

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE OVER 45 SOCIAL CANOE CLUB FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 22, 2019.

I must say it has been an honor and pleasure to be the President of this Club. The members make a club successful and enjoyable and thus I take my hat off to you, the members, who have made the past year so enjoyable. I don't think I have come across a more amenable and helpful group of people.

Our club continues to grow with an influx of new members and I would like to officially welcome them. There are also a number of people who are showing interest in joining.

The new members have demonstrated enthusiasm and bring experiences and interesting backgrounds. I have observed with pleasure how they have been welcomed and absorbed into the camaraderie of the club.

Unfortunately age, injury and sickness has taken a toll of some of our longstanding members and I would like to extend to them the club's best wishes. We hope to see some of these getting back to paddling or at the least continuing to enjoy the social side of the club.

We encourage Associate membership for those people who are no longer able to paddle and also for non-paddling partners of members.

Despite much travel, grand parenting duties, sickness, operations and family commitments the attendances at paddles have remained constant. The camps at Rottnest, Walpole, Mandurah and Moore River continue to be popular. Two of our members, Ken Patterson and Jerome Toonen have entertained us right royally with their guitar playing and the provision of song sheets for singalongs. They have also encouraged some intrepid members to start playing instruments. Could the Club end up with its own band and choir? Lesley, Jerome's wife, has also entertained us with her beautiful voice. As an observation the choir might have a way to go before being signed up by the entertainment industry.

The dinners and lunches have also been popular, in particular the Anniversary and Christmas lunches. We did have a hiccup with the Christmas lunch being overbooked but a solution was arrived at by the generosity of some members who volunteered to forego their bookings and have their Christmas lunch at the Como Hotel. I express again my thanks to those members and their selflessness is typical of what makes this Club great.

The Travel Night also continues to be popular, so popular in fact that two nights have been allocated in the program for this year. The presentations by club members have been entertaining, professional and whetted one's appetite for more travel. The success of this night has been in no small part due to the technical expertise of Blair Stevens and also the provision of the venue by Alan Reith. The food supplied by members is also an incentive to attend.

One year of operation does not make a club and I would like to pay tribute to the work of the founders and past Committees of the club.

The current committee has been a delight to work with and there have been a couple of notable achievements. The first, which is the subject of a Special Resolution later in the meeting, is the "New Constitution" which has been a requirement, as most of you know, by the Government. I would like to thank the working party of Ritchie Wishart, Brian Mooney and Jerome Toonen who have put the time in to draw up this new Constitution to comply with the Government's legislation. This has been an item on Committee agendas for some years. There has also been input by other club members to this work. This does not minimize the efforts of past and present members who drew up our current constitution.

A second notable achievement is the Web site that the club now has and enables us to access most information and documentation of the club. It also provides information about the club to the public and potential new members. Thanks very much to our Vice President, Brian Mooney for setting up this Web site and bringing us in to the 21st century. Also thanks to those who have provided help and support to Brian.

I should mention to you that the Committee has been experimenting with the paddles in relation to getting on the water and control of the paddlers. Little has changed, except that immediately after the briefing the A Fast and A groups take off followed immediately by the B & C groups. This hopefully eliminates any waiting around by the groups. Also emphasis has been made on the control of the paddle. The Leader is to navigate or pilot the paddle and the Tail End Charlie is to control the paddle as that person can see the group and can blow the whistle for the start, stop or any other reason. It is also emphasized that the Leader and Tail End Charlie communicate with each other and the group before the start. The new Committee, if it agrees with this arrangement, can decide if the titles of the Leader and Tail End Charlie need changing and also appropriate changing of club documentation.

There are many people we need to thank for the continuing success of the club. I would like to give special recognition to our secretary, Sue Walker. Sue has been an indefatigable worker for the club over the past 5 years and is now retiring as secretary. As President I have come to appreciate just how much work she has done and how helpful she has been to me. Her support, conscientiousness and efficiency are admired by all committee members. Thanks very much Sue.

Thanks to Brian Mooney for his support as Vice President, wise counsel, sub-committee work and most especially for the Web site.

Thanks to our treasurer Rick Poole for keeping our books in order and the accounting work this involves. Also his unflappable approach to issues.

Thanks to Jan Cameron who took up the role of Social Officer with much trepidation. What a great job you have done Jan. There is much work involved and I am sure Jan appreciates the support she has been given by our previous Social Officers, Pam Stevens & Alan Reith. Also Les Evans has been a support to Jan. It was a shame that family commitments prevented Iris from giving as much help as she had wanted but her volunteering and input to committee meetings are appreciated.

Thanks to our Program Officer, Peter Buckman. This is very much a balancing, liaison and ongoing job to ensure the paddling program gives variety to members, checking that venues are available, dates are accurate and the social, committee meetings and safety days are included. Peter's input to governance and safety issues is also appreciated.

Thanks to our Membership Officer, Bob Philpott. Bob has done a great job of maintaining accurate lists, information and contacts of members, associate members and those awaiting membership. He also welcomes and sends copies of the club documentation to these people. Also Bob has drawn up an application form, accepted by the Committee, for people who wish to be Associate, but non paddling members. Thanks Bob.

Thanks to our Safety Officer, Ritchie Wishart who has brought an informed and practical approach to safety. He has liaised with State Marine Safety Departments and has made available many safety and other pamphlets to members as well as organizing safety days. Thanks also Ritchie for your sub-committee work and wise counsel.

Thanks to Ken Low who took over the job of organizing car guards from Cynthia Sheh, who had done such a good job for a number of years. Ken is also keeping a record of paddling attendances.

Thanks to Terri Poole for her role as Equipment Officer and the good job she has done rationalizing the amount of equipment held by the club.

Thanks to Committee members, Jerome Toonen, Anne Griffiths and Les Evans for their support, work, and input to meetings.

Also thanks to Judy Wilson who took on the job of producing the newsletter and her continuing liaison with Brian in having club news and photos placed on the website.

We should also recognize the help that Alan Reith, Pam & Blair Stevens, have given in the past year.

Special thanks to my good wife, Anne for her very caring role as Welfare Officer. Her genuine concern, support and sympathy for those members who have had health problems and operations during the year does not surprise me. Her wise counsel and support of me through the year is also much appreciated.

Thanks to our auditor Garry Clohessy, and to Les Chidgey for taking on the role of Acting Chairman later in the meeting.

I hope I have not forgotten anyone but if I have I include them in the thanks I give to all our Members for just being members of such a great club.

I am retiring as President but from the nominations I have sighted for the new committee I am sure the club is in for another successful and happy year.

Happy paddling everyone.

Neville Garrity