



# The Derwent Drum

Derwent Storms Dragon Boat Club Newsletter

Issue 12 23 September 2014

## Club Committee 2014-15

**President:** Angie Turner

**Vice president:** Alison Mourant

**Secretary:** Janine Atkins

**Treasurer:** Jenny Smith

Denise Phillips, Grady Koolhof, Jan Breen,  
Jane Lovibond, Jenny Willing, Martin  
Turner, Pamela Hunt



[www.derwentstorms.com.au/](http://www.derwentstorms.com.au/)

[derwentstorms@gmail.com](mailto:derwentstorms@gmail.com)



And you thought this was hard! Just wait for Martin to get back from the “Mother Country”. He is going to introduce Dragon Fit on Wednesday evenings for the real masochists among us.

## DBTas AGM and lit boat event on Lindisfarne Bay

The DBTas annual meeting and the annual Lit Boat Ceremony are being held on Saturday 18 October.

The AGM will be at 1pm at MoCo's Montrose Bay headquarters (Glenorchy Rowing Club). DBTas is sending out nominations forms for board positions.

The Lit Boat Ceremony is modelled on last year's event and will get underway at the Lindisfarne Rowing Club launching area at 8pm. Stormers are asked to meet at the MYCT at 7pm to decorate the boat(s) with lanterns and lights. The plan is to then paddle to the rowing club and meet up with DATH for a paddle around the bay.

We will then adjourn to Simmons Park gazebo for supper (bring a small plate) and refreshments at dusk.

Put your name on the list in the cubby if you would like to be involved in this event.

## Our loss is Vinnies' gain

Please check the lost property green plastic bin in the club cubbyhouse. There are a few useful items which must belong to someone – rashies, beanies and even a Derwent Storms hoodie or two.

If the bits and pieces are not claimed in the next week, they will be going to Vinnies!



## Dragon Boating Calendar

### September 2014

27 9.30am Skills Session, Lindisfarne

### October 2014

1 State team applications close

4-5 Selection camp # 1 for State team

4 Paddle to Bellerive with DATH

12 11am Club BBQ Waterworks

18 1pm DBTas AGM Montrose Bay

18 7pm Lit Boat Ceremony Lindisfarne

28 Social night MYCT (after paddling)

### November 2014

2 Selection camp # 2 for State team

8-9 Pan Pacific Masters Games, Qld

### December 2014

6 DBTas BBQ Bunnings Rosny Park

13 Derwent Storms-DATH Xmas party

### January 2015

24 St Helens Regatta

### February 2015

7-8 State Regatta, Lake Barrington

22 Chinese New Year Regatta TBC

### April 2015

13-19 National Championships,  
Champion Lakes, Perth WA

### October 2015

Australian Masters Games , Adelaide

## PADDLING SESSIONS REMINDERS

**Signing in:** When you sign in on the paddling sheet at the start of each session, please don't put your own phone number (even if it's the only one you can remember). This number is supposed to be an emergency contact – someone who will actually answer the phone if we have to contact them on your behalf. There's no point leaving a message on your personal answering machine or phone if you are the one in trouble!

**Return life vests and paddles to the store:** Please put your borrowed club life vests and paddles back in the cubby house after paddling session. They are not for long-term use and are needed for every session. They are no good to other paddlers if they are in the boot of your car.

**Notification of cancelled sessions:** Please check the Derwent Storms facebook page or your email to find out if paddling sessions have been cancelled due to bad weather. Text messaging is becoming very unwieldy and time consuming. If you don't have access to a computer, please arrange with a paddling buddy to text you.

**Last Saturday in the month:** Dragon Boat Tasmania endeavours to run a skills improvement session after regular Saturday morning training on the last Saturday in the month. It is aimed at all clubs and usually focusses on sweep skill development including race starts and turns. It is not compulsory to attend but it is excellent practice for our sweeps and adds only half an hour to our time on the water. Please stay on for this if you can.



You have to hand it to the weather gods. We have been blessed with some awesome paddling conditions lately, especially in the bay.

## Peter and Kathryn swap their Narooma blue for green and black

The allure of Tasmania proved too great for new members Peter and Kathryn Essex. Even though they have left a piece of mainland heaven at Narooma on the southern New South Wales Coast, Tassie offers everything (and more) than they had hoped for.

Being founder members of the Narooma Blue Water Dragons, finding a dragon boat club near their new home was essential. And now living at Rose Bay, Peter and Kathryn can keep a weather eye on the river and a watchful eye on the Derwent Storms boats.

Suburban life is something new for the Senior B paddlers.

Peter and Kathryn operated a rural retreat just outside of

Narooma but they are looking forward to more leisure time, proximity to plenty of small city activities and, of course, more time on the water. Peter is a class 4 sweep and both he and Kathryn are well prepared for the challenging conditions on the Derwent. Their old paddling territory on Wagonga Inlet could be very mean at times.

They are also well practised in club administration having been instrumental in establishing the Blue Water Dragons, first on a lake then moving their headquarters to the inlet where the club negotiated a lease, successfully applied for grants and built a boathouse right on the beach.

Backed by a very supportive community, the Blue Water Dragons have gone from strength to strength in just four years. Their activities are regularly highlighted in the local newspaper and the club has become an integral part of life in Narooma.

Welcome aboard guys. Don't think that we won't pick your brains!



Above: Peter and Kathryn Essex

Far left: The boathouse on the beach built by the Narooma Blue Water Dragons

Left: The old crew. Watch out for the distinctive blue tops at the Pan Pacs and the Nationals!

Photos courtesy NBWD facebook

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Club BBQ to welcome new members

Waterworks Reserve (Site 9) Sunday 12 October 11am-4pm. BYO meat and drinks. Denise will co-opt people to provide salad and nibbles. Please come along and get to know our new Stormers. Bring your family.

### Refreshments after Tuesday night paddling

Please stay around at the MYCT after paddling on the last Tuesday of the month. Denise and the "good time gals" have invited everyone to adjourn to the club bar for a drink and, as Tuesday is Burger Night at the MYCT, for some food as well. Burgers can be pre-ordered before we go out on the water. What better time to introduce such an excellent idea than after the start of Daylight Saving. Save the date: Tuesday 28 October.

### Paddle with the Pinkies

DATH has invited Stormers and MoCo to paddle with them to Bellerive (weather permitting) on Saturday October 4 as part of raising awareness about life after breast cancer during October. The paddle will be followed by a fund raiser "pink morning tea" in the park for \$5 per person.

## Padding with the elite: If you get the chance, DO IT says Jen

Few of us will probably ever get the opportunity to paddle at international level but that does not make the experience among the 'big league' any less exciting.

This is Jenny Willing's account of her most recent European regatta, the World Club Crew Championships in Ravenna, Italy, where Jen and the Brisbane River Dragons (BRD) matched it with the best.

We were based in seaside Cervia which could be described as the Italian version of the Gold Coast – right on the beach, lots of hotels and tourists, and about 20 minutes bus drive from the race venue, the Staudiana in Ravenna.

Full of anticipation, we crowded onto our bus in frightful weather. It was so bad that when we arrived at the race course several boats had tipped in the wild conditions and by 10am all practice had been cancelled. The next day was not quite as bad so we did get on the water for almost two hours in both standard and 10s boats, but the forecast for the first day of competition, and for pretty much all of it, was not good. On day one of competition the start was delayed by wind but the Senior Cs mixed 20s had a great 2km race to take silver behind a Canadian team. Not bad when our mix was 10/10 and all other crews raced eight women and 12 men.



The organisers decided that conditions were too bad to allow full crews in the 10s boats so our Senior A mixed paddled with a crew of only eight – phew – such hard work around a 2km course. By the afternoon the conditions had improved so we were back to full crews again. I paddled in the Senior A women's 10s which was very scary but we stayed upright and came 7<sup>th</sup>. There was a collision and a disqualification in the Senior B women's 20s race (not us) and we came 5<sup>th</sup>. It was a very hard day with three 2km races for me. We were all very tired but had a fun trip to the local laundromat packed with paddlers from Australia and the USA.

The organisers decided that conditions were too bad to allow full crews in the 10s boats so our Senior A mixed paddled with a crew of only eight – phew – such hard work around a 2km course. By the afternoon the conditions had improved so we were back to full crews again. I paddled in the Senior A women's 10s which was very scary but we stayed upright and came 7<sup>th</sup>. There was a collision and a disqualification in the Senior B women's 20s race (not us) and we came 5<sup>th</sup>. It was a very hard day with three 2km races for me. We were all very tired but had a fun trip to the local laundromat packed with paddlers from Australia and the USA.

Day two started cold and windy but by lunchtime things were on the improve. This was the first 200m day. The Senior C mixed 20s came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the heat so we raced a semi-final and bettered our time. The grand final was so close and we thought we had won – the scoreboard said so – but then it was changed and Canada beat us for the gold by 0.07 of a second. Senior C women's 10s was raced over two heats with the times added. Although not managing to "nail" the starts as well as some of the others, BRD just powered away to win both heats by more than a boat length, so the gold was ours. I was paddling in Senior B women's 10s as well. Our time was good enough to go straight to the grand final where we thought we may have got the bronze but the photo showed the tiniest margin – 4<sup>th</sup>.

That evening we found a wonderful gelati parlour just down the street, which became our meeting place every night. At last, a mild Italian summer night. Yay!

Day three was 200m Open and Women's crews, so BRD was racing Senior B and C men's 10s, and Senior A women's 10s. The Senior C men mirrored our efforts of the previous day and took the gold, while the Senior B men took silver. The Senior A women's heat was first thing in the morning and our time was good enough to go straight to the GF, which was at 5.05pm! We tried really hard but the Canadian and German crews were so very strong. We came 4<sup>th</sup> – pretty good – 4<sup>th</sup> in the world!

Days four and five were copies of days two and three, but over 500m. By now the weather was stunning and everyone was able to take advantage of the beautiful setting with lots of grass and big shady trees everywhere, so we were all able to come out of our crowded tents and spread ourselves around.

A couple of enterprising guys in our team had "procured" a number of benches and other inspired seating arrangements, and the BRD compound was looking very comfortable.

No wonder there were lots of others constantly stopping for chats and swapping hospitality in the form of the local watermelon – yum. Sometimes other crews joined in our warm-ups and the whole atmosphere had changed. Smiley faces everywhere – except on the water!

The Senior C mixed 20s made the grand final and came 4<sup>th</sup> with our 10/10 mix against 10/12. The Senior C women's 10s crew copied our 200m performance and won both heats and the gold medal.

At any time of the day you would find the coaches sitting with the crew lists, constantly tweaking seating and paddlers, according to the best possible combinations for the race conditions. I found myself all over the place, from seat 3 to seat 8 or 9 in standard boats or from 2 to 4 in the 10s. My admiration and respect for their insight and ability to read conditions just continued to skyrocket, and I also learned so much from the sweeps who faced such challenges, and steered us through to the medals on so many occasions.



On the last day I paddled in the Senior A women's 10s and again we had a good heat early in the morning and were just pipped for the bronze in the final: 4<sup>th</sup> in the world – pretty good. Senior B men took bronze and the old guys took the gold – woohoo!

All up, eight medals for BRD and I'm pretty sure we would have been the most successful of the Australian clubs there. At pack-up time, the shirt trading was going on in earnest and mine was swapped for a shirt from the False Creek club in Canada – one of the strongest clubs at the competition.

The coaches were pleased and it was a happy bus trip back to the hotel for the last time. We had a team dinner, and the reality that the whole thing was over started to hit everyone as we said goodbye to those leaving early for home or other places. There were quite a few down at the gelati parlour that night. I will miss them all and hope to visit BRD often.

This is such an abridged version of my experience but I hope I've been able to touch on just about every aspect. I loved every minute of it and I'd certainly encourage anyone going to Brisbane to get in touch with BRD and go paddle with them. They are a fantastic bunch of people, and I hope we see some of them down here too.

### **Paddling tops for teddies or kids**

There are a number of small club singlets to be given away. These were supplied in error last year. The extra small tops would be fine for a small child or large teddy bear, the small sizes would be great for the grand kids and the medium and large sizes would fit a paddler of "slight build". See Jan Breen if you are interested.

### **Perth Nationals 2015**

**EOIs for Derwent Storms club teams have been circulated and close on 17 October.**

**EOIs for the State team have been extended to 1 October.**