Club Presentation and Birthday Dinner
- Convenors' reports: Canoe Polo, Marathon and South Coast Paddlers



*The ACT Government assists this organisation
through Active Canberra, ACT*



STOP PRESS!

ITS OFFICIAL: BGCC REGAINS THE LEAD IN THE PNSW MARATHON SERIES POINT-SCORE!

PaddleNSW has just updated the clubs point-score for the 2019 NSW marathon series after the last round at Batemans Bay. And BGCC has regained the lead in the hotly contested competition to win the Brian Norman Perpetual Club Trophy. The top three point scorers in the 23 club competition are:

Burley Griffin Canoe Club 4856

Manly Warringah Kayak Club 4496

Lane Cove River Kayakers 4398

Full reports on the Lane Cove double boat round and the Batemans Bay Paddle Challenge are in the newsletter.

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Coming Events:

Dates	Event	Location
Sat, 4 May	Winter Ski series, round 1	Tomakin
Sat, 1 June	PNSW Marathon series Round 6	Burrill Lake
Sat, Sun & Mon 8–10 June	Winter Ski series, round 2	Moruya
	Riverland Paddling Marathon	Berri to Morgan, South Australia
Sun, 23 June	PNSW Marathon series Round 7	Penrith
Fri, 28 June	Club Birthday and Presentation Dinner	Yacht Club (date and venue TBC)
Sat, 6 July	Winter Ski series, round 3	Burrill Lake
Sun, 14 July	PNSW Marathon series Round 8	Davistown
Sat, 3 August	PNSW Marathon series Round 9	Windsor (portage round)
Sat, 24 August	Winter Ski series, round 4	Moruya
	PNSW Marathon series Round 10	Teralba (plus presentation dinner)
Sat, 7 September	Winter Ski series, round 5	Tomakin

President's Report: Russell Murphy

This month I want to talk about coming together. As a club we come together very well. In the past month, we've come together twice: once for the doubles marathon round at Lane Cove and again for the Bateman's Bay Paddle Challenge, right on our doorstep. In both cases, people who otherwise wouldn't have a lot of contact with each other pulled together and went the extra mile for the club. In some cases they literally pulled together, paddling doubles with someone new for the first time. I even dusted off my boat and did some paddle strokes in anger. It was great to see so many answer the call and work as a team.



The results speak for themselves. In recent years we have languished 3rd or 4th at this point of the marathon series with very little hope of catching Manly Warringah or Lane Cove. After race 4, we are within striking distance of first and depending on the results from Bateman's Bay, may already be in first or second.

The next race in the series is on 1 June at Burrill Lake. This one is always a fun race. The Makai paddlers always put on a great race and party. It's also very close to home. As many of you found out at Bateman's Bay, there is a distance and division for you, regardless of your skill or speed.

I also wanted to mention a little piece of research that came across my desk in the past month. We all know that sport is good for your body. We also know it's good for your mental health. But what competitive sports are best for your mental health? You wouldn't be surprised to find out that kayaking was number one and canoeing was in the top five. Perhaps not surprisingly, many of the highest rated sports were individual, low impact and involved scenery. Canoe polo perhaps provides a different mental health outlet.

So next time you are out on the water, give yourself a pat on the back for looking after yourself in at least two ways and keeping you calmer for the day ahead.

See you on the water,

Russell



An Antarctic adventure: Diane Bell

We have twelve days to explore the Antarctica Peninsula. A double rainbow frames the Beagle Channel as we depart Puerto William, Chile, on board the *Polar Pioneer*, an icebreaker whose Russian



Kayak family, Detaille Island. Photographer Daniel Stavert

crew has deep knowledge of southern and northern waters. Along with 49 fellow passengers, we are briefed on protocols, safety, bio-security, wildlife, daily activities and Zodiac landings. Margy Burn and I are about to visit the 'Seventh Continent'.



The 'Seven Sisters', Fief Mountains, Jouglar Point: Diane Bell and Amy Roberts. Photographer Daniel Stavert



Fish Islands: Diane Bell and Margy Burn (middle kayak). Photographer Daniel Stavert

After a relatively calm crossing of the Drake Passage, including sighting a Black-browed Albatross, we arrive at Aitcho Island. Gentoo penguin chicks are ready to fledge: moulting elders await feather regrowth. Fitted out in dry suits and life jackets our small band of kayakers takes to the water. Each day we explore spaces beyond the reach of ship and Zodiacs. We see colonies of gentoo, chinstrap and Adélie penguins; raft-up and glide towards breaching humpback whales; land on an ice-floe; kayak through brash ice, around dynamic icebergs, along a glacier face, among rambunctious adolescent male fur seals in the caldera of Deception Island; listen to the thunderous calving ice; note the brilliant coloured lichens. We cross the Antarctic Circle, 66°S 33.66 and pay tribute to Captain Cook's January 1773 *Resolution* and *Adventure* crossing. We circumnavigate Detaille Island and pause among curious crabeater seals. We're in uncharted waters, so, following the tradition of earlier explorers, our log records the name, 'Daniel's Cove', after our guide.



Aitcho Island, Gentoo penguins. Photographer Daniel Stavert

On board, from the bridge, we glimpse an orca pod and minke whales sheltered by 700-metre cliffs of the narrow Lemaire Channel. Our onshore inspections of abandoned and active scientific bases reveal the impact of shifting geopolitical imperatives, but that is another story.

The consequences of enforcing an etiquette that privileges flora and fauna over human visitors are evident. The seals, whales and penguins are curious, playful, fearless. It's *their* element.

At least once a day we remind ourselves that we're kayaking in Antarctica; that it is only two months since we joined the Burley Griffin Canoe Club, where we found a community of supportive experts; where Patricia Ashon, Helen Tongway and Anne Cronin offered patient instruction. We resolve to continue kayaking once back in Canberra. How cold can it be?

Diane



Paradise Bay, seals. Photographer Daniel Stavert

Marathon Convenor's Report—Russel Lutton



April was another big month on the marathon paddling scene, and a really great month for our BGCC distance paddling fraternity, with two of the 2019 PaddleNSW marathon races taking place: race 4, the double boat state championships at Lane Cove on Sunday, 14 April and Race 5 of the series, held in conjunction with the Batemans Bay Paddle Challenge on Saturday, 27 April.

PNSW marathon series, race 4, Lane Cove

Lane Cove River Kayakers hosted race 4 of the 2019 marathon series, which included New South Wales State Championships for double boats. LCRK always do a great job of hosting their home races and this year was no exception, but perhaps an event of this size—there were 228 registrations—has outgrown the capacity of their club site, particularly the parking and the limiting pontoon entry and exit system. It was easy to miss your start, even if you were queueing when directed and trying hard to get to the start line.



The double boat championships have always been BGCC's nemesis when it comes to the Brian Norman Club Trophy championship. It is all about participation. Clubs need double boats on the water—lots of them—because every double that competes, irrespective of finish place, is awarded 50 bonus points for its nominated club, in addition to the normal club points awarded to the first two finishing boats of each club in each division.



Since it was introduced, the double points bonus round has knocked BGCC out of the club points championship. It is relatively straightforward for the large Sydney clubs, particularly Manly Warringah Kayak Club and LCRK, to muster manifold double boats and crews, get them to the Sydney race venue, and score the 50 bonus points on offer for each one that crosses the line. These bonus points, of course, carry forward in the cumulative club totals for subsequent races.



Conversely, it is difficult enough for BGCC paddlers to transport double boats long distances to marathon events, let alone in the numbers required to make a dent in the point-scoring ability of the MWKC and LCRK juggernauts. This year we decided to try not to let the Sydney clubs get so far ahead in the doubles round and to get as many BGCC double boats to Sydney as possible.



It was a really great club effort. Every serviceable BGCC club double boat made it to Sydney. Thanks to the generosity of Scott Hunter, we also had his two double skis and his boat trailer for good measure. And at very short notice, due to boat length car/trailer logistics, Jeremy Cook changed his arrangements and towed the DB laden trailer to and from Sydney.



In total we managed to scratch up 14 double boats and the crews for them—and got them to Sydney and back safely. And what crews they were! Paddlers who had never paddled a double boat before (and some who didn't even know their doubles paddling partners prior to being plonked in the boat with them) agreed to pair up and give it a go for the club. As they say in the double boats bonus points round, "50 points is 50 points; it's all about participation; just have fun and get across the finish line." And everybody from BGCC did and had fun to boot.



So where did we end up after that dastardly Lane Cove round of the series? We went into it in first place; we came out of it in third, which may sound like a hollow result after so much effort, but we were never going to beat Manly and Lane Cove in the numbers game. The point was to keep their lead to a minimum, which we did. After this round, the first three places in the point score of the 22 clubs in the series were:

Manly Warringah Kayak Club	4167 points
Lane Cove River Kayakers	3965 points
Burley Griffin Canoe Club	3824 points

Congratulations and major thanks to the 30 BGCC paddlers who participated, had fun, kept the points margin so tight, and kept us in the competition. Their results are below.

BGCC paddlers' race results, Race 4 Lane Cove

Div 1 (26km)	BGCC paddlers	Time	Club points
5 th	Michael Hanemaayer/Craig Elliott	1:59:38	50+46
Div 2 (20km)			
4 th	Emily O'Rourke/Maddie Lamb	1:49:29	50+47
Div 5(20km)			
2 nd	Andy Bosworth	1:56:48	49
3 rd	Danielle Winslow/Bob Collins	1:57:57	50+48
Div 8 (15km)			
5 th	Margi Bohm/Patricia Ashton	2:07:44	50+46
13 th h	Jonathon Taylor/Richard Bontjer	1:25:45	50+38
18 th	Jack Jessen/Jeremy Cook	1:28:20	50
Div 9 (10km)			
4 th	Dominic Hide/David Pammenter	51:23	50+47
5 th	Andrew Parkinson/Russell Lutton	52:02	50+46
11 th	Larissa Cleverly/Ted Hall	54:55	50
12 th	Gary Rake/John Preston (the odd couple)	54:56	50
16 th	Stephanie Rake/Liz Muldoon	56:49	50
22rd	Robert Bruce/Russell Murphy (even odder!)	1:02:41	50
Div 10 (10km)			
2 nd	Graeme Ison	59:12	49
10 th	Tammy Ven Dange/James Walsh ("Nice to meet you, James!")	1:09:25	50+41
Div 11 (10km)			
1 st	Allan Newhouse/Ian Castell-Brown (the older couple)	1:09:25	50+50

PNSW marathon series, race 5, Batemans Bay Paddle Challenge

This was an unusual venue for a PNSW marathon race. At the start of the 2019 series, it was nominated as a bonus points round for competitors, but the late cancellation of the advertised race at Mylestrom on the NSW north coast led the PNSW marathon committee to change this to a full point scoring round of the series.

It was a result that couldn't be scripted from BGCC's perspective; and it was probably a bad scenario for the Sydney clubs. Instead of our paddlers having to drive hundreds of kilometres north to compete at Mylestrom to capitalise on our great Lane Cove effort, race 5 was being held almost on our doorstep.



Again, our paddlers responded magnificently to President Russell Murphy's call for BGCC paddlers to compete, with 46 BGCC paddlers racing—paddlers from across the BGCC paddling spectrum: SUPers

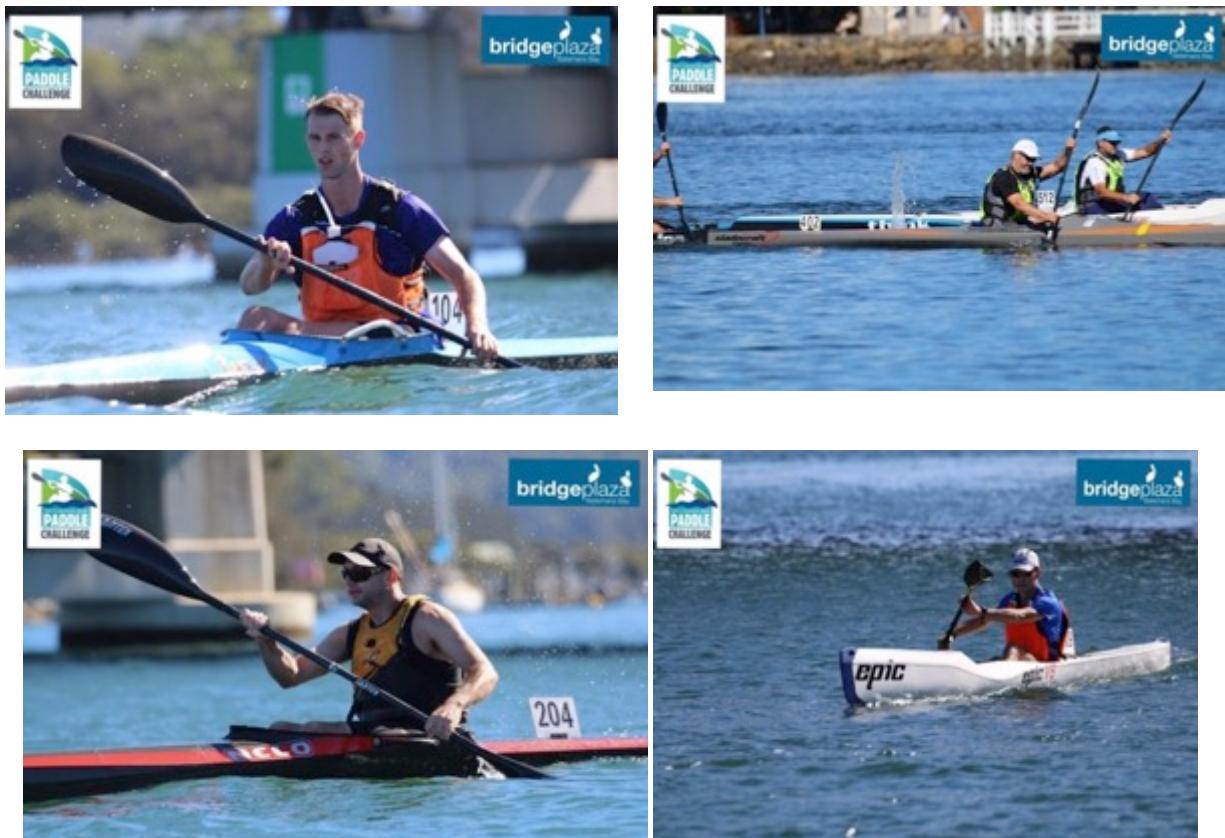
(a most welcome addition to our ranks), the regular marathon brigade, our reliable BGCC south coast fraternity, and many BGCC paddlers who just did it to support the club—participation that often yielded terrific personal and club points results (see “Why club participation is so important for clubs’ point scoring” below).



The Challenge may have been blessed with wonderful south coast weather, but this was tricky water, particularly in balance boats. The incoming tide made the return leg a tough slog. The race distances for divisions 1 to 7 were 26km rather than the usual 20km. Every type of power boat imaginable plies the Clyde River, from oyster punts to gin palace cruisers, not to mention the ever-helpful, ever-moving safety boats! They all make wash. Boat wash was an ever-present “feature” of the race course. However, with the exception of one of our number, whose boat unfortunately suffered gear failure, all our competitors finished—and BGCC accumulated a huge club points tally.



Congratulations and thanks to the 46 BGCC paddlers who participated in the Challenge. Their wonderful results are below.



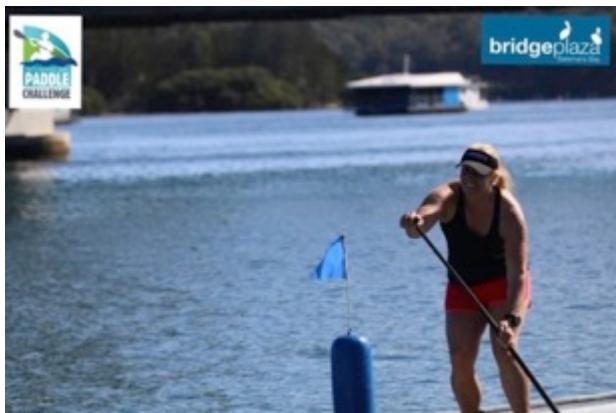
BGCC paddlers' race results, Race 5 Batemans Bay Paddle Challenge

Div 1 (26km)	BGCC paddlers	Time	Club points
3 rd	Michael Hanemaayer	1:58:06	48
5 th	Andrew Birkett	2:03:01	46
Div 2 (26km)			
1 st	Simon Stenhouse	2:07:05	50
5 th	Robert Stimson	2:28:11	46
Div 3 (26km)			
10 th	Dominic Hides	2:20:56	41
11 th	Emily O'Rourke	2:21:00	40
Ranking	Stephen Bunney	2:15:19	
Ranking	Mark Dawson	2:30:31	

Div 4 (26km)	BGCC paddlers	Time	Club points
2 nd	Richard Fox	2:32:59	49
Div 5(26km)			
1 st	Andy Bosworth	2:29:44	50
6 th	John Preston	2:42:32	45
Ranking	Richard Bontjer	2:26:40	
Div 6 (26km)			
2 nd	Jeremy Cook	2:38:45	49
3 rd	Tom Hick	2:56:15	48
Div 7 (26km)			
3 rd	Kiaran Lomas	2:55:34	48
Div 8 (13km)			
1 st	Andrew Parkinson/Russell Lutton	1:04:02	50
2 nd	Margi Bohm/Patricia Ashton	1:04:53	49
11th	Emily Stewart-Reed/Michael Reed	1:24:34	
12 th	Bernhard Zimburg	1:47:01	
DNF	Gary Rake		
Div 9 (13km)			
1 st	Craig Elliott	1:01:58	50
5 th	Stephanie Rake/Liz Muldoon	1:09:08	46
7 th	Larissa Cleverly	1:09:48	
9 th	David Pammenter	1:12:30	
10 th	Roy Willis/Peter Fane	1:13:18	
12 th	Ted Hall	1:14:41	
15 th	Julia Bowett	1:16:36	
16 th	Roger Murray	1:16:47	
17 th	Graeme Ison	1:37:21	

Div 10 (13km)			
7 th	Mike Iliff	1:26:43	43
Div 11 (13km)	BGCC paddlers	Time	Club points
3 rd	Tammy Ven Dange	1:21:45	48
7 th	Ian Castell-Brown	1:42:05	44
Ranking	Kerrie Wilmot	1:28:20	
Div 12 (13km)			
4 th	Allan Newhouse	1:37:02	47
Ranking	Jesse Robertson	1:17:04	
Ranking	Matthew Scott	1:23:02	
Ranking	Trent Shaw	1:29:02	
Ranking	Russell Murphy	1:31:44	
Div 13 (6km)			
3 rd	Barry Marshall	48:18	48
5 th	Lana Read	49:35	46
8 th	Joanna Nelson	51:07	
10 th	Angela Crawford	55:19	





The 2019 marathon series conundrum: where to from here for BGCC?

The club point score post-Batemans Bay will be released soon. It is most likely that BGCC has improved its place in the rankings—possibly even been reinstated to first place.

There are five races remaining in the 2019 series, with three of them—Burrill Lake, Penrith and Windsor—reasonably close to Canberra. Please mark the race dates in your diary and see whether you can make them.

Burrill Lake	Saturday, 1 June
Penrith	Sunday, 23 June
Davistown	Sunday, 14 July
Windsor	Saturday, 3 August
Teralba	Saturday, 24 August

If our club were able to maintain our participation rates and spread of paddlers across the divisions we have every chance of winning the Brian Norman Club Trophy for the first time in many years. In light of the strength of great Sydney clubs like MWKC and LCRK, that would be a real David and Goliath-type achievement. So please get to Burrill Lake and keep us in the competition!

Why is paddler participation so important for clubs' point scoring?

Scoring points in the PaddleNSW marathon series is all about participation—both at the personal and club levels. In respect of scoring club points, the marathon committee made a great change to the points system a couple of seasons back to give paddlers of all abilities an opportunity to gain points for their club. Under the previous system, only the first four finishers (from different clubs) in each division were awarded club points. If you didn't finish up at the top, it could all feel a bit irrelevant in terms of supporting your club.

The new system is complex but it works well: basically, the two highest placed boats from each club in each division earn club points based on their finishing position in the division (eg, 50 points for first, 49 for second et cetera). If you're still bothering to read this, rule 52 in the PNSW divisional racing rules might help. I personally keep it on the bedside table; its also beaut for curing insomnia.

To cut to the chase, ideally clubs need at least two boats of any configuration in each division to maximise the potential for accumulating club points. Look at the Batemans Bay Challenge results above. We had two paddlers or more in divisions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 13. That's participation!

And while we have quality, experienced distance paddlers who did well on the day, what is really great to see is that sometimes our paddlers who finished in, for example, 5th, 10th or 11th places—because of the randomness of variable club participation—still made valuable contributions to our club score. They were among those two first finishing club boats in their division. And other BGCC paddlers, if not in the first two club finishers, denied precious points to rival clubs and kept us in the running for the BNT.

I'm going to bed with rule 52. Hope as many of you as possible can make Burrill Lake on 1 June!

Russl

Far South Coast Paddlers Winter Ski Series

The Winter Ski Series is back for 2019! The same format as last year with one new location. The first round will be at **Tomakin this Saturday, 4 May**. It will be an 8am on the water start. Other dates for the series are:

- 2nd Round - Saturday 1 June - Moruya
- 3rd Round - Saturday 6 July - Burrill Lake
- 4th Round - Saturday 3 August - Moruya
- 5th Round - Saturday 7 September - Tomakin

For further details, contact [Simone Elliott <sselliotts@gmail.com>](mailto:sselliotts@gmail.com)

South Coast Convenor's Report: Allan Newhouse

The Bateman's Bay Paddle Challenge is the one race on the calendar that only requires the South Coast paddlers to travel the sort of distance that some Sydney paddlers travel for the majority of races.

Graeme Ison, Ian Castell-Brown and Allan Newhouse paddled in Divisions 9, 11 and 12 respectively.

Each of us had our own problems on the day. Graeme was busy chatting with Div 12 paddlers when Div 9 started. Ian had just returned from India and was still suffering the effects of Delhi Belly. I have never learned to cope with powerboat wake. While I stayed upright, my cautious approach to the ferry wake put me about 200 metres behind the SUP I had just managed to catch.

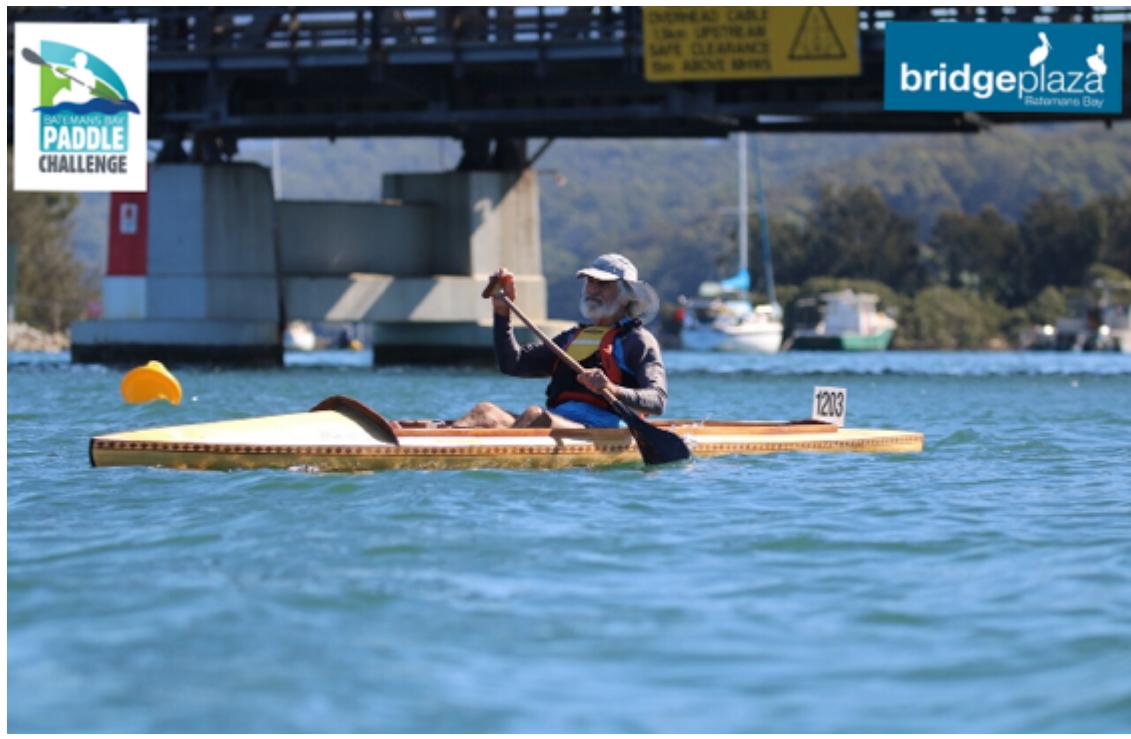
The Div 12 start was a bit crowded with 24 craft lining up. It seems that a lot of first time paddlers elected to enter Div 12 as 20 of the starters were doing a ranking race.

Graeme finished in 17th place in Div 9, Ian was 7th in Div 1 and I was 4th in Div 12.





Ian Castell-Brown completing the 13km half marathon



I might look relaxed, but in fact I am trying to ease the pain in my back caused by the effort of dealing with waves and powerboat wake

Allan

Club Birthday and Presentation Dinner: Patricia Ashton

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

While it isn't confirmed yet, plans are going ahead for the BGCC Presentation Dinner

This looks like it will be held Friday 28th June at the Yacht Club.

PLEASE TALK TO YOUR PADDLING MATES AND PUT TOGETHER A TABLE FOR 28 JUNE.

Details and registration will be advertised shortly.

Awards for MALE, FEMALE & JUNIOR PADDLERS; MOST IMPROVED MALE & FEMALE; CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR; COACH OF THE YEAR; HOLE IN THE PADDLE AWARD; GRAND MASTERS GRAND MASTER AWARD

If you have any nominations, or if you have any stories that may be award worthy please let me know.

Patricia

Canoe Polo: Laura Kleinrahm

The past few months have been busy for our Canberra polo players, ranging from 45oC heatwaves leading into the Adelaide Summer Series event in January, to our final weekly night on the lake, where it was dark and our fingers had become unaccustomed to working in cooler weather.

Last month we had a significant contingent attend Shoalhaven's Mudcake Challenge, including several new juniors that Jason Downey has been coaching. It was also a farewell for Sue Robb, who is returning to New Zealand to the whitewater that Canberra in drought couldn't provide.



Nationals 2019—ACT Junior Team

ACT fielded Open teams in all Summer Series events, including this year's Adelaide and Nagambie legs, with the competitions also acting as selection events for the 2019 Oceania Championships. Sami Raymond, Laura Kleinrahm, Jess Harmer and Antonia Harmer also participated in training camps for the Women's squad, giving valuable higher level insight for 13-year-old Jess, and inspiring Toni to consider an eventual comeback after her 2004 World Championships win for Great Britain!

Congratulations to the following BGCC paddlers named in the Australian Squad:

Open Men's B

- Michael Young

Open Women's B

- Samantha Raymond
- Laura Kleinrahm
- Louise Gates

Under 18 Men's A

- Matthew Gates

Under 18 Men's B

- Ethan James

Over 30 Men's A

- James Harmer
- James Deakin

Over 30 Men's B

- Mark Raymond



Mudcake Challenge - ACT Junior Team



Mudcake Challenge—ACT Open

The National and Oceania Championships were run across the Easter and ANZAC Day weekends in Penrith, and we were lucky to have no rain and only one afternoon of wind in one of the more variable weather locations. The addition of New Zealand teams at the Nationals increased the skill level of all divisions and provided new and challenging teams to compete with.



Enjoying some carb loading at the Night Noodle Markets

New Zealand has a strong history at recent World Championships, including a 2016 Gold and 2018 Bronze for the Women's and Under 21 Women's teams respectively, making the Women's division particularly competitive. NSW was able to field a Women's Team for the first time in several years, meaning the division was at a peak, with SA, ACT, NSW, QLD and VIC all participating. Our ACT Women were able to maintain their history of strong results with a second placing among the Australian teams, and fourth behind NZ Women (#1) and NZ U21 Women (#3).



Australian Open Women's B—Laura Kleinrahm (#3), Louise Gates (#6) and Sami Raymond (#7)

Our Open Men faced similar challenges, with three New Zealand teams playing in the division. Ultimately the ACT Team finished an overall seventh, and fourth in Australia.



Australian Over 30 Men's A—James Deakin (#1) and James Harmer (#4)

We had three players competing in the Youth (U21) division, Matthew Gates and Ethan James for Tasmania and Laura Kleinrahm for South Australia. Tasmania was attending the Championships after a long hiatus away, so it was exciting to see them enter three teams (Junior, Youth and Masters). Again, New Zealand had three teams in the division. Tasmania competed extremely well, earning a fifth overall and second Australian team result, while South Australia came seventh overall.

Our Juniors demonstrated the rewards of now being one of the older and more experienced sides in the division, placing third overall and second behind Queensland A in Australia. This is particularly commendable as five members were also playing in Youth or Women's teams, meaning they had to play up to eight games a day!

For the Oceania Championships New Zealand again demonstrated their strength and prowess, providing an extremely difficult opponent to beat! Unfortunately among the Women's cohort we were just short of the numbers to make an Under 21 side, meaning there were four younger players within the team. Despite this, the team still played positively and cohesively, and were provided insight into the higher standard of polo overseas. The Women's B came sixth, above NZ U18 B.

For the Men's teams the Open B team came fourth behind NZ A, AUS A and NZ B, while our U18 Men's A team came third and the B team fourth. The Over 30 A Team came first, and the B Team third, providing the only Australian Gold of the tournament.

For the full Oceania results, head to <https://paddle.org.au/2019/04/29/canoe-polo-oceania-champs-wrap-up/>

Both competitions provided steep learning curves for our younger players, which should assist as we aim towards fielding an ACT Youth Team at the 2020 Australian Championships, progressing some Junior/ Youth players into the Open division at Summer Series events, and the 2020 World Championships cycle providing training camps and selection events to consider over the next twelve months.

Now, we are back to Lakeside Leisure Centre for some warm, chlorinated watery goodness, with the 2019/2020 Summer Series to commence in Canberra in October or November.



ACT Open at the Australia Day competition (Adelaide)

LozzaK

The Great Toro Race: Helen Tongway

While a great number of BGCC paddlers were earning club points by taking part in the Lane Cove Doubles-boats race, I continued south from visiting my Mum and brother in Hay, to take part in *The 3rd Annual Great Toro Race*, on Saturday 13th April.

Last year David and I paddled this race in our Mirage 730, in conditions which could best be described a "challenging". It was cold and wet and very windy. But this year the weather was great: warm and dry and calm. This race is a "revival/nostalgia" race, based around the TC2 designed and built by Andy Toro back in 1971, when he and partner won the Murray Marathon. In 2017 Michael (Mad Mick) Dinkgreve decided he would like to round up as many *Toros* (or *Yankees* as they were known in NSW) and canoe paddlers as he could find and run his own special race: 28 km from Picnic Point to Barmah. This is the start of Day 3 for those who have taken part in the 5-day Murray River Marathon.

There is no entry fee and the rule of the race are that anyone can paddle any boat in the event, but only a *Toro* can win! This year there were three starts: the first one was for slower (and perhaps older) paddlers; the second start was for faster, fitter paddlers, with Le Mons start, carrying the canoe around a tree to the river-bank and the starting point; the third start was also Le Mons, for the "guns", mostly younger males. I think there were 16 *Toros* in this year's race, plus a few "other" boats.

As David hadn't travelled to Hay with me, I sent out a message, asking if anyone would paddle with me in the race and was most pleasantly surprised when Rod Clark offered me a seat in his battered old *Toro*! A lot of the boats have names, and this one is *Conundrum*. For those not up with seated canoe paddling, in particular on the Murray River, Rod is one of the top Australian paddlers – so I was in for a fast paddle down the river..... Rod lives in Echuca, so this was his own home water and it is also a piece of the Murray River that I have paddled many times.

Rod tends to make his own rules, so instead of starting in the second start where we were supposed to, he realised that I would struggle to carry *Conundrum*, let alone run with it to the river-bank, so we went out and started with the first start – five minutes before our designated start time. It is about 11 years since I had paddled from the front seat in a canoe, so my first 15 – 20 minutes were a bit worrying for me, trying to remember how to actually paddle from there. After my Mirages, the TC2, with slightly higher seat and short deck in front of me, was a bit tippier-feeling than I was used to. However, as we travelled quickly along, overtaking other boats zigging and zagging along the river, I settled into the job, with some handy coaching from the back seat.

Rod and I eventually crossed the finish line ahead of all other boats – and with only a double outrigger canoe (i.e., not a *Toro*) a few seconds behind us. The next *Toro* over the line was from the start we should have been in, but 6 minutes behind us; so, given the 5 minutes head-start we had, we still won the race by one minute ☺



Most of the paddlers staying on for a Sunday paddle were camped along the river, a bit out of Barmah; and some good Scouts in the group put on a beaut dinner of roasted pork and lamb, plus plenty of vegetables, cooked in a huge camp-fire, followed by some home-baked cakes and biscuits. Delicious! And we were each presented with a nicely engraved wine-glass for 1st place.

Helen

Club boats for sale: Patricia Ashton

As mentioned last issue, the club is selling off some of our older boats, including 2 K1s, 2 TKs and a Spirit. So far we have sold the Spirit (blue and white rudderless kayak), and one of the TKs. These have raised \$550. We still have the others available. Scott is also interested in selling off the 2 Wetspot Junior Guppies – these are excellent TK-style kayaks for younger children or even small adults. All these boats are for sale for approx \$300 each.

In the next financial year we will also be looking at replacing the 2 aging and much repaired V8s. The asking price will be around \$800 and while we will accept expressions of interest, the skis will not be sold until they can be replaced.

The club is in the process of purchasing a 2nd Vajda Voyageur which is a very stable but quite fast masters K1. The one we currently have in the shed is much sought after so hopefully the 2nd one will be popular too. It should be replacing TKs for newer paddlers looking to get into racing. We have also ordered a second Vajda Spirit masters K1 in XL, this will be ready once the warmer weather hits and will allow for club members 85kg+. The Spirit is a tippier masters K1 and a great transition boat for those wanting to be challenged or wanting to move to one of the Infusion, higher end (real!), K1s.

Check out the Club Fleet Management Plan under Admin on the website. Feel free to pass on your ideas for club kayaks to a committee member or put forward your suggestions to a club meeting.

Cheers, hope to see you on the water as the temps drop!!

Patricia



2018-2019 BGCC Membership Fees: Helen Tongway

- A big thank you to those people who have already renewed! Renewals (for everyone) were due on 1st July.
- If you haven't already renewed, nor heard from me to say you are still current, then your fees are now over-due.....

The BGCC membership fees have been held at last year's level, while the PNSW fees were changed a little, The Adult fees have increased by \$10, while the Junior fees have been reduced by \$30. The Junior fees are for children between 10 and U18 years as at 1st July, 2018. Children under 10 years may join PNSW for free, with the BGCC fee remaining at \$40 for Juniors taking part in regular paddling sessions. ***All PNSW & BGCC Memberships are paid via PNSW and Paddle Australia.***

Label	Category	PNSW fees	BGCC fees	Total
1.1	Adult – New Member	\$90	\$130	\$210
2.1	Adult – Renewing Member	\$90	\$80	\$170
1.2	Junior – New Member	\$30	\$90	\$120
2.2	Junior – Renewing Member	\$30	\$40	\$70
1.3	Family – New Members	\$180	\$300	\$480
2.3	Family – Renewing	\$180	\$180	\$360
	Children under 10 years at 1 st July, 2018	Free	\$40	\$40
3	Non-paddler, volunteers, officials, carers	Free	Free	Free!
4.1	Adult Single-event Membership	\$20		\$20
4.2	Junior Single-Event Membership	\$10		\$10

Club Shed key-hire: Annual Fee: \$75. Plus **Refundable Deposit** of \$50, for new key-hirers.

Private boat in Club Shed: Upgrade Membership fee: \$180

Both private boat in **Club Shed + Club Shed key-hire**, Upgrade Membership fee: \$255

Both Key-hire and private boat in shed membership require an approved Application Form for new Membership Upgraders.

Those continuing their upgraded membership do not need to put in a new application each year.

Membership upgrades at: <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/AccessRegistration.aspx?E=30446>

If you finances are such that you need a little more time to pay – then please contact me, to let us know that you are still in town and want to continue with BGCC, key and boats.

Applications for permission to keep your private boat in the club shed and (after 3 months' BGCC membership) are on-line at <http://www.bgcc.org.au/index.php/administration>

You only need to apply for the first time – after that your approval continues – as long as you pay your annual fees on time!

Club members whose applications come in later in the year pay a pro-rata fee, up to the end of each financial year.

See club website for how-to-pay links

Helen.