

BLAZING PADDLES

Newsletter of the **BURLEY GRIFFIN CANOE CLUB**

Winners of the Brian Norman Trophy 2012, 2013, 2014

Volume 25 Issue 5 March 2015

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Happy New Year = Enjoyment and Achievement

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The ACT Government assists the BGCC through Sport and Recreation ACT



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President's Report: Kiaran Lomas

It only seems like yesterday when I was composing the last President's note for the previous version of Blazing Paddles. Things have been moving very quickly, and I have to say it has been great to see club members being provided the opportunity to participate.

Firstly, there has been the preparation for the Australian and the Oceania Marathon Championships. The team led by John Preston, have been working like Trojans to prepare for the championships. You would have noticed the pontoon positioned for event, the replacement and additional buoys being placed on the course, and there is a lot more back room organisation that has also been going on. But the planning is not the only part of the event. We are still going to need a lot of volunteers to ensure the event runs smoothly. If you have any time over the Easter break, which you can provide to support this event, it would be greatly appreciated.

The club's members put in strong performances at the NSW State Marathon Championships in trying conditions so that members could make the State team for the National championships. They should be proud of their individual performances and selection. I'd like to congratulate them all on behalf of the club.

The Stand-Up Paddlers have also been representing the club under the banner "Capital Sup" and have put in a strong showing at the Sprint Championships and Harry's paddle events in an ever-growing field of stand-up paddlers. I haven't had a full rundown of results of a recent event but those I have spoken to have enjoyed the experience (Ed. See below).

Finally, I'd like to thank all the people who are volunteering to support the club. From spreading sand, cooking at barbecues, conducting introductory sessions for new paddlers and for those who are just doing that little bit extra to make the paddling experience more enjoyable for the fellow club members; Thanks. It is your contribution that makes this club one of the strongest sporting clubs in the Territory. And I am proud to be part of this club because of your efforts.

So get out there and enjoy your paddling.

The President



From the Editor's Desk: Scott MacWilliam

This issue covers many club activities but is dominated by two issues that are increasingly concerning office-holders. Running the BGCC is becoming more and more time-consuming as membership grows and the range of areas needing constant attention becomes greater. Unless members are prepared to pay considerably more in fees to employ a paid officer, then voluntary contributions of time and skills will have to increase. In the last month alone, there have been repeated meetings with TAMS staff regarding improved parking access, the change from renting to leasing the club premises and obtaining assistance preparing the site for the National marathon championship. Bob Collins is in regular contact with a possible builder for the shed extension and also with NCA officials who will decide the fate of our application for a lease.

As Canoe Polo officials know from their experience last year, conducting major events is very time consuming. BGCC is a club favoured by officials in State and National organisations because they know we will do things properly. We have a reputation which has been hard-earned, but which is constantly watched and questioned by other people. The National and Oceania marathon championships being held over Easter have taken an enormous amount of time to organise, with John Preston, the most important responsible club official even starting to lose hair on his chest, legs and other places out of concern for the successful running of the event.

To illustrate just how much time members now put in voluntarily, here is one story from Gary Rake regarding the siting and securing of the second pontoon, needed for the portages in marathon races. 'The good news is that the new pontoon is properly in place, anchored and ready...The bad news is that the steel cable and padlock I put on it at 1 p.m. had already been cut off by 3.30 p.m.. ...So now it is rope tied to a big ground screw and I've put an extra heavy anchor out at the deep end to stop it being cut free and set adrift.' Gary's time, the cost of materials as well as the efforts of other club members who helped put the pontoon in place, covered and generally rendered it usable for the National championships and other events has given the club an important asset at only a limited cost to BGCC. Other members, pictured below, generously contributed time last Sunday spreading sand donated by TAMS so that the boat launching area we all use is not dominated by rocks and gravel.

Success and pleasure does not happen by accident: BGCC NEEDS YOU TO CONTRIBUTE TIME or else face greatly increased fees.

The Levellers



Volunteers and Volunteering-Helen Tongway

Over the past month or so, I and others have had to deal with the problems of how to encourage more club members to “do their bit” for their club.

The old hands understand that the club has grown from its' very small beginnings to now having over 300 members, much of this increase based on the (voluntary) hard work of many club members over the years. However, if the newer club members are not able to take over some of the work that needs to be done – the club could well wither away again. This will mean that you will not have the use, at very cheap rates, of club boats, club life-jackets and all the organisation that goes into running a club.

Paddling may well be a sport/recreation for loners, but going absolutely alone would be much harder and more expensive for you than being part of a club. Have you considered how come you are able to use club equipment at such a low cost? It is because previous club members have spent a great deal of time and effort raising funds to buy the equipment and to build the shed extensions. Our two best income earners have been **assisting the swim leg of local triathlons** and **obtaining ACT Government Grants**. The former needs bums in boat-seats and paddles in hands – mostly at weekends – when we all have plenty of other things to do with our time. (The response from club members this past season has been very disappointing – but thank you to those who braved the waves of LBG and helped earn the club both money and the thanks of the triathlon swimmers [Ed. See below].) The latter takes some diplomacy and time to write up the applications each year. Other fund-raising is done via other routes, including running high-level competitive events: e.g., the Canoe Polo Invitational and the Marathon Series Races. These are usually profitable – but they do need volunteers!

Last Easter the BGCC hosted a profitable and enjoyable National Canoe Polo Championships. Volunteers were gathered from within the Canoe Polo discipline. This Easter the BGCC will be hosting the National and Oceania Canoe Marathon Championships – and more volunteers are still needed. We won't know until after the event as to its profitability, but it ought to be a money earner. The recent Marathon Series Races and Burley Griffin Bash still ran at a profit, despite the lack of interest in the Saturday evening Spit Roast by the River and the poor entry numbers for the Sunday races. John Preston will have a list of those who helped set up the course and other on-water jobs which needed to be done. I wish to publicly thank those who helped me by running the Food Stall over the two days: Kevin Swain, Emily Gibson, Alison Stewart, Geoff Molloy, Jane Lake, Anne Cronin, Geoff Stone, Danielle Winslow and probably others I didn't get to see put in their efforts. When I thanked these people for volunteering their time to help the club, each said they **enjoyed** their time helping out.

So, next time there is a call for volunteers – please reply to the email and stick up your hand. You never know, **you too might get to enjoy the experience!**

And to gain this enjoyment, there are two sessions coming soon: the call for volunteers by your Boat Captain, Rob Wilson, to help clean your Club Shed and to spread the sand on your beach. Contact him at: boatcaptain@bgcc.org.au . The Clean-up morning is followed by my call for volunteers to help out at the 2015 Australian and Oceania Marathon Championships. This is over 3 days, with provision for people to help out over the full 3x days, or part thereof, preferably in about 3 hour segments. There will still be time for you to go to the Folk Festival after the events – or to come to the Dinner after the Sunday paddling has finished. Contact me at: membership@bgcc.org.au

Helen Tongway.

PS. Ed.: BGCC is not the only organisation affected by low levels of volunteering: see here: <http://johnmenadue.com/blog/?p=3421> where it is claimed that `The level of volunteering in Australia has never been lower and community needs have never been higher'. **Let's start changing things one step at a time with our own organisation.**

A poem by Charles Osgood, about responsibility.

There was a most important job that needed to be done,
And no reason NOT to do it, there was absolutely none.

But in vital matters such as this, the thing you have to ask,
is WHO exactly will it be who'll carry out this task.

ANYBODY could have told you, that EVERYBODY knew,
that this was something SOMEBODY, would surely have to do.

NOBODY was unwilling, ANYBODY had the ability,
but NOBODY thought he was supposed, to be the one.

It seemed to be a job that ANYBODY could have done,
If ANYBODY thought he was supposed to be the one.

But since EVERYBODY recognised that ANYBODY could,
EVERYBODY took for granted, that SOMEBODY would.

But NOBODY told ANYBODY, that we are aware of,
That he would be in charge, of seeing it was taken care of.

And NOBODY took it on himself to follow through and DO,
What EVERYBODY thought, that SOMEBODY would do.

When what EVERYBODY needs so, did not get done at all,
EVERYBODY was complaining that SOMEBODY dropped the ball.

ANYBODY then could see it was an awful crying shame,
And EVERYBODY looked around for SOMEBODY to blame.

SOMEBODY should have done the job and EVERYBODY would have,
But in the end NOBODY did. what ANYBODY could have.

And to continue in this vein:

Everybody, Anybody, Somebody, Nobody and the sad death of Someone Else

The first four were greatly saddened to learn of the death of one of their most valuable members:
Someone Else.

Someone Else's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill.

They had been around for years and for every one of those years, Someone Else did far more than a normal person's share of work.

Whenever Anybody mentioned leadership, Somebody always looked to this wonderful person for inspiration and results: "Someone Else can do that job!"

When there was a job to do, a need to be filled or a place of leadership, one name was always given.....Someone Else.

Everyone knew Someone Else was the largest giver of time and money.

Whenever there was a financial need, Everybody, Anybody and Somebody always assumed that Someone Else would make up the difference.

Now Someone Else is gone.

And no longer can they utter the words: "Let Someone Else do it."

Tom Hick: Safety Officer

Where do your membership fees go?

It would be nice if it was used for fancy dinners and booze at Club meetings but sadly, that's not what happens. We get uniforms, buy boats, repair boats, maintain the shed and pay a whole lot of boring things like rent, licence and permit fees. Those who took the opportunity to attend the First Aid course saw more of it disappear.

Some of it came to me at the last meeting when I was reimbursed for the purchase of the Defibrillator that now resides in the Clubhouse at Molonglo Reach. I don't need a defibrillator and don't want one. But it's a Club and not only about me and the other young, fit, good looking, vibrant and healthy members.

It seems that whilst I am obviously in the category described above, my running and dodging skills have diminished. I failed to avoid being given the job of "Safety Officer" for the upcoming 2015 Oceania & Australian Canoe Marathon Championships which we along with PNSW and Australian Canoeing will be hosting at Molonglo Reach over Easter. Wearing my newly installed official hat, I was reading through the Event Information Guide and whilst I already knew there were some old codgers about I was surprised to see a category for competitors up to 84 years old. I figured that a Defibrillator might be a useful thing to have on standby. (Ed. Freedom of expression trumped blatant ageism here: young people have heart attacks too!)

Like I said it's a Club, not about me but about all Members. I was very surprised to learn that not everyone can use a power saw to cut snags in the river whilst hanging over the side of a boat secured only by someone holding their ankles. This was pointed out to me after I was seen to be balanced precariously on the top rung of one of our little step ladders to erect the tarpaulin over the BBQ at the recent Marathon 10 race.

This will lead to a little more Club money being paid to me as a reimbursement when I get around to buying us a slightly higher platform ladder with a weight rating suitable for someone as large as our current President, with a kayak on his shoulder, to use. Such a ladder is almost certainly overkill for the majority of our members and totally unnecessary in my case as I will surely be able to balance on one foot on top of the existing steps we have for the rest of my days. That said, I started thinking from a purely selfish perspective and realised that I'd rather spend Club money getting a better safer ladder than spend my time and nervous energy on filling out insurance or worse coroners reports if someone was to fall from one of our existing steps doing something they really weren't designed for.

I'm not sure if spending money on safety and risk mitigation is better than buying a shiny new carbon fibre kayak for the Club or not. I do know that while I'm around, it is likely to continue to be one of the things your membership fees are used for. If you see something that we should do better please let me know.

Have fun paddling

Praise and Thanks for BGCC Triathlon Volunteers

From Brad Allen, Events Manager, Triathlon ACT to Bob Collins after the most recent series of races:

On behalf of Triathlon ACT and our thousands of competitors, I want to extend our thanks to you for your involvement and support in our events again this season. Triathlon is a difficult sport to organise with its many facets and it would not be possible without the support of your organisation. As I have written before, your unique role means that our athletes (including myself at times) feel more secure and confident in the water and you might imagine how much that helps in mentally preparing for a race. As organisers we have safety responsibility above all else in our races and our confidence in your team's role as providers of water safety cannot be underestimated.

Over the summer, the TACT staff have tried to implement a more professional, attractive and entertaining look and feel to our events and your contributions, professionalism and positive attitudes have helped enormously in achieving that. We hope that our gratitude has been reflected in improved communications and responsiveness from our organisation. We intend to increase our communications efforts sharply over the ensuing few months as we plan next season's events and will offer you the opportunity to be involved at the earliest possible time in those plans as is relevant to you.

Thanks again and we will be in contact soon.

From Bob Collins, recipient of the above message and organiser of the BGCC team who rallied to the call for volunteers at each triathlon, to the Editor on the weather conditions which greeted competitors and our volunteers:

As you know, yesterday's Triathlon was quite rough during the 1500m swim and hard on the swimmers. After you left, Anne Cronin, David Abela and I stayed on for the 200m swim that took place about 50mins after the long swim.

By that time the wind was raging and there were whitecaps all over Central Basin. Even close to shore one of the swimmers breathed in a wave and was in all sorts of trouble. I had her recovering on my boat for a minute or two before she could continue.

Our paddle back under Kings Ave Bridge was awful - I have not seen it that rough out there for a long time. It is the roughest water I have ever paddled in

Boat Captain: Rob Wilson

1. Shed Clean-up

On Saturday, March 28, a week before the National and Oceania Marathon Championships are held under our Club's auspices at Molongolo Reach, there will be a shed cleanup. **Commencing at 9 a.m. (0900 hrs)**, the clean-up needs VOLUNTEERS (i.e. YOU) to make sure our facilities are presented in the best possible light for the inter-state and international visitors who will be coming to compete and observe the next weekend's events. If you have not previously volunteered to help with Club activities, now is the time to start: if you haven't been involved for a while, but still remember what is needed, WELCOME BACK, THE MORE THE MERRIER.

2. Boat Maintenance

The Club spends a considerable amount of money buying and maintaining boats for those junior and senior members who don't have their own boat, are trying to learn how to paddle various craft or are assessing what type of boat they want to buy. It is disappointing in the extreme when club boats are not given the necessary respect and attention.

Illustrations of how club boats are regarded unsatisfactorily by some members include:

- a) borrowing a club boat for an excursion so as not to get one's own boat damaged,
- b) using a club boat for training or racing without checking before launching that all the necessary parts are present and in working order,
- c) not reporting damaged and malfunctioning parts to the Boat Captain BY E-MAIL or TEXT,
- d) not using the sign-in and sign out sheets in the shed AND also indicating which club boat you are using,
- e) not borrowing club boats for excursions without notifying the Boat Captain BY E-MAIL or TEXT, and
- f) not properly washing the club boat that you have used before putting it away.

The Boat Captain and Deputy Boat Captain are both volunteers and cannot check boats on a daily or weekly basis. We rely on club members to treat club equipment with care and respect, as well as to notify us if anything needs to be fixed. Repairs, major and minor are carried out as quickly as possible so as to keep the Club's fleet of boats available for members who need them **BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP TO DO SO.**

3. Boat Booking

Would anyone wanting to book a club boat to compete in the National Championships or for any other events, please contact the Boat Captain either by E-MAIL or TEXT soon (i.e. immediately). Bookings **CAN NOT BE MADE** by writing on the whiteboard in the club shed.

CONVENERS' REPORTS

Flatwater Convener: John Preston

The Marathon 10 Race conducted by BGCC was a record breaker with 179 boats involved in the races over the Molonglo Reach course. The weather couldn't have been much better. The section of East Basin that we had to use posed no real problems as the wind was light. Surprisingly with so many boats on the water the wash didn't seem to prove to be too much trouble for the majority of paddlers. The 'no camping' edict that was forced upon us certainly didn't affect the support for this race. Unfortunately it did seem to have a detrimental effect on the number of paddlers who stayed on for the Burley Bash the next day.

The numbers of boats on the water however did seem to be a concern for some paddlers who managed to miss their starts as they warmed up in the area between the start line and the new bridge work. Paddlers raced over a 5 km loop with distances ranging from 25 km with compulsory portages down to a single 5 km lap. It was fantastic to see so many juniors competing. Most of these were from BGCC and gives some indication that we are developing a new breed of keen marathon paddlers for the future. Thanks go to the coaches and parents of these youngsters who should be pleased with the effort on the day.

Having won the Brian Norman Club Trophy for the last 3 years it was good to get so many BGCC paddlers in the points. We have a small lead over Manly at this early stage. Basically it will come down to how many of our members participate in the races at the other venues. The other clubs are making a determined effort to prevent us winning 4 years in a row so the competition should be good. There is a bit of a gap between Race 1 and Race 2 of the series as we allow for the State Championships to be held at Davistown and the 2015 Oceania and Australian Canoe Marathon Championships to be held here on our home turf over Easter. Race 2 is at Windsor on Sunday 3rd of May. A good turn out from us will keep us on top. See points table below.

I'd like to thank the many club members who contributed with their time and effort to make our M10 race a success. Quite a number chose not to compete themselves in order to help out. Their fine effort contributed greatly to what has become the most well attended race of the M10 series.

Code	Club Name	Points
BGCC	Burley Griffin Canoe Club	58
MWKC	Manly Warringah Kayak Club	34
PVC	Penrith Valley Canoeing	16
WCC	Windsor Canoe Club	14
CSKC	Cronulla Sutherland Kayak Club	12
LCRK	Lane Cove River Kayakers	12
WBCC	Wagga Bidgee Canoe Club	8
HVCC	Hunter Valley Canoe Club	6
JP	Just Paddlers	6
SSCC	Sutherland Shire Canoe Club	4

39th Burley Griffin Bash, 22nd February, 2015.

Although numbers were down for this year's event those who chose to race were treated to good conditions around the course. The major issue was created by a 'well meaning' police boat which edged its way across Central Basin creating a slow moving series of waves which bounced off the walls at any number of awkward angles and made life tough for those lacking in skills.

Only 2 competitors took on the double lap of approximately 30 km around the islands. Ed Lovich, a visitor from Footscray Victoria, beat Darren Lee from the Central Coast in a sprint finish. Ed, an Australian representative, raced 25 km in the M10 race the day before and was here to check out the course for Nationals and to get a couple of good hard races under his belt. He achieved both. Darren is no stranger to kayak races in Canberra and has won many of the top division races in the M10 series. It was great to have paddlers of their calibre racing on our courses.

The 15 km race had more of our local paddlers competing and the usual suspects took out the places in the various categories. It was a pity more of our own members didn't race. We tend to get more at our time trial races on Wednesday night than support this event. Nevertheless the event went smoothly and was enjoyed by those who did participate.

Thanks to those who contributed to the successful running of the event especially Helen Tongway who has been running this event now for decades.

The 2015 Course:

Around Spinnaker and Springbank Islands, Kingston navigation buoy: Each lap 15 km.

Dist	Class	Sex	Age	Place	Name(s)	Time	Club	Placings
30km								
	K1	M	Open	1	Edward Lovick	2:32:33	Footscray	1
	K1	M	V45	1	Darren Lee	2:33:34	CSCC	2
15km								
	K1	M	Open	1	Ben Rake	1:08:04	BGCC	1
	K1	M	V55	1	John Preston	1:22:13	BGCC	2
	K1	M	V65	1	Allan Newhouse	1:27:52	BGCC	1
	K1	L	Open	1	Mellissa Hartlipp	1:32:43	BGCC	2
	K1	L	V55	1	Margi Bohm	1:19:53	BGCC	1
	K2	M	V35	1	Jason Kendall/Shawn Lonergan	1:14:44	BGCC	1
	OS1	M	Open	1	Lee Rice	1:21:02	BGCC	3
	OS1	M	V35	1	Andrew Parkinson	1:14:00	BGCC	2
	OS1	M	V45	1	Shane Lund	1:10:12	BGCC	1
	OS1	M	V45	2	Roger Grose	1:22:00	BGCC	4
	OS1	M	V65	1	Robert Bruce	1:30:47	BGCC	5
	OS1	M	V75	1	Ian Castell-Brown	1:48:23	BGCC	6
	OS1	L	V35	1	Nicole Andrews	1:41:26	BGCC	1
	OS2	M	V55	1	Scott MacWilliam/Tony Mee	1:28:04	BGCC	1
	LR2	M	V45	1	Russell Lutton/Adam Scott	1:13:50	BGCC	1
	LR2	M	V65	1	Geoff Pickup/David Tongway	1:33:31	BGCC	1
	LR2	X	V55	1	Stewart Nicol/Gayle Burke	1:27:17	Footscray	1
	LR1	M	V65	1	John Lockie	1:46:23	BGCC	1
	MR1	M	V45	1	Andrew Singh	1:44:10	Rivers	1
	MR1	L	V55	1	Dianne Roberson	2:07:30	BGCC	1
5km								
	K1	M	V45	1	Roger Murray	0:35:01	BGCC	1

This year's Bash had 28 paddlers in 23 boats. The event was enjoyed by all.

CLUB PADDLING TOPS: Now (almost) available

The club singlets and long tees are in transit. Due in CBR Monday, 30th March. They will be available for purchase at *Wetspot* from mid next week!!!

Shorts are still being made

Gary.

Ed Lovick and Darren Lee in the middle of Central Basin



Winners are Grinner- Ed Lovick with Scrivener Cup, the perpetual trophy awarded to winners of the 30 km Burley Griffin Bash race



CLUB TIME TRIALS

As the night time temperatures begin to cool the Wetspot Summer Time Trials are coming to a close. There is only one more race before Easter and the change to daylight saving which signals the end of the season. The number of competitors for the TT's has been steady. No doubt, however, some paddlers have been put off by the frustrating car parking situation. Hopefully this will be resolved for next summer. Kiaran's timing and recording system has been fine-tuned over the summer and the results are now in your inbox almost before you get home after the event. Great work Kiaran and Kit for collating the times and keeping tabs on the points score. Updated points and times are available on the revamped club website.



The NSW State Championships were conducted at Davistown on the Central Coast of NSW on Saturday the 14th March. The weather on the day was perfect for marathon racing with only a light breeze and sunny skies. The temperature was in the low to mid 20's but the humidity was high. There was a bit of hype leading into the race about the suitability of the venue as it was rumoured to be shallow in places, weed ridden and there was likely to be problems with the wash from leisure boats. These issues did affect some paddlers more than others but in the words of Robert Darwin (Charles' younger brother and kayak enthusiast) "it can be put down to the survival of the most skilful". The only real problem with the shallows that I heard about was for those doing the portage. The shallow re-entry to the waterway created a longer portage than some paddlers were prepared for. The wash from some of the boat enthusiasts was a bit of a problem for some competitors. Both Gary Rake and Nick Grey fell victim to some nasty washes which emanated from these boats. The drivers of these vessels seemed to pay no heed to speed restrictions or the fact that there were dozens of kayaks precariously working their way around a set course. Nevertheless the better paddlers coped with these situations in their stride and in most cases went on to success. The weed hardly affected some paddlers but as seems to be the way with weed some had their progress slowed by being unable to get the long strands off the bow of their kayak or by unknowingly towing strands of it around on their rudders.

The morning session was for all of the single events. In the afternoon the doubles were conducted. The wind picked up a bit more in the afternoon and some of the doubles paddlers found backing up from a hard race in the morning was a fairly tough assignment.

It was a shame that BGCC couldn't get more than 10 of its 300 plus members to attend. Despite the early start some 5 hours from home one would have expected more support from our members.

As we know these events are only conducted because volunteers turn up and take on the numerous roles to ensure a smooth, safe race. Our thanks is extended to all those volunteers who made the State Championships an enjoyable experience. Of special note in this regard was the effort made by our own Helen Tongway who travelled up and helped with the officiating in the portage area.

RESULTS:

Ben RAKE	U23 Men K1	1st	25 km	2:02:53
Nick GREY	Men's Vet 35 K1	4th	20 km	1:57:09
Gary RAKE	Men's Vet 40 K1	2nd	20 km	1:53:40
John PRESTON	Men's Vet 60 K1	4th	15 km	1:27:32
Allan NEWHOUSE	Men's Vet 65 K1	4 th	15 km	1:32:45
Larissa CLEVERLY	Women's Open K1	1st	20 km	1:57:51
Julia BOWETT	Women's Vet 35 K1	1st	15 km	1:29:51
Madeline CHARD	Women's Vet 45 K1	DNF	-	-
Ian CASTELL-BROWN	Men's Vet 75 K1	2nd	10 km	1:07:00
Margi BOHM	Women's Vet 55 K1	1st	10 km	0:55:41
Margi BOHM/Julia BOWETT	Women's Vet 70-99 K2	1 st	15 km	1:21:58
Ian CASTELL-BROWN/ ALLAN NEWHOUSE	Men's 130-159 TK2	1st	5 km	0:29:57

Ben Rake looking determined as he takes on the portage at the NSW State marathon titles, Davistown, Central Coast.



paddle nsw inc marathon

2015 Marathon 10 Series



Round 1- Saturday 21st February- BGCC, Canberra 11am

- * State Marathon -14th March –Davistown NSW
- * National & Oceania Canoe Marathon -5th April – Canberra, ACT

Round 2- Sunday 3rd May –WCC, Windsor 11am

Round 3- Sunday 24th May –CCCC, Wyong 10am

Round 4- Saturday 20th June –SSCC, Woronora 10am

Round 5- Saturday 4th July - PVC, Penrith 10am

Round 6- Sunday 26th July –MWKC, Narrabeen 10am

Round 7- Saturday 15th August – CSKC, Grays Point 10am

Round 8- Saturday 5th September–LCRK, Lane Cove 10am

Round 9- Saturday 26th September-WBCC, Wagga Wagga 1pm

Round 10- Saturday 17th October – Makai Paddlers, Burrill Lake

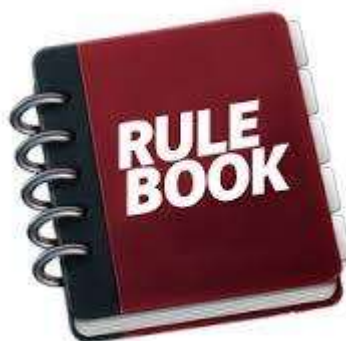
Marathon 10 Awards & Presentation Dinner



Online entry \$25 Entry on the day \$30 (options available) Students & Juniors \$10
25km, 20km, 15km, 10km & 5km race distances to suit all levels.

Entry, Race information & marathon rules www.paddlensw.org.au

There have been some rule changes made for this year's M10 series. They can be found at the link provided below.



<http://www.paddlensw.org.au/blog/updated-rules-2015-marathon-10-series>



2015 Oceania and Australian Canoe Marathon Championships

We are still looking for volunteers to help out with the 2015 Oceania and Australian Canoe Marathon Championships. The event runs over Easter Saturday and Sunday. The 2 days are split into a morning session and a late morning session and we require help for all 4 sessions. The Saturday and Sunday early sessions are expected to have the most paddlers involved so we are looking for help here as a priority. If you can spare a few hours please contact Helen Tongway at htongway@iinet.net.au.

With only a week or so to go to Easter the final preparations for this event have begun. A number of our club members have taken on various roles to ensure the smooth running of this prestigious event. Helen Tongway has taken on the job of organising the large number of volunteers who have taken on the many jobs that exist as part of events like this. Tom Hick is our Safety Officer who has the job of ensuring the safety of competitors, spectators and volunteers who will be here at Easter. Scott MacWilliam has the unenviable job of organising the various utilities that will be needed on site. This includes toilets, bins, portable office, drug testing facility etc. Bob Collins and Patricia Ashton are looking after the on-site administration part of the event which includes registration, handing out and collecting numbers and merchandise. Bob has also been our go-between with the various authorities that provide permission for us to compete at Molonglo Reach. Gary Rake has been working hard on the portage area with the pontoons now carpeted (thanks for the carpet Shane Lund) and positioned for the race. Gary has also organised the use of 2x 50-seat stands for the spectators. Emily Gibson is organising the dinner at the Hellenic club on Easter Sunday night. Tickets are available through the entry page for the event. Lincoln Gibson has provided his expertise in cartography and providing information regarding sight-seeing in Canberra. I'm looking forward to thanking the many volunteers who are assisting these people to make the event a success and will name them all in the post-race report. Triathlon ACT have very generously donated the use of their 'tinnie' for a safety boat: Thanks Heaps.

[DINNER TICKETS: (by 29th March please!) <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=15702>]



Entries are now open, go to: <http://www.australianmastersgames.com> OR
<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianMastersGames/photos/a.240459739367937.59218.236459113101333/674524335961473/?type=1&source=11>



For information about the World Masters Games in NZ 2017 go to:
<http://www.worldmastersgames2017.co.nz/>

With more athletes than the Olympics, the World Masters Games is the single biggest multi-sport event on earth. Now in 2017, the event will come to Auckland New Zealand, a must-see destination renowned for its stunning natural diversity and vibrant social scene. As is often said, it's not just the scenery New Zealand is famous for, it's the people. And sport is part of New Zealanders DNA.

The World Masters Games is for everyone – whether you play to stay fit, to have fun or quite simply to win. In 2017, 25,000 athletes will converge on Auckland for the event of a lifetime. So now's the time to pick your sport and get training. The World Masters Games 2017 is coming to New Zealand and we hope to see you there.

Canoe Polo: Rowan Holt

Since January and the announcement of the Australian teams competing at the 2015 Oceania championships, Canoe Polo players have been training in preparation for the event. Fourteen BGCC polo players will be representing Australia at the Oceania Championships. This is a tremendous result for the club and for the players competing. Some of the newly announced Australian Team members from the BGCC already have reason to celebrate.

The final Australian Canoe Polo Summer Series event for 2014/15, held in Penrith on 7th & 8th March, saw the Burley Babes (BGCC Women's team) complete a clean sweep in the Summer Series' women's division – winning every competition. There were a couple of matches that caused the ladies a bit of concern during the series, but they did not disappoint in rising to the challenges and winning every Women's division grand final throughout the series. Congratulations to you all – keep training hard and let's make this series sweep a tradition! The Ausvets team, comprising 3 BGCC players, did well in the Open competition in Penrith, coming 3rd overall. Well done, guys! Kanusport PSV (BGCC Open) played well but finished last in the round-robin competition. This was the first competition where we've tried to increase team numbers with less experienced players to assist with player and team development. We've learned a lot from the experience and need to keep positive during our training to improve on our results – we'll get there!

Club support for Canoe Polo, at least since my arrival in Canberra over 3 years ago, has played a pivotal role in assisting players to achieve great results at Nationals and positions on National teams. The permanent field at Molonglo Reach, subsidised pool fees for juniors and beginners at Tuggeranong Pool, the acquisition of Pontoons that increase the professional delivery of competitions held in Canberra and the assisted purchase of 3 new boats, 12 junior size paddles and other equipment, are all demonstrable club actions that have assisted the growth and increased strength of Canoe Polo. A HUGE THANK YOU! must go to Scotty, Aiden and Shane (and anyone else who helped!) for renovating the Canoe Polo and SUP storage area at the club shed. This area looks 500% better – WELL DONE!

Although currently pre-occupied with increased training regimes in preparation for Nationals and Oceanias, we aim to continue the growth of Canoe Polo within the ACT and surrounding regions by building on established competitions and certifying our volunteer coaches with suitable qualifications. A significant number of polo players will be attending the upcoming First Aid course in line with our future coaching and sport development objectives. We hope to maintain the momentum of the Sport through the colder months as much as possible. It will be very important to capitalise on the participation of so many BGCC members at the Oceania Championships to keep building the sport in the ACT.

The Oceania Championships (April 9 – 11) follow the Australian National Championships (Easter Long Weekend, April 4-6), both events are being held in Nagambie, Victoria. The ACT Women's and ACT Veteran's teams will be seeking to retain their National Championship titles after their tremendous performances at the 2014 National Championships held at Molonglo Reach. Good luck to everyone playing at Nationals and Oceanias – have a great time and enjoy the experience of representing Australia!!!

From James Harmer

Honours list - Australian Canoe Polo Teams - Oceania Canoe Polo Championships

Fourteen BGCC members will be competing across seven divisions at the 2015 Oceania Canoe Polo Championships from 9-11 April in Nagambie, Victoria. This is the largest contingent of BGCC competitors to compete in an Australian Team. Special congratulations to our juniors Ruby Skeat, Rebecca, Emily and Matthew Gates who are competing for Australia for their first time in the junior division, Rowan Holt is also playing for Australia for the first time after being selected in the Men's 2 Team.

BGCC's German import, Dorethea Schäfle, is representing Australia in her last polo competition prior to returning to her native homeland. Carley and Stacey Goodwin have greatly developed their skills over the last few years and have been promoted into the Senior Women 1 Team. They are joined by Antonia Harmer who last competed at the international level representing Great Britain, when she was in the winning team at the 2004 World Championships in Miyoshi, Japan. James Harmer was selected as the coach for the Women's Team following the success of BGCC's Burley Babes, who won the 2014 Australian Championships and remained undefeated in every competition they have entered over the last 12 months.

Burley Griffin Canoe Club Australian Representatives:

Senior Women Team 1

- Carley Goodwin
- Stacey Goodwin
- Antonia Harmer
- Coach: James Harmer

Senior Women Team 2

- Coach: James Harmer

Senior Men Team 2

- Rowan Holt
- Michael Lawrence-Taylor

Under 21 Women

- Dorothea Schäfle

U18 Women

- Rebecca Gates
- Coach: Antonia Harmer

Under 15 Junior

- Emily Gates
- Mathew Gates
- Ruby Skeat

Over 30 Men

- James Deakin
- James Harmer
- Brenton Smith

Over 45 Men

- Roland Mangos

Ocean Racing Convener: Nick Ziviani

February has been and gone for 2015 and we have had some great paddling events. This year's Makai Cup was once again an excellent event (Ed. See Stephen Bunney's account below). The conditions were great with a 1.5 to 2 metre north east swell with 15 to 20 knot northerly winds to make 22 kilometres of downwind fun for all who dared. All up there were over one hundred paddlers entered with lots of smiles and Yahoo's to be heard along the length of the course which started at Bendalong north of Ulladulla, finishing in the harbour with the presentation held at the Boardwalk Cafe. As usual the Makai club members did a great job with organising this event making it near impossible for them to better themselves with every event they hold. Everyone who I spoke to had a great day with lots of door prizes and give-aways for all who entered.

BGCC was well represented this year with some of the current wave chasers of Burley Griffin making their way down the hill. Thank you to all as we had many laughs discussing the thrills and spills of the race over a cleansing ale or two afterwards.

I heard a tale spoken of at the presentation of a collision at sea between two boats with one person needing to release his flare to get assistance from one of the rescue boats as his craft was sinking!! I spoke to the paddler of the sunken ski about what happened. His reply was that he broached on a run and the person behind him ran into him head on into the side of his ski which made a large hole in it and the boat sank within seconds.

He also said **how grateful he was to have a certified PFD that held him afloat; and a smoke flare.** Otherwise he could have been floating in the water for hours.(Ed. Tom Hick, BGCC's persistent and omni-present Safety and Training Officer will use this accident and safe outcome for future reference forever.)

The model is Nick's son, Zane



Coming Events:

11th April: Tingira Challenge, Rose Bay, Sydney Harbour Series

30th May: Molokai World Championships, Hawaii

27th June: Stroke The Lion, Bayview Sydney Harbour Series

Happy Paddling

Nick Ziv nickziv13@hotmail.com

Ocean Racing: Stephen Bunney's Makai Adventure

As usual this year's Makai Cup was a corker. With the addition of a dedicated escorting Royal Australian Navy HELICOPTER! As well as Police, Marine Rescue and other support craft, the option of real time craft tracking, webscorer, in water and aerial photography (Navy Helicopter, nice), live band, great venue and kickass downwind conditions all bases were covered. WOW, These Makai paddler people are all over it.

This year's course was the 17 km Bendalong to Ulladulla Harbour run with a 3 km upwind at the start. Webscorer recorded 102 starters punching into that Northeaster and man that headwind was no joke. I was struggling, stuff was going wrong, there was no fixing it on the fly and it was doing my head in! I made the Upwind turning buoy way back down the field and chose to surrender the inside line round the can to a group of outrigger paddlers who were having a dingdong battle and did not need me spoiling their fun.

I came around the can and had to get things cooking, so I caught the first run and rode it straight, which was at 30 degrees off the race line, but I just needed to reset. I spent the race trying to work right, back onto what I thought was a better line, but never quite made it. As it turned out my line was really straight and the runs were long and manageable. I finished a grateful 34th and very HAPPY. My training partner, Nick Ziviani, finished just behind me on a spec ski; a huge effort. A big shout out to Jason, Trent and the indefatigable Shane who all lit up the course

Thanks to Sean Rice, Paddle life

If Makai highlighted one thing, it's that I needed help. The upwind really shone a light in my deficiencies as a paddler. My session with Zsolt last November gave me such a lift in technique and confidence, but I was still misfiring. So when I learned that Sean Rice, the Current ICF surfski champion was going to be in Wollongong doing coaching sessions, I knew I couldn't miss the opportunity to get some help.

It is obvious that Sean loves his work, and his enthusiasm is very contagious. Sean explained the hows and whys of the gear setup and the technical aspects of paddling the surf-ski.

He has a teaching with a "exploring to learn" style that I found highly effective and a lot of fun. I certainly had a lot of WOW moments. I drove home with my head buzzing with new ideas and concepts.

I highly, highly recommend Sean's coaching sessions.

I am now a great believer in the constant honing of technique and hints that great coaches can bring to your paddling.



SUP Convener: Lincoln Gibson

Naish N1sco Race Day @ Kingston Foreshore

The second year of the Naish N1sco event hit Kingston Foreshore on 22nd February and over 50 competitors joined in a great day of SUP racing. The weather was fantastic and the Foreshore promenade provided a great viewing platform for spectators to get up close to the action. Over \$1000 dollars' worth of prize vouchers were donated by event supporters: Wetspot Watersports, The SUP'ing Caveman, The Dock Bar, Chong Co Thai Restaurant, and 38 Espresso.

Results from the day:

Men's 200m:

Paul Mackie
Scott Hunter
Jon Bell

Men's Distance:

Paul Mackie
Jon Bell
Scott Hunter

Men's 400m:

Paul Mackie
Peter Garbutt
Matt (caveman) Scott

Women's 200m:

Melissa McManus
Angela Crawford
Joanna Nelson

Women's Distance:

Melissa McManus
Angela Crawford
Joanna Nelson

Women's 400m:

Melissa McManus
Angela Crawford
Joanna Nelson

Relay:

Jervis Bay
Team Peka
Joanna Nelson

200m Junior Boys:

Ethan Garbutt
Josh Hunter
Sebastian Mee

400 Junior Boys:

Ethan Garbutt
Sebastian Mee
Josh Hunter

200m Junior Girls:

Cate Hunter
Fleur Evans
Eliza Evans

400 Junior Girls:

Cate Hunter
Eliza Evans
Fleur Evans

Distance Junior:

Ethan Garbutt





SUP featured in the latest issue of the Kingston Foreshore Magazine 'By the Water'. Download your digital issue at:

<http://bythewater.com.au/live/kingston-foreshore-an-urban-renewal-project-for-all-to-enjoy/#.VQFwLnS4buh>

Upcoming SUP Events

Southern Cross SUP Festival, Shoalhaven: 17-19 April

- NSW SUP titles

Flatwater SUPFest 2015-Pete Garbutt

Capital SUP members Angela, Greg and Pete competed in the 2015 Flatwater SUPFest at Penrith International Regatta Centre. Angela got 3rd in the 5000m, made the 1 km final, and narrowly missed the 200m final for 3rd overall for the weekend. Greg just missed the A final for the 1000m, paddled well in the 200m A final. Pete managed a 4th in 1000m 5th in the 200m and 3rd in 5000m for men's vet. Everyone's times were outstanding with PBs for all.





Club N1SCO Boards – Rules of Use Reminder

The N1SCO boards are subject to the same rules as club boats. Please ensure that the following is adhered to at all times:

- Boards (and additional equipment) must be signed in and out when removed from the shed
- Boards (and additional equipment) can only be used by current BGCC members
- When using club equipment a lifejacket must be used at all times
- Boards should be inflated to between 12 and 14 PSI
- Leashes are available and should be used

South Coast Convener's Report: Carolyn Williams

South Coast paddlers are alive and well and truly paddling, turning up in the usual high numbers to the Canberra M10 race in February. All the usual suspects were there, including a very exciting debut appearance by Tash Ziviani in Div 12 in the back seat of a Fenn double kindly lent by *Blazing Paddles* editor, Scott MacWilliam. Tash had the unfortunate disadvantage of having the South Coast Convener slowing her down in the front seat and so was never going to set a record, but it was all good fun and we look forward to a follow-up appearance.

Tash's husband, Nick, was back in Div 2 after being absent from competition due to shoulder surgery and he had a debut of his own – portage! Word is he loved it—apart from an infected leg and a week off work after cutting his foot while portaging and getting back into the boat on our “pristine” waterway.

Other exciting news from Div 2 – the band is back together. Yes, after having a great season in *Double Trouble* last year with gorgeous daughter Clare Lutton (don't mention she's from Manly), Russl has teamed up again with The Fox to battle it out in this most competitive division. Will they be able to repeat their winning season of 2013??? Stay tuned, but Shane Lund, Jason Rantall and Gary Rake will certainly be out to rain on their parade. It's a fantastic effort to have so many BGCC paddlers in the top divisions.

Royboy Willis and Petee Fane dusted off their double after little opportunity for heavy duty training and backed up their strong performances last season in Div 3 by crossing the line in 6th position, the best-performed BGCC boat in the division. In the shorter distances Stephen Ison once again took out Div 8 and had company this time with Graeme Ison deciding to paddle this season over the 15k course. Graeme had a great start following Stephen across the line in second place.

After swanning around Tasmania (Ed. See Below) and not having paddled for some time, Allan Newhouse opted to paddle the 10 km course. He got back into the swing of things very well coming in 5th. Div 11 saw great

representation from BGCC with our paddlers filling six of the first eight places. Ian C-B had a rush of blood at the end of his first lap and decided that portaging would be a good idea. Is there no stopping that man?? Ian is off to the state championships in Davistown this month, and we wish him well. He is certainly a great ambassador for our club.

The Canberra M10 race is always a wonderful opportunity for South Coast paddlers to catch up with the city guys and renew acquaintances; and the upcoming Nationals at Easter will provide another occasion for the same. Despite the lack of racing action on a Saturday morning at Nelligen, the results above show that the South Coast paddlers are training hard and keen to help BGCC take out four M10 wins in a row!!!!

Happy paddling

Hawkesbury Classic October 24-25, 2015: Patricia Ashton

Yes, it is still a long way off, however there is quite a bit of talk around the club, with several members already training. Looks like there will be a bit more interest than the small group we had last year. Most of those who are talking about entering have previously been land crew.....so, **that is what we need YOU to think about.**

Land-crewing for the Hawkesbury as an individual is not for the faint-hearted, however, when done as a club, it does cut down on the travel time, with most people only needing to go to one check point and the finish. It is a great way to see the race if you've ever thought of doing it yourself but would like a taste first.

It is rewarding helping out, knowing that you are making a difference, that your waving and yelling out encouragement from the shore, helping our paddlers out of their boat, or handing them a cup of tea, helps them through the night.

Watching paddlers coming in at the finish is quite inspiring, some limp home, others come in with a burst of energy, some look like they've been through the wars, taped up and hobbling, while others look like they could turn around and start again.

Everyone will have their own story and it feels great to be a part of it.

So, while we're not looking for commitment yet – please think about taking part – as a paddler, or just as importantly, as landcrew. (Club land-crew will be expected to help out with all the club paddlers, not just one paddler or boat.)

Australian Wooden Boat Festival 2015: Allan Newhouse

The 2015 Australian Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart in February once again included a small number of wooden kayaks.

I took my two newest kayaks down to be included with the 550 other wooden craft on display. The kayaks were only a small part of the display, but they attracted their fair share of attention.

Other wooden craft included a handful of Australia's famous tall ships, an enormous number of very expensive yachts and motor launches, an equally large number of small sailing and rowing dinghies and punts, a handful of canoes (mostly stitch and glue construction), half a dozen strip kayaks and one skin on frame kayak.

This year I was able to fit in a few short paddles in Robbins Channel in the North West, Bakers Beach on the North coast, Ansons Bay in the North East and at Cockle Creek in the South East. Robbins Channel is one of those places where you definitely need to know what the tide is doing. It rises and falls about 3 metres and flows through parts of the channel at over 5 knots.



Course for Marathon Officials: Helen Tongway

On Saturday 14th February, Australian Canoeing and Paddle NSW combined to run a course to get more paddlers qualified as Marathon Officials, so a few more people would know just how to run a marathon race. After a drizzly start to the day – which was not a problem as the morning was spent in-doors, working on the theory/paper-work part of the course – in the afternoon the weather cleared and we moved to Molonglo Reach.

Below are some of the presenters and participants, waiting for the next scenario.



Jerry Dunn had flown from Brisbane to run the course, with Gaye Hatfield and Bob Turner from Sydney, to inform and instruct 2x out-of-towners plus 9x BGCC members as well as 2 of us there for some memory refreshing. All present were able to pass the test and have/will receive their Officials certificates.

To help with the on-water scenarios, several of the club's junior paddlers were put out in boats to “misbehave” and have the learners pick up what was wrong and give answers as to the outcomes for such behaviour. Thank you to those juniors (and their parents) for spending the time on the water for us.

Below are some of the juniors receiving their instructions.



Thank you to all who participated, *Helen*.

Junior Paddlers on the Water (in vast numbers)

Young Paddler of the Month

Name: Dana Atkins

Age: 12

Discipline : Flatwater Marathon/Sprint (K1)

School(ing): Orana School, Weston Creek

How Long Have You Been Paddling?: Since November last year.

Why Did You Start Paddling/What Attracted You to Paddling?

Well it started with my Dad who enjoys physical exercise. He got me into it and I decided that it was really cool because I got to use the whole of my body and it is heaps of fun and everyone is really lovely, especially Kiaran.

How Often do You Paddle? 1 or 2 times a week

Favourite Event/Boat: I am not sure, time trial is pretty cool but the one marathon I have been in was also pretty darn cool. At the moment my favourite boat is Lola - she is a K1 that is pink. She is really fun to paddle and she makes it all exciting.

What are Your Goals? Being able to do 5 km without falling out in the K1 and generally getting better at my technique. By the end of the year I would like to be confidently paddling a K1 (even a tippy one) properly and doing it the right way, with lots of rotation and stuff like that.

Coach Kiaran Lomas' Comments:

Dana is a determined young lady who is dedicated to improving on the water. In a few short months she is getting ready to race K-Boats. It was only a few months ago that a TK was a challenge, but now, she is keen to master the K1. She is a perfectionist on the water and rarely smiles when she paddles as she is so focused on what she is doing. But it is obvious that she is developing a love for the sport and I suspect there will be no challenge too big for her in the future. This weekend she has indicated a desire to compete in the majority of the Marathon 10 Series and I hope this follows through to the sprint series in the later part of the year.



New Boats and the Growing K1 Fleet

Kit Nicolle and Litsa Polygerinos



For Sale: Barry Marshall

Sladecraft Flash.

Red and white in colour.

Underslung rudder

Stable kayak suitable for beginners to intermediate

Always garaged under cover.

Some minor scratches.

\$900.00 or offer.

Contact Barry 0419 603 119 or barrymarshall@netspeed.com.au



For Sale: Patricia Ashton

Proteus Home Gym: excellent condition.
Solid construction. \$200- Pick up only.
Contact Patricia: 0457 053 520



For Sale: Cherie Reid

SCS Nelo Vanquish 3 K1 – signed by Kenny
Wallace; protective layer on deck. \$4,500 ono
M: 0413 605 513; chez697@bigpond.net.au



The Cancer Support Group –Thanks for BGCC Assistance

Hi Kieran,

On behalf of The Cancer Support Group I would like to thank you for selecting us as your nominated charity for the BGCC 24 Hour Challenge. We really appreciate your support and we're glad the event was a success. Sorry we haven't sent this earlier, as we have been recovering from a very busy Christmas period and organising our Convoy for Cancer Families.

Again, thank you very much. The money raised is going straight to our patients in the community going through Cancer at the moment. Please pass on this message to everyone who contributed to the event and created Everyday Hero pages.

Kind Regards,

,

Anna Maxwell

Volunteer Coordinator & Marketing

Ph: (02) 6297 1261

Fax: (02) 6297 1878

E: csg3@bigpond.com

W: thecancersupportgroup.org.au

Post: PO Box 1351, QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620

Office: 21 Cooma St, Queanbeyan

Australian Canoe Sprint Nationals

Great way to finish the Australian Canoe Sprint Nationals: BGCC's Breanna Reid (3rd from right in photo) with crew-mates Sonia & Rachel Ryan (WA) and Samantha Sylvester (Vic) with a Bronze Medal in WK4 200m!



More news on Breanna and the Sprint events in April's *Blazing Paddles*.

Meanwhile, coming up in Queensland:

40TH GREGORY RIVER CANOE MARATHON
2-3 MAY 2015

NORTH WEST Canoe Club Inc.

Gregory-River-Canoe-Marathon

www.northwestcanoeclub.org.au Contact Ph 0427 677 030

5TH BARRON RIVER CHALLENGE
9-10 MAY 2015

Tinaroo Canoe Club

Barron-River-Challenge

www.tinaroo.auscanoe.org

Further event details Ph 0407 038 303



PO Box 475
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

18 January 2015

RE: GREGORY RIVER CANOE MARATHON AND BARRON RIVER CHALLENGE

2015 will celebrate the 40th year of the Gregory River Canoe Marathon and the 5th year of the Barron River Challenge.

If you are an elite or social paddler and haven't yet done these 2 iconic Queensland events, don't pass up the opportunity in 2015.

Grab a few mates and cheap flights to Cairns, jump in a hire car and make the journey to the Gregory.

After the Gregory weekend, head to Mareeba and participate in the Barron River Challenge. **2 weekends, 2 beautiful locations, over 100kms of paddling** – what more can you ask for?

Gregory River Canoe Marathon – 2-3 May 2015

The Gregory River Canoe Marathon is held on the picturesque Gregory River 200km from Mount Isa. The river is fed by limestone springs and is one of a few rivers in the region that flow all year round. It is recognised by paddlers as one of Australia's best courses.

The Gregory weekend is a true outback experience with paddlers camping alongside the river and country horse races organised by the local community, being held on the Saturday prior to the Sunday Canoe Marathon.

The section of the Gregory river on which the marathon is held, consists predominantly of long deep water holes separated by sets of rapids and fast flowing bends.

You can compete in one of 2 races: the 38km long course or the 18km short course.

The event is utilised as a fundraiser and has supported many charities including the RFDS; RFDS Auxilliary; Laura Johnson Home, Mount Isa; Queensland Country Women's Association Gregory Branch – to name a few.

To assist with logistics for out of town paddlers, the North West Canoe Club has purchased 5 South African K1 kayaks that are available for hire by experience paddlers.

We can also assist with camping facilities if necessary.