

***Paddle
QLD*** 

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



**Queensland
Government**



QORF
LIVE LIFE OUTDOORS

***Paddle
Australia*** 

WHAT IS THE ANNUAL REPORT?

PADDLE QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED PRESENTS THIS REPORT TO ITS MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORTING OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR 2019-2020.

This Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of the services delivered by Paddle Queensland Incorporated (PQ), the state sporting association, to PQ affiliated clubs, members, stakeholders and the broader community. The information contained in this report is taken from a variety of sources and from information gathered through our internal governance structure, including the Board, Sub-Committees, Technical Committees and staff.

The report is designed to provide the stakeholders and the general public with concise information about our objectives, strategies and performance during the past year in line with our Strategic Plan for 2019-2020.

This report also reflects our performance across the technical committees and demonstrates our continued commitment to responding to the needs of affiliated clubs and the Queensland paddlesports community.

Clubs are living in an environment of continual and rapid change and are demanding better and more integrated services from Paddle Queensland. One of the challenges for PQ is to seek new and innovative ways to respond to the different demands created by that change, by listening to what people want, and improve services to meet an increasing range of community needs. This can only be achieved if all parties are working collaboratively for the common goal. Communication needs to be a two way street within a positive environment.

Clubs have been invited to include a submission of their respective annual reports outlining activities, events and highlights from the year 2019-20 for others to review in years to come.

OUR HISTORY

PADDLE QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED (PQ) BEGAN AS A RESULT OF MANY PADDLERS WISHING TO REPRESENT THEIR OWN STATE IN COMPETITIONS. IT GREW FROM AN ACTIVE, LARGELY RECREATIONAL BASE WITH THE 'QUEENSLAND CANOE CLUB' THAT EXISTED IN THE 1930'S, 40'S AND 50'S RECEIVING INCORPORATION IN 1962 AS THE QUEENSLAND AMATEUR CANOE FEDERATION.

This was updated in March 1984 under the Incorporations Act of 1981 to Queensland Canoeing Federation Incorporated and then to the name of Queensland Canoeing Incorporated in 1994. At the 2018 AGM, the name was updated to Paddle Queensland Incorporated to better represent the wide array of paddle sports on offer through PQ and to align with Paddle Australia and the other SSOs.

Club and membership numbers fluctuate annually, but historically the average age of paddlers is between the 25 to 44 age group and the highest percentage of members falling into the 45 to 64 age bracket. The percentage of the 0 to 14 aged members in Paddlesports is low when compared to the general population of Queensland. PQ Continues to develop its strategies, policies and operations to focus on growing Paddlesports throughout Queensland in partnership with its clubs and members.

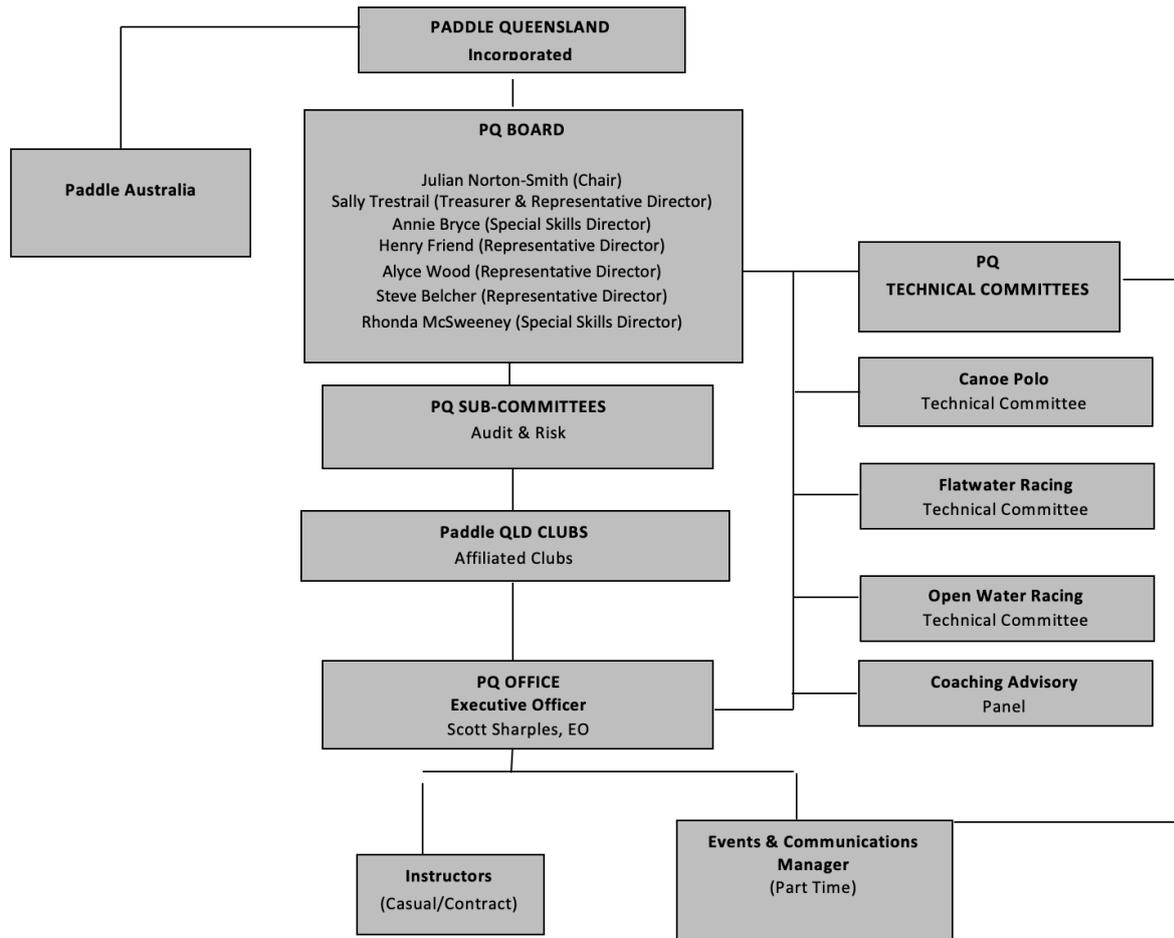
PQ operates with the major financial assistance of the Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works. We also acknowledge the income from club membership, our recreational and educational programs and successful grant applications. In 2012, Queensland Canoeing celebrated its 50th birthday with a black-tie dinner in conjunction with the annual awards.

In 2020, Paddle Queensland turns 58!

Life Members

1981	Sally Anne Gardner	Indooroopilly CC – Service to the sport of canoeing in Qld
1981	Julie Robertson	Logan CC – Service to the sport of canoeing in Qld
1981	Gary Gardner OAM (dec)	Indooroopilly CC- Service to the sport of canoeing in Qld
1997	Keith Bromham	Maryborough CC – Service to the sport of canoeing in Qld
1998	Bernie Dobe	Tinaroo CC – Service to education and canoeing in general.
1998	Gary Innes	Wynnum Redlands CC – Service to education and canoeing in general
1999	Digby Huffam	Wynnum Redlands CC – Service to the sport of canoeing in Qld
2000	Lenore Solomon	Ipswich District CC – Service to the sport of canoe polo in Qld
2001	Keith Hemmings	Service to the sport of canoeing in Qld
2001	Craig Humbley	Frogs Hollow CC – Service to the sport of canoeing in Qld
2004	Myra Holm	Nerang CC – Service to the sport of canoeing in Qld
2004	Ian Muir	Indooroopilly CC – Service to the sport of canoeing in Qld
2006	Josephine Holman	Currumbin Creek Canoe Club – Service to the sport of canoeing in Qld
2009	Jeremy Dunn	Fitzroy Canoe Club – Service to the sport of canoeing in Qld
2011	John Newton (dec)	Currumbin Creek Canoe Club – Service to the Sport of canoeing in Qld
2017	Ross Cook	Service to the Sport of canoeing in Qld
2017	Chris Hurley	Varsity Lakes Paddlers Club – Service to the Sport of canoeing in Qld

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



CHAIR'S REPORT

I am sure no one could have predicted the last 6-12 months with the COVID-19 pandemic taking over the world.

This past year was my second year as a Board member and first as PQ Chairman. The role as Chairman has been a steep yet positive learning curve which has enabled both the Board and I to see PQ through the pandemic period, coming out the other side standing on solid ground to move forward.

COVID-19 created immense change, with all members unable to train in squads nor participate in team boats. Clubs partly closed down with members unable to access their craft for weeks on end. However like Queenslanders do, we all fought through, worked hard to build COVID safe plans and were able to get back on the water. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work, understanding and support through the past 6 months to get PQ back on its feet, seeing clubs open up again and members paddling.

In writing this and reviewing some past Presidents' Reports, I noted that one of Jerry Dunn's wishes was gender balance on the Board. I am proud to announce that we now have four female members and three male members all of which paddle in one of our many disciplines. This year we welcomed Sally Trestrail (Treasurer), Annie Bryce and Alyce Wood. These three board members joined Rhonda McSweeney as well as Steve Belcher, Henry Friend and myself. All four ladies have been amazing and have brought their expertise and strong views to the Board's conversation.

While all Board members work hard to assist the PQ office and bring invaluable knowledge and professional skills to PQ, I have two special mentions. Firstly to Annie Bryce, Annie spent many hours advertising and then searching for a new EO for PQ. Annie read over 60 CV's and was able to short list down to three. In addition to this, she was part of the interview team. The second is Rhonda McSweeney, when PQ had the opportunity to purchase six new kayaks, Rhonda sourced three new sponsors to purchase two kayaks and paddles each. Without Rhonda's assistance, these kayaks would not have been purchased. The Board and I are very grateful for their commitment and hard work in taking on these endeavours.

As you would all know, the Board is proud to have appointed Scott Sharples as PQ's new EO. No words can justify the work that Scott has done, is doing or about to do for PQ and its members. Not only has Scott taken on everything the Board has asked of him, he has also built very strong relationships with clubs and members over his short time with PQ. Scott attended the Sprint Championships in Sydney, helped to build PQ's virtual paddling series, learnt how to paddle and attended club training days as well as events. In addition to this he is currently training to become an events official. Scott, I am sure all of our members would like to say thank you and welcome to PQ.

As Chairman I have several agenda items which I would like to achieve while in this position and on the Board. Some of these are below:

- Bring new members and experience to our tech committees. After a number of personal phone calls, every person I called was more than happy to volunteer to one of two new tech committees - flat water and open water. We now have seven flat water committee members and five open water members. Some have been on a committee before but most are for the first time. To all of you, I would like to say thank you.
- More Boats = More Members. As a coach myself, I understand the importance of having access to quality craft. This past year PQ has been able to purchase 12 new yellow plastic kayaks for our junior paddlers (7-12) to either 'Learn How To Paddle' or 'Come and Try Days'. Six of these kayaks were purchased by PQ and the other six were sponsored by CrimSafe, Hastings Deering CAT and Flight Centre. I personally spoke to a 7 year old from Sunshine Coast Paddlesports Club who loved that he was able to paddle with the big kids, could steer and balance the kayak. These kayaks are to be moved around to all the member clubs so to assist with membership growth and to get current members paddling.

Over the past 12 months, the Board has had so many great strategic plan items come to light. One of these was to move PQ from Brisbane to the Gold Coast. Our new home in Varsity Lakes brings unlimited opportunities which we have not yet had time to take advantage of. In the pipeline are the running of council activity health programs, come and try days as well as school groups and new paddling events that all await us over the coming years. Not to mention new employment opportunities for our members and elite athletes.

In finishing, I would like to thank Chris Hurley for his years of service to PQ and paddling. Chris stood down this year from all his committees both within PQ and PA. We would like to wish him the best in his coaching programs for Currumbin Canoe Club and any other paddling opportunities that come his way.

I would also like to thank the Board and Scott for your hard work and willingness to be on call for phone calls or weekly meetings. You have also showed amazing professionalism and ensured that we are all moving in a forward and positive direction.

As mentioned, this first year as Chairman has been amazing. I have learnt a lot about the needs of members and hope that both the Board and my agenda for the future of PQ is one that you all can be proud of. Paddle Queensland's main focus is being here to support you, our members, and help to grow the sport that we all love paddling.

Julian Norton-Smith
PQ Chairman

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Welcome Affiliated Clubs, Life Members, Individual Members, Registered Instructors, Guides, Coaches and Officials.

Since my appointment in late November, Paddle Queensland has been a hive of activity.

2019 finished strongly with a Community Christmas Paddle held in December hosted by Brisbane Canoeing.

2020 started with a bang, with the State Sprint Canoe Championships held at Lake Wyaralong in January. The Championships saw 65 paddlers from across the State give their all to earn a spot on the State team and earn the right to represent the great State of Queensland at the National Championships in March.

In February, I met with Paddle Australia and our State Member Associations at the first National Paddling Forum in Sydney. The two-day forum provided the opportunity to meet Paddle Australia staff members and form relationships to ensure the needs of our members are heard, reviewed and a positive outcome achieved for our community.

Following the National Paddling Forum, I attended the Canoe Polo State Champs at Springfield Lakes and was treated to seeing the State's current and future Canoe Polo stars in the making. Unfortunately, due to severe weather conditions the event was cancelled.

March will be remembered as a milestone month for the office. To start, the first marathon event of the year, the Tingalpa Trot was held by the Wynnum Redlands Canoe Club with 74 paddlers taking to the water. The sport secured its new long-term home on Lake Orr at Sports House Varsity Lakes providing direct water access thanks to the support of the City of Gold Coast. The move to the Gold Coast will allow the office to develop recreational and educational programs currently underway in Brisbane while increasing the profile of the sport at the same time. An additional benefit to moving to the Gold Coast is the proximity of the newly formed Paddle Australia National Centre of Excellence at Pizzey Park, while sharing the same home as the Australian Senior Men's team providing access to the best resources the sport has to offer.

March also saw 25 paddlers represent our great State at the National Championships in trying conditions. Queenslanders exceeded their own expectations and secured 119 medals over the five-day event. The National Championships were also the final qualification event for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. During the Championships six athletes secured their ticket on the Australian team. A further eight athletes secured their places in the U23, 21 and Junior teams.

March also saw the reintroduction of the QANOE Masthead to all member communications.

The COVID-19 pandemic was announced to the paddling community at the National Championships and is still impacting our daily lives.

Paddle Australia and the State Member Associations worked tirelessly throughout March to June to ensure the paddling community were provided with the latest information to ensure the safety of all paddlers resulting in multiple updates and the development of the Paddle of Foundation.

To ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of the Queensland paddle community were prioritised, the office partnered with the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation and lobbied, the Local and State Governments to ensure access to waterways remained open during the pandemic.

With the constantly changing landscape, the office continued supporting the community through regular meetings with National and State bodies to develop plans for the eventual Return to Play activities while supporting the needs of our affiliated clubs and members.

As the pandemic continued to spread all events across the State were postponed or cancelled during March, April, May and June.

Due to the great work of the Queensland Government and the Queensland community, activities and events are starting to return under the approved Aquatic Sport Sector Industry COVID Safe Plans and COVID Safe Event Checklists.

Pacific Coast Virtual Series

The Virtual Series was developed to support our Affiliated Clubs, their members and the wider paddle sports community following the COVID-19 pandemic and launched in April.

Since its launch, the Virtual Series has been received extremely well with over 350 participants taking part. Over 200 10k and 150 5k sessions have been completed over the three rounds with over 7,500 kilometres paddled.

While the Virtual Series was development prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic it will play a key role of the office's participation and pathway programs for years to come.

Board

During the 2018-19 Annual General Meeting, Julian Norton-Smith was elected as the new President of the Board. Rhonda McSweeney was joined by Annie Bryce as Special Skills Directors. Chris Hurley and Sally Trestrail were also welcomed as Representative Directors.

Paddle Queensland would like to thank the outgoing President Peter Cooke for his many years of service as well as Lucy Snelling for her time as Treasurer on the Board.

Chris Hurley resigned from the Board and Technical Committees to focus on the development of paddlers and the growth of the Currumbin Creek Paddle Club and CV Paddlers. Paddle Queensland would like him for his years of service.

With Chris's departure, the board was presented with the opportunity to invite an elite athlete to the board to help grow the profile of the sport. Alyce Wood was welcomed to the Board as a Representative Director.

Following the United Paddle Management (UPM) structure, the Paddle Queensland 2020-2024 Strategic and Operational plans have now been finalised. The Board's direction will focus on ensuring the five pillars (Participation, Development, Performance, Sustainability and Stakeholders) of the UPM, PQ Strategic and Operational plans are front of mind in every activity and engagement across the community.

Paddle Queensland's mission is to promote, support and unite all levels and types of paddling. The Office and Board will ensure we act and represent the sport with our core values of Collaboration, Inclusiveness, Transparency and Excellence on display at all times so we can fulfil our vision of *More People Paddling, More of the Time*.

Staff

With my arrival at Paddle Queensland, Michelle Scoccimarro was contracted to help in my transition to the office and I would like to thank Michelle, Sam and Steve for all their support during the end of 2019.

Paddle Queensland was not immune to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and were saddened by the departures of Samantha Parker (Events and Communication Manager) and Steven Rowland (Education and Recreation Manager).

With the completion of the 2020-24 Paddle Queensland Strategic Plan and the Queensland activity landscape returning to the new COVID-19 norm, an Events Manager will be recruited as a welcomed addition to the office.

Technical Committees

Paddle Queensland's Affiliated Clubs and Members are incredibly lucky to have passionate and committed discipline experts across our three Technical Committees. They drive the development, engagement and growth of each respective discipline.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication each Technical Committee member provides the State to ensure paddlers of all disciplines are able to participate and enjoy their time on and off the water.

New Club Affiliations

Paddle Queensland would like to welcome the Mooloolaba Paddlers, Gold Coast Outrigger Canoe Club, Noosa Outrigger Canoe Club and the Hervey Bay Outrigger Canoe Club to the Paddle Queensland family.

Club Members

With the implementation of GoMembership Paddle Queensland Club Members finished the year with 942 active paddle members.

Stakeholders and Partners

Paddle Queensland would like to acknowledge and thank the State Government for their continued funding of active recreation programs across Queensland.

The State Government's financial support enables Paddle Queensland to ensure its mission of promoting, supporting and uniting all levels and types of paddling is achievable.

Paddle Queensland would also like to thank Crimsafe Security Systems, Hastings Deering CAT and Flight Centre for their sponsorship of six junior development kayaks.

Paddle Queensland proactively engages and advocates with the Local Government Association of Queensland, Maritime Safety Queensland, Local, Region and City Councils to improve facilities, access to waterways, water quality and safety.

Paddle Queensland values the strong partnerships it has developed with the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation and the Queensland Sports Federation who represent the best interests of active recreation and sport within Queensland.

In closing, I would like to thank the Paddle Queensland community for welcoming me to the family with open arms and I look forward to working with you all as we strive to increase the paddling opportunities across the great state of Queensland.

Scott Sharples

Executive Officer

OUR TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

Thanks to our Technical Committees and Representatives who contribute so unselfishly to plan and conduct events, activities and opportunities to develop, improve and promote their respective disciplines. Our committees and volunteers are a huge part of what makes Paddle Queensland and their continuing support, enthusiasm and friendship is greatly appreciated!

FLATWATER COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs

- Ben Lloyd
- Scott Sharples

Committee Members

- Gavin Cook
- Ian Frost
- Alyce Wood
- Susan Seipel
- Donna Wilson
- Ian Swane

OPENWATER COMMITTEE

Chair

- Tom Armitt

Committee Members

- Bonnie Hancock
- Craig Spender
- Alex Lloyd
- Troy Pearse
- Julian Norton-Smith

CANOE POLO COMMITTEE

Chair

- Donald Leigh

Committee Members

- Chris Steel
- Don Steel
- Alice Croft
- Guy Stephens
- Peter Cooke

COACHING ADVISORY PANEL

Members

- Shaun Caven
- Peter Winton
- Julian Norton-Smith

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FLATWATER & OPENWATER COMMITTEES

The initial meetings held by both Racing Technical Committees were focused on looking at the status and direction of racing in Queensland. From their initial meetings the Racing Technical Committees are looking for additional support and assistance from Paddle Queensland to assist race organisers. The goal of both Racing Technical Committees is to provide an improved racing experience both on and off the water.

By working closer with Paddle Queensland, the Racing Technical Committees will be able to provide consistent event delivery while negotiating the minefield of various organisational, safety and governance requirements to successfully run races across our great State.

Whilst the early meetings set this goal as an aspiration, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has unfortunately interfered with the processes and placed restrictions on the committee members themselves.

Both Racing Technical Committees remained positive during these challenging times and have set a goal of conducting safe and successful races later this year.

CANOE POLO

2019 Winter Series

Three A teams and three B teams competed in the three round Winter Series.

2019 Development Camp

Over 20 aspiring Canoe Polo athletes attended the Development Camp over the October Long weekend.

2020 State Champs

The 2020 State Championships were attended by six teams over a 12 game, two pool format at Springfield Lakes in February. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side and the State Championships were postponed due to storms.

With the COVID-19 pandemic taking hold in mid-March the State Championships and the scheduled National Championships in April were cancelled putting an early end to the Canoe Polo year.

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CLUB REPORTS



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BALLINA OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

The club continues to be mainly comprised of over sixties so it is likely to continue to be an adventure club based on fun and fitness, with the occasionally Pacific Coast event to satisfy the competitive urges of some members.

It has been inspiring to see that members have embraced environmental projects. The club regularly took turbidity readings of the Richmond River which gave excellent base line data to monitor the effect of bush fires. It also took part in a large scale salt marsh monitoring project in conjunction with Ozfish and is an accredited member of Landcare.

Prior to COVID-19 the club was growing slowly with very enthusiastic new members and an expanded committee. With the cessation of paddling all of this stopped. The club made an early decision which was reviewed regularly. When it was possible, small boat paddling was resumed, with a Covid safe plan, and then when restrictions were lifted to allow OC6 paddling, the club resumed with a celebratory hit out in the OC12.



However, by the end of July Covid 19 was tightening its grip again and some club members decided to cease paddling.

The club has ordered two new OC2 canoes and was given an old OC1 so it will have a significant fleet of small boats, thus allowing it to continue even if Covid 19 restrictions are tightened.

In summary, it was a great year right up to the point that the pandemic hit. There is a lot of uncertainty with the pandemic, but whatever happens the club is still in a strong position to regroup and rebuild.

BRISBANE CANOEING

2019-2020 has been a most eventful year.

Despite the current landscape, Brisbane Canoeing has seen an increase in the number of memberships, now sitting at 45. The Intro to Kayaking program remains overwhelmingly popular with waitlists for most programs. This remains a critical revenue stream for the club.

The club has seen increased representation in broader events including the Pacific Coast Paddle Series in 2019 and the Virtual series in 2020. Brisbane Canoeing dusted off the K4 and entered its first womens team in the John Newton Challenge in 2019. With restrictions lifting it may be time to start training again!

In the second half of 2019, Paddle Australia granted short-term funding to QLD to initiate a pathway coaching program for Brisbane-based competitive juniors. Based at Brisbane Canoeing this provided another level of coaching one day per week in the lead up to the National Sprint Championships in March. Timing of the program may not have allowed for the uptake that was hoped but it did see the Brisbane region gain two more Level 1 qualified coaches and 4 of the juniors that participated compete at State Championships with two travelling to Sydney to compete at the National Sprint Championships. As the only National Championships this year, due to COVID-19, Brisbane Canoeing was represented by 5 athletes all being extremely successful in their age categories and Susan Seipel achieving Paralympic Selection at the event.

An important milestone in the year, was the engagement by Brisbane City Council's Oxley Creek Transformation Team with plans to build a watersports hub at our site and renovate the parkland as part of the long-term plan for Oxley Creek. The Community Day was overwhelmingly successful with local community supporting the redevelopment of the parkland and most importantly the building of a watersports facility, which will potentially provide a new clubhouse for Brisbane Canoeing. Plans are currently being drawn for submission to council and governing bodies for approval of the planned precinct. Work continues with the Oxley Creek Transformation Group.

An enormous thank you must go to the executive and broader club committee for their outstanding dedication throughout the year, particularly during COVID-19 restrictions. When numerous sporting clubs closed their doors we were able to keep as many members as safely possible on the water due to the engagement.

BRISBANE PADDLING CLUB

What a year, with COVID-19 being the new norm we were able to continue to some degree with our club training and weekend warrior exploits albeit at a safe social distance.

We are gaining new club members every month and our training sessions out of the Breakfast Creek and on the Gold Coast (Varsity Lakes and Currumbin Creek) are all well attended and hosted by our resident super coach Julian Norton-Smith from Paddle 2 Fitness.

The Paddle Australia 'Go Membership' platform is now up and running and we can see a great future for our club utilising all the benefits this platform can provide our growing club in membership management, events management and the sales of club apparel and boat storage when they come on line. A shout out to Paddle Australia for all the hard work that must have gone into this platform, well done!

While our club is yet to have its 3rd birthday, with over 76 active members, we have enjoyed enormous success with the taking out of the local 2019 Pacific Coast Paddle Series for the second year in a row. We also hosted our first PCPS race in September 2019 which was a fun event and race entry numbers were high. Add to this national and international representations culminating in 5 of our members representing Australia at the 2019 World Championships of Ocean Surf Ski in France. Our club, whilst its relatively small and still in its infancy, we feel that we bat above the average!

We have achieved this all without a club house, with members having to meet on the side of the road to paddle from either Breakfast Creek for flat water or Currumbin Creek for surf and open water work outs. But a recent Brisbane City Council decision to upgrade much needed drainage works to a promised (now over 3 years in the making) facility on the banks of Breakfast Creek may see us in a Club House with boat storage by Christmas. Our next hurdle will be to negotiate with the BCC for a pontoon for safe water entry at this location, as currently there is no access from this location, stay tuned!

I would also like to thank all those volunteers we see at all the events and a big shout out to our own BPC members who have taken roles on the PQ board and the Technical Committees within PQ to guide us on our path. It makes for a special inclusive and progressive environment to be involved in when you see people selflessly giving up their time. We are not only grateful for their time but the expertise they bring to the table ... well done BPC.



Alex Lloyd, Rod and Judy Bligh medalists at the Makai Cup, February 2020



Alex Lloyd, Ben Lloyd, Kylie Hirst, Sally Trestail & David Knight representing Australia in the World Championships of Ocean Surf Ski in France, 2019

BROKEN PADDLE CANOE CLUB

- Sporting Club involvement promotes a sense of belonging, and self-worth as well as developing a variety of skills, resilience, strength, endurance and physical and mental health.
- This Club is no exception and has provided recreation and sporting options for all age groups, across a number of disciplines that range from pure recreation to top level team competition, with equipment to match, in its 20 years of incorporation.
- Like other clubs though we are seeing a declining membership base with a small group of dedicated volunteers running the club. A big thank you to Brad Grant - Treasurer; Rob Wigginton - Membership; Gareth Drabble - Vice President; Melissa Davies - Facebook communications/fund raiser coordinator; Libby Clarke - Secretary; Alice Croft - Canoe Polo Contact Paddle Queensland; Colin Anderson and Steve Peck - Equipment Officers and Robyn Groundwater - behind the scenes support!

Highlights for 2019-20

- Our club continued to operate with a stronger junior presence in the face of a stagnant membership base
- Working around/within COVID-19 conditions - A big thank you to Paddle Australia and Paddle Queensland for assisting with all the paperwork and guidelines to ensure we could start operating in a safe manner

Grants

- Once again BPCC was successful in obtaining a State Government Grant to purchase new helmets, bumpers and have 2 larger sized polo boats made. A big thank you to Robyn for writing it, Col and Rob organising spending of the money and for Rob acquitting it.
- We have funds set aside for (but are yet to complete) the Paddle Qld Sea Kayak Guide training course for Brad, Rob and Col.

Membership/Finances

- Over the year we had 29 members with a definite lack of people aged 16-30 years.
- The Club's financial position is declining with us having to draw upon our term deposit to have enough operating cash flow. We keep our fees very affordable particularly in the junior area. Whilst the grants have assisted, they also come with having to pay GST.
- To this end, we are no longer able to provide free memberships to our dedicated volunteers but will be asking them to pay half fees - the reduced insurance component of fees to Paddle Australia this year will assist greatly - to prevent the club losing money.
- As fund-raising ventures we have joined the "Cash for Containers" scheme and held 1 sausage sizzle at the local Mitre 10 before COVID-19 hit

The Future

- Unfortunately, I am uncertain of the club's viability without a growing senior membership in particular. Most of our executive have been in one position or another since its inception and we have not been able to replace those members who are wishing to retire.
- We are looking forward to borrowing the Paddle Queensland Racing Kayaks for our junior members to give them a different experience over the off season when we can use Wyaralong Dam whilst the pool is closed.
- There are a number of experienced "Seniors" in our local area with their own boats who are not wanting to join a club, possibly for financial reasons but possibly other reasons. This is an issue for our club and PQ to consider in relation to attracting these paddlers back to the club.
- Finally a big thank you to Scott Sharples in assisting us with the Stripe account and other membership concerns and queries as a club that we have had.

BULIMBA SOCIAL PADDLE CLUB

We are the Bulimba Social Paddle Club. We formed our club last year as a social paddle club with fun, fitness and wellness as our main goal. We have a 6 person outrigger canoe and most of our members have their own single paddle craft.

We started with 2 afternoon sessions per week and now, we are up to 5 sessions per week.

As a PQ club, we can arrange flexible times and programs, for example, to cater for mature and rehabilitating paddlers.

Whilst some sessions are hard training, we balance this by regularly hosting paddles with a BBQ or beer n biccies to follow.

We are located on the grounds of the Brisbane Sailing Squadron at Bulimba and plan on joining in with their junior learn to sail and opening day in September.

Our plans for the future are to purchase another 6 man outrigger canoe and single craft to expand our membership.

Life's better on the water!

CURRUMBIN CREEK PADDLERS CLUB

Our club has functioned extremely well over the last 12 months and that is testament to the dedication of both members and the committee they have chosen to elect to administer their club.

Our structured events are well run and attended, these include our time trials and our club events in the PCPS. Our social paddles are also well attended. Club learn to paddle days are sought after and result in increasing our membership, Grant Epple and Di Wood are tireless with their endeavours.

Our club meetings and procedures including, general, committee and AGM are held in accordance with the registered clubs act and our accounts are audited. Our membership continues to increase, and many attend our events and other activities.

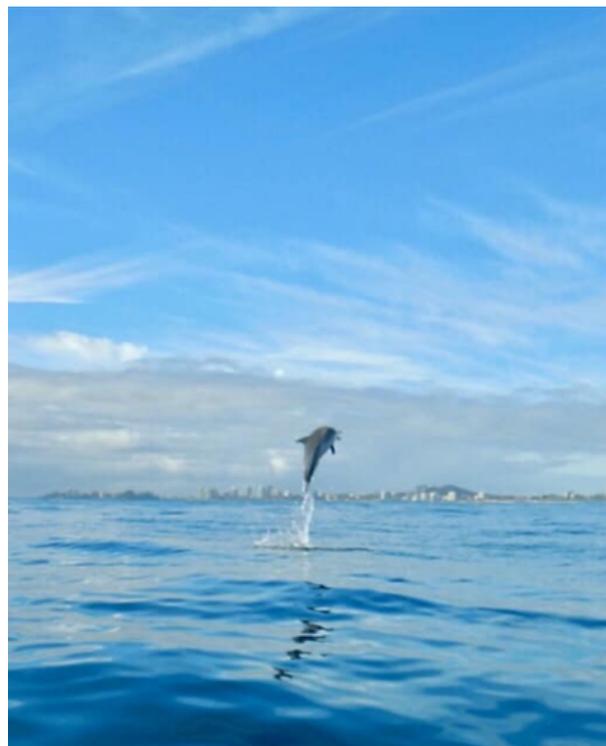
Our end of year dinner was an outstanding success and filled the room. CCPC executive committees' decision to support CV paddlers and have them operate out of Sports House at Varsity has been a revelation, Pete Winton, Chris Hurley, Brooke Cross and many other of our club members make this facility and the contribution to paddling by both juniors and seniors worthwhile. The junior program on the Gold Coast in particular would be non-existent without these very dedicated individuals.

Our club is not about "winning awards" our aim is to have members enjoy their club facilities, enjoy paddling in both competitive and social events. Our many club champions know who they are and go about their business in a humble and dignified manner.

Many members make our club what it is today, and this is evident when we have our club working bee at our club boat storage facility.

Our club monthly time trial is also an opportunity for our members to gather socially. We are fortunate to have been the beneficiary of grants we have applied for, which allows us to purchase equipment necessary to function as a club, where we are all volunteers.

The inset photo was taken on Saturday 11th July this year by Julieanne White one of our club members during a social paddle out the front of Currumbin/Palm Beach Reef.



WEST END CANOE CLUB

Like everyone else the latter part of 2020 has been a bit of a roller coaster ride for the West End Canoe Club (WECC) with major changes to our activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a bit more on these later. As far as the usual things go the club has maintained its membership of 40 people with a 38% female participation rate, and I would hasten to add that the ladies are turning up a lot more than some of our male members these days! The new Paddle Australia system has certainly improved our operations with a much better email system and it has greatly assisted in ensuring all our membership fees have been collected a lot faster than last year.

We did have big plans to expand our club house in association with one of the nearby rowing clubs, unfortunately this became a bit too expensive for us to be able to sustain on our relatively small membership base. However, we have had an improved relationship with our current landlord the South Brisbane Sailing Club and are working with them to try and get more storage and better change room facilities which would greatly benefit both clubs. There continues to be very strong demand in West End for boat storage and this aspect of our current premises is the principal limiter on expanding our membership. To try and help those without boats of their own WECC has embarked on a program of replacing their old TK club boats with newer skis and we were very grateful to the Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor's Fund and Councillor Sri for their support in purchasing a new club Epic V8pro Ski shown below.

WECC isn't a big race participant club and with the curtailing of most events in 2020 we don't have much to report on that front however, with the lifting of restrictions in Queensland we have been able to run our very popular Estimator race on a monthly basis of recent months and it has been very well attended.

Finally of course the big news of 2020 was the COVID-19 issues and fortunately enough WECC has been able to continue paddling on the Brisbane River, though it has produced some interesting and innovative "changing rooms" in the carpark as the change rooms were out of service. In fact the paddling was probably some of the best we have ever experienced in our section of the river with the rowers all out of action the water was often undisturbed by them and their accompanying tinnies making the water mostly smooth (well as smooth as the Brisbane River ever gets!) and we only had to cope with the occasional ferry. Now things have returned to a more normal setting and the club is continuing to travel along well and hopefully meeting the needs of most of its members.



We are looking forward to a good year in 2020 – 2021 with the principle project working with the SBSC to try and find additional storage space for boats and hence increase our membership to meet the demand in West End.

HERVEY BAY OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

Hervey Bay Outrigger Canoe Club (HBOCC) was originally an Outrigging club established in 2011 and operates under AOCRA (Australian Outrigger Canoe Race Association) and more recently with Paddle Queensland.

Our vision for HBOCC is to grow our membership. We want to share our knowledge and the enjoyment of all paddle sports with the community of Hervey Bay, to help as many people experience, learn and be more active on the water. Since our affiliation with Paddle Queensland, we have opened our club to other paddle craft to help broaden our membership. This includes new and existing members who own their own crafts (ski, SUP, kayak) to participate more actively. We take pride teaching member water safety and technique. Working together with the wider community to champion every member, regardless of age, race, gender, cultural background and physical ability.

Our key outcomes and focus:

1. Getting members of our community moving and being more active on the water and building Hervey Bay OCC community.
2. Connecting other paddle craft within our club and creating a community.
3. Inspire our community through experience & teaching.

INDOOROOPILLY CANOE CLUB

Indooroopilly Canoe Club continues to be a great place to come to paddle for fitness to race or for leisure.

The club is continuing to build with good governance in place and the committee is focussed on three key elements. Membership, Facilities and Equipment.

Membership

Memberships were static for FY20 with numbers hovering about 100. The AGM in 2019 saw the standing members Sal Gardner, Phil Pegg, Ian Muir and Cameron Fairlie awarded life membership. This long outstanding recognition is well deserved. Indooroopilly Canoe Club now has a total of 6 life members.

COVID-19 and the Riverwalk project has dropped the persons paddling down. We should see this improve later in FY21.

Equipment

Indooroopilly Canoe Club was awarded close to \$40,000 in grants in FY20. We used this money to continue to improve the equipment at the club providing 6 ocean skis along with new life jackets, paddles and associated equipment. Additionally, a trailer has been purchased. This equipment goes on top other equipment purchased in the previous year (new double ocean skis).

Facilities

Work has commenced on the \$56 million Indooroopilly River Walk. This infrastructure goes directly through the facilities of the club. The club has worked extensively with council to ensure that all parties can achieve the best outcome and we would like to thank the Riverwalk team on their engagement.

As this work progresses, we expect that we will be able to finalise the works program for the club which will include new storage facilities, club house, a new purpose designed pontoon and associated landscaping works. These works will improve the club to having the best facilities on the river.

As a club we look forward to a post COVID-19 era where we are able to do all things paddling.



MAGNETIC ISLAND OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

It is an especially meaningful time to reflect upon what Maggie and her members has achieved over the last few years.

These have been difficult years, although at the same time, full of spirit and satisfaction due to the continual improvements in Maggie. None of it would have been possible without the determination of the Club members, and support from Gaming Fund, Sports and Recreation, Paddle Australia, Paddle Queensland, Grants and businesses such as the Bellevue Hotel, Cowboys League Club and Grill'd.

Maggie has certainly taken on a new look this year and has found her home:-

- Home without politics
- Home for all codes of paddlers
- Home for tradition and culture
- Home for paddlers and families as being the key focus and
- Home for adventure and fun.

I would like to thank our hard working committee, as well as our amazing members who support us by giving up their personal time to attend raffles and fund raising events. Without this our operations would look a little different. A special thank you to our maintenance crew Rod, Ash, Michael and Kim...job well done as well as a mention to Jed and Max our trusty support crew.

Maggie is more than just an adventure or paddling club---it is a community a hub that develops a connectedness and support for all who join her. Our accomplishments:

- Funding
- New Canoes, paddles
- Networking – re junior clinics
- Clinics for members
- Education development with Paddle Australia, AIS and Good Sports
- Increase in membership
- Community – paying it forward – environment= Clean up our Water Ways Project, Litehaus Foundation, Women's Shelter, Lids 4 Kids, Sun Bus and Queensland AFL Master Women's team
- Programs – non alcoholic environment and healthy eating program –Good Sports
- Development: new outriggering stroker technique introduced, paddling fitness and coaching developments
- Adventures- lots and lots- beaches, creeks, national parks
- Racing – triathlons, and individual

As always, our members are guided in what we do by the Club's purpose, as defined in its ethos: MIOCC culture to be a holistic approach to paddling, which embeds: Remembering the Bigger Picture – its just not about hitting the water – it is bigger than that, Paddling culture and tradition, Respect for our traditional owners, respect for each other - enjoy each other's company, Support and assist in and out of paddling our Maggie family, Family and friend orientated, A switch off from work and school pressures, Inclusive of all members, Ownership of all aspects and resources by members,

Enjoyment and fun, that caters for all aspects of paddling, No club is bigger than its members and no members are bigger than its club, Building networks and Remembering that our dictionary says **I'm Possible BECAUSE of Maggie Mates**



NOOSA OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

As we are all aware, this was a year with a difference. This is not the time to comment on events we are now so familiar with, rather perhaps reflect on the resilience of the club and its members, who in many ways have collectively demonstrated the values we stand for, many of which have been put to the test, but have been upheld. The necessary shutdown of team canoe training and events was met with disappointment, understanding and much patience, so a credit to all members. On land however, business continued and the club took stock of the situation and embarked on an accelerated program of maintenance. Our sheds were repainted and cleaned out, our fleet of racing Kamanu's were refurbished including sleek new paintwork designs and the Committee focused on forward planning in many areas. As we now pick up from where we left off, we look forward to training and competitions and we have certainly hit the ground running in both these areas.

Competitive Events

As much of the Competition Season was cancelled this year following the Sydney Harbour Challenge in February, the club was forced to close with members effectively limited to training in OC1, OC2 and OC3 craft. Negotiations were reopened with the Zone and NOCC secured two "Reset" Events for September "Noosa River" and December "Laguna Bay".

Fleet Acquisitions & Maintenance

The Club acquired two Canoes from club funds for training and competition purposes. Our New Tahitian Matahina brings our fleet of OC6 Canoes up to 12 and will help keep our teams competitive. The OC4 is already proving an excellent training canoe and importantly help ensure OC6's can be used in training and bar crossing without empty seats. Our fleet of OC6 Kamanu's have all been refurbished and the club's fleet is in "as new" condition, ready for use in Regattas.

Memberships

This year NOCC has extended its lead as the largest Outrigger Club in the country with 169 members. We currently have a number of potential new members participating in 7er training sessions, and we expect to recruit new members throughout the remainder of the year as come and try events are re-instated after months of close-down. I also refer to our strategic plan which points to alternative long term opportunities to secure greater membership; principally through our relationship with other paddle sports in Noosa.

Coaching

The year continued with the agreed coaching structure for the club. This included the appointment of 3 head coaches as well as the approval of a number of club coaches with better defined responsibilities. We can also welcome several new coaches to the club thanks to volunteering for coaches courses with great results.....well done to our new coaches, you are our future and we are optimistic you will shape the club and the business of competitive paddling in the years to come.

Affiliation with Paddle Queensland

As part of our Strategic Plan, the club engaged with Paddle Queensland and is currently finalising Membership with them - a move which is seen to create exciting future opportunities for the club. Noosa is an excellent venue for all sort of paddle craft events, and NOCC has a wealth of experience in hosting successful River and Bay events which increasingly include a broader range of paddle craft including SurfSkis.

Roundup

I think you will all see that this Club has successfully steered its way through a bigger challenge than the Noosa Bar for a change! We have shown calm and resilience and have taken the opportunity to consolidate our business and gather ourselves for an even brighter future. Well done everybody, see you on the water!

NORTH WEST CANOE CLUB

Like all sporting clubs, the North West Canoe Club has faced considerable challenges in 2020 but we paddle on.

In October 2019 the Club held its annual Dragon Boat Regatta at the Lake Moondarra Fishing Classic. The regatta is always hotly contested with friendly but fierce competitiveness building during the Saturday afternoon practice sessions held during the lead up to the event.

The November AGM brought some new blood to the executive with Peter Walters taking over as president and Alison Martens stepping into the secretary role. Georgie Anthanasiou continued as long-term treasurer. Thanks to the long-term members who continue to provide guidance and do much of the real behind the scenes work. And to newer members who have also put their hands up for tasks.

Preparations for the 45th Gregory River Canoe Marathon were well underway when Burke Shire announced its closure due to COVID-19 and the race had to be postponed and then cancelled due to on-going uncertainty. Not daunted, NWCC ran the inaugural Virtual Gregory for six weeks from 3 May to mid-June. The club was surprised by the success of the event with 90 people from across Australia and even one paddler from Ohio, USA. The virtual event was so successful it looks as though it may become an annual event held in conjunction with the actual race.

We're looking forward to what the rest of 2020 and 2021 bring us even though it looks as if the rest of the year will be quiet.

PANDANUS PADDLE CLUB

Pandanus Paddle Club (PPC) , now nearing 3 years since its inception, is located at Norfolk Point on the Manly Boat Harbour in Brisbane. This fabulous location allows it's paddling members easy access to the pristine waters of Moreton Bay. We have increased our membership from 23 to nearing 30 outrigger members in the last few months.

We remain ever grateful for the generosity of our landlord/lessee in allowing us the use of this very unique and coveted space adjacent to his commercial operation. The past 12 months has been extremely challenging and very busy for PPC on several fronts. With our tenure not secure, our future at this site remains in jeopardy/unsure. In December 2019 the committee, with a group of dedicated hard working members formed a Project team to submit an application to the QLD government's (land owner) Expression of Interest process for this site. Despite our attempts in putting forward a strong case to establish a community facility for a people powered craft in Manly Boat Harbour, we were unsuccessful. The Project team in the last 6 months have also been extremely busy investigating other options for the club's location. The search continues and we continue to fight the fight.

Like all sporting clubs, the COVID-19 pandemic took its toll and limited paddling for some months. Many thanks to all of those involved who helped prepare us to be Covid safe, once restrictions were eased, and thanks to all the members for their cooperation in adhering to our new procedures.

Fortunately, pre-Covid, in December 2019, some members participated in the Motu to Motu Outrigging event held in the exotic location in Aitutaki in the Cook Islands. Pairing an idyllic island holiday in a magic part of the world with your passion for paddling is an amazing experience.

On the local front, and with the restrictions in place around travel, PPC, with the expertise of our coaching crew, will hold its own internal competitions on Moreton Bay to keep motivation and participation rates high. Whilst we may be limited in where we can go, we are truly grateful in having such a glorious Moreton Bay at our door step - a welcome relief from the COVID-19 world we live in.

Should border restrictions ease, some members will paddle in October at the Clarence 100 event. This combined with some local paddling events will be keeping us focused for the rest of the year. We have been very fortunate to realise our vision to build our internal capacity and capability aided by several successful grants both from the Brisbane City Council and the Queensland government. These grants have funded two new canoes, a number of Paddling Workshops and some new equipment. This has meant we have been able to take on new members, offer more training sessions and build our paddling skills.

Thanks must go to Paddle QLD, in particular Scott Sharples, for his support with our submissions to government bodies, their continued navigation/advice/support through the COVID-19 crisis and for their innovation in providing various competitions to keep us all going through these tough times.

Looking ahead, as a close knit passionate club, we are positive for our future.

SANDGATE PADDLING CLUB

The Sandgate Paddling Club has enjoyed another great 12 months as we now head toward our 26th year. We have over 160 members at present and remain the biggest paddling club in Queensland. It has been an absolute honour and privilege to be the President of this club for the past four years. I have relished working with the whole management team and they have all been very dedicated. We have spent a record amount of money on training whilst maintaining an enviable financial position. The benefits of club skills will be borne out in many years to come. Congratulations to the successful participants and a big thank you to in-house and external trainers.

COVID19 has created an extra challenge but our club has handled it well.

There have been many annual highlights including:

- The John Newton Team Boat Challenge, Marathons, Tingalpa Trot and the off-season King Billy 5k Handy Cap Time Trial.
- The 2018/2019 AGM with a Welcome to Country
- The 25th Birthday Celebrations, was fun for all with Games, music and Cake
- The fit out of our new shed, Good job from the working bees.
- Sea kayaking paddles on both sides of the river plus Upper and CBD parts of Brisbane River
- The Pacific Coast Paddle Series 2019 (SPC was second in club points)
- The Christmas and Awards party at QCYC
- King Billy Series (Congratulations to Trent, Donna and Jenny)
- The Interclub "Olympics" and SARP days
- VMR Open Day.
- Junior racing success
- Senior racing success
- 8 New Sea Guides

All volunteers are appreciated throughout the year and there are many who work quietly behind the scenes that contribute greatly and include:

- Training courses and website management
- Keeping the accounts in good order
- The role of boat booking officer.
- Carrying out maintenance on our hire fleet.
- Preparing paddle plans.
- Welcoming new 'Creekies'.
- Organising paddling training courses
- Organising of camping events.
- Instructing Basic Skills.

This club has a great history and a promising future. We will continue with whole of club activities. We aim for diversity and inclusion and do not discriminate based on gender, sexual orientation, race or religion and welcome all those with a paddle in their hands.

SPRINGFIELD CENTENARY CANOE CLUB

Well 2019-20 has not been what we expected. A lot of changes for me personally, I started the year still President of Paddle Queensland and playing regular Canoe Polo and will finish pretty much giving up polo, selling my house and moving to Bribie.

From a Club perspective we have had to endure a COVID-19 lockdown with no activity and then a gradual reopening of Club activities. Thanks to our enthusiastic members, polo has remained a mainstay of Club activities and has progressed to almost weekly sessions.

We had some rain before the shutdown and myself and others paddled the rapids on the South Pine and the Albert whilst the water was up. We take our moving water when we can get it.

Two major things happened at our lease site at Riverhills. We obtained development approval for a planed storage shed which we will share with the Dragon Boat Club. After 20 years of asking for it, a new public pontoon finally opened at Riverhills adjacent to our Club's leased site at the end of Sumners Road. This allows all tide access to the water. Scott Sharples and I were the community consultants and we got all we asked for and more, with power, water and lights provided. Me, personally and as a Club we are very proud of these achievements.

Looking to the future, I look forward to exploring the waters of Bribie and launching kayaks off the back yard. I hope what damage I have to my R shoulder from covid weight sessions recovers and to doing more coaching with my local Bribarians. I have also spoken to Dave Peters from Brothers Canoe Club and we both feel it is important we continue to work closely together within the Canoe Polo space. I have done 2 trips to Warwick to help restart polo there with assistance with boat repairs and grants and coaching.

Bribie Island presents me with a lot of wonderful paddling opportunities and I am already considering where we can do canoe polo and perhaps some storage so we can move some Club boats up there .

We have also been doing come and tries at Riverhills. All this is on the Club facebook page. So I am still very much involved in the promotion of the sport and delighted to be President again for the 2020-21 year.

Lastly a big thank you to the rest of the executive for their support and enthusiasm in keeping canoe polo alive in SE Qld. Together we did this.



SUNSHINE COAST PADDLESPORTS

Achievements

Grants

Provider	Description	Amount	Acquittal Due
Sunshine Coast Council	Fix Water Leak	\$4,000	Completed Acquittal submitted
State Gvt Active Clubs	Equipment to help deliver quality physical activity experiences to support kayaking at Maroochydhore	\$2,000	15/11/2020
Sunshine Coast Council	Repaint Club House	\$2,800	29/09/2020
Sunshine Coast Council COVID-19	Essential Operational and Maintenance	\$2,000	30/08/2021
State Gvt COVACK	Funding to restart and continue delivery of physical activity post COVID-19	\$2,000	17/06/2021

A feeling of goodwill toward the club as evidenced by volunteer work, comments about facebook articles, increased members and numbers of paddlers at training sessions.

Awards

- Short Film Winner – Paul Shipton
- Volunteer of the Year – Doug Brennan

Membership

- Increase in members
- Improved conversion rate from come and try to 1 in 10 to 2 in 10.

Programs

- Come and Try
- Learn to Paddle
- Weekly Training
- Monthly Time Trial
- Monthly K4 paddling
- Participation in Pacific Coast Paddle Series virtual races
- Participation at State Sprints in January
- Participation at National Sprints in March
- Increased cross-over between kayak club members and surf club members/ events

Media Promotion

- Face Book – successful uptake of this task by Matt Remke-Meyer has made a very real, on the ground, difference to attendance at club events such as the time trial.

Events

- Maroochy River Paddle August 2019

Other

- Increase in junior paddlers to a squad of 8 from 1. Training with a view to competing at state and national sprints in 2021.

TOWNSVILLE KAYAK CLUB

Goals achieved from last year's report

- Fundraising successful for 3 weir race.
- Magnetic Island Swim, completed with 9 paddlers supporting the swimmers.
- 3 weirs race successfully held with 30 people competing.
- The club has held 4 come and try days, 2 trips to Hinchinbrook Island and 1 to Orpheus Island.
- Short trips to Magnetic Island have been frequent.

We are continue to create a great culture where everyone helps everyone else and our main focus is improving our skills while having fun. Club members also had stall at the Sports Expo.

Goals for 2020/2021

- To run 9 training sessions focused on skill acquisition moving from short river trips to longer sea faring trips.
- To run 9 come and try days
- To build more engagement with come and try day attendees with view to increasing club membership
- To market the benefits of club membership and build social networks.
- To run the 3 weirs race increasing participant numbers to 35.
- Participate in marketing events eg sports expo to recruit new members.
- To continue in building a supportive adventure network sharing a love of the outdoors.
- To hold 2 trips away for short paddles on flat water .



VARSITY LAKES PADDLERS CLUB

This year has been an interesting one.

We had a few of our members compete in 2019 Pacific Coast Series and I was incredibly happy with how they raced. We were all looking forward to the 2020 Series.

I have been extremely happy with all our Members during the Covid 19 period, all of them have adhered to the instructions and directions asked of them.

Many of our members have kept up their fitness and training, many groups have complied with the suggested changes, having different start times or splitting groups into smaller numbers, sign in/out book.

We are looking at ways to build up the numbers of juniors in the club, this is work in progress, at this point the Saturday beginners has been kept to a minimum due to distance restrictions.

Club membership is currently about 60, the same as last year, even with no races this year we are still comfortable with our finances.

I was very proud of a couple of our Club Juniors recently - Josh Parkinson, Natasha Parkinson & Shelby Cottrell - Last Saturday they participated in the Challenge '42k Your Way' each paddling 42km for Charity, raising money for 'The Children's Hospital Foundation'. I was also proud that club members also came down to support them, with some of them joining them on one of their 10km loops.

WYNNUM REDLANDS CANOE CLUB

This year has definitely thrown up some challenges for the Club and its paddlers.

From September last year the Club switched to the Go Membership Digital platform and commenced rolling membership. The bulk of the renewals were due in June/July and the process was smooth with the majority of members renewing making a membership of 100.

Paddling in our home waters of Tingalpa Creek is popular with club sessions most days of the week. The weather in late 2019/early 2020 was not kind with plenty of windy days, a hot summer and flooding rain in February, although this did not deter our paddlers.

Thanks to the new Junior program with Allana Bold, the number of Junior paddlers is increasing. Our club has a strong commitment to partner with others and during the year we have run a successful school sport program with a local school, catered for a disability paddling group, and partnered with OzFish on Clean up Australia day to remove 4 skip loads of rubbish from the mouth of Tingalpa Creek.

Our club successfully applied for grants for training, safety equipment including a defibrillator and 3 tandem sit-on craft and we thank the Qld Government, Redland City Council and our local Redlands Foundation for their support of our club.

Our Race, the Tingalpa Trot, covering a 10km course from Thorneside to Capalaba had a false start caused by flooding in our creek. We rescheduled at the beginning of March for a successful event with 74 competitors and great paddling weather.

The following weekend, our racing team competed at the 2020 National Canoe Sprint Championships which doubled as the Olympic Team Selection Trials with some pleasing times and the opportunity to compete on a first class course and with top class paddlers.

Immediately after this event, COVID-19 impacted on our club requiring a 4 week closure and then progressively recommencing activities paddling in groups of 2, then 10, then 20 and now back to normal with extra hand washing, cleaning, distancing and recording. Our club has bounced back well now we are in stage 3 of the roadmap. The closure made people aware of how important paddling and the social connection with friends is to health and fitness. The real downside of this Covid19 environment is the addition of more compliance and paperwork. Racing events were missed but the Virtual Series is a good substitute.

Our club covers an age group from 10 to mid 80's and a balance between recreational paddling and competitive training and racing. With warmer weather approaching, we are hoping to schedule more events and attract new members.

While a challenging year, WRCC has come through in good shape.



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