



Four Bridges: It's our chance to shine!

Thanks to all Stormers who have jumped aboard to support the 4 Bridges event on February 20 next year. Your efforts are most appreciated and the Steering Committee is working on its job list to ensure everyone has a role to play on the day and in the lead up to the event.

A fleet of 10 boats has been confirmed with nine of the crews coming from interstate (New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria). Supporters are being catered for as well with a cruise on the launch, Egeria, courtesy of the MYCT. The Egeria will meet the dragon boats at Bridgewater. Our very own Captain Daviepops is the cruise chaperone and is working on an entertaining itinerary for the guests.

Stormer Anne Carey and Toni Csaki from DATH are heading up the catering team and already are on the prowl for donations of quality Tassie produce to feed our hungry paddlers and volunteers. Please contact Anne if you are able to source some goodies. DATH and Storms are preparing the lunch at the Lindisfarne Rowing Club and North Esk are in charge of the morning tea at Austins Ferry Yacht Club.



DERWENT VALLEY COUNCIL



Kathryn and Pete Essex have secured a fabulous Typhoon adjustable paddle as a raffle prize so watch out for tickets! They are \$5 and, with a limited number of tickets, you have a good chance of winning the big prize!

The Derwent Valley Council has generously sponsored the event with a \$2000 donation. The New Norfolk Rowing Club has provided its clubrooms, parking area, boat shed and launching area for use on the day.

This is a big event for Derwent Storms as we are showcasing our beautiful River Derwent as a top dragon boating venue to interstate paddlers. The 4 Bridges could become another "must do paddle" like the Ord River event.

Club Committee 2015-16

President: Angie Turner

Vice president: Alison Mourant

Secretary: Kathryn Essex

Treasurer: Jenny Smith

Peter Essex, Matt Davies, Jan Breen, Jane Lovibond, Jenny Willing, Pamela Hunt

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Big contingent heads north for North Esk regatta

Derwent Storms boated two 10s crews and contributed to the sweep and drumming pools at the Launceston Dragon Boat Festival hosted by the North Esk club on November 14.

Despite showers in Hobart, the weather in the northern capital was sunny and warm and our crews made the most of great conditions in their makeshift camp on the grassy bank of the North Esk River opposite Launceston's fabulous Seaport.



Derwent Storms soak up the sun and atmosphere of the festival at Launceston's Seaport.

The day's program included corporate events for the two crews from the Launceston General Hospital and club races for Storms, North Esk, Deloraine, Nipples on Ripples and MoCo. The 230 metre course was ideal for spectators and ran the entire length of Seaport complex.

Racing got underway after a robust performance by the Taiko Drummers and the program ended with an event for men (plus Storms' token guys Ali 'Trevor' Mourant and Julie 'Trevor' Davidson) to make up the numbers. It was a great event for the fellas and topped off a good day, especially for the Deloraine crew in their new flame orange tops.

Our very own Jenny Smith became an honorary Deloraine Flame for the day and, happily for her, was a member of the victorious composite crew (Deloraine, DATH and Storms) that took out top honours in the club comp.

Our club salutes Ali for her to-ing and fro-ing between paddlers and the event officials to ensure we were kept abreast with frequent program changes! It is a real challenge to produce, and stick to, a race schedule as our 2015 Masters paddlers can testify!

As requested, Ali has provided constructive feedback about the organisation of the event.



Pete arrived in his leathers after an exhilarating ride up the Midland Hwy



It was no mean feat for coach Ali to provide a 'stand and deliver' paddling tutorial for a corporate crew at the festival



Mel and Geoff stretch it out after a paddling session . Who will join them in next year's Point to Pinnacle?

Mel and Geoff have their eyes on pinnacle of paddling

Two of our newer paddlers have taken to dragon boating like a duck to water.

They were converts from the word go and Mel Baker and Geoff Andrews rarely miss a session. However, they were absent on Sunday but they had a pretty good reason for being absent.

They were competing in the Point to Pinnacle and not for the first time either!

They were very pleased with their times:

Mel: 3hrs 40m 36s Geoff: 2hrs 28m 56s

Geoff in particular has an interest in numbers and records his event time on his leg. Ask him to flash his tattoo and be amazed!

Mel and Geoff have issued a challenge for more Stormers to join them for next year's event.



When you are not paddling a dragon boat.....

More and more Stormers are discovering new paddling venues and not necessarily in a dragon boat.

Mike and Marilyn Percey set sail with Steve Burgess, Penny and Frank Zucchi and two friends on Australia's Mighty Murray last month in a huge fleet of watercraft for the Massive Murray Paddle.

The 404km marathon is a relay event starting in Yarrawonga and ending in Swan Hill five days later.

Paddlers are warned to get wet, muddy and to sleep well after a long day on the river. Everyone can get involved, from beginners to paddling veterans, no matter what skill level or capability. Crowds of supporters turn out every year to cheer paddlers on. You can rally some mates and sign up as a team, or opt to tackle it solo over either the five, three days or one day events.

Our six-member team opted for a classic Canadian canoe but Steve admitted they were up against it when the wind blew hard. All other paddlers were in kayaks, which travelled a lot easier on the sluggish river.

Day one was cancelled because of a bushfire threat but the rest was "plain sailing" with an injured Penny doing a fantastic job in the team support vehicle.

Dragon Boating Calendar 2015-16

December

- 13 Derwent Storms Xmas BBQ
- 19 Xmas paddle with DATH
- 22 Last club paddle for 2015

January 2016

- 5 First paddle for 2016
- 26 Sandy Bay Regatta

February 2016

- 6-7 Tasmanian Dragon Boat Champs, Lake Barrington
- 20 Four Bridges Marathon
- 28 DATH Corporate Regatta

March 2016

- 5-6 Wellington Dragon Boat Festival N.Z.
- 23-28 National Championships, Adelaide

Lake Barrington State Titles

The Lake Barrington Regatta on February 6 and 7 is a great opportunity for all Tasmanian dragon boat clubs to get together.

DBTas will run the State Titles racing at the start of the weekend which will be followed by a Breast Cancer Survivors race and Flowers on the Water.

Novelty paddling events will be held on the Saturday afternoon and more exciting paddling is planned on the Sunday. At some stage, hopefully, there will be a turns race as well.

The lodge at Lake Barrington has bunkhouse accommodation but some people prefer to camp or stay in B&B accommodation nearby.

North West Dragons Abreast arranges catering over the weekend and a good night is always had at the Saturday night "shin dig".

If you are interested in attending this event, please leave your name on the list in the cubby.

More information will follow once registration, lodge and camping fees are confirmed. This event is for all club paddlers: first timers are especially welcome.

Put up your hand for the Sandy Bay Regatta

The Sandy Bay Regatta Association has invited Derwent Storms to a festival of paddling on Australia Day (26 January) at Long Beach.

Those who attended last year's regatta agreed it was a great way to spend Australia Day and hopefully the 2016 event will be just as enjoyable. Prize money is offered so there is added incentive to paddle hard.

The program includes a series of separate outrigger canoe and dragon boat races with the victorious crews from each discipline paddling off for a grand final.

Derwent Storms once again will supply a support boat for the event.

If you are interested in attending please leave your name on the appropriate list in the clubroom.

If you would prefer to be a supporter rather than paddle, please put your name down to "officiate" in the club's information marquee which will be in the thick of regatta activities.

Please support this event as Sandy Bay Regatta Association has been very generous in welcoming dragon boating to the regatta.

Welcome to our newest members

- Sally Weedon
- Rona Hollingsworth
- Lisa Coles
- Sarah McMahon
- Heath Jones

Xmas BBQ will bowl you over

A reminder that the club festive season BBQ is on this Sunday (December 13) at the Beltana Bowls Club.

This is your last chance to put your name down on the list and pay your \$5 towards the meat and hire costs.

We are looking forward to lovely salads and desserts that have been pledged! Thank you in advance to the cooks!