

President's Report for the Over 45 Social Canoe Club's Annual General Meeting on 21st February 2020

The Club continues to grow steadily despite advertising being terminated earlier last year. The growth is encouragingly from younger active people which has increased attendance and created issues at the smaller launch venues. In January the attendance at a paddle exceeded 47 for the first time. The Committee has discussed how capping growth might be implemented beyond merely halting advertising. Ideas by members would be most welcome. I would like to remind members that the Committee welcomes suggestions on any aspect of the Club's activities.

This Club is rather unique as a sporting Club in that it promotes a strong 'Social' element. The Club encourages this beyond the coffees at turn-around locations. The remote camps, regular dinners and after paddle 'sausage sizzles' are amongst the well-attended social activities. Our Welfare Officer Anne Garrity maintains regular contact with ailing and non paddling members and has done a Stirling job this past year.

I am pleased to report that despite my tenure as president over past 12 months, the club is still in a good state. Due largely to our hard-working and capable Committee. It has been a pleasure to be associated with a group of such motivated individuals.

Financially, we have been well served by our treasurer Rick. Our bank balance has continued to grow despite a majority of our social events being subsidised by the Club and membership fees remaining unchanged for a decade or more. Following a report of another not-for-profit club losing some \$2k + to cyber crime, Rick has instigated a verification protocol of supplier's invoices and accounts and two factor authentication on member's logins to minimise the chances of a similar fate befalling our Club.

Brian our Vice President has been an invaluable support and advisor for discussing those difficult decisions that surface all too often. His management of the Club Webpage has been exceptional and resulted in a very impressive, professional and informative product that does real credit to the Club.

Denise our Secretary has patiently and good naturedly coped with my unending changes to agendas, minutes etc. and made the secretary job work well. Denise also volunteered to take over running of the Club's Facebook page which stalled under my management now displays & archives all the brilliant photos taken by members which otherwise would have been lost.

Social activities have been managed efficiently by Jan with Ann Fraser's assistance. The numerous activities have been successful and well supported by members. Apart from the regular Christmas and Anniversary Lunches, the less formal Asian dinners have continued to be popular and successful. The Travel Nights have continued to be popular by showcasing the many kayaking and other travel opportunities around the world experienced by members.

Jan has also instigated some changes to the management of the non-Metropolitan camps such as Rottnest, Albany, Moore River etc. which streamlined and placed less burden on the same few who invariably volunteer for the tedious tasks. The camps give members a great platform for promoting friendships and engaging in activities beyond paddling. Cycling, golf, tennis, hiking, snorkelling, happy hours etc to name some have filled camp days with enjoyable alternative outdoor activities. The camaraderie continuing to develop at camps is encouraging.

Safety Officer Ritchie has polished the pre paddle briefings and general safety awareness amongst members to a high degree. The balance between retaining the fun element of paddling but maintaining safety is not easy with the weather and the varying capabilities of members present on any given day. It is a significant organisational challenge. The recent Safety Day provided instruction and practise for capsized recovery. The clear demonstrations on land were followed by supervised in water practise. Most members reported learning useful recovery skills as well as realising personal limitations from the exercises.

Program Officer Peter was thrown a curve ball last year when Guildford Grammar School voiced their concern over the Club invading their rowing bay occasionally. Peter after much discussion was able to negotiate with the school for a mutually acceptable result when drawing up the Club's Paddle Programs. Another rather irritating development has been the introduction of paid parking at some of the Club's launch

venues. Unfortunately excluding them as future launch venues appears to be the only solution currently. Surprisingly Mick Murray, the Minister for **Seniors and Ageing**; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation replied politely but negatively to our request for assistance. Surprising, as we are an organisation which promotes an active lifestyle for seniors. Apparently active seniors are not a sufficiently strong lobby to concern the minister despite it being one of his headline responsibilities.

Our self-identified 'back-room-boy' Ken has brought his wit, youthful enthusiasm and organisational skills to manage the Car Guard roster and paddle award records. I am pleased to report that both tasks are functioning flawlessly.

With the growing membership, Bob has been busy keeping abreast of the many new members joining over the past 12 months. He has tidied the membership list by identifying those that had been absent from paddling without notice for over six months and confirming their membership intentions. Bob with Ken's assistance has provided valuable input to the Committee on the continuing discussion on membership capping.

Terri Poole has continued maintaining a close oversight and control of the Club's assets. Recently her portfolio of assets decreased with the sale of the Club's last kayak. Issues with storage and Club policy that precludes a training role, prompted the Committee to decide to sell the kayak.

The Club's General Committee Members Ann Griffiths, Jerome Toonen and Les Evans have been more than willing to assist others on Committee when and wherever necessary and made useful contributions to the Committee.

The strength of this Club comes from all its members who willingly volunteer when necessary to shoulder the many tasks necessary for the good operation of the Club. From our Accountant Garry, to the many members who offer to lead, tail end and assist one another with loading and unloading on Fridays, all contribute toward the success and camaraderie of this great club.

Looking ahead, it promises to be an interesting and fruitful year.

Finally, I wish everyone a great 2020 paddling year.