



DragonBoat SA

ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16 August 2017



Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation and Sport

be active

Play by the Rules

BOARD

	12 Meetings held 2016/17	Meetings Attended
PRESIDENT	John Holland	12/12
VICE PRESIDENT - FEMALE	Chris Wood	12/12
VICE PRESIDENT - MALE	Rick French	2/2
SECRETARY	Sharon Knights (Sep-Jun)	7/10
	Jennifer Le Ray (Jul-Aug)	0/2
TREASURER	Jennifer Bould	11/12
COMMITTEE	Carol Hammond	8/10
	Chris Kelley	12/12
	Pat Doogue	1/2
	Mick Cahill	3/3

OFFICERS

PUBLIC OFFICER	Marie Cunningham
AUDITOR	Terry Caldow

MEMBERS

- ACDC
- Adelaide Black Dragons
- Adelaide Phoenix
- Adelaide Sea Dragons
- Adelaide Survivors Abreast
- Blade Runners
- Blue Water Raiders
- Copper Coast Battle Dragons
- Coorong Dragons
- Dragons Abreast Adelaide
- Dragons Abreast Port Lincoln
- Kangaroo Island Dragons
- Powerblades
- SA Dragons Abreast
- Subsonix
- Victor Dragons
- Vicki's Pride
- Waiwilta
- Water Warriors

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

AGE	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
60+:	223	66	289
50-59:	125	54	179
40-49:	58	21	79
25-39:	26	14	40
19-24:	3	2	5
18-:	7	5	12
TOTALS	442	162	604

COMMITTEES

*Please note that Club committee members change throughout the year so the lists below may not be truly representative of all of the members on the respective committees.
Apologies to those that have been excluded.*

Racing Committee:

▪ ACDC	Chris Wood	
▪ ASA	Petra Hanke	Jo-Anne West
▪ Adelaide Phoenix	Julia Johnston	Sean Carey
▪ Adelaide Sea Dragons	Sandy Pulsford	Joy Fisher
▪ Black Dragons	Camille Jardine	Lyn Payne
▪ Blade Runners	Julie Clinch	Greg Penny
▪ Blue Water Raiders	Raelene Fuller	Marina Osman
▪ Copper Coast	David Hurrell	Sharon Hannaghan
▪ Coorong Dragons	Anne Simmons	Paul Spencer
▪ DAPL	Sandra Jansen	Sharon Bradbery
▪ KIDS	Mary Alice Swan	Sharon Clark
▪ Powerblades	Andy Kelly	Neil Parker
▪ SADA	Liz Morallee	Heather Wingard
▪ Subsonix	Lynette Ferrari	Jan Walsh
▪ Victor Dragons	Judy Burdon	Linda Dehle
▪ Vicki's Pride	Karen McKerlie	Tania Cercone
▪ Waiwilta	Brian Taylor	Greg Bond
▪ Water Warriors	Andres Jones	Tracey Young

Maintenance Committee:

▪ ACDC	John Holland
▪ ASA	
▪ Adelaide Phoenix	Clive Grant
▪ Adelaide Sea Dragons	Darryl Bockmann
▪ Black Dragons	Peter Bastable
▪ Blade Runners	Larry Tomes
▪ Blue Water Raiders	
▪ Copper Coast	
▪ Coorong Dragons	
▪ DAPL	
▪ KIDS	
▪ Powerblades	Bill Kither, Avi Kleinburd
▪ SADA	Martin Pearson, Pat Doogue, Steve Cannon, Rick French
▪ Subsonix	
▪ Victor Dragons	
▪ Vicki's Pride	
▪ Waiwilta	
▪ Water Warriors	

High Performance:

▪ ACDC	Chris Wood	
▪ Adelaide Phoenix	Jennifer Le Ray	
▪ Water Warriors	Chris Kelley	

Facilities Committee:

▪ DBSA	John Holland	Rick French
	Jennifer Bould (Alt)	

Development Committee:

▪ DBSA	Chris Wood	Jennifer Le Ray
	Chris Kelley	

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016 - 2017

After the excitement of last year's Dragons Down Under Events we could have expected a much quieter year but that wasn't the case with a number of events and highlights throughout the year.

Our focus on our Strategic plan continued during the year as each aspect of the plan was reviewed at monthly Board meetings. One of the six Core Business Areas is reviewed at each meeting to ensure that we are meeting our targets and maintaining our commitments to our members.

In keeping with past practice and abiding with our program agreement with the Office of Recreation and Sport, I will report against our Strategic Plan as follows:

ADMINISTRATION

1.1 The specifications for an Executive Officer have been developed and an appointment is expected to be made before the end of the year.

1.2 The Office for Recreation and Sport facilitated a review of our governance and our results were above average and were very favourable. The report was circulated to members and I trust that everyone has had a chance to at least glance through it.

1.3 We reviewed our subcommittees in May and feel that they are all appropriate and reasonably well supported. Our Race Committee had an information evening where their responsibilities and roles were highlighted and they all have a better understanding of their important roles. A number of our committees would benefit with greater involvement from our member clubs and if anyone would like to contribute to our sport I'm sure we can find a position on one of the committees.

1.4 Both Admin Focus and Sport SA continue to assist us with our administration and this is reviewed annually.

1.5 During our review of Data Base Systems we investigated the Revolutionise program and in consultation with members made the decision to move from Smart Space and implement Revolutionise from 1st July 2017. There will obviously be some teething issues but the system promises some very useful functions and enables the sport to function on a universal system in Australia.

1.6 Mary-Ann Holt continues to coordinate the Cultural and Publicity Portfolio and is doing a really good job in ensuring that we uphold the cultural traditions and values of our sport. Our thanks to Mary-Ann and we trust that she will continue in this most important role.

PROMOTION and MARKETING

2.1 Our website is constantly reviewed to ensure that content remains current and relevant. Instagram and Facebook are also avenues we are looking to use more in our efforts to promote the sport.

2.2 Media coverage continues to prove difficult and we will always find it difficult to get any regular coverage. We do get good coverage in regional print media and welcome any coverage we can get.

2.3 We had a segment on the channel 44 Sports Show which was well received and we also had a segment on the Totally Wild children's show.

2.4 The junior State Team – Dragonmites – continues to develop and we continue to develop relationships with schools – Mount Carmel College, Portside Christian School, Woodville High School, Sacred Heart College and Ameaus College.

2.5 Cinema advertising has been highlighted for 2017-18 and meetings with the advertising producers have been confirmed

2.6 Banners and Billboards have limited accessibility but we have continued to have a banner on Port Road every year.

2.7 We aim to have at least one race meeting each year at a different venue and this year we had a Masters Games event in Wallaroo and another event in Robe - the Robe event was particularly successful

2.8 We again ran the Life Be In It program although it was not as well supported as in the past. There are some ideas with the organizing company, Enventive, which will be investigated to reinvigorate this program. We also had four other larger corporate activities and are very grateful for the assistance of our dedicated volunteers to enable all of these events to proceed.

COACHING and OFFICIATING

3.1 We ran one AusDBF level 1 coaching course during the year with eight registrants and four have gone on to complete their accreditation. We now have 14 Level 1 Coaches and 1 Level 2 Coach within DBSA ranks.

3.2 The DBSA Sweep Training Program was run three times during the year and the Sweeps Committee is constantly reviewing processes and we are working with Revolutionise to record sweep data.

3.3 We have reviewed the Officials program and will be running both Officials and Finish Lynx Operators courses during the 2017-18 year.

3.4 We have had no officials courses run during the past year and really need to build on our current numbers of accredited officials.

3.5 We again ran a Senior First Aid Course and will continue to do so each year. It is planned to use Revolutionise to record accreditations to ensure that sweeps and coaches keep up to date.

PARTICIPATION

4.1 Mawson Lakes is the only body of water in the northern suburbs which could be used for dragonboating and it remains a target for us. Our Development Committee has this area as a focus.

4.2 All of our member clubs are registered with the Star Club program. OR&S has introduced an audit process and at least one of our clubs has successfully passed this audit.

4.3 Our target of admitting at least one new club per year was achieved again with Adelaide Combined Dragonboat Club joining at the start of the 2016-17 year

4.4 Dragon Boating featured at the South Australian Masters Games in Clare (Event was held in Wallaroo) and we are registered to feature in the SA Masters Games in Murray Bridge in 2018.

4.5 We have secured the services of a race day broadcaster – Paul Richards. His enthusiasm is infectious and he has really added to the race day spectacle. We have also had the services of Rob Popplestone when Paul was unavailable

4.6 Our Annual Social Function was held at The Kent Town Hotel and this year it incorporated awards for The Metro and Regional Clubs of the Year. Congratulations to Water Warriors and Coorong Dragons who were the respective winners.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

5.1 A Race Day Volunteers Manual has been produced and training course will be run prior to the 2017-18 season start

5.2 Sourcing volunteers remains a major issue – Clubs have been reminded of the need to provide a dedicated volunteer on race days and they are encouraged to source someone who can be their volunteer on a regular basis. We are also approaching City of Charles Sturt to identify any likely candidates on their volunteer data-base.

5.3 We remain registered with the OR&S Green Shirt Program and this program identifies trainee officials and encourages participants in our regattas to give them additional support. We also have our volunteer outfits which are presented to officials who gain their level 3 accreditation.

5.4 Our annual Volunteers Luncheon was held in May where we presented volunteer service pins for 5, 10 & 15 years' service and was well supported. These pins will be presented to eligible recipients each year at this luncheon.

5.5 Sharon Knights is our current Volunteer Coordinator and is maintaining the log books.

HIGH PERFORMANCE

6.1 Our State team culture is steadily developing and is particularly strong in the senior age groups. Positions in the senior crews are keenly sought as this is the area of greatest representation within our membership base.

6.2 Focus has been on the Open Age crews and we are slowly achieving results. The State Coaches are working together to achieve the best long term results for the state and we appear to be on the right track.

6.3 DBSA members have successfully tested for the Auroras and are all working on their training plans for the World Championships in October.

6.4 DBSA now has two TK1s with outriggers as well as an OC1 & OC2 for individual time trial training to enable our members to train for their crews and give them every opportunity to gain selection.

The DBSA Strategic Plan for 2016-19 is available on the DBSA website and all members are urged to review it and submit any ideas for improvement or re-alignment to the Board

HIGHLIGHTS

After the huge effort involved in presenting the Dragons Down Under series of events we had the event nominated in the SA Sports Awards – Event of the Year and at the awards dinner at the Adelaide Oval we were announced the winner. It was a great honour to receive this award in front of a room of much more high profile sports and it certainly helps to raise our profile. At the same dinner I was also honoured with the SA Sports Volunteer of the Year.

A great addition to our race days has been the inclusion of a broadcaster – Paul Richards did the job for us at the DDU event and was keen to continue and has a genuine interest in our sport. His enthusiasm really adds another level of excitement to our racing and we need to ensure we keep up the coverage.

The Dragons Down Under event was filmed by TA Productions and a thirty minute package has been produced and is available to anyone to aid in promotion of our sport – it is a great record of our event and well worth viewing

On the subject of promotion, we produced a new printed brochure early in the year and I hope that all clubs are taking advantage of it and ensuring it is widely distributed.

We were involved in the Robe Chinese Festival late in the year. This is the first time that we have visited the picturesque town of Robe and we all enjoyed two excellent days of racing. The locals really looked after us and arranged the freight of our boats and the trophies and prizes for the events.

We have had Volunteer Recognition Pins produced to acknowledge Five, Ten and Fifteen years' service to the association in a volunteer capacity – the initial presentation of these pins was at the volunteer's luncheon in May.

Our Annual Dinner has been upgraded to an Award Presentation Dinner and our initial two awards were for the Metropolitan and Regional Clubs of the Year. The inaugural recipients were Water Warriors for Metropolitan and Coorong Dragons for Regional.

I take this opportunity to thank those who have served on the Board with me over the past twelve months – Jennifer Bould, Mick Cahill (resigned November), Carol Hammond, Chris Kelley, Sharon Knights, and Chris Wood – they are a dedicated group and work extremely hard on the development and administration of our sport. Based on the feedback from the OR&S Governance Review our Board functions extremely well and is above the average performance of other sporting bodies and it has been a pleasure to work with them.

As I will not be seeking re-election to the Board at the AGM I will of course be stepping down as President of DragonBoat SA. It has been an exciting journey as we grew the sport and introduced a number of successful innovations – The sport in SA is now well respected and is thriving on a sustainable base.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to everyone for your support and your efforts in making our sport such an accessible and inclusive activity.

John Holland
President - DBSA

VICE-PRESIDENT FEMALE REPORT

HIGH PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO REPORT

STATE TEAM

When we advertised for State Coaches early in the 2016-17 Season it was extremely encouraging to have 3 new candidates apply for selection, namely

- Julie Hyland & Julie Lister (Team Julie) – Senior B & C
- Tony Morbidelli – Open Age & Senior A
- John H - appointed Junior State Coach, however, due to other lifestyle commitments some of the youngster had, numbers were limited, and it wasn't possible to field a crew.

Each of these people were strong in character, capable and highly motivated to take on the challenge of building our State teams to compete in the 2017 AusChamps in Albury, Victoria.

Team Julies' skills in their preparation, co-ordination and communication were commendable and the enthusiasm and positiveness shown by Tony under the pressures of putting Senior A & Open Age crews on the water demonstrated his commitment and good-hearted nature. Ultimately, a lack of numbers only enabled the Open Age to compete.

Nearly 100 people tried out for this campaign and approx 90 were selected to represent SA.

Numerous factors impact on numbers that try-out for State Squad. The obvious one is whether enough Clubs can attend the AusChamps. Relying on Clubs to educate and encourage new talent is another hurdle and culture has been an issue, however, there are positive signs of improvement in this area.

Below is a breakdown of DBSA's registered numbers during Season 2016-17. Obviously they include regional members, but taking that into consideration, there was a large contingent of people who didn't support the State Squad.

Ideally, we need numbers in the vicinity of 150-160 trialling for State selection, with a final selection of 136 which would enable fielding crews in all divisions. Please seriously consider your involvement in next year's AusChamps.

	DBSA REGISTRATION NUMBERS 2016/17			Ideal numbers to make up State crew
	Female	Male	Total	
19-39	28	14	42	52
40-49	51	17	68	28
50-59	116	49	165	28
60+	246	70	316	28
	441	150	591	136

A lot of people need to be thanked; Competitors, Coaches, Team Captains, Team Managers and supporters. A special thanks to Jacky Smith who took over as Team Manager for Open Age when I couldn't make Wodonga and my trusty offside, Chris Kelley. Without everyone's involvement we wouldn't have an SA State Team, and that would be very disappointing. Please continue to spread the word and inspire your fellow Club members to get involved.

The following are State Team summaries from the Coaches

Firstly, CONGRATULATIONS, winners are gridders and we all came home with a medal, you worked hard and deserved them

We started the State Team season with many questions and challenges, new coaches, new paddlers, different strokes and many different coloured club tops. What we all achieved in such a short period of time was truly awesome. Your commitment to training, your enthusiasm when paddling and dedication to each other was amazing. Saturday we really showed our capabilities making a clear statement that little South Australia was there to mix it up with the bigger States and that we would not be a 'push over'. If they wanted a medal they would have to seriously paddle against us. We wallowed in the mud, slide down slippery slopes and showered in the great outdoors thanks to the heavy rain, but we continued to smile, have fun, support each other and paddle hard.

Lining up for our first mixed boat races the word 'team' shone through, senior C, senior B, men and women, paddlers, reserves and team manager stood together as one, such a proud moment for Team Julie, this was it, time to do battle or should I say paddle. However watching the teams paddle, you did battle and battle hard and you gave it everything.

We seemed to have the loudest and wildest supporters on the beach and I'm sure their voices echoed across that lake. We experienced the shock and horror of the relay mix ups, the confusion and frustrations and some paddled the extra distance. I am sure the faces of the senior B ladies could not be described when they realised the senior C men had paddled and the senior B men were sat waiting, watching and wondering what we were doing at their end, just as we wondered why they had not paddled. Looking back it makes me laugh.

When the Senior C took out the relay, the South Australian State Team had won, yes a winning team and I was not the only one shedding a few tears amongst the hugs, back slaps, whooo's, dancing and congratulating, a truly memorable moment for me. I stood up on the top of the hill watching and it looked and felt damn good, SA winners.

Everyone played a part in making Team Julie a success and we wish to say 'thank you' although its only two words it's a big thank you from us to the SA Team. I'd like to give a special 'thanks' to Shirley Yates, our team manager who behind the scenes quietly had her own new experiences attending team manager meetings and briefings and trying to organise a bunch of excited, committed paddlers raring to paddle. Not an easy task

From one Julie to another Julie I'd just like to say thanks for all that I've learnt and wish you well in new your new ventures in Queensland and hope you make it back to South Australia in time for 2017/18 State Team training.

Enjoy the off season everyone and if DBSA will have me, I shall be back later in the year for 'State Team take2' and will be personally emailing everyone in a hope we can do battle again whenever and wherever together in 2018.

Regards

Julie Hyland
State Coach Senior B & C
Julieh142@gmail.com
Mob: 0431 913 172

Julie Lister
State Coach – Senior B & C
Julielister@dodo.com.au
Mob: 0411 074 342

Hi All

State v State 2017 was memorable occasion for many reasons.

SA's first Open 20's Women's boat in over 10 years, a 2.05.79 in the Open mixed (that's quick on fresh water), two medals earned in tuff competition and a fantastic team atmosphere.

The Open 10's missed out on Gold by 0.2 of a second and I think the 100 m sprints officiating left a bit to be desired.

I believe that if they had 200 m racing we would have got more medals.

Overall I was very happy with the performance of the whole group even those who trained but could not attend.

The Opens category in SA is always a challenge to organise but has so much potential. Just imagine what we could do.

I sincerely hope that everybody is available next year and that we can build on the solid foundation we all built together.

WELL DONE SOUTH AUSTRALIA!

Kind regards

Tonino Morbidelli

DBSA State Coach – Senior A & Open Age

NATIONAL ATHLETES PATHWAY

12 months ago AusDBF began the implementation of a National Athletes Pathway and Chris Kelley & myself were SA's delegates for this committee.

After only 2 national phone hook-ups the progression of this plan stalled. Currently AusDBF are working with a consultant who will be offering some very specific guidelines to ensure the pathway and accreditation process strictly adheres to the 'framework' AusDBF is currently designing.

We await their feedback.

PARTICIPATION & DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO REPORT – Prepared by Christine Wood

In July 2016 an expression of interest was sent to all Clubs seeking representatives to form a Sub-Committee to support the Board's endeavours to further raise awareness and increase participation numbers. Duties include, but are not limited to, identifying new opportunities to promote the sport, co-ordinating & supervising such projects and sourcing volunteers.

This Committee now consists of:

Mary-Alice Swan (Kangaroo Island Dragons)
Raelene Fuller (Blue Water Raiders)
Carol Hammond (DBSA)
Chris Wood (DBSA)
Tanya Mitchell (Goolwa Council)

Wallaroo Marina Challenge -19 November 2016

In addition to metropolitan Clubs this race meeting successfully brought together approx 70 regional paddlers competing as composite teams.

Other opportunities will be identified in the future to enable regional Clubs to paddle together to form relationships, raise competitiveness and encourage the development of a Regional State Team culture.

2017 Pt Lincoln Regatta

Port Lincoln was very happy with the success of this event.

2017 Robe Dragon Boat Festival – 6 & 7 May 2017

An outstanding regatta – great racing, marvellous camaraderie between competing Clubs and loads of fun.

State Regional Coach

Disappointingly, no-one in regional South Australia was willing to take-on this role and consequently there was no SA Regional State Team at the 2017 AusChamps.

The DBSA Board has re-advertised this position for the 2018 AusChamps in Queensland.

Corporate & School bookings

These events are more prevalent in summer months and are accommodated as bookings are received. A reasonable income is generated from these bookings and volunteers are paid an honorarium when it is possible to do so. The assistance from volunteers, in the promotion of our sport, is greatly appreciated and is an area of enormous importance all sporting bodies depend on so much.

Regional inclusiveness

There is continuing consideration given to strategies to promote regional inclusiveness. The suitability of various concepts such as the "Allsorts" and "Waratahs" (both used interstate) are being examined together with the potential of "twinning" regional with metropolitan Clubs. Guidelines for the latter are currently being put together for Clubs to consider their involvement in such a plan.

Goolwa event

Due to rescheduling of other events, plans now are to hold this event either in Oct/Nov 2018 or Feb 2019. Like Robe, it is planned to be over 2 days. It will not be a normal regatta as we know it. We want to challenge both crews and sweeps, but also to have fun. Stay tuned.

Regional Coaching – mentoring

Consideration is being given to DBSA's Level 2 Coach visiting regional areas to run workshops in coaching, sweeping, junior development and generally offering assistance in areas which need it. Possibly a weekend in Pt Lincoln to accommodate Clubs on Eyre Peninsula and the Coorong or Murray Bridge could be the other venue. Further dialogue between regional Clubs & the P & D Committee and the preparation of a budget for approval need to occur to progress this idea.

Regatta at Mawson Lakes

Previous attempts have been unsuccessful due to the lack of Council support and other sporting bodies using this venue. We will continue to pursue this matter.

Australia Day 2018 at Normanville

DragonBoat SA has been invited to profile our sport in the form of demonstrations and a Come N Try on Saturday, 27 January 2018. Assistance will be required and a call for volunteers will be circulated later in the year.

Tailem Bend development

Since delivering a boat and the initial Come N Try in September 2016 not a lot has happened.

Chris Wood
Vice - President – Female

VOLUNTEER PORTFOLIO REPORT

The 2016/17 season of Regattas, Pub and Corporate challenge and Peter Bristow Long Course, were facilitated by our wonderful volunteers at Aquatic Reserve, Ramsay Reserve, Scullers Reserve, Torrens Lake, Wallaroo and for the first time Robe.

Our volunteers did a marvellous job to get boats, trailers, chase boat and all the paraphernalia required to run these events to the various sites, also to be on hand to run the regattas.

The "Life be in it" program on the Torrens was again a success and made possible with the assistance of lots of volunteers from DBSA who gave up their time for six weeks during March and April.

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

A fantastic Volunteers Sunday lunch at the Port Sailing Club in May, organised by Chris Wood, was appreciated by all who could attend. This year DBSA awarded those volunteers who had given 10 years and 5 years of service with recognition pins.

I would like to thank all who volunteered during a long and demanding season.

Sharon Knights
DBSA Volunteer Co-Ordinator

MAINTENANCE PORTFOLIO REPORT

A year of learning as my first foray into managing a portfolio comes to an end.

The most important thing was to introduce myself to the maintenance representatives from each of the clubs, talk about what needed to be done and what was expected.

The first meeting was called and was well attended. Those who could not attend sent replacements or apologies. Everyone was eager to help and in no time we had volunteers to paint buoys, number seats on boats and paint a new mark for the finish line.

As the season progressed the focus turned to fixing things that needed repair and trying to head off future problems like the pulley system. Once again people were quick to step up and get things done for the benefit of all.

Later in the season the maintenance crew began making a list of ongoing jobs and when they should be completed. It was also decided that DBSA would purchase a caravan to be gutted and converted for use as a finish line command post. Since the close of the season this project has begun in earnest. Weekends have already been spent planning and working with the hope of being ready for the first race at Aquatic.

While this has been going on a couple of other volunteers have been sanding, painting and sealing 12 buoys to replace the ones at the 500m and 200m start lines. It is expected that this will be completed in the next month.

We still have ongoing works such as bearings on all the trailers and rust proof painting to be done. Overall, we have achieved a great deal with more to come.

None of this could happen without the selfless co-operation from the following maintenance representatives and their helpers (apologies if I miss anyone).

Steve Holt- ASA	Martin Pearson- SADA
Daryl Bockman- ASD	Steve Cameron- SADA
Peter Bastable- Black Dragons	Pat Doogue- SADA
Larry Tomes- Bladerunners	Rick French- SADA
Clive Grant- Phoenix	Avi Kleinburd- Powerblades
Bill Kither- Powerblades	John Holland- ACDC

A special mention and thanks to Geoff Gray and Dave Watts from Water Warriors for their work on the buoys and Darcy Knights for the work so far on the caravan.

Thanks also to the various members who have also offered their assistance.

Chris Kelley
Maintenance Portfolio

CULTURAL PORTFOLIO REPORT

It is with pleasure that I present this report on the Cultural Portfolio again for 2017.

As in past years, I have had the pleasure of liaising with the monks and congregation of the Buddhist temple at Ottaway for the blessing and dotting of the eyes ceremony at the start of last season's race agenda. It was also a pleasure welcoming invited guests David Hutton (SA Rowing), Jan Sutton (Sports SA) as well as councillors Barbara and Tolley Wasylenko (Charles Sturt Council) and Ray Guscott (Port Adelaide/Enfield Council).

Although raining, the opening ceremony proceeded with the help of umbrellas from various sources. The Buddhist monks performed the blessings in difficult circumstances, and our invited guests were very obliging in dotting the eyes in the light rain. The time frame was reduced due to the inclement weather, but the feedback received was positive – responding to the weather and the length of the ceremony being reduced.

I believe the involvement of the Buddhist community and various guests from organisations using West Lakes has been cemented with the involvement of these organisations in the Dragons Down Under events held in March of 2016.

It would be a bonus if DBSA could get the annual involvement of Karl Telfer as his welcome ceremonies reinforce that we are all one within the community, and to have involvement of the Buddhist and Indigenous community would, I believe, bring a truly united theme to the opening ceremony each year of the racing season. To this end, I will continue liaising with Karl in the anticipation that the Cultural Portfolio will one year, be that a true Cultural one.

I look forward to the annual involvement of the Buddhist monks at the opening ceremony of this year's racing season on the River Torrens, and look forward to the continual communication with them in the future.

Mary-Ann Holt
Cultural Portfolio

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

After the success enjoyed at the Dragons Down Under events with the juniors, the challenge was to keep the group together and grow the numbers.

Training was scheduled for the group alternating on Saturdays and Sundays and we had a regular number attending with the aim of competing at the State Championships. We had a total squad of 22 juniors and we successfully fielded a crew at the State Championships and they all thoroughly enjoyed the competition.

Unfortunately a number of the crew had other engagements at the time of the Australian Championships and we were unable to get a crew together for the Wodonga event.

Recruitment is a major focus for the group and since the end of the season we have been successful in growing our numbers and the coming season looks very promising.

There are a number of recruitment opportunities open to us and wherever possible, our current squad members are always keen to assist.

Throughout the year we had the following junior activities:

City of Charles Sturt School Holiday Programs

The CCS facilitates sessions with registered sports clubs for juniors during school holidays and we had 2 sessions in October 2016 and 1 session in April 2017 with total registrations of 135 participants. This program has been the foundation for our development.

Mount Carmel College

Each year Mt Carmel includes Dragonboating in their PE curriculum for 4 weeks during October and November. Generally there are 2 classes per week and we work through a program of introduction through to racing and it gives the participants a great introduction to the sport and may help to stimulate future involvement.

Totally Wild

The Totally Wild television program is directed at children and teenagers and in November they filmed a segment on our sport at West Lakes featuring some of our Dragonmites and the crews from Mt Carmel – it went to air on March 1st 2017. If anyone wishes to view the segment it is Season 24 – Episode 69.

Portside Christian School

The session with this school was during school hours and we had 18 students who all enjoyed their experience and we are pursuing a regular involvement with Portside.

Sacred Heart College

With the help of Phoenix and West Lakes Canoe Club a Dragonboating day was held on the Patawalonga for Sacred Heart College. Three boats were used over 3 sessions for different groups throughout the day.

Woodville High School

We had 28 students participate in March for an introductory session. Woodville High has competed in our regattas the past and we really need to try to get them back on board.

The inclusion of juniors in a club can prove very rewarding – some seem to shy away from it for various reasons but from personal experience I can confirm that the benefits far outweigh any perceived problems. Family groups can participate together and the juniors can certainly bring in some fresh perspectives to the group and they certainly bring value to the crew.

We will certainly have at least one junior crew competing regularly in this coming season and I hope that this is just the beginning of a trend moving forward. I can only encourage other clubs to embrace the junior concept and I am happy to assist wherever required.

John Holland
Junior Development – DBSA
Dragonmites Coach

PUBLICITY REPORT

This year the DBSA brochure was updated finally listing all of the new Clubs and copies were circulated to each.

The Facebook page and the website were updated with photos from various events however Clubs are always welcome to send in their photos for uploading, especially from race days.

There was no contact from the company "straliasports" since they advised of the demise of their monthly Sports Star magazine so there has been no publicity for Clubs and DBSA via this manner. Their new bi-monthly magazine due to be rolled out in September has not been seen. In addition, there was to be a radio station launched "The South Australian Sports Radio Network" which appears not to have occurred yet either.

Marie Cunningham
Publicity Report