



BLAZING PADDLES

Newsletter of the

BURLEY GRIFFIN CANOE CLUB

Volume 32 Issue 4 Dec 2022

Your Committee:

President: Tom Long

Vice President: Mary Parker

Secretary: Margi Bohm

Treasurer: Tammy ven Dange

Boat Captain: Lachlan Parker

Membership Secretary: Patricia Ashton

Safety Officer: Dan Irvine

In this issue:

- **President's notes**
- **Vice President's notes**
- **Club news**
- **Recreational paddling**
- **Marketplace**



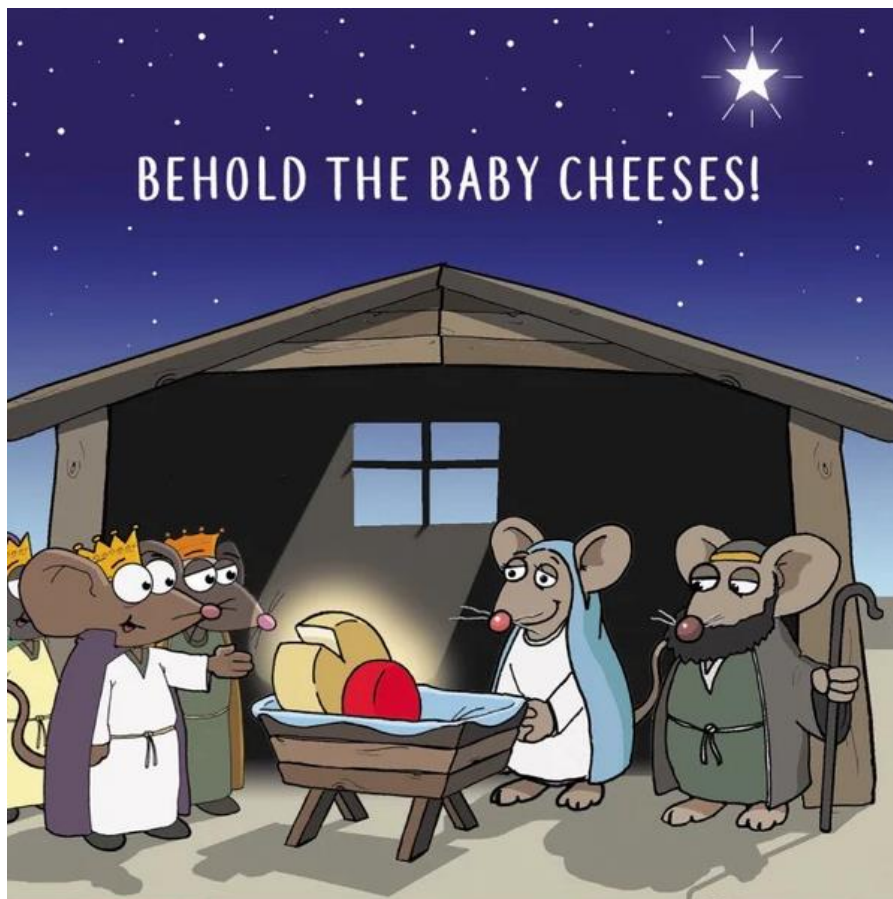
The ACT Government assists this organisation through the Sport & Recreation Grants Program

Position	Person
Membership Secretary	Patricia Ashton
Public Officer	Bob Collins
Editor ('Blazing Paddles')	Robert Bruce
Coaches rep	Margi Bohm
Webmaster	Geoff Collett
Boat Captain	Lachlan Parker
Canoe Polo	Laura Kleinrahm
Time Trials	Lachlan Parker* & Matilda Stevenson*(Jointly)
Marathon	Richard Fox
Event Co-ordinator	Bob Collins
Sprint	Kolya Cook
Bay Area Kayakers	
Slalom - ww	Craig Elliott
Social Convener	Maria Ouvrier
Recreational paddling	



Table of Contents

Coming Events:	4
Vice President's Notes	4-5
President's Notes	7
Club News.....	8-13
Presentation Night & Awards	14-17
Recreational Paddling	19-20
Marketplace.....	21-22
Thank you to all contributors to this edition of Blazing Paddles.....	22



Coming Events:

- Race ... Frank Harrison Memorial Race ~ Albury 21/22 January 2023
- Race ... Wagga Wagga Marathon series Race 1 ~ 4th February 2023
- Race ... Windsor Marathon series Race 2 ~ 26th February 2023
- NSW State Championships, Canberra ~ 11th/12th March 2023



Vice President's Notes

Mary's view from the Timing Tent – Mary Parker

Last year I missed the 24-hour event because of a work commitment and this year I was too injured to paddle – so Bob and Helen allowed me to experience my first 24-hour race from the timing tent!

I did not have the stamina of Bob and Helen who stuck it out through the night in an incredible effort. The event truly would not have gotten off the ground without the two of them.

My highlights from my 17-hour stay in the timing tent were:

- Bob Turner's repeated explicit instructions to Bob Collins and I regarding the use of the WebScorer iPads and his immediate concern when Bob and I told him "not to worry" (and subsequently witnessing Bob Collins' transformation into IT guru – I can't take the credit for the perfect Webscorer results, as Bob's 'tally of Mary's Webscorer errors' demonstrated).

- Admiring the incredible effort of the canoeists, who powered through the night and made all their laps look effortless and graceful.
- Having the role of “person who yells the soccer World Cup score to passing paddlers”.
- Chatting to just about every kayaker who wanted to procrastinate their next lap, and becoming their cheer squad when they finally got back on the water.
- Receiving the benefit of Helen’s extremely well-prepared supplies – lollies, cakes, fruit, pistachios – and Bob’s meals – pasta salad, pie – what more could the timing tent need!!
- Realising that I might want to permanently switch to time-keeping rather than paddling!

Thanks all for a truly wonderful event. The camaraderie between the paddlers and the organisers was fantastic. I can’t wait to finally participate in this event in 2023!

*PS: A big **Thank You** to BGCC member Pete Garbutt from **Enhance Healthcare** for his donation of rolls of medical tape (to keep paddlers shoulders, wrists, etc. in going order) to include in some of the paddler’s goodies bags. Very much appreciated Pete!*



Email: healthcare@enhance.com.au
Book online: <https://enhance.janeapp.com.au/login>

About ENHANCE Healthcare:



Enhance Healthcare was established by **Peter Garbutt** and **Celina Miller** in 2001, initially providing Massage and Chiropractic Services to the Gungahlin and Canberra community. Over the past 15 years, our service offering has increased to include;

- **Acupuncture;**
- **Soft Tissue Therapy;**
- **Chinese Herbal Medicine;**
- **Chiropractic and Massage Therapy;**
- **Physiotherapy**

Our business is built with the customer at the forefront of everything we do. We have established a highly skilled and professional team, across multiple disciplines with the specific view of delivering the best possible client outcomes.

At Enhance Healthcare we listen to our clients, diagnose the problem properly and utilise the combined skills of the ENHANCE team to resolve whatever the problem may be. We then follow up to ensure our clients are happy with outcomes

Pete Garbutt is also a long-time member of the Burley Griffin Canoe Club

Denman Prospect Clinic Address

Shop 25, 3 Felstead Vista,
Denman Prospect ACT 2611

Mitchell Clinic Address:

Unit 10, Level 1 141 Flemington Rd
Mitchell, Canberra ACT, 2912

Opening Hours:

Monday	5am – 8pm
Tuesday	7am – 7pm
Wednesday	7am – 8pm
Thursday	7am – 7pm
Friday	7am – 6pm
Saturday	10am – 4pm
Sunday	10am – 4pm (Mitchell only)

President's Notes

Thank you to all club members for an enjoyable year of Paddling in 2022 no matter the type of paddling you undertake.

I always smile when I reflect on how our club prides its self on supporting all disciplines of paddling and how we as club members embrace and celebrate this through supporting each other.

This year the club probably had almost the most amount of water flow past it with all the flooding rains that experienced this year. A lot of club members made the most of these to improve their flowing water skills and still paddled no matter the conditions, whether it was in the flooding rains, hot summer days, icy winter mornings and everything in between.

As Canberra Paddlers we have some of the harshest conditions to paddle in and the determination of our members is something that needs to be recognised.

I would like to thank anyone that gave their time to the club this year as without members giving their personal time to the club the BGCC would grind to a halt. In 2022 members giving their personal time up allowed us a club to improve club resources and facilities, run events, run weekly paddling groups and just generally improve the social environment within the club.

The flip side of this is I would also like to thank all the members that have made the most of all work these volunteers by using and taking part in all the resources, events and paddles these people organised. This in itself is all the thanks that these volunteers want a lot of the time as it shows them that all of their hard work is appreciated by others and hasn't gone to waste.

I would also like to thank all the members who donated boats I think we had around 5 boats donated to the club this year. These boats will allow all the other club members to use these resources and it has greatly helped the club continue to provide quality craft for members to paddle for the coming years.

Finally, I would like to wish all club members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that the BGCC can continue all of the momentum that it has generated in 2022 as club and continue to build on this in 2023 and into the future. As in my short time of being the club president I can see that it is due to the members our club has that we have bright future ahead us on the banks of the Molonglo River.

Stay Safe over the Christmas Break and I look forward to paddling with everyone in 2023

Cheers
Tom



Club News

Bob's 'View from the Timing Tent' – Bob Collins

At our last 24Hr event, I paddled in a team of 4, well, 3 after a desertion! I was tired, wet and cold and, being unable to sleep, spent my off water hours in the Timing Tent helping (most would say 'hindering') the timing volunteers.

With the likes of Tom Hick, Shane Lund, Dave Gordon, Bob Turner and other visitors in the tent, I had a ball. There was never a dull moment, with plenty going on both on and off the water. Insults and instructions were constantly hurled at paddlers, who responded in kind.

This year I decided not to paddle but to Time the event instead. This news horrified Bob Turner, who had witnessed my efforts with the Webscorer Timing Notepad last year.

Nevertheless, this year Helen had her reliable manual system and Mary Parker and I had a Notepad each. Thankfully, Bob Turner had changed the layout so any fool (read *Bob*) could use it.

With most kayakers opting for the 16/8 version of the event, it was left to the canoeists to paddle through the night.

What an incredible bunch they are; they showed resilience, camaraderie and their joy of paddling canoes was evident every time they went out, also, the ladies matched the men in every department.

It is definitely a slower form of paddling, as could be seen when the kayaks were on the water with them. However it is something I am going to try this summer.

The timing tent was a bit quieter this year as there were not many visitors so it was just Helen, Mary and I, with Bob Turner calling in regularly to make sure Mary had me under control and not messing up Webscorer.

She must have excelled as an email from Bob Turner the next day read:

'Huge kudos to, and also to Mary for getting Bob through to the end of an event using WebScorer, and producing, for the first time ever, a set of WebScorer results that we can use !! '

Not sure what to make of that!

I can recommend spending time in the timing tent, both assisting and helping to break the boredom during periods where there are not many craft on the water – all being well, I will be there again next 24Hr as watching and talking to the paddlers as they head out and back is interesting.

My thanks to Helen and Mary for their company and ability to keep me on the right 'timing' track.

Bob



Helen and Mary in the Timing tent.

Helen's view 'From the Timing Tent' -Helen Tongway

The day shone bright and sunny, with little breeze – what a relief! After the last three years of mini-disasters: smoke, wind, storm, we were oh so lucky to have nice weather – even if a little cool for some.

The people 'behind the scenes' had done their usual excellent jobs. Bob Collins had seen to all the required paperwork/officialdom; Bob Turner had set up the *JustGo* entry forms and transferred the entries to the *Webscorer* system; Margi Bohm and her team of helpers had painted many buoys and with Ted Hall had set out the buoys to give us a 3.7 km course, in readiness for training for the 2023 National Marathon Championships in Geelong next Easter; and with help from my David, I had prepared the paddlers' Goodie Bags and set up my old fashioned timer/recording system, just in case of the usual historical mishaps with our *Webscorer* recordings...



On the morning of Saturday, 10th December, 2022, an assorted group of BGCC Grey Army and Helpers erected the club marquee and positioned the recorder's tables and chairs in line with the finish-line in preparation for the next 24 hours of paddling fun! Richard Fox gave a brief Briefing with Margi giving some Safety notes – then it was onto the water for the Challenge to begin.





There was a good contingent of canoe paddlers in both solo and team categories (including the first ever 24 hour team of female canoe paddlers), all entered in the full 24 hour event, with only one kayak paddler in that category. The majority of paddlers (kayakers) had entered the 16 hour event, so they could have a sleep between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. - though I think the reports were of some happy partying going on up in the 'shelter tent' area.

The guys and girls slogging it out over the night were kept (relatively) warm by the open fire on the sand behind the timing tent. There were some very cold toes needing to thaw out between paddling their laps.



Inside the timing tent, all went well, with Bob and Mary taking eagerly to the new layout for recording lap times in *Webscorer*. Plenty of time to hit the 'record' time and then get the associated correct boat-number! There were only odd occasions when the 'new' and 'old' timing systems needed to co-ordinate to work out who had just been through. And only one occasion where we actually missed a paddler going by in the dark – and we were getting worried as to where they were. Thankfully they were fine and came in at 'double-time' – so we could add their missed lap to their team tally.

As the day headed towards evening, Greg and Lisa Chesher headed out in the BGCC tinnie to put out our twinkling, floating LED *Luci* lights, plus red cyalumes on various logs and branches which could have been a hazard in the dark of the night. They both stayed overnight to act as tinnie-drivers, in case of an emergency. In the morning they paddled out in the club Mirage 730 to assist Margi and Ted to retrieve the *Luci* lights, to have them ready for next year's event.

Meanwhile, up at the Club Shed, Maria Ouvrier was cooking up a storm! Maria provided salads and kebabs and plenty of tasty treats for all paddlers at lunch-time and was back again on Sunday morning to provide bacon and eggs for breakfasts. Many thanks Maria for your great efforts – I have heard that your cooking will bring many paddlers back next year!

Well, several cups of coffee later, Bob and I were still awake enough to complete the timing at 24 hours from the start, but nowhere near awake enough to give a coherent run-down of how far people had paddled and who had done best. That is why I provided your Certificates in your Goodies bags, so you can fill in your own times and laps – after a sleep and some proper checking of times and distances they were much more likely to be just about correct. At least for the number of laps completed.

And then the magical BGCC Grey Army and Helpers appeared again, to disassemble the marquee and pack everything up and leave the beach area as clean as it was before we set up.

Summary of 2022 Burley Griffin 24 Hour Paddle Challenge Results:

24 Hour Solo

Stephen Routley and James Miller (C2)	23:17:23	50 laps	185.0 km
Peter Hopwood (OS1)		23 laps	122.1 km
John Lockie (TC1)		6 laps	22.2 km

24 Hour Competitive Team

Masters and Apprentice (TC1)	23:37:19	54 laps	199.8 km
The Three Statesmen (TC1)		53 laps	196.1 km
JOKAS (TC1)		45 laps	166.5 km

16 Hour Solo

Andrew Osborne (OS1)	23:28:33	23 laps	85.1 km
Richard Fox (OS1)		21 laps	77.7 km
Michael Hanemaayer(K1)		16 laps	59.2 km
Kolya Cook (K1)		14 laps	51.8 km
Matilda Stevenson (K1)		14 laps	51.8 km
Margi Bohm (K1)		7 laps	25.9 km
Susan Powell (K1)		6 laps	22.2 km

16 Hour Competitive Team

SSCC #1 (Assorted)	23:33:39	40 laps	148.0 km
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16 Hour Recreational Team

SSCC #3 (Assorted)	23:43:21	40 laps	148.0 km
Random (OS1)		24 laps	88.8 km
Intro Paddlers (Assorted)		17 laps	62.9 km

Full results at: <https://www.webscorer.com/race?raceid=300106>

Well paddlers – this is a great event for all levels of paddling skills.

Entrants varied from new paddlers (our BGCC Intro Paddlers!) to old warriors; from Nationals aspirants to International competitors; solo paddlers, competitive teams, recreational teams. It is a competitive event and a social event. There was good humour and helpful words and assistance all around.

So, mark **11/12 November 2023** in Canberra on your calendar and enjoy the honour and glory of taking part in the BGCC 24 Relay Challenge. And perhaps I will paddle in it again, if you can take a stint of timing??

A note from Karla

For those of you I haven't met, my name is Karla, and on behalf of the 'Intro to Paddling Graduate Group (i.e. new-ish-bies)', thank you for the exceptionally warm welcome to the club!

There were 15 participants in this last round of Intro Course, and as we splashed and tipped and tested our new skills, we have found/rekindled our love for paddling!

The course consisted of a structured 6-week lesson plan, providing the opportunity to attend Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings each week, and it was the perfect way to get to know each-other and build on our prior knowledge and confidence through sessions in stroke technique, entry and exit, boat recovery, and general knowledge of the type of boats available.

Kicking off with a recreational race, the 'Intro Paddlers' team that entered the 24hr race did an amazing job, representing!

The dedicated time on behalf of the coaches can't go unmentioned. Thank you, Patricia, for the phenomenal organisation, and all of the amazing coaches involved. We appreciate your time, and love our new "squad" status as we continue to train with Margi on Mondays, Jacqui on Wednesday's and Patricia on Saturdays ~ See you at the shed!

Highly recommend the course if you're after a re-connection to the club or tips on how to level-up

.

A note from Dan

On the Intro to Club Paddling contingent, I just wanted to pass on some feedback that reiterates what Margi said at the last committee meeting about the significance of the Intro to Paddling Program and the hugely positive impact it has for our club.

I wasn't aware until Saturday that one of the new members of that Intro to Paddling group is a close friend of my sister. Whilst we were chatting, she was telling me about how happy she is to have found such an enjoyable activity that she could engage in with other like-minded people and how grateful she is to have found a fun, rewarding form of exercise which she can participate in at her own pace.

As Margi said, its easy to overlook just how valuable the intro to paddling program is and that kind of feedback speaks volumes about all the effort Patricia, Helen and the other fantastic volunteers at our club invest to introduce people to the wonderful world of paddling.

Well done everyone

Dan Irvine



Canberra paddlers compete in 'Extreme Races'

The Snowy River Extreme Race went off without a hitch this year. Plenty of paddlers, great weather and lots of fun on the Snowy river near Island Bend in Kosciuszko National park for the event on October 2nd. Check out this link to the website. [Snowy River Extreme Race](#)

The race forms part of the Australian Extreme White Water Grand Prix series. The other races are the the Lea and the North Esk in Tasmania. Paddlers compete in pairs - a simple safety precaution which ensures everyone stays safe on the river

Burley Griffin club paddlers Joseph and Emily Hogbin Bourne both took part in the series - finishing in all events. They came away with the two awards for fastest male and female paddler across the series

Emily was supported to compete with financial help from the Audrey Fagan Grant from ACT government. Shortly after the event on the Snowy Emily was congratulated during a presentation and 'morning tea' hosted by Yvette Berry in Canberra

Emily continues to support and develop slalom paddling and has been running slalom sessions for fellow slalom paddlers in the ACT. She is running sessions with training gates under the bridge just upstream from the clubhouse - contact her for more information

Joseph Hogbin-Bourne travelled to the UK in June to take part in the Freestyle World Championships event in Nottingham

It was only Joe's second 'proper' freestyle competition and he took every opportunity to paddle with and get coaching from some of the world's top freestyle experts.

Joe was part of a small ten person team from Australia and, despite not making it through the initial rounds of the 'junior' competition, took full advantage of all the opportunities.

The atmosphere and camaraderie of the freestyle international 'circuit' is unusually friendly and co-operative. All paddlers have a chilled approach and, although the competition itself

is pretty intense, the paddlers are always enjoying themselves and 'laying down their favourite moves'. Joe's favourite new trick is an 'aerial loop' - see the photo.

Joe is always keen to show other paddlers the local rivers and play spots.

Snowy river Extreme Race 2023

2023 race will be on Sunday the 1st of October

Registrations to open in August

The Snowy River Extreme Race is a whitewater event held on the iconic Snowy River in Kosciuszko National Park. The Event takes place on the October long weekend and consists of two races; an Expert race, and an Intermediate race. Both races take place on the stretch of whitewater between Mulyang power station and Island Bend campground.

Details of this section can be found on [WikiRiver](#).

Up to date details about the race can be found on the [Facebook page](#).



Club Awards Presentation Night Friday 18th November 2022

We had 47 people registered for our presentation dinner, which was great to see – there was a full range from Life members to some of our newest members, canoe polo, those trying for Nationals to some of our recreational paddlers, ultra-marathoners and single blade paddlers as well as Peter Tate, CEO of PNSW as our guest. The evening was pleasant with a BGCC specific quiz to break the ice and a variety of awards and tales of woe. Below are the nominations and the winners for our various awards with perpetual trophies.

We also had many of our coaches together and apart from John Harmer (founding member, unfortunately unwell), we had our Life Members present, Helen Tongway, Bob Collins, Patricia Ashton, Steve Harmer and Margi Bohm.

The evening was very successfully run by our new President Tom Long and Vice President Mary Parker, assisted by Patricia.

Nominations for Male Paddler of the Year

Men's Canoe Polo team – with Adam Hofmeyer at the helm, the Men's team have been training hard both at the pool and the river, participating in various social and competitive comps and for the first time, winning Nationals.

Richard Fox – has been training consistently for the Marathon Series and Ultra-Marathons. Took part in the Murray 200 earlier in the year, the Myall and though the Hawkesbury Classic was cancelled 2 weeks before, Richard still paddled from Windsor to Wisemans Ferry as a 'social' paddle with various other 'would have been competitors'

Male Paddler of the Year - Craig Elliott

During this year Craig has competed in a range of disciplines – the Marathon Series in both singles and doubles, flatwater and running water events; Ocean and Harbour Series races, Slalom events and an Iron Man event.

Female Paddler of the Year - Matilda Stevenson

Paddling & training hard to get to Div 2 holding her own with the boys, also the Queen of chin-ups!

Nominations for Most Improved Male

Kolya Cook – from a non-paddling background now doing well Div 2 Marathon series, placing in several races

Tom Long – from TK's to K1's to ultra-marathons

Andrew Webber – from a short recreational boat to racing his Think ski in Div 5 (20km) in the Marathon Series, placing in several races - his orange colours leading the field

Most Improved Male - Matt Gates

Marathon series in Div 2 and 1st place short course at Nationals as well as a member of Canoe Polo men's winning team. When Matt began training with Margi's crew, he'd paddle 400m then stop for a rest, now he's cruising through the 20km.

Most Improved Female - Mary Parker

No competition here and well deserved. New to flatwater paddling, Mary started racing in Marathon series, singles & doubles, then the ultra-marathon at the Murray 200 with Richard. Has also progressed through the range of Masters K1's

Hole in the Paddle Award – this was awarded to Adam Hofmeyer

Nominations for Grand Masters Grand Master - for members over 70

We introduced this several years ago as we had about 13 competitive paddlers over 70. Ian Castle Brown was the first to be awarded it, competing in local time trials, Marathon series, state champs, Nationals and Australian Masters. He could have won it every year, sadly he passed away about 4 years ago.

Alan Newhouse – could also win it each year, also competes regularly in the Marathon series, states and nationals, the 24 hour and this year for the first time the short distance in the Myall (12km) all in his wood built canoe.

Dave Gordon – doesn't race, but takes out beginner and novice paddlers every Sunday, despite various health issues. 6 weeks off after back surgery then back on the water and despite 2 unplanned wet exits in East Basin and rescues by the Dragon Boaters, he is still keen to go out as well as assist with Taste of Paddling and the Intro to Club Paddling sessions.

Grand Masters Grand Master - Bob Collins

Has taken part in most of the Marathon Series races, winning the point score for the 20km Div 5 with Danielle and trained for various ultra-marathons which had been cancelled including the Hawkesbury, completed the Myall, 47km ultra-marathon with myself. While he often talks about retiring, he is keen to train and improve fitness, swimming and walking regularly.

We need to acknowledge the work done by our coaches.

Adam Hofmeyer – coach and player in the Mens CP winning team. Adam strongly believes in 'giving back' to the polo community, and has a particular interest in youth player development, as well as coaching our B Grade and Women's players.

Margi Bohm – continuing with the Trainsmart program, getting paddlers to the best they can be. Working with Paddle Australia and PNSW as well as helping with the new Intro to Club Paddling Program

Helen Tongway – along with John Lockie, has been running some junior programs over the summer as well as recreational Saturday group

David Gordon – Sundays all year round & Tuesday mornings through the warmer months for our recreational, beginner and novice paddlers, also helps run the Taste of Paddling sessions and now with the Intro to Club Paddling, both Saturdays and Wednesdays

Russell Murphy – ready to help out with the Taste of Paddling, runs Tuesday mornings for beginners, novice & recreational paddlers as well as the Intro to Club Paddling

Gary Rake – heads up the early morning sessions 4 days a week for novice to experienced paddlers

Patricia Ashton – does the club inductions for new members, Sunday paddles and the Taste of Paddling. Also the Introduction to Club Paddling course.

Rainer Swoboda Memorial Trophy for the Club Member of the Year.

Laura Kleinrahm & Adam Hofmeyer

For their work over the past several years with canoe polo, here with beginners, social & training opportunities, organising equipment – the purchasing of new gear and the use of

club and own for new paddlers as well as being on the PA technical committee and organising CP training camp up in Nambucca.

Both were awarded PaddleNSW Volunteers of the Year.



Adam Hofmeyer and Laura Kleinrahm with their Club Member of the Year award (joint winners)



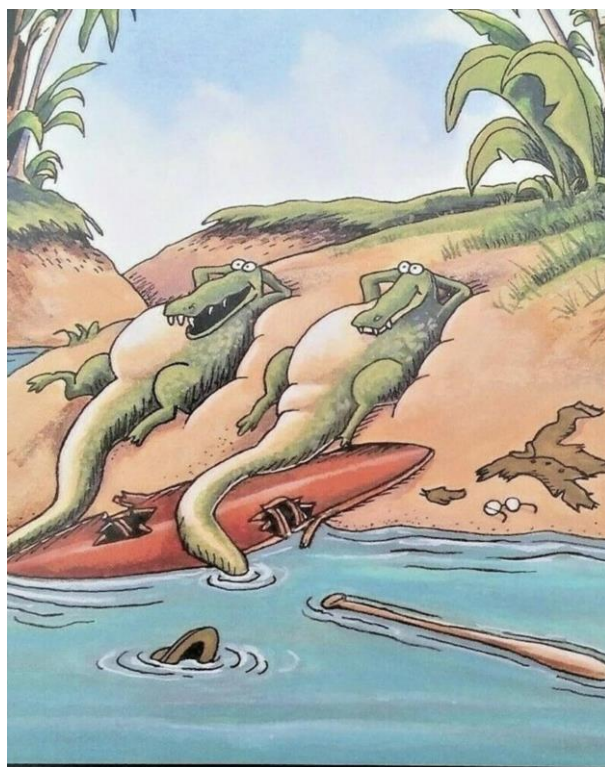
Padding the Hawkesbury when the Classic is canned ... again! - Richard Fox

Wouldn't it be good if the fitness, stamina and condition one arrives at from long hours of training could be put in the bank and produced when the Hawkesbury Classic does, in fact, run again!!! I've racked up 6,300kms in the last three years always with the intention of nailing the HCC. Pestilence and flood have had their say. Surely it will be green lights for 2023 ...

So ... I decided to join Neil Crab from Windsor Canoe Club and Richard Barnes, John Duffy and a number of other LCRK paddlers to paddle the Hawkesbury River anyway. If Richard Barnes can do it, so can anyone right?

The mighty river had a very healthy flow to it, thanks to all the rain we had been getting. That, in concert with a favourable tide, made for a swift first leg to Sackville starting out at 7:00am.

The damage wrought by the flooding was evident along the banks of the river - landslides, missing beaches, new beaches, caravans virtually buried in the earth and new characteristics to the flow of water. It was somewhat distressing to see.



"That was incredible. No fur, claws, horns, antlers, or nothin' ... just soft and pink."

The second (and for Neil and I, final) leg to Wisemans Ferry was something else. The wind freshened up, the tide turned, and the water skiers and jet skiers came out to play – behind us, in front of us, next to us, constantly. Not going to lie, it was no fun! At one point I navigated us to the wrong side of the river on a sharp right-hand bend. This meant combating a strong cross wind while dodging motorised watercraft. Neil, in a ski, went for a swim a couple of times and I paddled like a complete novice. It was not the time to have one's technique scrutinised! We made it to the up-stream end of Wisemans Ferry where I was finally, and almost inevitably, went swimming myself and there we pulled up stumps as our land crew support was only a kilometre away. "I'm never doing that again" morphed, as it always does, to "Yep, we'll do that again next year". That, folks, is what the Hawkesbury River does to you!



.....//.....

Are you sick of looking at blackberry, willows and other weeds during your paddle?

Would you like to get involved in helping to restore some of our local riverbanks?

BGCC is considering starting a 'friends of Molonglo Reach' landcare group through the ACT Parks and Urban spaces volunteering program and we are looking for a **core group** to help with planning. Initially we will look to plan activities/work parties perhaps every two months (i.e. 6x a year) to undertake activities such as tree planting, mulching, minor weed pulling/maintenance, weed mapping and other conservation activities at strategic locations along the river from the bridges upstream down to the Hospice on the club side of the river. You will use your skills to

- help plan work parties around our other club activities, racing and events
- use your people skills and contacts to wrangle volunteers for the work parties. We can reach out beyond the club for volunteers (ie other river users, schools, scout groups, perhaps even in your workplace).
- assist with logistics on the day (for work parties).

Don't want to commit to much time but like to help out? We are also looking for expressions of interest from members who would like to volunteer to join work parties when they can.

Interested?

More information can be found at <https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/public-land/maintenance/volunteering>. But please note, we haven't started the group yet so in the first instance let me know if you are keen at sue_702@yahoo.com and if you would like to be part of our organising group, or just keen to join work parties and help when you can.

TRASH GATHER - SAVE THE DATE

Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Jerra Creek and the Molonglo River

Date 5th Feb 2023

Time: 9am-12

Who: Molonglo Conservation Group

Where: Molonglo Reach river and banks

More details will be posted closer to the day.

Recreational Paddling

Recreational Paddling South coast waterways touring The Eurobodalla Kayakers organise fortnightly kayak touring trips along different waterways between Narooma and Bateman's Bay. It's a great way to enjoy nature and explore coastal waterways with experienced paddlers.

There is no fee to participate and trip maps for each trip are available from the website www.eurobodallerkayakers.com - or you can just turn up at the meeting spot and simply follow the leader.

The trips average 12km in length, suit stable craft such as sea kayaks, and there's a 30 min stop for BYO morning tea.

The next few trips are:

- 9am Sunday 8 January Corunna Lake
- 9am Sunday 22 January Mummaga Lake
- 9am Sunday 5 February Moruya to Yarraggee
- 9am Sunday 19 February Lower Wagonga Inlet
- 9am Sunday 5 March Yarraggee to Wamban Creek
- 9am Sunday 19 March Bumbo Lake and Creek

Most trips are round-trip paddles and have been well-planned to favourably factor in tidal movement.

Send an e-mail to eurobodallakayakers@gmail.com to request being added to their mailing list to get detailed information about each upcoming paddle.

You need to be able to comfortably paddle 12km (if I can do it, you can), have the usual safety equipment and be reasonably self-sufficient on the water. Hope to see you there. (BGCC contact Yvonne Best, thewritestuff007@gmail.com, 0423 118 990).

A trip to Talbingo Dam

After two hours of driving, the turn off to the Elliott way appears through the windscreen. Carefully adjusting the safety harness, the magical descent into the valley begins. Slalom on four wheels, windows open, sucking in the atmosphere, heart thumping with the pure joy of arriving.

It is equal to the breathtaking Talawa Gorge as one of the best paddle locations in NSW.

The lake is twenty eight km of rarely disturbed natural beauty and only accessible from either end with pristine wilderness in between.

Knowing there is only oneself and the lake heightens the awareness, the clouds loom large overhead, ripples on the lake surface dance in the sunlight, and the ancient mountains look down on this mere mortal and discuss the rights and wrongs of his intrusion into their domain.

The murmuring in the trees and the whispering in the glades gives me confidence that I will be allowed to pass. They know me here, for I have been a frequent visitor to their realm.

Four hours of paddling and exploring have passed and the sun is casting its last long shadows. Pleasingly my osprey friend bids 'good evening' as it glides past, catching its last meal of the day.

A couple of water dragons hang off the dead tree stumps, wary of my close approach. Accommodation has been completed. The usual one-room canvas studio with a magnificent view down the valley.

The birds are conducting their evening roll call as I pour a glass of chilled Mateus - perfect accompaniment to smoked salmon and Castello blue.

Small matter that the only piece of cutlery that is found in my pack is a teaspoon.

Director chair comfort and a three hundred and sixty degree dome of wonder.

The last of the evening light allows the main event of the night to begin its performance.

Cosmic radiance pierces the dome as the night shift takes over in the forest.

Weariness creeps upon the tired body and reluctantly a rain check is accepted for a future show.

For I shall return.

Robert Bruce – Ed

There is camping available and an amenities bloc



Marketplace

For Sale

Excellent condition, hardly used:

- Load and unload your kayak on your own, thanks to the gas-assist struts that lift and lower 18 kg of the kayak's weight;
- Load/unload and strap your kayak at waist height, with the help of double extending arms that lower the kayak by up to 1 meter
- Maximum protection for your kayak, thanks to 8 touch points of padded support
- Corrosion-resistant kayak cradles expand to fit wide kayaks
- Aluminium, double-coated steel construction for corrosion resistance delivers a longer product life

Includes Thule QuickDraw bow and stern tie-downs for transporting 1 kayak

\$1,000 negotiable

jennyatton@gmail.com 0434 796 001



For Sale

Roman Sail IV K1 kayak

Roman large, white, marathon weight, pump fitted. I've had for 18 months - almost new condition, just a few very minor scratches.

As a large for me it's ok but in a perfect world I reckon I'm a bit light for it - probably 80 - 85 kgs plus is spot on.

I thought I'd advertised for **\$2900** but if anyone is interested I'd be very negotiable for a club member.

Contact: Tom Layton tlayton044@gmail.com



Thank you to all contributors to this edition of Blazing Paddles.

If you have contributions for the next edition, please get in touch robertba28@gmail.com