



DragonBoat SA

ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20 August 2014



Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation and Sport

be active.

BOARD

| | 12 Meetings held 2013/14 | Meetings Attended |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| PRESIDENT | John Holland | 12/12 |
| VICE PRESIDENT - FEMALE | Chris Wood | 11/12 |
| VICE PRESIDENT - MALE | Rick French | 12/12 |
| SECRETARY | Vacant | |
| TREASURER | Jennifer Bould | 12/12 |
| COMMITTEE | Pat Doogue | 10/12 |
| | Jennifer Le Ray | 9/11 |

OFFICERS

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| PUBLIC OFFICER | Marie Cunningham |
| AUDITOR | Terry Caldow |

MEMBERS:

- Adelaide Black Dragons
- Adelaide Phoenix
- Adelaide Sea Dragons
- Adelaide Survivors Abreast
- Blue Water Raiders
- Copper Coast Battle Dragons
- Coorong Dragons
- Dragons Abreast Port Lincoln
- Power Blades
- SA Dragons Abreast
- Subsonix
- Victor Dragons
- Waiwilta
- Water Warriors

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

| AGE | FEMALE | MALE | TOTAL |
|-------|------------|------------|------------|
| <18 | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| 19-24 | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| 25-39 | 40 | 20 | 60 |
| 40-49 | 68 | 29 | 97 |
| 50-59 | 150 | 58 | 208 |
| 60+ | 166 | 53 | 219 |
| | 436 | 169 | 605 |

COMMITTEES

Race Committee

- Adelaide Black Dragons
 - Adelaide Phoenix
 - Adelaide Sea Dragons
 - Adelaide Survivors Abreast
 - Blue Water Raiders
 - Copper Coast
 - Dragons Abreast Pt Lincoln
 - Goolwa Dragons
 - PowerBlades
 - SADA
 - Subsonix
 - Victor Dragons
 - Waiwilta
 - Water Warriors
- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Jennifer Cook | Graham Horsburgh |
| Clive Grant | Sean Carey |
| Darryl Bockman | John Holland |
| Julie Matson | Steve Holt |
| Jenny Chillingworth | Margot Bauer |
| Angie Lange | Di McDowell |
| Sandy Jansen | Jackie Johnston |
| Anne Simmons | Di Bilney |
| Andy Kelly | Mary Kohler |
| Julie Hyland | Heather Wingard |
| Ronnie Lane | Thomas Moss |
| Heather Wehr | Judy Burdon |
| Michelle Lennon | John Thompson |
| Dennis Wright | Dave Watts |

Maintenance Committee

- Adelaide Phoenix
 - Black Dragons
 - Blue Water Raiders
 - Copper Coast Battle Dragons
 - Powerblades
 - SADA
 - Subsonix
 - Waiwilta
 - Water Warriors
 - SADA
- | |
|---------------------|
| Paul Johnston |
| Ming Zhou Fan |
| Jenny Chillingworth |
| Susan Jamieson |
| Gavin Kohler |
| Steve Cannon |
| Patrick Doogue |
| Kevin Walsh |
| Geoffrey Gray |
| Martin Pearson |

High Performance

Jennifer Le Ray
Cheryl Watson
Chris Wood

Facilities Committee

John Holland
Brad Cunyngname
Rick French
Jennifer Bould (Alt)

Development Committee

Chris Wood

| |
|-----------------|
| Jennifer Le Ray |
|-----------------|

DRAGONBOAT SA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2013 – 2014

I will commence my report as usual with an update on our progress toward our strategic objectives.

Our **Mission** states that:

DragonBoat SA seeks to increase participation in the sport of Dragon Boating by making it an activity of choice for people of all ages and backgrounds seeking healthy activity and competition.

Our **Vision** encompasses the following:

- Maintain the cultural traditions and values of the Sport in the South Australian community.
- Raise the awareness of Dragon Boating in the community as an enjoyable, safe, physically and mentally challenging activity.
- Provide access and equity for all members of the community to participate in Dragon Boating.
- Continue the development of strong local, national and international competitions

To achieve our plans we have divided our activities into six different core business areas as follows:

ADMINISTRATION

- § At this stage we have not searched for an Executive Officer as the proposed funding is well below that which we would need to pay for effective results. Our administration is being assisted by Marie Cunningham in her business – Admin Focus – and we will continue with this approach.
- § We again conducted the annual governance review for the Board utilizing the OR&S “Sporting Bodies Governance Checklist” which produced no areas for concern.
- § Our Committees are working reasonably well with a couple needing some concerted involvement:
 - Ø **Race Committee** – The R.C. is probably our best functioning Committee with involvement from every club. Each club is exposed to the organizational requirements for regattas and familiarization with the rules of Dragon Boat racing
 - Ø **Maintenance Committee** – This committee is starting to produce results but we still have a way to go to ensure that our equipment is always in good working order and our premises maintained in good condition.
 - Ø **Website Committee** – This group is also starting to produce results and we need to constantly monitor our website to portray our sport in the best light to encourage participation.
 - Ø **Development Committee** – We are still trying to attract members to this committee as there are a number of opportunities for our sport in several areas – if you think you can help in this area please contact any of our Board.
- § Both Admin Focus and Sport SA continue to assist us with our administration. Sport SA has recently helped us update our Member Protection Policy which I encourage all to review
- § Our Smart Space Data Base has now been adopted by all states and territories and by AusDBF. We are currently working on an availability module to enable registered paddlers to record their regatta availability to assist clubs with their preparations. If clubs have ideas for improvements/additions to the system we would welcome input through our issues papers.

- § John Harris had taken on the Cultural and Publicity Portfolio and did a really good job over the past twelve months. Unfortunately, John has had to retire from the sport for medical issues and we are sad to see him go and wish him all the best in his “retirement”. We are now seeking a replacement for this portfolio and would love to hear from any interested parties.

PROMOTION and MARKETING

- § Our website is proving popular and the Website Committee is working hard to keep content both up to date and relevant.
- § John Harris was successful in getting us some radio coverage on the ABC and we had a couple of small entries in Messenger Newspapers. This is an area of concentration for the Publicity portfolio.
- § Our agreement with Community Television – Channel 44, did not produce the expected results but they did give our Corporate Challenge a reasonable amount of publicity – At this stage we will not be renewing the agreement.
- § We have advertised for a Junior Development Officer and to date have had no success. Jennifer Leray has assumed responsibility for this portfolio and we plan to have a schools involvement during this coming season.
- § A billboard banner on Port Road was displayed last year and will again be in place for this coming season.
- § Discussions with Port Vincent traders association with a view to hosting a Race Meeting over there have progressed and an event is planned for the first weekend in May 2015.
- § We again partnered with Life Be in it to run a 6 week corporate challenge early in 2014 and this year we had 16 crews involved. It is proving a very popular event and is now a permanent fixture on our calendar.

COACHING and OFFICIATING

- § The AusDBF level 1 coaching course was run in August 2013 and at least two of the attendees have completed their post course work to gain accreditation with several others just about completed. Another course is to be run on July 27th 2014.
- § DBSA has designed a new Sweeps Training program which has been trialed and is now ready for distribution. We will identify trainers who can run the course and hopefully with a uniform level of instruction, our sweeps skill levels will be enhanced.
- § The DBSA Officials Program has been introduced and the details of the program will shortly be on the website. Several people have completed the training course which was run by Jennifer Bould and Julie Clinch – this course will be repeated on demand.
- § Pat Doogue has volunteered to present the AusDBF National Officials Course once he has been trained – this will become more important as we approach the 2016 Nationals and CCWC. and we have the opportunity to have a local presenter trained to deliver this program in SA.
- § DBSA has resolved to provide an annual subsidized First Aid Course

PARTICIPATION

- § Mawson Lakes remains a venue we are targeting and will be high on the priorities of the Development Subcommittee once it is up and running.
- § Eleven of our member clubs are registered with the Star Club program with three clubs fully accredited – Adelaide Sea Dragons, Dragons Abreast Port Lincoln and Waiwilta Paddling Club. DBSA will now progress through the accreditation process and encourage all clubs to work through the program to achieve accreditation.
- § Victor Dragons from Victor Harbor joined the Association early in the 2013-14 year – we have supplied them with a loan boat and trailer. A group in Naracoorte is keen to start up and we will be taking a boat down there on Sunday October 19th for a Come and Try day which should lead to the formation of a club.
- § Unfortunately the Mildura Council has cancelled their Masters Games for 2015 so we will not be running a Dragon Boat event there in the near future.
- § Dragon Boating featured at the South Australian Masters Games in Naracoorte in April and we gained considerable publicity at our event on the picturesque Cockatoo Lake. This event has provided the impetus for the formation of a club in the area.
- § A number of DBSA clubs decided not to attend the 2014 National Championships in Kawana and we consequently had a smaller than usual State Team competing in Senior B and Senior C only – the team won 1 silver and 4 bronze medals. Water Warriors had an extremely successful campaign in Malaysia competing at three different venues and Black Dragons competed at a “different” venue in Sabah
- § Unfortunately the volunteer who was to provide broadcasting services at our race days was unable to carry on with the job and we are back out looking for a replacement.
- § The first of our Annual Social Functions was held at The Cruising Yacht Club and the excellent food and music was thoroughly enjoyed by the small number in attendance – hopefully numbers will grow once every one hears that it was such a high quality show.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

- § Jennifer Bould and Julie Clinch combined to run a training session for race day volunteers and they have produced the Race Day Volunteers Manual. We have developed an accreditation system for Volunteers and this should assist the ongoing development of officials.
- § We remain members of Volunteer SA but this is more for volunteering information rather than personnel. Our main source of volunteers is our membership and we are very grateful for the efforts of our clubs to bring out friends and relatives to enable us to run events.
- § We have now got an outfit for our fully accredited officials consisting of a polo shirt and spray jacket. Our trainee officials continue to utilize the Green Shirt outfits and we have maintained our involvement in the OR&S Green Shirt Program
- § Our annual Volunteers Luncheon was held in June and was well supported. This luncheon is the main way we thank our very valuable volunteers and publicly show our appreciation.
- § Rick French has been maintaining the log books for our volunteers and these records provide us with valuable feedback on the skills being developed by our volunteer team.

HIGH PERFORMANCE

- § As mentioned previously, our 2014 State Team consisted of Senior B and Senior C members only. Fewer than expected DBSA clubs attended the Nationals and that somewhat restricted our ability to enter crews in all categories. For 2015 we anticipate having more paddlers available for selection and coaches have been appointed for Premier, Senior A, Senior B and Senior C as we build and develop toward the Nationals in Adelaide in 2016
- § DBSA members enjoyed great success in the Auroras in Hungary at the World Championships and we have a number trying out for the Canadian campaign in 2015. We have purchased an OC1 which will enable these members to train for their crews and give them every opportunity to gain selection. The OC1 is available to all members to help them develop their crews

HIGHLIGHTS

One of the major highlights in the past year was our successful bid to host the 2016 Club Crew World Championships. Dates have now been set and the organizing Committee formed who are now initiating sub-committees to work on the various areas required for a first class event. The Australian National Championships will immediately precede the CCWC and this is going to really put a strain on our resources but will be fantastic for the sport in SA.

During the year we invested in three new boat trolleys, a two boat trailer and the sign writing of our gear trailer. The new boat trolleys arrived just in time as the old trolleys had rusted through in a number of areas. We have also purchased a conference phone which will enable our country members to dial into meetings and include more of our members in on discussions.

As mentioned previously, our Member Protection Policy (MPP) has been updated and every club should become familiar with it. There is a requirement for prescribed positions within clubs to complete criminal history assessments and there are a number of clubs who need to bring themselves up to date.

I take this opportunity to thank those who have served on the Board with me over the past twelve months – Jennifer Bould, Pat Doogue, Rick French, Jennifer LeRay and Chris Wood – they are a dedicated group and work extremely hard on the development and administration of our sport.

I encourage all members to look at becoming involved in our Committee structure - Development, High Performance, Maintenance, Racing and Website – all work toward ensuring that we can all participate in a safe and enjoyable sport. Thank you to all the members of these committees for your dedication and support.

Good luck to the crews that have qualified to race in the CCWC in Ravenna, Italy in September and my thanks to everyone for your support and for making the sport such an accessible and inclusive activity.

John Holland
President - DBSA

VOLUNTEER PORTFOLIO REPORT

The 2013/2014 season of ten Regattas, Pub and Corporate challenge and the State Championships was facilitated by our volunteers at Wallaroo Marina, Aquatic, Ramsay buoyed course and for the first time Scullers Reserve at the South end of West Lakes.

New challenges, moving boats and equipment and new course set ups were all met and achieved by our team of volunteers.

Volunteers are special and we value all who give their time and efforts to the association. Our stand out volunteers throughout the season were :

- Jen Bould (DBSA) volunteered at 13 meets.
- Mary Newland (SADA) volunteered at 11 meets.
- Julie Clinch (Black Dragons) volunteered at 9 meets.
- Tom Quinn (Water Warriors) volunteered at 9 meets.

Our volunteers also gave their time and expertise freely on behalf of DBSA to other important duties such as moving pontoons and boats, dragon boat maintenance, maintenance of the Aquatic course and Ramsay buoyed course and facilitating Naracoorte Masters games to name a few.

The “Life be in it” program on the Torrens was a huge success which involved six intensive Tuesdays in March and April, utilising four boats at four time slots per day. Seventeen volunteers were used over the program with an average of twelve volunteers each Tuesday.

During the season Jennifer Bould and Julie Clinch organised and facilitated a DBSA Volunteer training course at the Port River Sailing Club which was well attended by volunteers from six of our dragon boat clubs.

A Volunteers recognition lunch was held at the Port River Sailing Club in June organised by the very competent Chris Wood. This was a highly successful afternoon where our volunteers had an opportunity to get together and share in good food, drink and conversation at a brilliant location.

The volunteering challenge next season, apart from our normal commitments, will be gearing up for the Australian Masters Games on the Torrens in October 2015 and the Australian National Dragon Boat Championships and World Club Crew Championships in March / April 2016 to be held at West Lakes.

I would like to sincerely thank all who volunteered during the season and look forward to working with you all to meet the challenges of the future.

Rick French
Volunteer Portfolio

MAINTENANCE PORTFOLIO REPORT

Not a big year for maintenance, mostly just running repairs during the year and I think some of our assets are showing they need a bit of tender loving care.

I hope you are all loving the new boat trolleys. Some of us were starting to worry about the old rusted out wheels of the previous transport, let alone the constant need for repairs.

Thank you to all those, too numerous to mention who have attended the maintenance days held through the year. We have amongst us a small team of people that quietly go about repairing and maintaining bits and pieces around the place, as the need arises. I thank them and would also like to mention for their individual efforts in the maintenance area; Geoff Gray, Steve Clinch, John Holland and my often offsider, Rick French - thanks heaps guys for your help and encouragement.

As we prepare for the Australian Nationals and CCWC in 2016 we need to step up our maintenance program and make sure all our equipment is at its best. To that end I will contact each club in the new competition year for assistance.

There is a new policy (available on the DBSA website) No. 41 regarding the Maintenance Portfolio. I ask that each club leadership group make themselves aware of it – thanks.

<http://www.dragonboatsa.com/media/1972/041%20-%20Maintenance%20Portfolio%20Policy%20-%20Issue%201.pdf>

Should anyone find a maintenance issue or have suggestions regarding our assets please talk to your club maintenance contact who may be able to resolve the issue or will pass to the maintenance portfolio holder.

Pat Doogue
Maintenance Portfolio

PARTICIPATION & DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO REPORT

The Board of DragonBoat SA is charged with the responsibility for administering, promoting and growing the sport in this State. We can all take pride in our Association's reputation within the Australian and global dragon boating communities, and you can be assured we will strive to achieve these objectives. New opportunities are constantly presenting themselves and we shall work to realise these as well.

I believe a lot of people don't consider that we (the Board members) are volunteers too who have families, businesses to run and a life.

We can't do everything though, so we are after enthusiastic, like-minded people to support the Boards' endeavours to further raise awareness and increase participation numbers.

Fortunately we have a reliable core group of people who consistently help out. We would like to increase the size of that group so we don't burn out the 'usual suspects'.

It's the old 80/20 rule. 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. However, with your help I'm sure we can improve that statistic.

During the last 12 months there were some good opportunities lost. They didn't occur due, in the main, to the lack of volunteers which we feel could have been marred because emails aren't reaching Club members.

Naracoorte Games - 5 April 2014

If it wasn't for assistance from ASA & other competitors at this event, the task of running it would have fallen solely to 2 people - Pat Doogue & John Holland.

Caudo Winery (venue for True Grit event) – 26 & 27 April 2014

Due to lack of interest, this was the second time we were unable to offer Come N Trys & demonstration racing at this event which attracts over 8000 people over 2 days.

As the only source of volunteers comes from within our Clubs, we seek the backing of all Club Committees to actively promote these events to their members and, by doing so, hope to develop a resource pool of people who are willing to assist.

Recently DBSA circulated an expression of interest for people to form a Participation & Development Sub-Committee. There were no responses.

So who is going to help organise and co-ordinate our involvement in the following this season?

Junior Teams

Arrange a meeting of all teachers within DBSA to discuss how best to get Junior teams up and running.

14th Corporate Dragon Boat Challenge – 9 November 2014

Promote, co-ordinate and supervise running of the event.

Mawson Lakes

Research the possibility of scheduling an event at Mawson Lakes next season.

Caudo Vineyard / True Grit Event

Support this event next year if their dates don't clash with the 2015 Australian Championships.

Pt Vincent Challenge 2-3 May 2015

Research venue, plan and co-ordinate event in consultation with Pt Vincent Traders Association.

Life Be In It – 2015

Assist in running the event. Ideally, 16 volunteers are required on one day a week for 6 weeks.

Corporate Paddles

Liaise with Clubs to develop a list of people willing to be on a centrally held list of volunteers for Corporate Events.

Liaise with clients to co-ordinate and run events as bookings are made through DBSA.

In closing, I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to everyone who volunteered for DBSA during 2013-14.

'Participation & Development' is an integral part of furthering dragon boating in South Australia.

Please consider playing a part in these activities.

Chris Wood
Participation & Development Portfolio

2014 STATE TEAM REPORT - SENIOR B & C

Due to the low numbers of South Australian Clubs competing at the Queensland Nationals it meant that numbers for State team selection were down. SA competed in Senior B and Senior C categories. Participants who represented SA were from Black Dragons, SADA, Phoenix and Adelaide Sea Dragons.

The majority of our squad had all represented the State before so our intention was to focus more on timing and strength rather than technique correction due to the short lead-time.

We also tried to set crews up so that paddlers could get used to training in their seat positions. This didn't prove successful as it relies on all members regularly attending training.

Once again camaraderie between members was outstanding with positive feedback.

RESULTS FOR STATE V STATE AT NATIONALS 2013/2014

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| SENIOR B WOMEN | 1 st Queensland | 2.12.88 |
| | 2 nd NSW | 2.17.67 |
| | 3 rd SA | 2.19.07 |
| SENIOR B OPEN | 1 st Queensland | 2.01.75 |
| | 2 nd NSW | 2.05.33 |
| | 3 rd SA | 2.11.18 |
| SENIOR B MIXED | 1 st Queensland | 2.00.21 |
| | 2 nd NSW | 2.03.01 |
| | 3 rd SA | 2.10.14 |
| SENIOR C MIXED | 1 st Queensland | Time unavailable |
| | 2 nd SA | 2.10.75 |
| | 3 rd Victoria | 2.14.19 |
| SENIOR C WOMEN | 1 ST Queensland | 2.19.17 |
| | 2 nd NSW | 2.18.84 |
| | 3 rd SA | 2.25.53 |

Congratulations to all paddlers, sweeps and drummers. We can be very proud of our achievements as we were competing against States such as QLD and NSW who have between 300- 400 people making up their squads.

Thank you to those competitors who went to Queensland just to compete with the State team. Without you we would not have been able to fill our crews.

Thank you to:

- Our State Captains; Rick French and Jan Bice who are such great ambassadors for our sport.
- Sue Bockmann for once again looking after the merchandise and making us look like a State team.

A special thank you to those people who swept on training days. Without you there would be no training.

Thank you to Chris Wood – we have worked together to bring success to SA for the past 4 years.

It is my pleasure and privilege to coach the State team and work with Chris.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

- Club Committees and Coaches to be pro-active in recommending to their members they try-out for State selection.
- Appoint a Team Manager in addition to Male & Female Captain.
- State Coaches to meet monthly to discuss off-water and on-water training sessions.
- Develop, implement and circulate new selection criteria.
- All State Coaches to discuss final crew selections.

I am looking forward to the coming season and working with Chris again; also Bryan Buttery and Dennis Wright who will be coaching the Masters and Premiers respectively.

We all have the passion, desire and determination to raise SA's level of competitiveness and look forward to a very successful campaign in 2014/2015 and further to the Nationals and World Club Crews that are to be held in Adelaide in 2016.

Cheryl Watson

HIGH PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO - REPORT

Appointment of Delegates to High Performance Portfolio

The Board appointed joint delegates Christine Wood & Jennifer LeRay to the position of High Performance Portfolio for the 2014 season.

Collection of Information

A voluntary Survey was undertaken & made available to all DBSA members (see Appendix A), incorporating questions aimed at obtaining feedback in relation to State Team selection, participation & performance in all categories.

Survey results were made available & stimulated discussion at a 'planning' forum in which Club coaches were invited to participate & 'problem solve' reported issues. It was decided that a 'Premier Division' State Team for 2014 was not possible given the reduced number of interested participants & inadequate time frame. Coaches were encouraged to return to their respective Clubs, promote & stimulate interest in members participating in the 2015-2016 State Team.

2014 Australian Championships State v State

South Australia was represented by Senior B & C at the Australian National Championships.

As Queensland was the host State for this Championship it was always apparent they would be our strongest competitor. SA was limited in numbers due to low participation rates from our Member Clubs due, in the main, to other commitments, and that, together with a shorter than normal training program reflected in our results.

Nevertheless, we should be very satisfied with the outcome, but clearly we need to build in a greater focus on strength and fitness, technical aspects and increasing our numbers into our next preparation. Our results in Qld were:

| Senior B Mixed 500m – Standard Boat | | |
|--|-------|---------|
| 1 st | Qld A | 2.00.21 |
| 2 nd | NSW A | 2.03.01 |
| 3 rd | SA | 2.10.14 |
| Senior B Women 500m – Standard Boat | | |
| 1 st | Qld | 2.12.88 |
| 2 nd | NSW | 2.17.67 |
| 3 rd | SA | 2.19.07 |
| Snr B Open 500m – Standard Boat | | |
| 1 st | Qld | 2.01.75 |
| 2 nd | NSW | 2.05.33 |
| 3 rd | SA | 2.11.18 |

| Senior C Mixed 500m – Standard Boat | | |
|--|-----|-------------------|
| 1 st | Qld | No time available |
| 2 nd | SA | 2.10.75 |
| 3 rd | NSW | 2.14.19 |
| | | |

| Senior C women 500m – Standard Boat | | |
|--|-----|---------|
| 1 st | NSW | 2.18.84 |
| 2 nd | Qld | 2.19.17 |
| 3 rd | SA | 2.25.53 |

Clubs supporting this year's Championships were SADA and Adelaide Sea Dragons. We were also very grateful that fellow-paddlers from Black Dragons & Phoenix were able to join us. Members of the Senior B & C squads display great camaraderie and supportiveness; and we encourage the growth of that culture. We may be older in years but our passion for the sport is unwavering.

Appointment of State Coaches for Premier, Senior Divisions

Positions for State Coaches in all divisions were advertised via email & the DBSA website. Of the four applicants who applied, all were appointed. That being Dennis Wright (Water Warriors)-Premiers; Bryan Buttery(Black Dragons)-Senior A & B- Christine Wood (ASD) & Cheryl Watson (ASD). The High Performance Portfolio delegates have met & initiated meetings with appointed coaches in order for a supportive foundation to be established.

Provision of tools for Development of Dragon Boating at a State & International Level

A DBSA purchased OC1 has been relocated to the Aquatic Reserve premises and a booking system developed to enable all members access to a single craft; aimed at allowing more 'on-water time' for paddlers who wish to extend their training & is comparable to other States. Although it is evident that other States do have access to TK1s and more of them, subsequent use of DBSA's OC1 & its frequency could be used as justification to request more boats in the future. An issues paper was provided to AUSDBF requesting sponsorship of 2 Tk1s given that modified Tk1s are utilised for Australian Team selection. This request was denied. Purchase of a Motion Master or video equipment is also being considered if deemed appropriate by coaches concerned.

Going forward

State Coaches have met to plan for the 2015 Perth campaign. We believe an important factor of being successful is to build a good relationship with all Club coaches as we will be asking for their support to encourage their paddlers, sweeps & paddlers in supporting State representation. A meeting with Coaches is currently being planned.

It is anticipated that most SA Clubs will attend the 2015 Australian Championships as it will be the only opportunity to qualify for the 2016 IDBF Club Crew World Championships in Adelaide. This should provide good numbers across all age categories for State Squad selection.

As Adelaide will host the 2016 Australian Championships we hope that people, relatively new to the sport, will try-out for the 2015 State Crew to gain experience for the Adelaide event 12 months later.

We intend to be transparent, approachable and will happily address any matters you may have as they arise.

We make no apologies for setting our sights high and that will show in our preparation. We hope you will join us in creating a stronger, more competitive SA State Squad.

Jenny Le Ray & Chris Wood

CULTURAL & PUBLICITY PORTFOLIO REPORT

It is with pleasure that I present this yearly report on the Publicity and Cultural Portfolio.

A comprehensive Cultural and Publicity Strategy document was prepared at the beginning of the year for the period 2013-2015 – covering my term of appointment.

For the opening of the race season, a blessing of the boats and dotting of the eyes ceremony was organized with the support of the Buddhist temple at Ottaway - their monks and congregation. This ceremony attracted some good short television coverage. But more importantly for our paddlers, the ceremony was universally hailed a great success in recognising our traditional cultural foundation for the sport. Months after the event, paddlers were still commenting on the success of the ceremony and how much they enjoyed it.

A media release was issued announcing the Australia Day races but failed to attract any coverage –probably due to the fact the event was not held on the actual holiday weekend.

Finally, after 3 months break from the sport due to a neck injury, I presented a somewhat late proposal to the DBSA Board for an eye dotting ceremony. It was decided not to proceed with that ceremony at that time. A media release was issued about the State Titles, but while I took a call from Channel 7 indicating, “they would be down in 20 minutes” to film the 2km races, they never turned up.

In summary, the portfolio started off with a very successful launch to the season, but the extent of success quickly waned from there. What I believe this says is that DBSA needs to be more proactive in staging cultural events with colour and action that will attract that short media grab.

Furthermore, my recommendation is that whenever an interview for the media is needed, particularly television, that DBSA utilise the services of the younger paddlers, both male and female, because their positive presence in the media can do nothing but make the sport attractive to younger prospective paddlers.

On a final note, it is with deep regret that I advise my complete retirement from the sport on medical grounds. The doctor advises that to return to the sport I love so much is too risky for me incurring long-term injury to the discs in my neck. Given that I will no longer be paddling, I must make a complete break from the sport and therefore tender my immediate resignation from the Cultural and Publicity Portfolio.

I have made many great friends and really enjoyed my time in the sport; travelling to places I never thought I would and competing in great events with success in Penang, Toronto, and the home of dragon boating, China; as well as the Macau CCWC. I am really proud to be the most highly decorated sportsperson in my whole extended family tree ever, simply because of dragon boating.

I wish DBSA all the very best in organising both the 2016 national championships and the Club Crew World Championships. As they occur I am sure I will monitor their success in the media.

Yours in paddling



John Harris 30 June 2014