

Paddle TAS



More People Paddling More Often

Annual Report 2018-19



Tasmanian Sea Canoeing Club BlueWater Expedition – Photo: Greg Simson



SUPPORTED BY



INTRODUCTION

In its second year trading as Paddle Tasmania, Canoe Tasmania Inc. continued to grow as we welcomed the Tasmanian Sea Canoeing Club into the affiliated membership. With the addition of the TSCC, which affiliated in September 2018, there are now five affiliated paddling clubs and almost 450 individual club members across the state. Sadly, the paddling community lost two much loved stalwarts during the year.

FAREWELL PETER RAND AND RADE BOROJEVIĆ

It is with sadness that Paddle Tasmania marks the loss of two people much loved and influential in the paddling community in Tasmania – Peter Rand and Rade Borojević – and we pass on our sincere condolences to their families and all who knew and paddled with them.

Rade Borojevic – Life Member, Tasmanian Canoe Club

In 1972, only three years after the formation of the Tasmanian Canoe Club, Rade Borojevic met a number of club members through the local Bridge Club. He was looking for a sport for his young family and the canoe club members invited him to give paddling a go.

Rade and family quickly became core members of the club, with Rade soon elected Treasurer, a role he held for a number of years. He also took an active role in the development of the club's canoeing course at Forth, spending innumerable weekends working with Alf Bassett and Bruce Shipp, clearing blackberries, making paths, stringing slalom wires and generally making it more usable. He also took on numerous roles in the running of events, settling on catering for the winter wildwater races and the starters position at summer slaloms, a job he did for every Forth slalom for over 20 years.

Rade also assisted with the organising and running of the 1979 Australian Wildwater Championships, one of the largest ever held, and contributed significantly to the development of the first slalom course on the Mersey below Rowallan.

Throughout it all he was a keen paddler, even getting in a kayak occasionally for a paddle well into his eighties. And when too old to paddle he continued to take a keen interest in young paddlers and their progress, in developments at a state and national level and in activities at the Forth canoe course in particular.

At the Tasmanian Canoe Club's 25th Anniversary celebrations Rade was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his extensive services to the club. His active contributions to the club extended at least an additional decade beyond this anniversary, and he maintained his involvement with the club into his nineties, celebrating his 90th birthday with a wide collection of paddling friends, family and others at his favourite place, the Forth canoeing course.

Rade died of the complications that come with aging, a few weeks after celebrating his 95th birthday.

Pete Rand – Creek, Waterfall and Xtreme Race Pioneer

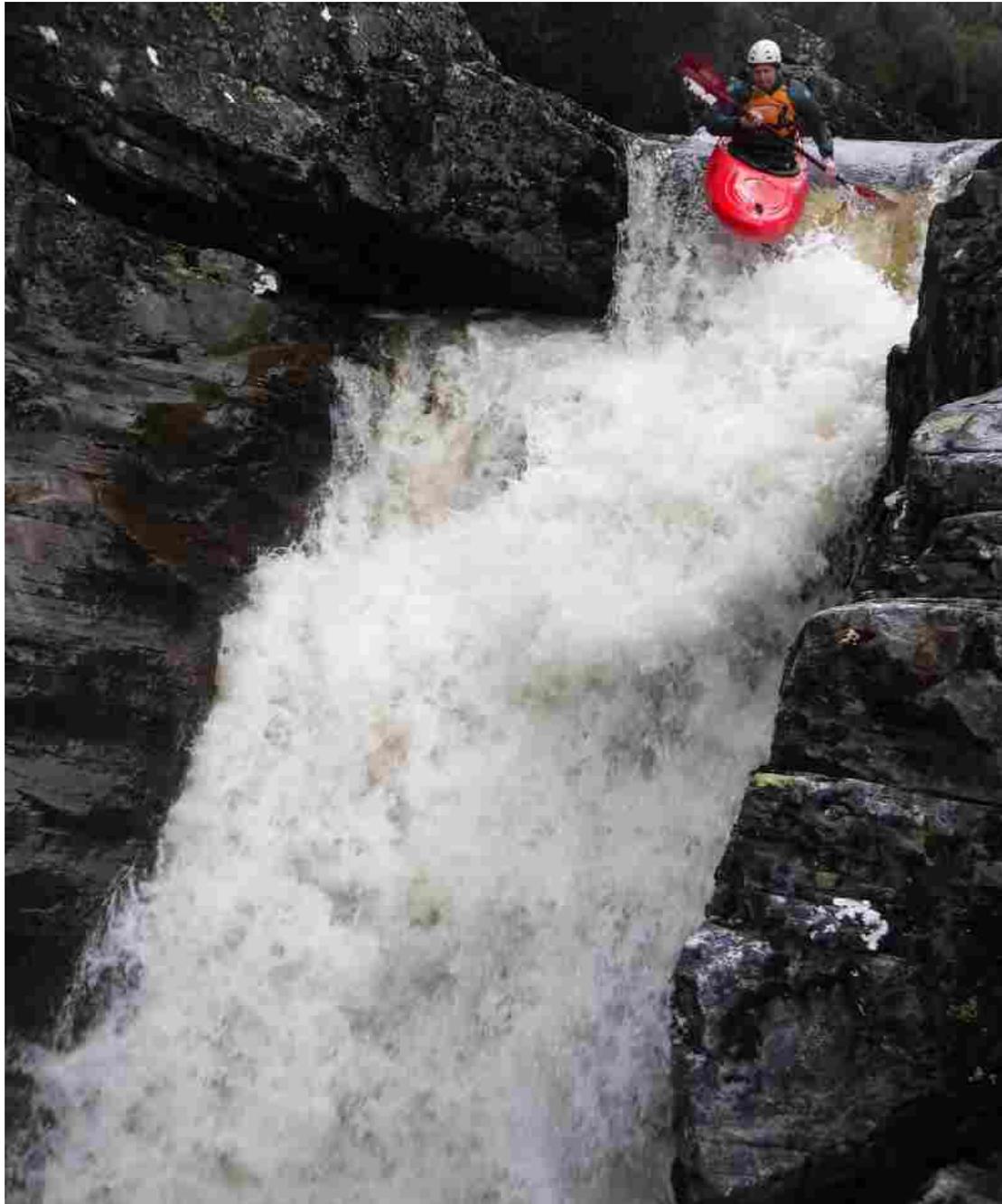
Pete started paddling with the Derwent Canoe Club in his early teens and, with his brother Sven, was a fixture at many local and state competitions. He also had National success and represented Australia as a Junior at the New Zealand Junior Slalom Championships in the early 1980s. It was in New Zealand he got his first taste of paddling waterfalls.

Soon Pete was more interested in river paddling than competition and with a range of talented and brave paddling friends he pioneered many of Tasmania's steepest and most difficult rivers and biggest waterfalls. Through his tireless exploration and 'first descents' a significant number of new rivers were added to the state's paddling repertoire. And others were written off as either unpaddable or not worth the effort. But you had to try a river first, and have a glorious failure, to really know....



Rade Borojevic with two of his grandchildren, Rohan and Sari Borojevic, at his beloved Forth Canoeing Course.

Pete was instrumental in creating the Cataract Xtreme Race. Held 3 times at Cataract Gorge, in Launceston, it was one of the first commercially run races. The event was hugely successful and influenced the creation of a range of other similar events around Australia. He was also a key part of the team who created and delivered Wildside MTB, which for over a decade was Australia's premier multi-day mountain bike race.



Pete Rand, Dove River, September 2018 – Photo – Paul Steane

Pete died after several years fighting melanoma and its complications. Paddle Tasmania extends our sincerest condolences to his family and friends. His irrepressible and irreverent humour and eye for a new (and ludicrous) paddling or other adventure will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

CLUBS

All five affiliated clubs are active and vibrant with each delivering a strong recreational program and some delivering competition programs as well as contributing to the Paddle Tasmania led Paddle Education activities. Introductory, beginner and intermediate recreational paddling has remained a strong focus across the clubs resulting in maintaining or growing membership whilst a strong competitive calendar covering Canoe Polo, Flatwater Racing, Ocean Racing and Slalom has been maintained.

MEMBERSHIP

At 30 June 2019 Paddle Tasmania's five affiliated clubs had a total of 443 financial members and there were a further five Life Members of Paddle Tasmania. In addition, Paddle Tasmania has as direct members, 166 qualified Guides, Instructors and Assessors. These members are often working across the tourism and schools sectors delivering paddle education and adventure tourism experiences. It is estimated that around 50% of these are members of affiliated clubs with the rest working outside the club system.

Female paddlers are still under-represented in our membership, making up 29% of club members and 24% of Guides, Instructors and Assessors. Over recent years a number of Come and Try Days specifically for women have been run by Paddle Tasmania and various clubs. It is not clear if this has translated into membership and further work to increase gender equity in paddling is required.

	Male (18+)	Male (U18)	Female (18+)	Female (U18)	Total
Derwent Canoe Club	71	14	23	14	122
Tamar Canoe Club	54	11	19	4	88
Tasmanian Canoe Club	46	5	16	0	67
Launceston Paddling Club	25	1	8	0	34
Tasmanian Sea Canoeing Club	88	0	44	0	132
Canoe Tasmania Life Members	3	0	2	0	5
TOTALS	287	31	112	18	448

Financial Members of Affiliated Clubs, 1 Jul 2018 – 30 June 2019 – Source: sDNA Demographics Report

In early 2019 Paddle Tasmania ran its first course specifically targeted at people with disabilities. This course – *Go Paddling* – was very successful with the participants gaining not only paddling skills and a potential new recreation option, but also gains in confidence, balance, posture and overall coordination were reported by the carers of the participants after as little as two sessions. Paddle Tasmania intends to continue with, and to improve the program in coming years, in particular to link the program more closely to achieving club membership for the participants to facilitate on-going paddling opportunities.

In January 2019, Paddle Tasmania, in conjunction with the Tasmanian Canoe Club, successfully hosted the Australian Wildwater Racing Championships on the Mersey River below Parangana Dam. A week later, Paddle Tasmania and the Derwent Canoe Club successfully hosted the Australian Slalom Championships which returned to the Brady's Lake course after an almost 20-year absence. Both events received high praise from competitors and supporters from interstate for their quality organisation and in relation to the high standard of redevelopment of the Brady's facilities.



Dan Hall competing in the 2019 National Wildwater Championships, Mersey River – Photo: Matt Dalziel

A special mention goes to David Borojevic of the Derwent Canoe Club. David led the major canal works to improve usability, water efficiency and safety at Brady's Lake – a 2+ year project (with many more years thinking and planning before it). Paddle Tasmania contributed partnership funding to the project in 2017-18 and the resultant improvements to the course are outstanding. Congratulations to all other DCC members who contributed to the ground works which have also substantially improved the amenity of the course and to the Tasmanian Community Fund which contributed Grant funding to the project.

Paddle Tasmania extends its thanks and gratitude to all the volunteers from Tasmania's clubs who contributed to running these events and to competitors and Paddle Australia for their support.

Thanks also to Hydro Tasmania who continued to provide the all-important water releases and other support to paddling in Tasmania; to Sport and Recreation for their Grant Funding to assist the operations of Paddle Tasmania and specifically for the two National championships; and to Parks Tasmania for their ongoing support of the Mersey Regional Forest Reserve and the paddling facilities associated with it and specifically their assistance with the Wildwater Championships at the Mersey. Without the support of these sponsors and of the extensive network of volunteers much of the recreation, education, training and events across the state would not be possible.



Claire Hodgman competing at 2019 National Slalom Championships, Brady's Lake – Photo: Moya Deigan

REPRESENTATION

Paddle Tasmania members continued to represent the state and Australia in a variety of ways, both competitive and administrative. The high rate of representation nationally is significant, demonstrating that the State arguably contributes more per-capita in a variety of ways to the sport Nationally, including on the Board of Paddle Australia where Tasmanian Canoe Club member and Paddle Tasmania Life Member, Andrea McQuitty, continues as Board Member and President. Other representation includes:

Paddle Australia Wildwater Technical Committee: Nic Wilson (Paddle Tasmania Board Member) and Matthew French were appointed to the Wildwater Technical Committee for 2019. The Committee determines the national Wildwater Racing program for Paddle Australia.

Paddle Australia Slalom Technical Committee: Peter Eckhardt (Commodore DCC) continued as Committee member for the Slalom Technical Committee. The Committee determines the national Slalom program for Paddle Australia.

Paddle Australia 2019 National Wildwater Team Selection Committee: John Borojevic (Chair, Paddle Tasmania), Matthew French and Carol Hurst were appointed as the Selection Committee for the 2019 National Wildwater Teams.

Paddle Australia Honours Committee: John Borojevic, (Chair, Paddle Tasmania) continued as member of the Honours Committee. The Committee assesses nominations and selects award recipients for the Paddle Australia Annual Awards.

Paddle Australia Education and Safety Committee: Alex McWhirter (Paddle Tasmania Board Member) continued as a committee member. The Committee oversees Paddle Australia's Paddle Education program.

National Slalom Teams: Kate Eckhardt, Demelza Wall and Daniel Watkins of the DCC continued as members of the Australian U23 and Open Slalom Teams, advancing up the National rankings. Each achieved good results (including career bests to date) in various National and International Competition, including a World Championship Bronze Medal for Kate and Demelza in U23 Women's C1. Daniel also received the Tasmanian Young Achievers Sports Award for 2019. In Juniors, George Lazenby, Hamish Dalziel, Hugh Clements and Claire Hodgman, all of the DCC, were selected for the Canoe Slalom National Development Squad and competed in the New Zealand Junior Championships representing Australia. Rebecca Lazenby was selected as Team Manager.

National Wildwater Team: Richard McMinn made the cross-over from ocean-ski to Wildwater and competed in the 2019 Wildwater World Cup in France with the Australian team.

National Junior Wildwater Team: Matt Dalziel was selected as Coach of the Australian Junior and Under 23 Wildwater Team for the 2019 World Championships to be held in Bonsia and Herzegovina.

National Canoe Polo Team: Jon Purtell (Masters) and Oscar and Angus Purtell (Juniors), all of Tamar Canoe Club, were each selected to represent Australia in Canoe Polo at the Oceania Games.

National Ocean Racing Team: Jeremy Norton and Sandra Gadsby (Masters), Sam Norton, Tom Norton and Georgia Laird (Open) were each selected to represent Australia in Ocean Racing for the World Championships to be held in France later this year. In the World Cup Race held in Portugal earlier this year Tom Norton won Gold in the Open Men's division.

PADDLING DISCIPLINES

Most competitive paddling disciplines have continued strongly with affiliated Clubs running Ocean Racing, Slalom, Xtreme Racing, 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.

A strong and well attended series of flatwater races around the state continued with the DCC, Tas CC, and the Launceston Paddling Clubs all hosting state-wide races, and Tamar CC continuing with its summer Hadspen race series. These flatwater races coupled with various ocean ski paddling and training groups and ocean races have contributed to the strong National representation in Ocean Racing with five Tasmanians on the National Ocean Racing team for the 2019 World Championships (see "Representation" above).



NLK Ocean Ski Paddling Group – Photo: Roz Barber

The DCC continued to support a strong slalom series with training camps and competitions across the state at Broken Bridge (south), Mersey (North West) and Brady's Lake in the Central Highlands. As mentioned above, Derwent Canoe Club has high performance representatives in the National Senior, Under 23 and Junior slalom teams.

Xtreme racing continued its expansion with the second year of the "Esk Fest" with races on the North Esk and the South Esk at Cataract Gorge tying in with the Lea Race and the Snowy Race in NSW. Tamar CC also ran a special Paddle Week around Easter 2019 with Hydro Tasmania providing water on the Mersey, Fisher, Ouse and at Brady's Lake, and culminating in a Cataract water release. It is hoped that this will become an annual feature and attract interstate paddlers for a week of whitewater in Tasmania culminating in a Cataract Xtreme Race.

Recreational paddling also continues to grow strongly with whitewater, creeking, sea, lake and estuary paddling remaining popular for adventure, fitness and general recreation. Various paddling groups have sprung up with informal paddling opportunities across the state happening through the week and every weekend. Of note is the continued growth in Packrafting which Paddle Tasmania has supported through regular skills courses including Advanced Packrafting.

The increase in recreational for novice to intermediate paddlers has continued as clubs schedule regular trips or paddling sessions for these groups. These activities provide increased pathways into paddling whether it be sea or whitewater for those who aspire to take up competitive paddling or to remain purely recreational.

Tamar CC and DCC each continued their long-standing and popular winter Canoe Polo competitions but notably 2019 saw Tasmania field teams in the National Canoe Polo Championships for the first time in

possibly 25 years. This resurgence of Canoe Polo deserves special mention and is covered in more detail in the Reports section below.

Infrastructure

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

- In-canal earth works on the Derwent Canoe Club's Brady's Lake Whitewater course commenced in 2017 were completed in 2018 in time for the 2019 Australian Slalom Championships. These significant works have been very successful, creating new and usable wave features and eddies, improving safety at various points along the course, as well as addressing water loss to side canals. This improved water-efficiency 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 in Bronte Lagoon. Our thanks are extended to Hydro Tasmania and the Tasmanian Community Fund for their support of this project.
- Major works have also been largely completed at the Tasmanian Canoe Club's course on the Forth River. The course was significantly damaged by the 2016 floods and over the three subsequent years the Club has worked to repair all river-side walkways and remediate the damaged grounds. The damaged in-water concrete features have now all either been repaired or replaced by large boulders, providing both safer and more challenging features at the course.
- 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.

COMMITTEE

The Board has remained stable over the previous 12 Months with all positions filled. However, long-standing independent member, Andrew Bennett has advised of his retirement from the Board effective at this year's AGM. Andrew retired from his legal practice over 12 months ago and is looking to travel extensively, making ongoing involvement with the Paddle Tasmania Board impractical. Andrew's sound and sage legal advice over many years has been invaluable and we thank him for his contributions which will be missed. Andrew has offered to assist, where he can, with sourcing a suitable replacement.

GENDER DIVERSITY

A significant issue for the Board is gender diversity. Paddling overall has fewer females than males and the Board of Paddle Tasmania has not had female representation for a considerable number of years. For this reason, the Board must take active steps to increase female representation. The filling of Andrew's Independent Board position should be the first step along with identification and recruitment of other women to the Board. Paddle Australia's constitution provides a "Best Endeavours" clause aiming for no less than 40% of either gender on its Board and this may be an appropriate clause to consider adopting. At current Board size this would require 3 positions to be filled by women.

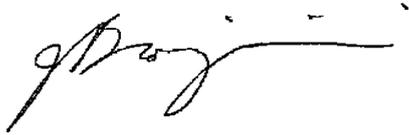
The support of Paddle Tasmania's member clubs in identifying and promoting Paddle Tasmania Board membership to suitable female Club members would be greatly appreciated.

THE COMING YEAR

2019-20 will see the Paddle Tasmania reviewing its Constitution (carried over from last year) and in particular working to increase female representation on the Board.

On the Education front we will be continuing to increase skills and consequently paddler safety through delivery of Paddle Australia's education courses and through maintaining a strong pool of qualified Guides, Instructors and Assessors. This will also support the education sector, adventure tourism industry and commercial paddling businesses. Delivering and improving on the Go Paddling initiative for people with disabilities will also be a priority as will the roll-out of Go Membership – the new IT platform for Paddle Australia and its members.

Paddle Tasmania will also host the National Age Slalom Championships (Masters, U23 and Juniors) at the Mersey Slalom Course with the Derwent Canoe Club taking the organisational lead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Borojević', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Borojević
Chair - Paddle Tasmania
26 July 2019

REPORTS

PADDLE TASMANIA DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAM (Sandra Kent – Paddle Tasmania Development Officer)

The past year has seen a lot of work undertaken to facilitate the Go Membership transition, which will be implemented in September 2019. This change is being welcomed by clubs nationally and we are hoping that all of our issues with SDNA will be a thing of the past. If we get solid, consistent reports from GoM reporting to Communities, Sports and Rec should become a lot easier.

Paddle Tasmania has also had input to the development of a new national newsletter that will have the capacity to include Tassie specific content. All clubs are encouraged to forward articles and pictures to Paddle Australia direct Lucy Zell directly. Lucy has each clubs FB page and will scan for articles.



Practicing River Crossings – River Rescue Course – Photo: Vicki Bonwick

Our Paddle Education offerings continued during early 2019 year some of our funding from Communities, Sports and Recreation was used for programs that provided access to people with a disability through the Go Kayaking Program. The program was delivered by the *University of You*, headed by Killian Halpin. The program was very successful. Unfortunately Killian has returned to Ireland so we hoping to make contact with a new deliverer for 2019-20. A very detailed report is available for anyone interested in providing something similar in their region.

We also had a lot of interest in the Ocean Ski Spring Skills and Safety course, conducted by Ben Maynard, and will be offering this course again in Spring 2019

with one course in the South and one in the North.

A number of packrafting courses were conducted by Mark Oates and Dan Hall and are also still proving popular. Also in-demand were Whitewater River Rescue Courses, with two courses run this year. These were delivered by Vicky Bonwick, Alex McWhirter and Richard Guy.

Our annual grant also allowed us to support three of our young Canoe Polo players to attend a training camp in Adelaide which substantially increased their skills and knowledge and enabled them to compete more effectively at the National Championships.

Courses and Awards July 2018 – June 2019, total participants - 135

- Spring Skills and Safety x 2 (8 October 2018), delivered by Ben Maynard – 50 participants
- Advanced Whitewater Packrafting (26 – 28 October 2018) delivered by Mark Oates and Dan Hall – 8 participants
- Paddle Education (3 – 4 November 2018) Whitewater Rescue Level 2 – Kayak, delivered by Alex McWhirter - 5 participants
- Intermediate Whitewater Packraft Course (03 – 04 November 2018), delivered by Mark Oates and Dan Hall – 7 participants
- Enclosed Sea Guide (19 – 24 November 2018), delivered Mark Grundy, 3 participants
- Sea Guide (19 – 24 November 2018), delivered Mark Grundy – 2 participants
- Paddle Education Weekend, Whitewater Skills - Kayak (24 November 2018) delivered by Richard Guy – 5 participants
- Paddle Education Weekend, Whitewater Skills - Kayak (25 November 2018), delivered by Richard Guy – 4 Participants
- Paddle Education Weekend, Flatwater Instructor - Kayak (24 – 25 November 2018), delivered by Russell Horton assessed by Jason Dicker – 3 participants

- Paddle Education Weekend, Whitewater Instructor – Kayak, (24 – 25 November 2018) delivered by Alex McWhirter – 3 participants
- Flatwater Guide - Kayak Dec 2018 (23 December 2018), delivered by Jason Dicker – 2 participants
- Go Kayaking (formerly KayakAbility) (15 February – 14 April 2019), delivered by Killian Halpin – 8 participants
- Beginners Packrafting Course (16 – 17 February 2019), delivered by Mark Oates and Dan Hall – 9 participants
- Whitewater Rescue Level 1 - Kayak (24 February 2019), delivered by Vicky Bonwick – 5 participants
- Flatwater Instructor - Kayak (16 – 17 March 2019), delivered by Dan Hall and Jason Dicker - 4 participants
- Sea Skills (31 March 2019), delivered by Mark Grundy – 5 participants
- Sea Instructor (11 May 2019), delivered by Mark Grundy – 2 participants
- Whitewater Rescue Level 2 - Kayak (18 – 19 May 2019), delivered by Alex McWhirter and Richard Guy - 10 participants

A big thank you to all of the instructors and assessors who delivered the above courses on behalf of Paddle Tasmania, especially as they needed to master the new assessment system through the use of the Paddle Ed app, which now allows the assessors to record the participants achievements on and off line, no papers required. The Paddle Ed app is still being improved as we get feedback from those using it.



Advanced Packrafting Course – Lea River – Photo, Mark Oates

Over the next twelve months you will also be hearing about Paddle Oz a program that Paddle Australia was successful in securing funding for through *Move It Aus*. This will see paddling brought to schools in regional and remote areas for those ages 13-17. Meetings have begun and we are hoping to participate. As the whole of Tassie is identified by the Federal government as remote and/or regional we can deliver the courses anywhere to the appropriate age group.

If any clubs have contacts in schools who may be interested in participating, please let PT know so that we can get the ball rolling. The program will be free to the schools

and participants.

We are also working with Paddle Australia on the One Management project, now known as United Paddling Management, UPM, funded through Sports Australia. Clubs will hear more about this as it progresses with further National meetings planed for August 2019.

As at 30 June 2019, Paddle Tasmania had the following number of Guides, Instructors and Assessors.

	Male	Female	Total
Qualified Assessors	9	1	10
Qualified Instructors	74	25	99
Registered Guides	42	15	57
TOTAL	125	41	166

TASMANIAN SEA CANOEING CLUB

(Greg Simson – Past Commodore and Allan Lee – Commodore)

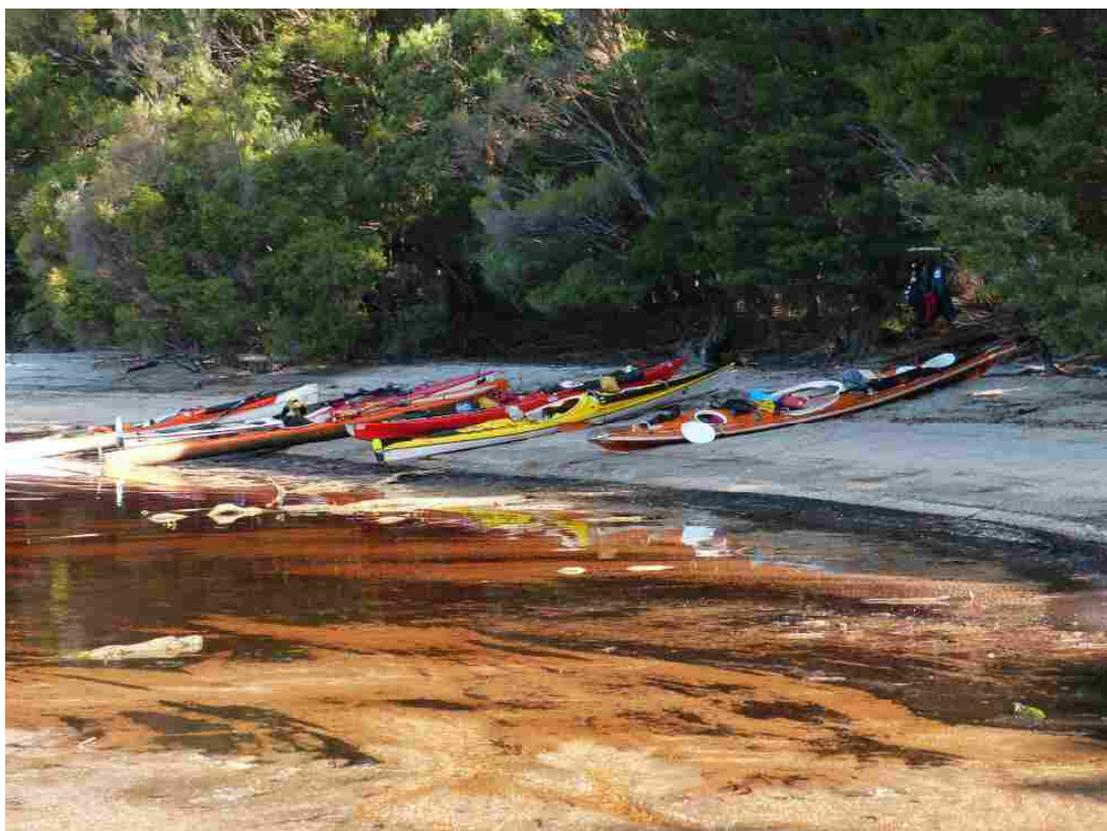
The TSCC has remained healthy with over 130 members for the 2018-19 year. We have a great club and it provides opportunities for wonderful experiences and chances to interact with like-minded (mostly) people in our great environment. Don't take it for granted we must work to keep it happening.

The Club's trip program continues to be well supported – the full gamut of trips was again offered – many thanks to those who coordinated the trips. And the non-Club *Basic Skills* trips on Tuesdays have now been going for around two years and have attracted a regular group who are now able to transition to higher level Club expeditions.

This year also saw a large group participate in the Paddle Australia Sea Skills Award training with four ultimately attaining the award and a fifth member still to complete the final assessment. The training was generously provided by qualified Club members with external Assessment, through Paddle Tasmania, by Reg Grundy of Roaring 40s Sea Kayaks. Feedback from participants included that it “vastly improved individual skill sets ... and as a consequence the health of the club”. Pool training sessions were again held at Clarence Pool to give participants to opportunity to further refine their skills or acquire new ones in warm water.

The club is making slow but steady progress in getting across Paddle Australia's systems but membership renewals will go out via the club's current systems, with the new Paddle Australia system (*Go Membership*) to be used for next year.

Thanks are extended to the Club's committee who have kept the Club running for this year and to those who a stepping in to new roles for the coming year, and thanks to all the members who support the club and enable it to provide opportunities for “*safe paddling in adventurous places*”.



A Tranquil Sea Kayak Camp Site - Photo: Greg Simson

LAUNCESTON PADDLING CLUB

(Mark Rathmell – Commodore)

Our club's membership numbers have remained relatively static over the previous year, with some people dropping out and some new members coming in. Our boat storage has also remained static as some have left and others have come in as new storage members. Nonetheless our storage is full again this year. We are investigating slightly different racking options which may make a few additional racks available.

The Club has also become more inclusive with some SUPs now in the shed, and we have picked up some good younger paddlers and significantly some newer female paddlers. We have also spent around \$5,000 on an Epic V8 double ocean ski to enable us to help people who can't paddle by themselves as well as juniors and new paddlers starting out. We also would like to assist getting some people with disabilities onto the water if we can. The double ski has been a great purchase and is used by many. The Club also has a junior kayak, sprint K1 and two sprint K2s for use by members and potential members.

The Club is also very keen to improve our accessibility both to the club-house and the water. As we are renting the shed from New Horizons, a disability support charity, we are really hoping to offer some of their members the opportunity to paddle. The double ski and some stable single options will assist in this endeavour. Additionally, one of our members, James Reid, has used an earth mover to remove some logs and piers from the waters-edge and has levelled the land off to lessen the gradient to the water. We are now waiting for grass to grow to make it more comfortable under-foot. But our biggest challenge for people with mobility issues is getting onto the water, so we are working on getting a pontoon for the area.

The Tasmanian Government, at the last election, promised \$60,000 for the aquatic area at Trevallyn. It seems that a large portion has gone to the water ski club however there is some undisclosed funds available for other users. We have had preliminary discussion with Minister Sarah Courtney on accessing funds towards a pontoon to improve water access. Grant funding is another area that we would like to explore, and we've had brief discussions with John McCausland (Paddle Tasmania Treasurer) on the topic, but would welcome some insight from other clubs on how best to proceed and which grants to apply for.

In the coming year we are again hosting and financially sponsoring a round of the Paddle Tasmania Winter Series Races, to be held on 28th of July. This is a great event that has been well supported in recent years. We also have a blueprint for a local race series of our own over the summer. We are very aware of not competing with Tamar Canoe Club's already successful race series which also runs over summer. We will focus on getting more people paddling, with a return of a race series and regular training sessions. We will also hopefully get some people with limited mobility onto the water, and to achieve this our main capital objective is the pontoon.

We are also preparing for the new Paddle Australia "Go Membership" system and a *Stripe* payment account has been set up by our treasurer.

TAMAR CANOE CLUB (Dave Hugo – Commodore)

Tamar Canoe Club

Over the last year members of the Tamar Canoe Club have enjoyed a range of paddling activities including kayaking on many rivers in Tasmania, playing canoe polo and flat-water racing at Hadspen on the South Esk River. The Club also took the lead in organising the Hydro Tasmania Cataract Gorge Extreme Race in September 2018 and April 2019, including the inaugural and successful "Paddle Week".

The Club has approximately 70 members which is slightly lower than last year. Our activities are organised by numerous people volunteering their time and it is pleasing to see new people volunteering for the Club. I want to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their contributions:

- Members of the Executive – Claye Mace, Geoff Macqueen, Jonathan Knox, Peter Sebbage and Katherine Whitmore. All members of the executive have contributed significantly to the Club,
- Public Officer – Peter Sebbage,
- Canoe Polo co-coordinators and contributors– Martina Wyss, David Chiam, Simon Barnes, Katherine Moore, Rob Bastic, Peter Sebbage, Angus Purtell and Oscar Purtell,
- Hadspen Racing co-ordinator – Adam Rolls,
- Bosun – maintenance and storage of the Club gear and equipment – Jonathan Knox, Peter Sebbage and John McCausland,
- Team members and Coach and Manager who participated in the Canoe Polo National Championships and the Oceania Canoe Polo Championships.

Canoe Polo

Canoe Polo is the Club's most popular activity and there are about 60 members filling 12 teams. Of the 60 players there are at least ten women. The main emphasis of canoe polo is fun and participation.

For the first time in about 25 years, three teams from Tamar competed in the National Canoe Polo Championships. 18 players participated and were supported by three parents. The junior team placed third and the youth team placed second. The competition and the experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Congratulations go to three members of Tamar were selected to represent Australia and compete in

the Oceania Championships: Jon, Oscar and Angus Purtell. All competed at the Oceania Championships and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

There are plans under way for Tamar to train teams to compete in the National Championships again next year, and the Club has also agreed for Tasmania to be nominated to host the 2022 National Canoe Polo championships.

Hadspen Racing

Flat water racing was held again last summer at Hadspen on the South Esk River. There were 17 races held with a total of 29 paddlers competing in the series. The race series was sponsored by Paddle and Ski and Phil Nelson won the Paddle and Ski trophy. Jon Purtell won the \$600 voucher from Stellar Kayaks. Thank you to Adam Rolls for organising the event and also to Paddle and Ski for their ongoing support of the event.

Paddle Week and Cataract Gorge Extreme Race

Geoff McQueen has continued to liaise with Hydro Tasmania and create events that will provide world class paddling opportunities and also attract paddlers to visit Tasmania. This year Geoff organised Paddle Week and the Cataract Gorge Extreme Race. Paddle week was a great success with many people taking to opportunity to paddle across the state. However, strangely only 9 people competed in the Cataract Gorge Extreme Race which finished the week - less than half of the numbers that competed the previous year.

The Esk Fest

The North Esk Paddle Fest was expanded to become the Esk Fest. This event was held in September last year on the North Esk River above Corra Lynn on the Saturday and Cataract Gorge on the Sunday. The race is a popular event amongst kayakers and is a very social occasion. The event was organised by Cliff Roche, Ryan Burrows and Jonathan Knox on behalf of Tamar CC. Thank you for organising the event.

DERWENT CANOE CLUB (Peter Eckhardt – Commodore)

The 2018-19 year has been an active one for the Derwent Canoe Club with ongoing activities across most areas of the Club, strong membership and strong finances. Highlights for the year include:

Organisation

- Successful operation of the new club board structure, with a move to build more social activities into the clubs annual program
- Reviewing and updating our strategic plan to guide our priorities, especially in relation to communication and running events
- Handing back the administration of the boat storage facility to the Derwent Sailing Squadron
- Two successful grant applications to purchase a slalom gear trailer and a set of three plastic kayaks and gear and equipment for club white water paddlers

Events/Activities

- Successful running of the winter series with 25 to 40 paddlers at each race
- Another great season of polo run over 20 weeks with 4 or 5 teams in each roster
- Between 5 and 25 people attending the pool for rolling for the duration of the 20-week polo roster
- Paddle power introduction program offered in 2 of the 4 school terms in 2018 - 19
- Ongoing success for the Under-3s river trips
- Hosting the state ocean race championships with 35 competitors
- Running four Mersey River slalom and recreational paddling weekends
- Ongoing success of the Paddling Pals and Pizza's in the daylight savings months
- Eight to ten attendees at the Paddle Fit sessions run at Hobart College
- Ongoing slalom program supported by Paddle Australia and the Tasmanian Institute of Sport
- Running a highly successful quiz night with 80 attendees
- Hosting the national slalom championships in January 2019
- Additionally, Richard McMinn has a Wildwater Race series for Huon River in coming months

Member paddling success

- Successful representation of club members at the National and World Slalom Championships, particularly Dan Watkins, Demelza Wall and Kate Eckhardt who competed at the World U23 World Championships in Krakow. Dan will also compete at the Senior World Championships in August 2019
- Participation of four juniors (Hamish Dalziel, Hugh Clements, Claire Hodgman and George Lazenby) in the Australian development team tour to New Zealand at Easter 2019

- Successful participation by Richard McMinn at Wildwater World Cup races in France
- Ten members competed in the Great Ocean Paddle in Torquay, Victoria with great success
- Five members competed at the Australian Ocean Race series interstate.
- Sandra Gadsby will compete at World Ocean Race World Championships in Sept in France.
- Andrew Fulsang was 13th in Mauritius Ocean Race World Cup
- Roz Barber will compete in New Zealand Ocean Races in Sept 2019
- Hosting State Ocean Racing Championships with 35 competitors – the race was from Tinderbox to Sandy Bay in February 2019
- Wildwater team success at Nationals - Gold medal in Men's K1 Teams and other individual Medals in various age categories

Slalom Projects

- Completion of redevelopment of Brady's Lake canoe course
- Hosting of the Mersey Slalom training weekends
- Hosting of the National Slalom Championships at Brady's Lake in January 2019.
- Hosted two National Development Squad camps at Brady's Lake (Dec 2018 and March 2019)
- Supported an ongoing TIS slalom program
- Supported three Penrith training and racing trips for junior slalom paddlers

Challenges

I believe the club has several challenges in the year ahead including: continuing to offer events and activities that members are seeking; running introductory programs; continue our improvement in communications with members and the community; increasing membership; and importantly improving gender equity through increasing female participation in paddling.

TASMANIAN CANOE CLUB (Russell Horton - Secretary)

The Tasmanian Canoe Club had a busy and successful 2019, with a large contribution from volunteers and club leaders.

Work was completed on the river features at the Forth Whitewater Course and in total Club members gave 579 hours over the past two years to complete the project. The in-water river works have lifted the height of the eddy on river right of the wave, improving access from lower section to upper section and several features were modified and holes and foot-entrapment hazards were filled with concrete. Additionally, campground improvements have continued.



Forth River Festival – January 2019 – Photo: Russell Horton

As a result of the improvements, the Forth site was heavily used over summer and autumn with the Forth River Festival, training camps, school groups and recreational paddling. The club held a Come and Try Day in January and was overwhelmed with numbers and throughout the warmer months beginners and new members received instruction from members on Thursday nights at Forth. Hydro Tasmania generously scheduled weekly water releases for these Thursday nights (October to March) which saw

paddlers queuing to surf on the improved wave. On several nights over 30 paddlers could be seen darting around the Forth Whitewater Course

The Club also conducted a range of winter river trips for beginners up to Grade 2. These were popular and included rivers across the North West including various sections of the Lower Mersey, the Leven and the Hellyer Rivers.

The Lea Extreme Race weekend, now 15 years old, was extended with hosting of the inaugural Australian Whitewater Film Festival. Race numbers were up this year with 42 entrants racing and significantly more paddlers attending to paddle the river whilst not competing.

Club members also enthusiastically helped out at the Australian Whitewater Championships on the Mersey, providing on-course rescue, logistics, timing, and competitor equipment safety checks. They also had a great time catching up with old friends and making new friends at the nightly volunteer's events.

Sadly, Life Member, Rade Borojević died earlier this year. Rade was known for his encouragement and support toward members during the club's earlier days.

The club looks forward to 2020 with an emphasis on community participation in its Safer Paddling program.

CANOE POLO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAMS (John McCausland, Tamar Canoe Club)

The strong Canoe Polo competition in the Tamar CC, particularly the enthusiasm of a number of keen juniors, prompted a bid to field teams at the 2019 National Championships at Penrith Whitewater Stadium. Jon Purtell (Team Coach) and Jenny Purtell (Team Manager) pulled together teams from the Tamar competition with the addition of former multi-time state Canoe Polo representative, David Marshall of the DCC.

Training sessions started in October 2018, following on from the end of the Tamar roster competition. Training was conducted at Trevallyn Dam and Riverside Pool, but securing access to a farm dam in Lilydale made a big difference. The large and sheltered dam allowed for Tamar CC's floating goals to be permanently set up and training scheduled for twice a week. Paddle Tasmania then assisted a group of the young paddlers to attend a coaching camp in Adelaide prior to the National Championships.

Jade Kerber of Canoe Polo Australia provided additional gear and also flew over from Melbourne on several occasions to provide coaching for the teams. He was so impressed with the Lilydale training spot that on one trip he brought a several of his fellow Australian Team members to practice.

It was very exciting to see the commitment of the players to training and improving their skills. All the juniors learnt to roll early in the training sessions (mainly hand-rolling) allowing them to both push themselves and to play harder.

The credit for the organisation should go primarily to Jenny Purtell, whose effort to make sure everything was organised really paid off. Training, travel and competition ran smoothly, costs were kept to a minimum, and everyone played well, slept well, and ate well.

Ultimately everyone had a great time but it was particularly pleasing to see the skills progression and inclusive attitude of the juniors. Three Tasmanians, Angus, Oscar and Jon Purtell were all selected for the Australian Canoe Polo Team for the Oceania Games in Sydney.

Following this year's success, the Tamar Canoe Club is looking at organising a State Championships again and sending teams to the 2020 Canoe Polo Nationals Championships, and considering the possibility of hosting the Canoe Polo National Championships in Tasmania in 2022.



Tasmanian Canoe Polo Teams in Action

