



NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EDITION
2014

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GRAHAM BARRON

PRESIDENTS REPORT AT AGM (Condensed)

It has been a privilege to guide and lead the “over 45’s Social Canoe Club Inc in another busy year of activities. Once again it has been a full year on the water locally, at the various camps and on the worldwide travel scene. Attendance at club paddles has been consistent throughout the year. Whilst the level of support is quite pleasing it is evident that a majority of members are choosing not to join in the clubs core activity. Is this something the committee should be addressing in its future deliberations.

During the time spent in committee meetings, much of the effort has been spent in two areas, the creation of an improved management system able to cope with the flow of data in a vastly expanded membership. The solution adopted was to create a single record of data, managed by one person with the ability of being operated by several users. We are indebted to Blair Stevens expertise with computers and in particular to his knowledge of the excel spreadsheet software. Despite the anguish experienced at committee our clubs safety record has been impressive but each year we seem to run into unexpected near calamities, which somehow we must seek to mitigate.

New documentation has been introduced in respect of guest paddler indemnity, application for membership and safety rules and procedures. Once more we are indebted to Blair for the hours of work in creating these documents.

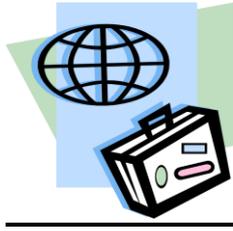
On a more cheerful note, at the recent Christmas function at Jetty’s, I was called upon to present achievement awards to club members.

To all committee members, I thank you for your contributions and considerations in times of dissent. Without you this year would not have happened. I think the past year has been a success and I hope you do too. I know that the next year’s committee will be as keen to succeed in helping achieve another great year.

Les Chi

Retiring President

CLUB ACTIVITIES



TRAVEL EVENING

31 members and partners attended a very successful evening. The customary shared supper commenced proceedings, followed by coffee and deserts at the break. The food as usual was interesting, varied and extremely tasty = congratulations to the chef's.

Andy Long: Started the evening recounting his experiences in Croatia. The islands off the Adriatic Coast are a cycling, walking and Kayaking paradise. That said, Andy's photos of Croatia's rivers showed fast flowing rivers, waterfalls and equally beautiful landscapes. Surprisingly, the countryside and coastal waters are clean with brilliant turquoise seas. Local agents are well organized to rent all types of bicycles, including electric, and kayaks for self-guided and guided tours. Dubrovnik is the centre piece, however there are many pretty villages scattered along this coast. It is a destination that should interest many Club members. The area is open to travelers and is still very affordable.

Michael Sinclair: followed with a most interesting presentation. He took us through the very remote and quite bleak landscapes of Canada's Yukon Territory and Alaska. Just about

everything presented Michael with a challenge: transport and midges not the least of his worries, bears abound and are to be treated with respect. Michael had done his homework and educated us on the quirky habits of all the bears in this region which had some of the female members blushing. It is not a destination for the faint hearted.

After Coffee **Blair** showed a video of the clubs recent paddles on the Murray at Lane Pool Reserve (Two in quick succession due to an unexpected second week which flooded the river just nicely). The weather was perfect, though overcast, and thanks to Kevin, his wife Robin and Karin, we have some great photos from the river bank at many of the rapids. This section of the river is very beautiful with mirror smooth sections reflecting the tree lined river between the rapids and interesting white water challenges. The bird life is prolific and varied. Those that completed the paddle had a most enjoyable experience. Even those who took unplanned swims in the chilly water were smiling - between the shivers - at the end of the trip.

Due to the flawless occupancy of the venue, 'The ECO Centre' did not ask for a deposit this time

Courtesy of Alan Reith

BINDOON CAMP



The annual Bindoon camp was held on Saturday 26th October. Nine people camped on the shore of Lake Chittering for a fabulous weekend. We had an additional five other club members join us for the Saturday paddle.

This day's paddle saw a vast array of bird life on the lake. There must have been literally thousands of birds on the lake, including swans, Ducks and Ibis. The water level was a bit down on last year and it was the first time we saw a wide coverage of water grass that tended to slow us down on parts of the lake.

The traditional sausage sizzle for Saturday's lunch was welcomed by all after a big paddle and Rosemary's birthday was celebrated once again in style with balloons, whistles & party hats. Both Friday and Saturday night saw an open air wood fire in full blast and a few glasses of Red Wine were consumed. As per normal there were several UFO sightings across the lake -

although later two were confirmed to be Singapore Airline flights.

Saturday afternoon there were several who headed out for bush walks, most opted for the "Black Boy Ridge Trail" which leads to a very high lookout overlooking the valley. Heaps of wild flowers and kangaroos were seen along the way

The camp ended after a paddle on Sunday morning with the traditional coffee stop at the ever popular Bindoon Bakery.

For wildlife & closeness to nature this camp should not be missed. Next year it will be timed to coincide with the Saturday Bindoon Show.

AUGUSTA CAMP



It seemed like only yesterday that we were paddling Augusta, but here we are back again and ready to take on the regions great paddles. There was a total of 34 members, partners and guests for the week with at least 27 paddlers each day.

This year the water levels were higher than ever before and we were able to paddle to the upper reaches of both

the Scott & Blackwood Rivers. Both offered tighter river bends with once again magnificent scenery.

The Paddles included:

1. Monday - Scott River
2. Tuesday - Chapman Pool
3. Wednesday - Alexandra Bridge. This was broken up into 3 groups with the majority paddling from Alexandra Bridge to the Malloy Island caravan Park (16km). A great effort was shown by Ron and John who decided to paddle both ways, leaving from the Caravan Park. The weather was a challenge with head winds but all returned safely.

The Sunday dinner was a communal meal and the spread of food was the best ever. Hats off to Les Chidgey for the world's best curry. A big thank you to all the ladies who out did themselves this year.

Wednesday night was the club sausage sizzle with Graham, Ron and John cooking up a storm. Thursday was not favorable for paddling, but Rick & Terri stood up to lead a great walk starting at the Colour Patch Café and ended up back there for coffee and cake.

The Traditional Happy Hour was well supported and the table tennis & soccer tables were a hot favourite. Friday (the official last day) saw most attend the lunch at the Augusta Hotel.

Beautiful food, large servings and great service.

Thanks to all for the great team effort for the week.

Next stop Walpole 2015.

Courtesy of Pam



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Club Subscriptions for the year 2015 are to be paid by the 31st DECEMBER 2014. The fees are \$25 for Members and \$5 for Associates Members. Please try and tender the correct amount, or pay by EFT.

BSB: 086 334

Acc No 691920892

Account Name: 'Over 45's Social Canoe Club'

ENSURE your name/s are in the Reference Section.

Tow Ropes

The club's "5m floating Tow Rope with a marine grade stainless steel snap grip" spliced on and chain knot shortened is available to members for \$10. See Alan Reith at a Friday paddle.



Awards to canoe club members at the Xmas Social Lunch.



HUMOUR

AN ELDERLY COUPLE

An elderly couple had just learned how to send text messages on their mobile phones, the wife was a romantic type and the husband was more of a no-nonsense guy.

One afternoon, the wife went out to meet a friend for coffee, she decided to send her husband a romantic text message and she wrote: "If you are sleeping send me your dreams, If you are laughing, send me your smile, if you are eating send me a bite, if you are drinking, send me a sip, if you are crying, send me your fears, "I Love You".

The husband texted back:
"I'm on the toilet, Please advise:

JOHN'S BAD PARROT

A young man named John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanities. John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to clean up the bird's vocabulary. Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot, the parrot yelled back, John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even more rude. John in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer, for a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet, not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that

he'd hurt the bird, John quickly opened the door to the freezer, the parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arm and said. 'I believe I may have offended you with my rude language, I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude behaviour. John was stunned at the change bird's attitude, as he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior when the bird spoke up, very softly. "May I ask what the turkey did?"

WALLY

Jennifer, a manager at a local Mitre 10 store had the task of hiring someone to fill a job opening. After sorting through a stack of resumes she found four people who were qualified. Jennifer decided to call the four in and ask them only one question, their answer would determine which of them would get the job.

The day came, and as the four sat around the conference room table, Jennifer asked . "What is the fastest thing you know of?"

The first man replied, "A THOUGHT" it just pops into your head, there's no warning. That's very good! replied Jennifer, and now you Sir, she asked the second man.

Hmmmm... let me see. "A BLINK" it comes and goes and you don't even know that it ever happened. Excellent, said Jennifer, the blink of an eye, that's a very popular cliché for speed.

She then turned to the third man who was contemplating his reply. Well, out on my Dads property, you step out of the house and on the wall there's a light switch, when you flick that switch, way across the pasture the light on the barn comes on in less than an instant. yep, TURNING ON A LIGHT is the fastest thing I can think of. Jennifer was very impressed with the third man's answer and thought that she had found her man.

Turning to Wally the fourth and final man, Jennifer posed the same question. Old Wally replied, "After hearing the previous three answers, it's obvious to me that the fastest thing known is DIARRHOEA. What, said Jennifer stunned by the response. "OH sure, said Wally, 'You see, the other day I wasn't feeling so good, and I ran for the bathroom, before I could THINK, BLINK, or TURN ON THE LIGHT, I had already shit myself'.

Wally is now working at a Mitre 10 store near you

BIRD RESCUE

On 5 December, B group paddled up to baker's bridge in Guilford. As we were about to set off back to sandy Beach, Iris spotted a cormorant with some fishing line wrapped around it's beak. It was shaking it's head and trying to get rid of the line. as we approached in the kayaks to get a better view, it dived under the water and disappeared. After a few minutes it reappeared at the other side of the river. Iris, Dave and Wendy decided to

break away from the group to give the bird some help. We noted that there was a huge length of line trailing behind the bird and we used this to our advantage as the bird was onshore trying to dry it's feathers. David crept up behind it and grabbed the line, Wendy leapt (or was that slid in the mud from behind another tree and wrapped the flapping birds in a towel. David tried to remove the line that was wrapped several times around the bird's beak, but on seeing that the line went down the birds throat it was thought better to send it to the vet.

Wendy had arranged for a work colleague from the city of Swan to meet at true bridge with a box for the bird and transport to the Native Animal Rescue Centre in Malaga Luckily A group was passing and we were able to join them paddling back.

At the rescue centre the bird was left to calm down overnight and an X-ray was arranged to see how far the hook had gone, which had reached it's stomach and as the bird was in good condition it was decided to try and get the hook out. Apparently, as it was being anaesthetised it regurgitated the hook and line by itself. As of today 9 September it is recovering well and is expected to be released at the end of the week.

The Animal Rescue Centre is located at 170 Camboon Road Malaga PH 9429 3434. It is totally dependent on donations from the public to continue to care for sick, injured, orphaned and displaced wildlife.

Courtesy Wendy

Our very talented Kevin restoring the "N Class Destroyers Monument" in Augusta.



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This is my final edition of the Canoe Clubs newsletters

I published my first edition December 2009 then monthly until January/February 2012 when I switched to two monthly editions. I have enjoyed the task of helping to keep our members informed of club activities, however I feel it's time to pass the baton on and that task has become a lot easier now that I learn that Andy is filling the breach. I wish him all the very best.

Alan Meyer