



*Newsletter of the*  
**BURLEY GRIFFIN CANOE CLUB**  
 Volume 30, Issue 4, June 2020

**Your Committee:**  
**President:** Jeremy Cook  
**Vice President:** Bob Collins  
**Secretary:** Patricia Ashton  
**Treasurer:** Trent Birkett  
**Safety Officer:** Margi Bohm  
**Membership Secretary:** Helen Tongway  
**Boat Captain:** Robert Bruce  
**BP Editor:** Andy Bodsworth



Who remembers this?  
December 1996: the original log-cabin toilet block,  
 with the beginnings of the first Club Shed!

- BGCC's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party!
- Important Covid19 Update
- Margi's Coaches Corner
- BGCC's 30 years: A History...

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*The ACT Government assists this organisation  
 through Active Canberra, ACT*



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## 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party!!!

### **Make it a date: next Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, BGCC's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party Celebrations**

We will be holding a picnic lunch at the river on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> from 11am. Rug up and come along. Finger foods, cake, coffee, tea and soft drinks will be available. (Limited chairs available, so maybe bring your own).

Social distancing rules still apply, however it's an opportunity to catch up with other members you may not have seen all season. Share stories, good food, sunshine and celebrate our wonderfully diverse club.

**Where:** at the river

**When:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, from 11 Why: 30 years of BGCC

**How much:** free

**Please RSVP by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> so we have some idea of numbers for catering purposes.**

## Vice President's Report: Bob Collins

### Getting back to normal – well almost!

With the easing of restrictions in the ACT, our Club has been able to increase the number of members able to train together, while still adhering to social distancing.

With the shower areas likely to be opened for changing, we will be taking it a step further in the next few days to re-open the showers for use – an email will be sent to members detailing the requirements for this one.

We have had good news from PaddleNSW indicating that the Myall and the Hawkesbury ultra-marathons are likely to go ahead. We assume that the 20 km Divisional Marathon races will also recommence in the next couple of months.

### Shed Operations

BGCC has been fortunate in that we have not needed to close down our operations completely as has been the case with gyms and swimming venues. Additionally, our revenue streams have not been badly affected. Earlier in the year all sporting clubs were given a \$1,500 grant to assist Clubs due the effects of Covid-19, this was a welcome addition and has covered much of our lost revenue from Beginner's courses.

We have now received quotes to install guttering along the front of our latest extension and to fully insulate the Meeting Room. These quotes will be the subject of an application for a \$ for \$ Capital Assistance Grant. This year the Grants program has been opened early to assist Clubs struggling as a result of the restrictions caused by Covid-19.

Shortly, the Grey Army will be laying new (almost!) carpet in our kitchen area and will be calling for volunteers for a general shed clean-up at the same time.

Shane Lund is currently organising replacement boat stands. 4x sets will be made of welded aluminium and therefore a lot stronger than the present stands.

Finally, you may have noticed some emails from our Marathon Convenor, Richard Fox asking for paddlers to consider supporting PaddleNSW by entering the Myall and Hawkesbury ultra-marathon races. If you are considering entering, there are a couple of groups regularly training each weekend for these events. Contact Richard for more information.

See you on the water,

*Bob Collins*

Vice President

## Coming Events:

With the continuing problems of possible infection with the Covid-19 virus, the great majority of Paddle NSW and other races and events, have been cancelled or postponed. We are hopeful of a return to competitions soon. In the marathon world, the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic looks like going ahead, as do the PNSW Ultra-marathon series – culminating in the BGCC 24 hour Challenge in December. Keep that one in your diary!

## Coaches Corner: Margi Bohm

I think all of us have a renewed appreciation of being allowed to train in a group following the events of the last few months. Fortunately, ACT COVID rules allowed us to continue paddling during the lockdown albeit in groups of two. I think we have all come through the experience with an enhanced appreciation of the social benefits of training in a group!

Phase B Rules, allowing groups of up to 100 as long as we maintain physical distancing rules of 1.5 m means that training is back to normal for all practical purposes; although we do need to take care when taking boats out of the shed, getting on and off the water and putting the boats back into the shed. If you can still keep your boat on your car during this period, I recommend you do so, as this reduces the people-load on the shed and makes it easier for everyone to maintain social distancing.

Competition has been suspended for several months but several virtual racing formats have been. As we have all learned in the last few days with events in Victoria, we cannot get complacent – this virus is not going away and even though there appear to be very few cases, outbreaks can rear their ugly head at very short notice. Interestingly, the increase in cases in Victoria is being traced to family-based community transmission which is a BIG lesson to all of us. Please do the right thing in and around the shed and on the water – practise physical distancing, excellent hand, sneeze and cough hygiene, stay away if you have any symptoms and get tested. Let's keep our paddling family safe.

Competition has been suspended for several months, but several virtual racing formats have been available through APS in Sydney and ICF. Now that restrictions are easing, BGCC can think about restarting time-trials. Unfortunately, we are not going to be heading to Sydney anytime soon for a PNSW Winter Series Race. It is rumoured that racing will not recommence before mid-August. This gives us two months to get back into shape so that we can prove our dominance in the winter series race format!

BGCC was recently awarded a grant to buy gym equipment not usually found in commercial gyms but important to kayak and canoe specific gym programs. Now that COVID-19 restrictions are being eased, we are in a position to start purchasing the gear and getting the gym set up. Watch this space.

See you on the water, *Margi*

BGCC Health and Safety Officer

## Marathon Conveners Report – Richard Fox

So much training and activity on the river and at the boat shed ... so little competition to report on. From what I have observed on the Molonglo in 2020 we have a very healthy number of paddlers in very good form. Training groups have been out in force pushing each other and working closely on technique. What is exciting is imagining how well BGCC could go when races do recommence, and I believe they will.

I know PaddleNSW is working closely with authorities to reboot the Marathon Series. The top priority will be the Windsor race for which they are still holding entry fees already paid. It doubles as the State Championship for singles. My information is that they hope to have perhaps three or four races for the 2020 series. Watch emails for more information as it comes to hand.

Even greater optimism is held for the running of the PaddleNSW ultra marathon series commencing in September and concluding here in Canberra with the 24 hour event. Five events make up this series - Wyong Ultra (30 km), The Myall (47/24/12 km), The Clarence 100, The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic (111/65 km) and our own 24 hour event.

The Hawkesbury Classic Committee has already communicated the green light to proceed with organising this iconic event, pending regulatory requirements during COVID-19. Registration (\$150 early bird) opens on 1<sup>st</sup> July. I have the names of 11 paddlers intending to take on the mighty Hawkesbury this year. Please let me know if you intend participating. I will be asking for volunteers to form a club landcrew team closer to 24<sup>th</sup> October.

I also have it on good authority the Myall Classic will proceed in September. The date is yet to be confirmed. Another significant challenge and wonderful event that provides an excellent hit-out ahead of The Hawkesbury. We usually get half dozen paddlers to this event too.

Here's hoping for a rewarding second half of 2020 for our well-primed club!

*It's all about the catch.*

*Richard Fox*

Marathon Convener, 2020

## Farewell to Ian Castell-Brown

(From Blazing Paddles: Vo. 24; Issue 8, July 2014, by Ian C-B)

**Tale of Two Cars:** AN UNFUNNY THING HAPPENED TO ME

(Tunes: "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree", "Tie me Kangaroo Down")

An unfunny thing happened to me  
on the way up to Marathon 3,  
I got up with the lark,  
left home in the dark  
and was blissfully driving al-ong-ong-ong-ong.

When right there on a bend in the road  
stood a group of six cattle or so.  
They were blocking my lane,  
I had nothing to gain,  
but to swerve and brake hard at the ti-i-i-ime.

But there on the opposite side  
was a view-hick-I, some owner's pride,  
it was hit car or beast,  
not a good choice at least  
so I side-swiped the softer op-t-ee-ee-on.

With a shUDDER the cow wandered off  
leaving me to consider my loss  
which I did and drove on  
paddled the Marathon,  
then went home to arrange for re-pair-air-air-air.  
There's a moral to all this you know  
which is something all kayakers do(e)  
and I close this to say...  
while still in array,  
and my kayak remains in one piece.

OHHHH

O

OHHHH,

Tie your kayak down well, sport,  
tie your kayak down well.  
If you don't tie your kayak down well, sport,  
then you won't have a kayak  
ATALL!

With apologies to Larry Gelbart, Burt  
Shevelove, Harry Williams, Egbert Van  
Alstyne (and RH)



## Celebrating 30 years of BGCC: Patricia Ashton

This June is the club's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Usually we'd have a Presentation & Birthday dinner however, after the last few years where numbers have been low, we decided we would hold the Presentation separately in maybe October. We did hope we could have a dinner out with interested members, but of course, Covid-19 put a stop to that this year.

I am trying to organise a bit of a morning tea on the last weekend of June, details out soon. so, how else can we celebrate 30 years of BGCC? A summary of our history....so here it is!

### The first 10 years

The club started back in June 1990 with 6 families, only private boats, no shed, no trailer, just the enthusiasm to build up a new club.

The first issue of Blazing Paddles came out in July; one of the stories was a dinner out. With 20 club members, how many attendees? 43!

By 6 months, BGCC membership had an Australian Junior K2 champ, a member on the Australian Slalom team, 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Murray Marathon in a C1 and open TK2. Not bad for a new club.

What stands out was the number of social events the club held, from squash, ski trips, dinners out, Ride and Run dates, ice skating as well as weekends away for recreational paddles. The club also entered a Dragon Boat team which went on to represent NSW. We had Christmas parties with Santa in his canoe-sleigh, Mother's Day Mayhem & Father's Day Frolics.

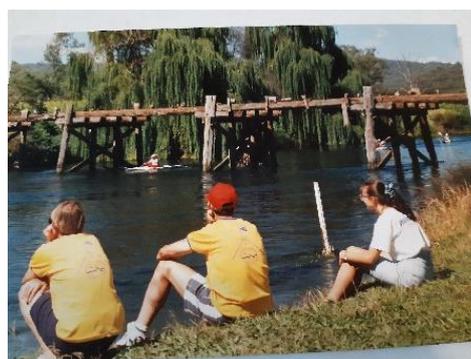


The club ran time trials, social paddles a couple of times a month, regular canoe polo and white water with training sessions and for many years, slalom. There were slalom gates on the Cotter and then later, on Sullivans Creek. The club was heavily involved in running Marathon, Sprint and Slalom in the 1997 Masters Games. There was a proposal that ACTEW was to put larger valves on the outflow pipes on the dam and regularly release water for white water and a permanent slalom course. That obviously didn't go ahead!

Below - Goulburn River



Over those first 10 years there was also a wide range of racing events either run by the club or run around the State and Victoria. In the minutes of June 1997 there was discussion of the summer series races to be organised: Yarrowonga same time as Cowra, with Tumut the same time as Deniliquin....as well as the Marathon series.



Tumut Down River race

By the time the BGCC evolved the Burley Griffin Bash was already an iconic race and it became a focal race for the club. Originally run over two days: Singles on Day 1, Doubles on Day 2; then later on it was held on the day after the Series Marathon races.

The 24 Hour Relay featured each year with varying numbers taking part – back then it was run as an Australia wide race with each club phoning in regular updates, BGCC took over the organising of it in 1993.



Triathlon West Basin

Triathlon Safety boats earned money for the club which, was spent on club boats and other equipment. This was a huge commitment for club members with events being held almost weekly through the summer months. In 2001 there were 3856 swimmers, the club raised \$4126 and 306 members/boats took part over the season (there were about 70 club members). This was given up as a club fund raiser/activity in 2018 as it was becoming more difficult to get volunteers, triathlons were taking longer and the money raised was hardly covering the cost of a new boat.

BGCC committee and members had a hard won fight over 2 years with the ACT Govt to stop a Jet-ski operation wanting exclusive rights to the river between the bridges. The Minister finally said “No” to the request to adjusting the Territory Plan, in 1998.

Right: The Harmer Boys: Father's Day Frolic 1991



Some other major happenings:

**1992** Club boats can be hired out for \$5 pw for 4-weeks.

**1993** Helen and David compete in their 1<sup>st</sup> Murray Marathon

**1994** Purchase of the club trailer – now club boats can be kept on trailer and transported to river and races.

**1995** the first plan of the new shed appears in BP's



David and Helen TC2, 1993 Murray Marathon (& "Puffing Billy")

Comments such as 'What's happening with the shed you ask? Stay tuned but don't hold your breath!' (sounds familiar?) 10.2m long x 6.4 wide with a 3.6m extension to part of it to house the growing fleet of K4's!! The club had 2 K4's by then and were talking about 2 more.

**1997** Shed build starts in January, with the official opening in April. By September there are cries for an extension please! 8 private boats

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade**

**2000** - Saw the club website start development, Kai (no longer a club member at that stage) took part in the Sydney Olympics, while another former club member, Richard Nicholson, took out silver at the Paralympics in weight-lifting.

**2001** – a busy year! State Marathon Champs and Bash weekend saw 222 paddlers in 178 boats on the water. Triathlons assisted 3856 swimmers, raised \$4126, with 306 helper sessions (about 70 club members). Canoe Polo State Championships. We were also hosting the NSW Southern Zone Slalom and Whitewater Championships which was to be held on the Murrumbidgee. Unfortunately, after all the planning, it was cancelled days before due to flooding!

Two club members took part in sprint finals at the World Championships in Poland.

Coach of the Year – Margi; Club Member of the Year – Helen. These 2 ladies have taken out these awards many times over the years. Well deserved. They have also been nominated and awarded various ACT, NSW & PNSW volunteer awards.

**2002** – BGCC ran the Sprint and Marathon for the 2002 World Masters Games; we had a large contingent take part – 3 x 1<sup>st</sup>, 1 x 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 x 3<sup>rd</sup> place getters.

**2003** – The Bash became the Ginninderra Grind after blue green algae closed the lake and river. The club, with Helen and the helm, again ran the sprint and marathon for the Australian Masters Games which were held in Canberra. They were reported as very well run events, on time and organised. Except maybe the weather.....

## **And from here Bob Collins takes over the Baton...**

**'The more things change, the .....!'** - Bob Collins

A couple of days ago, Patricia appeared at my back door loaded up with 2 lever arch files of early editions of Blazing Paddles. 'Could you go through these and pick out any highlights for our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday article? You have until next week!'

I was lucky I only copped about 10 years of editions; that were, back then, faithfully put out each month as a hard copy.

**1998:** First up, I opened a mid-1998 edition and noted that James Harmer was President and Margi Bohm the Club coach. It appeared that way back then some things were agreed on and some turned out to be quite controversial:

**Agreed:** - Paddling in sub-zero temperatures at 6:00 a.m. was just something you did;

- The Club shed was built in 1997 and an extension was already desperately needed;

- BGCC had quite a successful racing fraternity.

**Not so agreeable:** - Committee discussions focussed on money, or 'the lack of it';

- The Club did not have a Budget;
- The key system was changed from a one-off refundable deposit to add  
A \$20 annual charge;
- The boat storage charge was raised from \$1 per week to \$2.50 pw;

It is interesting to note how one rather controversial article in BP referred to boat storage and revenue: *"But we are not a commercial enterprise. The shed is not supposed to be a storage facility for private boats."* and;

the Committee operation as *"... a bunch of less than a dozen people, representing less than 8% of the club membership, sit around in a dark room making decisions that impact on the paddling activities of 120 other people."*

In 1998, excluding PaddleNSW fees, the BGCC Adult fee was \$65 (now \$80), a junior \$50 (now \$40) and family \$130 (now \$150). In 20 years our fees have not increased much. This is thanks to other revenue streams, such as key hire and boat storage.

**1999:** - The 24hr Relay managed to field only 1x TC1 team.

- The regular feature: Hall of Shame section continued. I note that you could be listed in this section for: hitting a log and ripping your rudder off (Ted), making paddlers train and practice wash riding in a 'pea souper', the boats could not find each other to wash ride! (Margi), not wearing the BGCC racing colours etc. etc. (One Hall of Shame section ran to 3x A5 pages!)
- 9x BGCC boats entered the Hawkesbury, including Helen Tongway in a C4!

Things progressed normally into the new millennium, although an age old problem was still there - at a Committee meeting in **2003** an entry says: 'We need to get rid of the possums and rats...get it done!'

**2004** – Wow! Patricia Ashton appeared on the scene as Secretary.

Mid **2004** and the new Secretary does a 5 km time trial in 35mins52secs! In September 2004 BP's were emailed to members. At the World Canoe Polo Championships in Japan, Australia's Women's team took 5<sup>th</sup> place with BGCC's Michelle Springall a member of the team.

**2005-** BGCC liaises with the ACT Govt. about an extension to the shed. June 2005 and BGCC begins its involvement with Wetspot. We commence Wednesday Twilight Time Trials, September **2005** and BGCC formally objects to the NCA proposal to establish a trial for a water ski training facility on East Basin. BGCC had a successful end of the NSW Winter Marathon series and were runner's up.

**2006** – At a Lake User's Forum in August, the NCA announced that water skiing would be allowed in East Basin. In October **2006** the Club had 82 members.

October **2006** – John Preston prepares for his first Hawkesbury Classic. 26 BGCC paddlers in 15 boats took part in the Classic. John Preston finished the B or B in 12hrs 45secs.

In his BP article on the Classic, John revealed that during the race he ate 7 ham & cheese sandwiches, 3 x 650ml bottles of PowerAid, 7 litres of water and 3 GU's! (*perhaps his time would have been better if he had spent his time paddling instead of eating! Ed.*) After the race he decided he was still hungry and over a 12 hour period ate 2 roast chickens, 2 steaks, 4 fried eggs and 'a truckload of salad'!

**2007** – In March the Club had 142 members – quite an increase in a year. In April there was a report of water skiing in East Basin – a letter was sent to the NCA by the Club.

At the previous Lake User's Group meeting the Water Police made a rather controversial comment that people who are not competent enough to stay upright in the water stirred up by power boats should not venture onto the lake. (*we note that with the absence of water skiing, the police boats have since taken over the job of stirring up the water. Ed.*)

December **2007** – the Club gives itself a Christmas present and purchases the Mirage 730. However, before the boat could move in, the possums had to be moved out – again!

Summing up: It is amazing how many challenges and problems that our Club is currently experiencing, have been coming up for years – planning Beginner's courses, possum proofing the shed, extending the shed, use of Club boats, increasing the number of Club coaches, key and lock problems etc. etc.

As the title says, 'The more things change ....." *Bob*

**2008** – If you wanted boat storage, you could apply for up to 8 weeks, but you had to store a club boat at home. NSW Marathon Championships were run at Nelligen. Michael Lawrence, then 17, was selected for the U21 Canoe Polo world Championships. There was a lot of politics this year as NSWCI was dissolved and Paddle NSW formed. Shane Lund was awarded Most Improved Paddler and Bob volunteered to organise our next extension! Would he have if he knew he'd spend the next 10 years chasing architects, builders, ACT Govt., TAMS etc. etc.



**2009** – we received a \$15,500 \$ for \$ grant for a shed extension, but red tape meant it would still be over a year before it could be built. Our Marathon race was one for the history books – cancelled due to rough conditions. Many TK and K1 paddlers found themselves swimming in East and Central Basins, some several times; though 133 paddlers made it back safely and no one died – it was the last race on the lake. There was some collaboration between canoe polo, flatwater and whitewater, with a day at Penrith White water Stadium. Sue Robb, James Suthern and Patricia arranged a basic WW course, then inflatables to play in.



**2010** – Shed was finally complete in September. The 24 Hour this year was a big event with prizes, corporate teams, SUP teams – 18 teams all up. Several white water skills' sessions.

John Harmer and Helen Tongway became the club's first Life Members at our Presentation Dinner

## Wetspot Watersports

The club's relationship with Wetspot started in 2005 and got stronger as the years progresses. Patricia joined the staff, then Scotty joined BGCC, bringing with him many keen ski paddlers. Training groups grew, SUP became a thing, James Suthern joined BGCC and white water grew, more customers became members. It was a beneficial relationship for us: we got great prices on new boats and equipment, repairs and access to advice, boats & so much more.

Right: Scotty, Justin, Tom & John, 24 hour



## The Last 10 Years

What is obvious reading through all our *Blazing Paddles*, apart from the fact that, yes, we need to keep these going, they are a great way to keep our history, is that BGCC is a strong club. Yes we have peaks and troughs in flat water and canoe polo, but our events are 1<sup>st</sup> class, we compete at high levels in all disciplines, in the case of canoe polo, it's almost a given that they will have representatives in Oceania and Worlds. Marathon also has consistent representation, SUP paddlers & our C1 paddlers also placing at National levels.

**2011** – With Nobby and James, we had several regular WW sessions and the club bought 2 new WW boats. There was some club sea kayaking. We started a Women's Paddling Group. Our October time trials had 35 participants. 22 paddlers took on the Hawkesbury. There were floods which closed the river and lake with debris – large trees popping up everywhere. There was even an emergency dash to the shed to move boats & equipment to a higher position.

**2012** – BGCC wins Brian Norman Trophy (NSW Marathon Series) for the 1<sup>st</sup> time; against all odds. In fact, PNSW had another club's name already engraved on the trophy!



Bay Area Kayakers – the Nelligen club - was officially amalgamated with BGCC in Feb 2012. This had improved our racing points dramatically, as we now had an extra 10 -12 keen paddlers coming to races, it also meant we now had an Ocean Racing convenor and more members taking part in the Harbour and Ocean racing series.

**2013** – 113 participants in the 24 hour; \$5000 raised. Showed the NSW clubs we weren't just a one win wonder, won the Marathon Series for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

**2014** – Capital SUP joined BGCC. 24 hour raises \$9000; Anjie Lees (*Right*) completes most km paddled by a woman in 24 hours – Guinness World Record



Anjie: 201.2 km in 24 hours



L to R: Carley Goodwin, Stacey Goodwin, Louise Gates, Kim Roper, Antonia Harmer, Kristy Offner (Shoalhaven), Sue Robb

Canoe Polo host National Championships in April – this event wins the Best Run Event for Canoeing Australia. 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive Brian Norman Trophy win. ACT Govt causes havoc for the next almost 12 months by removing access to our overflow parking. Starting on the process of another extension, we apply for a Lease. Burley Babes (*Left*) win the Women's Div 1 Summer Series – then hold it for 3 years.

**2015** – We host the National and Oceania Canoe Marathon Championships. Canoe Polo have 14 players selected to play for Australia in Oceania Games. After months of negotiations we agree to pay \$5000 to assist with our overflow parking. Membership is up to 350, with 70 juniors. C1's are becoming popular; OC1's are taking part in Time Trials, as are SUP's. At the NSW State Awards BGCC take out: Paddler with a Disability – Bre Reid, Team of the Year – Burley Babes, Volunteer of the Year – John Preston, Event of the Year - National Marathon Champs. We have paddlers taking part in marathon, sprint, canoe polo, wildwater, world marathon, ocean racing and ultra-marathon, in K1's & 2's, C1's & 2's, OC1's, SUP's, Ski's and other assorted craft.

**2016** – at the NSW State Sprints we fielded C1, C2, K1 & K1 paracanoe and SUPs. After a couple of years' hiatus, white water and slalom was reintroduced by Kai and other canoe polo players, mainly to build the skills for the many juniors. Sue Robb got gold at the Australian Freestyle Champs, the Burley Babes won their 3<sup>rd</sup> gold at the CP Nationals Nationals which also saw the Mirco junior team do well

Capital SUP run Nisco races at Kingston.



John Harmer completed his 40<sup>th</sup> Hawkesbury; Helen was awarded the Distinguished Long Service award through Sports NSW. The club now has a Debit Card!

A new award – Grand Masters Grand Master for paddlers over 70, first won by Ian Castell-Brown; very well deserved.

**2017** – We sign the Building Contract for the shed!! After a break-in at the shed and a club member being harassed and cars being vandalised, we put in security cameras. Margi starts TrainSmart. The Grey Army in full swing assisting with the shed building, dismantling and painting.

The Very Big Year of Paddling (1000 km) means 24 Hour has renewed interest, on a small scale.



Shane and Scott MacWilliam

**2018** – 1st committee meeting held in our new shed. Storage is now available with stages 1 & 2 almost complete, stage 3, the toilet block commences. Triathlon assistance comes to an end. Bob inducted as a Life Member. Club starts purchasing new club boats with income from storage. Recreational paddles reinstated after years of none. Slalom and wildwater event run by BGCC (Kai Swoboda). First time in many, many years.



Point Hutt to pine Island: beginner session

**2019** – Wetspot Watersports closes its doors after 15 years. We cancel winter time trials due to lack of participation. However, we take out the Brian Norman Trophy for Marathon series once again plus the ICF Trophy for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. 24 Hour becomes part of the

new PNSW Ultra Marathon Series, resulting in a mix of paddlers and higher numbers. Event stopped for 10 hours overnight due to smoke and ash.

We farewell long time club members and organisers extraordinaire: Russell Lutton and Carolyn Williams. They will be missed.

**2020** – Since late 2019 river levels dropping daily, temps often over 40deg and a continuing thick haze



of smoke over Canberra led us to postpone our Marathon series race from Feb to July. Summer was spent either off the water staying indoors or paddling with a mask and checking the AQI levels. After the smoke, the rain and the hail, then Covid came along.....Zoom meetings, small groups, social distancing..... no racing, no comps, just training and waiting.

2019 24 Hour: before the smoke rolled in

So, 30 years: obviously there was a lot more going on in those years, but it's been really interesting reading *Blazing Paddles* over the years, and like Bob said, the more things change..... white water for instance – we had none for about 10 years, then Nobby Clark and James Suthern got us involved for several seasons, but when they drifted off so did the white water. Then about 4 years later Kai wanted to build up the junior canoe polo player skills and add some more, he, with the help of canoe polo stalwarts, has reinvigorated it and slalom and not just for the juniors. It will be interesting where this goes, as Craig is keen for we flatwater paddlers do some slalom to build our balance and boat control skills.....



A resurgence of interest in white water

Happy Paddling, whatever your preference

*Patricia*

### And, Farewell to Ian

As most of you will know, Ian Castell-Brown, a long-time club member from the South Coast, passed away last week. Ian was 81 and up till a few weeks before his death was still paddling, and looking to take part in a virtual race with doubles partner Allan Newhouse. South Coast paddlers held a small memorial for Ian at Nelligen on Saturday 13th. Patricia, Margi and Ted went along. We all had some stories to share then threw flowers into the Clyde River. It was then up to the cafe for a coffee and chat. Afterwards several of us enjoyed the beautiful weather and calm conditions for a paddle. It was a fitting way to say goodbye to a gentleman who loved the water, paddling and a chat!



## Remembering I C-B: Allan Newhouse

I'm sure many of us have fond memories of time spent on the water or in conversations with Ian Castell-Brown. With all the recreational paddles, training paddles and competitions he was involved in, he served as an inspiration to many of us.

I first met Ian Castell-Brown around the end of 2003 when he was involved in organising a group who regularly paddled on a number of local waterways in the Eurobodalla. Since then I have paddled behind, beside, occasionally ahead of, or with Ian around one thousand times. Almost every Tuesday for about a decade we enjoyed a social paddle on the Tomago River. For a number of years we took part in fairly serious Saturday training sessions at Nelligen and at Tomakin. Ian regularly joined a group of local paddlers for a social paddle on Tuross Lake every Friday and on other local waterways on Sundays. He spent a lot of time on the water.

He was always a fiercely determined paddler and in spite of being seven years his junior, for a number of years I found it was all I could do to match his pace. There were so many examples of how much of his life was devoted to paddling. When he visited his daughter in Canada, he realised that he was doing so much paddling there that it made economic sense to buy a kayak and leave it in Canada rather than to keep hiring one. One of the stories he told after returning from one trip to Canada was about paddling in fog for about six hours, depending on a compass for direction and arriving just where he should have been at the end of that time.

Over a few years, he paddled all of the coast between the Eurobodalla and the Victorian border, usually by himself and camping on the beach. He persuaded me to join him and a friend for a trip out to Montague Island; launching at Mystery Bay, circumnavigating the island, lunching in a little bay with seals diving under our kayaks and returning to our launching point. Our return trip was interrupted briefly as we paused to watch a couple of whales heading north.

A large part of the reason I became involved in the NSW Marathon Series is because I was inspired by the fact that Ian had been a regular competitor for some time and obviously enjoyed competing. Ian has been a regular participant in the NSW series for more than a decade. During that time he has also competed at numerous Australian Masters Games, World Masters Games, NSW Marathon Championships and National Marathon Championships. At most of those events, he paddled both single and double kayaks.

In 2016 I joined him in his TK2 at the National Marathon Championships in Qld where we took out the gold medal. Since then we have paddled together at several NSW and National Marathon Championships. At the Australian Masters Games in Tasmania, he teamed up with Ann Lloyd-Green to compete on Lake Barrington in the Mixed Double event. As usual Ian had to drop down a couple of age divisions since paddling partners his own age are hard to find.

Just last month Ian and I took part in a virtual race organised as part of the Far South Coast Winter Ski Series. He and I paddled our K1s on the Moruya River. As usual Ian took off at a pace that I found hard to match, but eventually he tired a little and he finished a few minutes behind me. At that stage there was no reason to think that Ian would ever stop paddling. So I was surprised to hear when I asked if he wanted me to join him in his TK2 for an international 10 km virtual race in a couple of weeks' time, that he would have been interested, but had been admitted to hospital that day.

It always seemed that nothing could stop Ian paddling. A couple of years ago he and I were paddling his TK2 at Nelligen in one of the BGCC South Coast races. A short distance into the race, it became obvious that Ian was struggling but he seemed to recover and as we completed the first lap, I asked if he wanted to stop. He insisted that he was keen to do the second lap. It was only afterwards that we learned that he had had a heart attack on the water and two days later he had a stent fitted. Apparently a heart attack was enough to slow him down, but not stop him.



Ian lining up to start a NSW Marathon Series race against competitors who are mostly about half his age.



Ian competing in the NSW Marathon Series



Ian looking quite relaxed crossing the line at Davistown in a Marathon Series race when many paddlers struggled in the conditions



On Lake Barrington during the Australian Masters Games in Tasmania in 2017



Silver medal with Ann Lloyd-Green at Australian Masters Games in Tasmania in 2017



Ian and me at the National Marathon Championships in Queensland in 2016



Gold medal at the 2016 National Marathon Championships in Qld



NSW Marathon Series Doubles Round at Lane Cove: Having Ian steering in the front seat was a better arrangement because he always had firm ideas about the course we should take.



Ian competing at the Australian Masters Games on one of the rare occasions when he was able to find a partner who was older than himself

Another gold medal to add to Ian's collection at the Australian Masters Games in Adelaide in 2019: Vet 80 double.



## Remembering Ian Castell-Brown (IC-B): Peter Fane

If there ever was an example of the type of person that we should aspire to, Ian was it. An exceptional inspirational role model.

Ian was extremely successful in his career as a school teacher to principal and higher. We were fortunate enough to have Ian become part of our lives in his so-called retirement. A very focused and motivated individual who never stopped and never let an obstacle that may have stopped many other people slow him down.

I met Ian thru paddling many years ago when another Ian introduced kayaking to the community. As a fledging paddler and after paddling many years ago on surf skis whilst in Surf Lifesaving, I didn't exactly pick it up like a duck to water. I remember following Ian around the course at Nelligen many times and doubting his lines and ability to read the water. Numerous times I thought that my way was the faster route, but it didn't take me too long to realise that I had a lot to learn and Ian's ability to read the water was outstanding. This came from a back-ground of competitive sailing; his resume was quite impressive.

After finally getting the best of him i.e., finishing ahead, I was recruited by Ian to be the engine in the back seat of his TK2. So again I followed him for a couple of seasons in the Marathon series. It was a very enjoyable time but I did realise that there was only one captain of the TK2 and it wasn't me. We did synchronise most of the time but at times Ian did suggest that I was leaning to one side which became a theme that I heard from other back seaters that followed me. I learnt a lot about strategy and navigating the courses in a double that would prove very useful when I was promoted to driver in my next gig with Roy Willis.

After paddling together for a couple of seasons I moved on, but we continued meeting on the water countless times, up until recently, with the odd run in the double.

Ian was a foundation member of BAK (Bay Adventure Kayakers) which eventually amalgamated with Burley Griffin. His guidance for learner paddlers was invaluable and his warm and friendly manner made all paddlers welcome. Ian was always good for a chat and we all enjoyed the social get-together after paddling, as his attendance always ensured great company and enthusiastic discussion. Ian will be sadly missed but fondly remembered.



Windsor: 2010



Nelligen: 2010



Wagga: 2011



Above and Right:  
And Lane Cove: 2013



## BGCC Covid -19 Update

Updates to what we can and cannot do are occurring almost weekly and it is hard to keep abreast of where we are at. Recently all BGCC members received a copy of our **Operational Plan towards Returning to Play** document and you were asked to read and acknowledge your understanding of the document and agreement to follow all recommendations. Since then, we have had further relaxations of the laws ... how do they affect us:

1. Most important is for all of us to remember that **while restrictions are easing, our responsibilities to ourselves and others is not**. We need to continue to practise good hand and respiratory hygiene, physical distancing, staying at home if unwell and getting tested if you have any of the COVID-19 symptoms.
2. The main relaxation is the number of people allowed indoors and outdoors as part of a gathering or function. At the moment, the ACT allows 100 people indoors or outdoors as long as social distancing can be maintained, i.e., 1 person/4 m<sup>2</sup>.

This means that the number of people allowed in the shed at any one time is still dictated by the floor area of the shed. Thus, **recent relaxations do not affect us and we are still restricted to 4 people in the kitchen area, 8 people in the meeting room and 3 people in the shower areas**. These numbers will not change until the government relaxes the social distancing rules of 1 person per 4 m<sup>2</sup>.

Gatherings in communal areas is still discouraged and members are encouraged not to linger in the shed.

Outdoors gatherings of 100 people can occur if we have a space of 400 m<sup>2</sup> which equates to 20 m x 20 m, 10 m x 40 m, 5 m x 80 m, etc. The space available for members to prepare their boats is about 1-2 m x 20 m which allows **5-10 boats at a time**, but everyone has to be 1.5 m apart. If you are careful, one person working on a boat on either side of a rack can probably stay 1.5 m from each other which suggests that these numbers are achievable BUT it requires that we all DO THE RIGHT THING.

Other outdoor gatherings in the environs around the shed are no problem. There is more than enough space for several groups of 100 people. This means that we can have most club members attend the BGCC 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party on 27<sup>th</sup> June as long as everyone does the right thing with social distancing, hand, sneeze and cough hygiene and PLEASE STAY AWAY if you have any of the symptoms.

3. Communal facilities such as change-rooms can open if a risk assessment has been done and a strict cleaning regime is put into place. Opening of showers for use is being discussed by the committee and we should have an update later in the week.
4. Members must keep a record of the date and times that they use BGCC facilities. If you use a BGCC club boat or paddle, you are required to keep a record of which boat and paddle you

used as well as wash these before and after use with soap and water. This is really important so that should a member test positive, we can quickly trace all members who are at risk from infection.

The committee will continue to send you updates via emails, as they come available.

*Margi Böhm*, Safety Officer

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**A photo from Memory Lane, before BGCC even existed.**

This was a start from the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1978 Burley Griffin Bash

Though, by the look at the paddlers, I would guess it might be the Mini-Bash. Just look at the number of young paddlers – all going like stink in their nice stable boats, and rather heavy-looking paddles.



And for a more modern approach, here is our own Harmer HCC team of Steve and John. We are expecting Steve to be pushing John along the Hawkesbury for his 43<sup>rd</sup> event.

And our most modern BGCC luxury: the club meeting room, put to many uses and soon to be even more lovely, when the ceiling and insulation is installed.

*(Helen* Stand-in Editor)



## Kayaks and Skis for sale

### 2017 Carbonology Pulse Surfski

Very good condition and comes with a spare rudder. This is the fastest shape in the Carbonology range. Boat is currently in Mollymook but I can bring to Canberra or other spots on the coast for a test paddle. \$1,800 ono.



Please contact Gary Rake, email: [rakedover@gmail.com](mailto:rakedover@gmail.com), or mobile: 0419 139 648.

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### Surfski - Epic V10Sport - Ultra (red tip)

Purchased new early 2019 (new price \$4,995) and only used a couple of times & has been housed in the shed since. Comes with Epic Paddle and ski sock, selling price \$3500  
Length: 6.1 m, Width: 48 cm, Depth: 33 cm, Capacity: 136 kg Weight: 12.3kg



Contact Mark Gillett on Mobile ph 0402 514 403.

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### Race ready Max Kayaks K1 Viper - \$1500 ONO

Full carbon version, in very good to excellent condition; suit intermediate to advanced paddler; best for paddler weight up to 85kgs or so



Keen to sell and very happy to arrange a test paddle as needed, please contact Nic Jones via email to: [nicolas@onelittlewelshman.com](mailto:nicolas@onelittlewelshman.com), or phone 0466287898.

## 2020 -2021 BGCC Membership Fees: Helen Tongway

- Unless you have joined BGCC since September 2019 you are in for a whole new system!
- Renewals (for everyone) are due on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Go to:

<https://paddleaustralia.azolve.com/Account.mvc/Login>

Use your PA registered email address and then click on the “**Forgot Password?**”

With your email address and new password: **Login** Make sure you choose BGCC and then choose “Family” or “Adult” or “Junior” as suits your membership category.

- In line with PNSW (and PA), the BGCC membership fees have been held at last year’s level, but with a 25% discount because of our smoky start to the year and now our on-going Covid-19 restrictions to our activities. The Junior fees are for children aged Under 18 years. Children under 10 years may join PNSW for free, with the BGCC fee remaining at \$30 for Juniors taking part in regular paddling sessions.
- **All PNSW & BGCC Memberships are paid via PNSW and Paddle Australia.**

Category	PNSW fees	BGCC fees	Total
Adult – New Member	\$60	\$110	\$170
Adult – Renewing Member	\$60	\$60	\$120
Junior – New Member	\$23	\$80	\$103
Junior – Renewing Member	\$23	\$30	\$53
Family – New Members	\$Total of fees less 30%	\$250	\$variable
Family – Renewing	\$ Total of fees less 30%	\$150	\$variable
Children under 10 years of age	Free	\$30	\$30
Non-paddler, volunteers, officials, carers	Free	Free	Free!
Adult Single-event Membership	\$20		\$20
Junior Single-Event Membership	\$10		\$10

**Club Shed key-hire:** Annual Fee: \$75.Plus **Refundable Deposit** of \$50, for new key-hirers.

Private **boat in Club Shed:** Upgrade Membership fee: \$180

**Both private boat in Club Shed + Club Shed key-hire,** Upgrade Membership fee: \$255

Both Key-hire and private boat in shed membership require an approved Application Form for new Membership Upgraders.

***Those continuing their upgraded membership do not need to put in a new application each year.***

**Continuing** key-hire and boat-rack fees may be paid **at the same time as your membership renewal** on the PA/GoMembership system. As you will not be able to go back in to pay these fees later, use:

**Membership upgrades at:** <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=39907>

If your finances are such that you need a little more time to pay – then please contact me, to let us know that you are still in town and want to continue with BGCC, key and boats.

**Applications for permission** to keep your private boat in the club shed and (after 3 months’ BGCC membership) are on-line at <http://www.bgcc.org.au/index.php/administration> You only need to apply for the first time – after that your approval continues – as long as you pay your annual fees on time!

Club members whose applications come in later in the year pay a pro-rata fee, up to the end of each financial year.

See club website for how-to-pay links

*Helen.*