

Paddle TAS



More People Paddling More Often

Annual Report 2017-18



Derwent Canoe Club "Under 3" Trip 2017

Photo: Vicki Bonwick



SUPPORTED BY



Note: Although the entity for this report period was Canoe Tasmania Inc, as we have commenced trading as Paddle Tasmania this report will refer to us throughout as Paddle Tasmania or Paddle Tas.

INTRODUCTION

Paddle Tasmania has continued as a strong and sustainable peak body through 2017-18 with four very active and vibrant clubs each delivering a strong recreation and competition program as well as contributing to the Paddle Tasmania led education program. Introductory programs and beginner and intermediate paddling has been a focus of the clubs resulting in increasing membership whilst a strong competitive calendar covering Canoe Polo, Flatwater Racing, Ocean Racing and Slalom has been maintained.

In November 2017, the Tasmanian Canoe Club, on behalf of Paddle Tasmania, successfully hosted the canoeing events for the Australian Masters Games which were held in the Cradle-Coast region. Flatwater (sprint and 10km races) were held at Lake Barrington with an Ocean Race held in perfect down-wind race conditions, between Wynyard and Burnie. The standard of these events drew high praise from visiting competitors from around Australia.

Through the education program a substantial pool of qualified guides, instructors and assessors has been maintained and formal skills training imparted from the Come and Try, through Introductory and Intermediate level courses, including in the important Whitewater Rescue Skills.

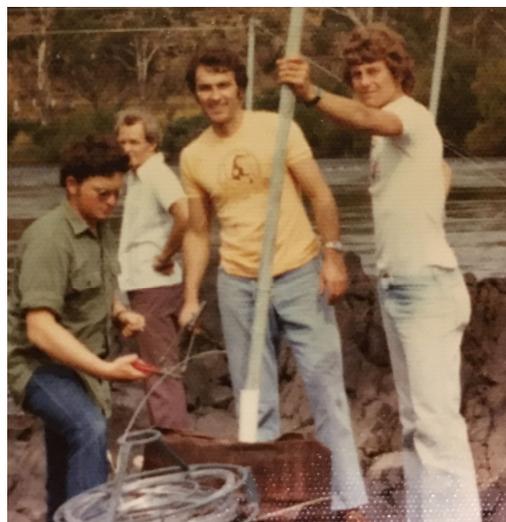
Also of note in 2017-18 is the transition from Canoe Tasmania to Paddle Tasmania, supporting the national re-brand from Australian Canoeing to Paddle Australia. This re-name and re-brand is intended to be more inclusive of all forms of paddling, recreational and competitive, from: sit-on-tops to ocean skis, to stand-up-paddle boards and pack-rafts as well as the more traditional sit-in kayaks and canoes. This and a renewed Paddle Australia Strategic Plan and the Paddle Tasmania Strategic Plan will hopefully support continued growth in paddling so we can achieve Paddle Tasmania's vision of *"more people paddling more often"*.

VALE PETER HALL – PADDLE TASMANIA LIFE MEMBER

It is with sadness that Paddle Tasmania marks the passing in 2017 of its inaugural President and Life Member, Peter Hall. Peter was a founding member of the Derwent Canoe Club in 1970. The DCC and the Tasmanian Canoe Club, based in Ulverstone, formed the Tasmanian Canoe Association in 1971 and Peter was TCA President for ten years to 1980.

As a founding member of both the DCC and the TCA (subsequently Canoe Tasmania and now Paddle Tasmania) Peter worked tirelessly to build paddler numbers and clubs in the state. He was instrumental in securing the whitewater course at Brady's Lake and worked closely with Hydro Tasmania to develop this site to a standard suitable for national and international competition.

In 1974, only three years after its formation, the Tasmanian Canoe Association hosted two National Championships – the Australian Wildwater Racing Championships on the Mersey River below Rowallan Dam, and the Australian Slalom Championships at the Brady's Lake course. Peter was instrumental in bidding for, and organising the successful running of these championships, and also the 1979 Slalom and Wildwater Championships held at the same venues. Peter also enjoyed competing in wild water racing and slalom as well as flat-water races and paddled throughout Australia in the 1970s as Manager of successive Tasmanian canoeing teams.



Peter Hall – centre – with Sammy Jooste and DCC members constructing the slalom course at Plenty.
Photo courtesy of Helen Hall

Peter was also a tireless fundraiser and promotor of canoeing, securing substantial material support for the continued development of the Brady's Lake Course, television coverage of the 1979 Australian Slalom Championships and for development of a slalom course at Plenty on the Derwent.

Peter had many other interests – football, cricket, scouts, orienteering, the Hash-House Harriers and Rotary to name a few, but he maintained an interest in paddling throughout his life. The strong state of canoeing in Tasmania has much to thank him for – especially his vision, energy and passion for the sport and his ability to bring people to together to work towards a common goal.

EDUCATION (Sandra Kent – Paddle Tasmania Development Officer)

Paddle Tasmania continued to provide a wide array of education courses through the Paddle Australia Qualifications Scheme, helping to get people into paddling in a safe and enjoyable fashion, and providing basic through to high-level instructor skills to maintain and increase the spread of good paddling techniques and practices. In addition to the courses below, Paddle Tasmania also facilitated a Professional Development Exchange for Instructors/Assessors in August 2017.

This year has seen a lot of activity in Packrafting thanks to the courses and the “Meet Up” organised by Mark Oates and led by Mark and Dan Hall. In October we ran an Advanced Packrafting course with 8 participants and in December an Intermediate course with 13 participants. The Packraft Meetup – the first held in Australia – attracted 40 paddlers including 4 international Packrafters – two from the USA and two from New Zealand.



Packraft Slalom Practice, Mersey River 2018

Photo: Steve Ormiston

Our Beginners Packrafting course in February filled quickly, with a total of eight paddlers (ratio 1:4) and we had folk asking for intermediate and advanced courses. Mark also ran a Packrafting course during the National Outdoor Education Conference (NOEC) week that attracted 20 participants. In total 42 paddlers participated in Packrafting courses this year.

We were also busy with the Whitewater River Rescue Courses, delivering five in the 12 months from June 2017 to July 2018 with a total of 29 participants completing the courses. The course included:

- Three Level 1 courses (two led by Vicki Bonwick and one by Mark Oates), and
- Two Level 2 courses (led by Richard Guy with Claye Mace and by Alex McWhirter respectively).

Sea Kayaking was also addressed through the year with Mark Grundy running a Sea Skills course for five participants, and Paddle Tasmania worked with Next Level Kayaking to prepare for a series of Ocean Ski Skills and Safety courses to run in the coming year.

The Canoe Education program in November included a Flatwater course run by Dan Hall with three participants and the December Whitewater course led by Jason Dicker had 15. Jason was assisted by Bruce Cameron, Luis Wilson and James Thorpe. Total of 18 paddlers completed these two courses.

Our Flatwater course in March was led by Dan Hall with six participants. Our Whitewater course in March was also led by Dan Hall with six participants. The May Whitewater course was led by Jason Dicker with 17 participants. Jason was assisted by Dan Hall, Bruce Cameron and Leigh Wighton. A total of 23 paddlers completed these three courses.

Paddle Tasmania also continued to increase its emphasis on improving gender equity in the sport with a “Come and Try” days specifically for women and through targeting female instructors. In December we

ran a “Come and Try” day for women. This was held on the West Coast, and led by Hannah Pearce who was being assessed by Leigh Wighton. Eight women participated in the “Come and Try” day.

We also participated in a schools program introducing students to a number of different sports. Organised by Ian Carter for Campbell Street Primary School the kayaking was led by Liv Walter who introduced 30 students to paddling that day.

In total 176 people participated in Paddle Tasmania Education courses this year, from raw beginners having a go at Come and Try days to experienced paddlers upgrading or expanding their skills and qualifications. A big thank you goes to all of the Instructors and Assessors who delivered our courses – the feedback on their skills, experience and quality course delivery has been very positive.

Paddle Tasmania also maintained a healthy number of Paddle Australia Qualification Scheme qualified Guides, Instructors and Assessors. Between them this group helps to disseminate good paddling practices and increased paddling skills and safety through clubs, schools, colleges and private paddling and tourist tour companies. Without this group, schools and colleges would be unable to run their paddling programs. As at 30 June 2017, Paddle Tasmania had the following number of Guides, Instructors and Assessors.

	Male	Female	Total
Qualified Assessors	10	1	11
Qualified Instructors	81	32	113
Registered Guides	43	13	56
TOTAL	134	46	180

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of affiliated Clubs continued to rise during 2017-18 and as at 30 June 2017 there were 370 financial members of the four affiliated clubs, primarily due to increased introductory and intermediate programs to attract new members as well as increased promotion of club activities via social media. A strong program of social activities, recreational paddling, group training activities and competitions also contributed to membership growth.

Females are still under-represented in paddling, making up slightly under 30% of club memberships although most clubs have been making progress in this area.

	Derwent Canoe Club	Tamar Canoe Club	Tasmanian Canoe Club	Launceston Paddling Club	TOTAL
Male	106	68	54	32	260
Female	51	28	22	9	110
TOTAL	157	96	76	41	370

PADDLING DISCIPLINES

Most competitive paddling disciplines have continued strongly with affiliated Clubs running Ocean Racing, Slalom, Xtreme, Polo and Flatwater competitions at a variety of venues around the state, all with good levels of participation and with a good mix of younger and more senior Tasmania paddlers making a mark at national and international competitions.

In slalom, Daniel Watkins had strong performances nationally and internationally. In 2017 Daniel competed in Europe as part of the National U23 Slalom Team and in 2018 he qualified for both the Australian Under 23 and the Open Slalom Teams. His best results were 6th Place in the Men’s K1 Final of the World Cup Slalom Race 2 at Seo D’Urgell in Spain and 5th Place in Men’s C1 at the Under 23 World Championships at Ivrea, Italy.

Kate Eckhardt has also been performing well nationally and internationally and qualified for the Australian Under 23 and Open Slalom Teams, competing alongside Daniel in Europe in 2017 and 2018, and with Demelza Wall also qualifying for the Under 23 Team this year. Kate’s results included 7th in Women’s K1 and 11th in Women’s C1 at the Under 23 World Championships at Ivrea in Italy. Kate also

won a Bronze Medal in Women's K1 Teams at the 2017 Senior World Championships held at Pau, in France.

In Ocean Racing, Burnie paddler Jeremy Norton took gold in the 55-59 age group at the World Ocean Racing Championships while fellow Burnie Paddler, Greg Stubbs, took Bronze in the 50-54 year age group at the same event. Hobart paddler, Roz Barber, competed in the Mauritius Ocean Classic for the second year running – taking out 8th place overall in the highly competitive Women's Ski.

In Flatwater Racing Burnie Paddler Tom Norton continued at the Australian Institute of Sport's flatwater sprint program on the Gold Coast and while he made the final of the K1-1000 metres at the national Championships, he just missed out on National Team selection.

Xtreme racing also remains strong with an expanding number of events. The "North Esk Paddle Fest" has now transitioned to the bigger "Esk Fest" with the addition of an Xtreme Race on Cataract Gorge (on the South Esk River) courtesy of Hydro Tasmania water releases which complement the North Esk River Xtreme Race. This and the long-running Lea Xtreme Race now form part of a national series along with the Snowy River Extreme race held in NSW. In 2017 Tom Mounthey of Devonport placed Second in the Snowy Extreme Race.

Tamar and Derwent Canoe Clubs maintained strong Polo competitions through winter with each having around 20 weeks of senior and junior competition. Use of indoor pools or Canoe Polo also enables paddlers to learn or improve crucial skills like we-exits, supports, self-rescue and Eskimo-rolling in a safe and warm environment. Canoe Polo paddlers from Tamar Canoe Club are currently looking at forming teams to compete at the National Championships in April 2019 – the first time in over 15 years that Tasmania will have been represented at a National Canoe Polo Championships.

Recreational paddling also continues to grow with whitewater, creeking, sea, lake and estuary paddling remaining popular for adventure, fitness and general recreation. Of note is the growth in Packrafting which Paddle Tasmania has supported through regular skills courses.

Many informal paddling groups meet for regular social and training paddles across the state in a variety of disciplines and the three whitewater clubs continue to schedule regular novice to intermediate "Under 3" trips, providing increased pathways into whitewater river paddling. These "Under 3" trips unexpectedly benefited from the 2016 floods which cleaned out the willow chokes from many sections of northern rivers. As a consequence, sections of river not paddled for many years, including several sections of the lower Mersey, are being rediscovered as excellent novice to intermediate paddling trips.



Tamar CC and DCC members at "The Chasm" – Alum Cliffs, Mersey River July 2018

Photo: Sarah Henderson

INFRASTRUCTURE

This year also saw repairs and improvement to a number of paddling facilities across the state:

- The Mersey Slalom and Whitewater Course, which was badly damaged by both bushfire and then floods in 2016 has now been all but fully re-built with new, custom-designed and built slalom wire and gate structures, and new paths, stairs, bridges and walkway fencing. Further work to address flood damage at the Wildwater race finish is still to be addressed.
- The Derwent Canoe Club's Brady's Lake Whitewater course has seen significant works improve safety at various points along the course, as well as addressing water loss to side canals. This enables the course to operate on lower water-releases, extending the time it can be used and reducing the impact on trout waters and trout fishers upstream.
- The Derwent Canoe Club was also successful in achieving removal of the dangerous section of remnant bridge below the Broken Bridge slalom course, enhancing safety and usability of the site.
- The Tasmanian Canoe Club's Forth Slalom course, which also was significantly damaged by the 2016 floods, has had all river-site walkways restored and grounds repaired. The damaged in-water concrete features have either been repaired or replaced by large boulders, providing both safer and more challenging features. Slalom wires are yet to be replaced.
- Launceston Paddling Club's boat storage has been restored after repeated inundations caused by flood waters.
- Paddle Tasmania Board Member, Adam Dickenson, also continued his work to develop a plan for a series of play waves across the state enabling "park and play" paddling which would attract new paddlers and increased paddling tourism to the state from the play-boating community. Adam has met with representatives of Hydro Tasmania, Sport and Recreation, and various Councils to progress this project.

FINANCES

Paddle Tasmania remains in a strong position financially with significant reserves being maintained to invest in worthwhile projects. In the recent past this has included contributing first to toilets, then to flood recovery works at the Forth site and to in-canal works at the Brady's course. Our member Clubs continue to be financially sustainable.

SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP

Paddle Tasmania continued to receive strong support from the Tasmanian Government through Communities, Sport and Recreation Tasmania; from Hydro Tasmania which assists by scheduling numerous water releases to enable recreation, education and competition; and from Parks and Wildlife Tasmania, the managers of the Mersey Regional Whitewater Reserve who have been of great help in rebuilding and improving the facilities at the Mersey Slalom site.

This year we also received support from the Department of State Growth which undertook a major project to remove, at our request, the remnants of the Broken Bridge on the Derwent. The bridge remnants were a major safety risk at the site and removal enabled a substantial new section of slalom training course suitable for novices to be created. The assistance from DSG in this project is much appreciated.

THE COMING YEAR

2018-19 will see the Paddle Tasmania brand being bedded down and widely promoted; preparation for and hosting of two National Championships (Slalom and Wildwater Racing at Brady's Lake and the Mersey Whitewater Course respectively); re-writing of our Constitution; continued work to progress the whitewater venues project; implementation of another strong education program, potentially including a paddle-ability style program from people with disabilities; and hopefully affiliation of a fifth club, increasing our member numbers and enabling us to achieve more through this increased scale.



John Borojević
Chair - Paddle Tasmania
28 September 2018

REPORTS

CLUB REPORTS

TAMAR CANOE CLUB (Dave Hugo – Commodore)

The Tamar Canoe Club has moved from strength to strength over recent years and during 2017-18 members of the Club have enjoyed kayaking on many rivers in Tasmania, playing canoe polo, flat water racing at Hadspen on the South Esk River, competition slalom kayaking, and teaching kayaking skills at Paddle Tasmania Education weekends.

The Club has also been involved with:

- Repairs of the Mersey River Slalom Site,
- Input to the new river bank improvements on the South Esk river at the Hadspen Park,
- Liaising with Hydro for water releases at the Cataract Gorge, and
- Organising the North Esk Paddle Fest

The club has approximately 96 members – a similar number in recent years. The Club and its activities are organised by numerous people volunteering their time. It is pleasing to see new people volunteering their time for the Club. I want to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their contribution:

- Members of the Executive – Claye Mace, Geoff Macqueen, David Bevan, Simon Barnes, Jonathan Knox and Public Officer – Peter Sebbage. David Bevan has done a terrific job as Secretary and will be stepping down this year. He raised the standard of administration and has been a very diligent member of the Executive – thank you David.
- Canoe Polo co-coordinators and contributors – Martina Wyss, David Chiam, Simon Barnes, Katherine Moore, Rob Bastic, Claye Mace and Peter Sebbage.
- Hadspen Racing co-ordinator – Adam Rolls.
- Bosun: maintenance and storage of the Club gear and equipment – Jonathan Knox.
- North Esk Paddle Fest – Cliff Roche and Jonathan Knox.

Canoe Polo

Canoe Polo has been very popular last year and again this year. There are about 60 players filling 12 teams in A and B grade. It is pleasing to see an increase in the number of junior players. While polo games are very competitive the main focus for canoe polo at this Club is fun and participation. Canoe Polo nights are very social and provide a great opportunity for like-minded people to catch up.

Last year the Club received a grant from the Tasmanian Department of Sport and Recreation for the purchase of new canoe polo kayaks, helmets, spray decks and paddles. The Club paid for half of the cost. Canoe Polo fees paid by players has contributed to the purchase of the new equipment. Thank you to Claye Mace for submitting the grant application.

Thanks to David Chiam, Simon Barnes, Martina Wyss, Robert Bastick and Katherine Moore for running canoe polo this year on a weekly basis.

Hadspen Racing

Flatwater racing was held again last summer at Hadspen on the South Esk River. There were 17 races held with a total of 27 paddlers competing. On average there were about 12 paddlers in each race. Geoff Macqueen was the overall winner on points. The race series was sponsored by “Paddle and Ski” and James Casper won the “Paddle and Ski” Raffle. Thank you to Adam Rolls for organising the event and also to Paddle and Ski for their ongoing support of the event.

Whitewater Slalom

Members of the club have also been participating in whitewater slalom kayaking events here in Tasmania and on the mainland. David Knox is a member of the National Training Squad.

Development at river sites

Mersey River Slalom site – David Bevan has been involved with planning and organising the reconstruction of the paths and gates at the Mersey River Slalom site below Lake Rowallan. David liaised between the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Tasmanian Canoeing. Thank you to David Bevan.

South Esk river at Hadspen – Meander Valley Council is planning to construct erosion protection on the river banks at Hadspen and this will include improved access to the river edge. Geoff Macqueen has

been liaising with the Council and has provided feedback on the proposed river bank works. Thank you to Geoff Macqueen.

Cataract Gorge

Hydro Tasmania has committed to releasing water from Trevallyn Dam into the South Esk River on two occasions each year for the next four years. Hydro have a vision to create a whitewater event on the Gorge that will attract paddlers from around the world. Hydro released water in November 2017 and again in February 2018. There were approximately 30 paddlers on the river for the February release.

North Esk Paddle Fest

The North Esk Paddle Fest was held over two days in September last year on the North Esk River above Corra Lynn. The race is a popular event amongst kayakers and is a very social occasion. The event was organised by Cliff Roche, Hippy Carter and Jonathan Knox. Thank you to these guys for organising the event.

This year the event will be renamed the “Esk Paddle Fest” and will involve whitewater kayak racing on both the North Esk River and the Cataract Gorge. The event will be held on 15 and 16 September 2018.



North Esk Paddle Fest Sept 2017

Photo: Paul Black

DERWENT CANOE CLUB (Peter Eckhardt – Commodore)

2017/2018 has been another great year for the club with membership increasing to 157, testament to the extensive range of quality activities provided by the club. The club continues to be in a strong financial position and has a full and active Board. Highlights for the year include:

- Successful operation of the new club board structure and using our strategic plan to guide our priorities, especially in regard to improved communication and events.
- Two successful grant applications to purchase a slalom gear trailer and a set of three plastic kayaks and equipment for club white water paddlers.
- Successful use of Try booking to run events.
- Successful running of the winter series with 25 to 40 paddlers at each race and another great season of polo run over 20 weeks with up to 5 teams in each roster and around 25 people attending the pool for rolling practice each week of the 20-week polo roster.
- Paddle power introduction program offered in two of the four school terms 2017/2018 and the Under 3's river trips have been an ongoing success.
- Hosting the state ocean race championships with about 30 competitors.
- Reinstatement of the Mersey Slalom course enabling us to re-start using the Mersey River for recreational and slalom paddling as well as ongoing use of and redevelopment of the Brady's Lake course.

- Successful new initiative with “Paddling Pals and Pizza” providing a new social paddling activity in the daylight savings months and the “Paddle Fit” sessions run at Hobart College providing tailored, paddle-specific, strength and conditioning opportunities.
- Providing an ongoing slalom program supported by Paddle Australia and the TIS and combining with NLK to run a paddling foundations course.
- Establishment of flatwater gates on a Tassal owned dam at Electrona.

Several DCC members have also achieved competition paddling successes this year including representation of club members at the National and World Slalom Championships, notably Daniel Watkins, Demelza Wall and Kate Eckhardt who are competing at the World U23 And Senior World Championships in 2018.

The year also saw successful participation by Sam Norton, Roz Barber, Richard McMinn and Andrew Faulsang and others at the ocean ski series in Mauritius in 2017 and Roz again in 2018. DCC paddlers also performed well in the State Ocean Ski titles and the Nutri-Grain Ironman series.

One of the Club’s strategic priorities is to improve our communications. We have ceased using the old Paddle Flash and moved all Club communications to the website, Facebook page and Facebook groups. The Facebook events are also shown as a feed on the Club’s website. The website has also been partially renovated to improve its functionality.

Challenges in the year ahead include: continuing to offer events and activities that members are seeking; running introductory programs; continuing improvements in communications; and improving gender equity.

TASMANIAN CANOE CLUB (Rob Van Tholen – Commodore)

During the year we continued our focus on rebuilding the club from the aftermath of previous floods and loss of paddling opportunities.

The largest undertaking during the year was rebuilding the Forth Slalom Course with financial assistance from Paddle Tasmania and the Tasmanian Community Fund. The project is aimed at restoring flood damage and ensuring features are safe. Some river features have been replaced, others have been underpinned with tonnes of boulders. The result of the work is that the water is generally more turbulent with more rocks and eddies in play creating multiple routes across the river. The most startling change has been to the wave which is currently a popular play-boating challenge. Most of the work has been on the course below the wall, however some minor improvements have been done upstream but it is likely that completion of this section will be a future year project.

A loss has been the ability to paddle between lower and upper sections and it is hoped that this can be regained with further work over summer, along with consolidating the features and improving eddy lines. Overall the lower section of the course is more challenging which gives paddlers more opportunity to improve their skills. Design of the course has not been straightforward even though a number of people with river engineering expertise were consulted along the way. There has been some trial and error with some of the results being a pleasant surprise. A special thanks needs to go out to Russell Horton for driving and managing this project.

Considerable land-based work has restored the camping grounds. Several older, potentially dangerous trees have been removed and new trees have been planted to help protect against future floods. The works have encouraged a number of groups to utilise the site for their activities, including Paddle Tasmania for the canoe education weekends which we hosted.

Replacement of slalom fixtures and wires is a future project which has not been considered in detail yet. Our club members have not been seeking these facilities so it has not been a high priority for us.

The year has seen a high number of paddlers with plenty of opportunities to get on moving water. The summer period saw us with controlled flows for our Thursday paddling on the Forth thanks to the generosity of the Hydro. The good rainfall during the Winter period has also provided plenty of opportunities with our paddlers taking to the water on most weeks. We have held monthly beginner paddles over the Winter period to encourage our newbies to continue developing their skills.

We, once again, ran the Lea Xtreme Race. Good water flows and increased numbers of competitors led to a very successful event. The eventual winners were from interstate but this should help to increase the competition between the main rivals at future races. The race culminated in food and music back at our club grounds. The feedback from participants and the incredible support from sponsors was all very positive. Most participants and volunteers went home with a prize. A big thanks to all those who participated with organising and assisting to make the day a success.



Lea Xtreme Race September 2017

For the coming year we have a number of challenges:

- Continue to improve on the previous successes of the Lea Race,
- Having activities which attracts newcomers and keeps veterans to keep coming along,
- Improve the learning opportunities for people when they come along to our Thursday summer paddles, and
- On-going clean-up and maintenance work at the Forth course and working to ‘tweak’ the river features.

Our overall aim for 2018-19 is to bolster member participation by ensuring there is a large component of fun.

LAUNCESTON PADDLING CLUB (Mark Rathmell – Commodore)

Unfortunately my health has been poor this year, being out of action for many months, and as the primary driver for the club things have just been cruising along. This is something that we will address, to build more structure in the managing group so it doesn’t mainly fall to me.



Flatwater Race – Trevallyn Dam 2018

Photo: Mark Rathmell

Nonetheless, it has been another good year for LPC with some new members joining and a solid waiting list for access to the storage shed. We are considering redesigning our racking to try and get more craft in the shed. We have also welcomed other paddling craft, SUP and a couple of recreational paddlers on sit-on-tops that quickly wanted to try the “faster” craft and have become members of Paddle Tasmania. So great to see some new members, we also have two juniors that are consistent paddlers.

The club sponsored and hosted a round of the TasCC winter series on 29 July 2018 as a combined event on the calendar with Derwent Canoe Club. We had a great turnout and some great racing (although the weather wasn’t ideal!).

With daylight savings starting soon, our regular Thursday night racing will start up again, as will Tamar Canoe Club's Tuesday night Hadspen race series in which many of our members like to compete.

Ben Maynard and Roz Barber of Next Level Kayaking have had another series of training sessions with our paddlers at the dam and we certainly are very happy to support NLK in the future. There might be an opportunity for some further ocean safety courses for our members as many of our members enjoy ocean paddling and water safety is paramount.

Our focus this year will be on participation, we have many different paddlers with many different abilities and backgrounds so we are looking at ways of getting them on the water more often. We tend to focus on training and fitness predominately, however we have discussed a need for another "come and try day" and work on some adventure paddling. Onward and upward for 2018-19.

AUSTRALIAN MASTERS GAMES REPORT

Nic Wilson - AMG 2017 Canoeing Events Coordinator

The Australian Masters Games were held on the North West Coast from October 21st to 28th 2017. Paddle Tasmania invited the Tasmanian Canoe Club (TCC) to take on the role of convening the canoeing events. A small committee made up of Jeremy Norton, Stuart Paine, Bruce Cameron, Graeme Rollins (Surf Ulverstone) and Jamie Fergus, led by Paddle Tasmania Board Member, Nic Wilson, planned and delivered this event.



Australian Masters Games 2017 - Briefing on Day 1 at Lake Barrington

A four-day program was planned – three days of flat water racing at Lake Barrington in conjunction with Rowing Tasmania events plus a one day Ocean Race Wynyard to Burnie. After lengthy negotiations with Rob Prescott (Rowing Tasmania Administrator) a program was finalised with 200 metre and 1000 metre sprints for WK1, MK1, WK2, MK2, XK2, WSUP and MSUP with a five kilometre race for MK1, WK1, WSUP and MSUP plus a 15 kilometre half- marathon for MK1 and WK1.

The three days of racing at Lake Barrington was a resounding success. The paddlers, officials and volunteers all commented on how well the event ran and the fantastic atmosphere of a friendly but competitive rivalry that existed. TasCC are indebted to Rowing Tasmania for the quality and professionalism of their support for this regatta.

The Ocean Race was also a huge success. 16 kilometres was the long course open to MOC1, WOC1, WSurf and MSurf with a six kilometre course from Somerset to Burnie for WOC1, MOC1, WOC2, MOC2, XOC2, WSUP and MSUP.



Eric Sargeant with Paddle Australia President Andrea McQuitty at Lake Barrington.
Eric was our oldest competitor - age 92.

The nervousness the Committee felt days prior due to the easterly weather patterns was a major stress factor. Easterly winds prevailed until one hour before race start. At 9.00 a.m., official race start time, the wind went calm then swung to the West giving the paddlers a perfect 15 to 20 knot assisted down-wind run with a big following wind swell – world class Ocean Racing conditions prevailed!

The paddlers in the six-kilometre race joined the 16 kilometre paddlers at the Somerset check point buoy which created an exciting finish at West Park Beach as many paddlers finished within short distances of each other.

The organisation and planning with unsurpassed attention to detail for this event by Jeremy, Stuart and Graeme was 100% first class. All paddlers, rescue plus volunteers had a clear and precise understanding of the procedures for these races. This was the cornerstone to why the Ocean Races ran flawlessly.

Special thanks must go to John Borojevic, Moya Deigan and Phil Watkins for their support and assistance and to Andrea McQuitty for making herself available on every day of competition. In summary, a fantastic four-day paddling event which will be remembered fondly by the competitors, officials and volunteers alike.



Peter Hall (right) and friends in canvas canoes, Tahune Bridge, Huon River, circa 1969

Photo Courtesy of Helen Hall

