



**Minutes of the
PRESIDENTS' FORUM
Wednesday 13 November 2024 @ 8pm
(Aquatic Boatshed / Zoom)**

1. OPEN MEETING – 8:00 pm

Julie Lister (DBSA President) opened the meeting and read to the Acknowledgement of Country.

2. PRESENT

In person:

DBSA:	Chris Wood, Mary-Ann Holt, Julie Lister
ACDC:	Chris Wood, John Holland
ASA:	Mary-Ann Holt (President)
Black Sea Dragons:	Chris Payne (President), Rob Harding (Vice President)
Powerblades:	Peter Button (President)
SADA:	Gaye Millar (on behalf of Helen Macleod)
Subsonix:	Jack Salagaras (President)
Waiwilta:	Kay Cameron (President), Jill Furmage

Online:

ACDC:	John Holland
ACDC DD:	Heather McDonald (Secretary)
Adelaide Phoenix:	Sam Kelsh (Captain)
Coorong Dragons:	Annabel Kitchin
Copper Coast:	Judy Haydon (President)
DAA:	Deb Elfenbein (President)
DAPL:	Sandra Jansen (President)
Mannum Dragons:	Julie Metcalfe (President)
Vicki's Pride:	Miranda Roccisano (President)
Victor Dragons:	Morag Craig (President)
Water Warriors:	Sam Slabbert (President)

3. APOLOGIES

DBSA:	Teresa Goodwin-Riccio
ACDC DD:	Heather Graetz (President)
Adelaide Phoenix:	Kierney Sieberhagen (President)
Blue Water Raiders:	Jenny Chillingworth (Secretary)
DAA:	Julie Howie (Vice President)
Subsonix:	Lynette Ferrari (Secretary)

4. HERE FOR THE GAME COMMUNITY PROGRAM – PRESENTATION

Damian Creaser from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation attended and presented on the "Here for the Game" program. He circulated some brochures on the program. Agreed to circulate a scanned copy of both brochures and the initial email ORS&R advice on this program. **Action: Marie #90**

5. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The following change was noted for the Minutes of the President's Forum held on 15 August 2024:

- Para 6 (last bullet point) amend "registration numbers" to "efforts".

5.1 Business Arising

Jack Salagaras queried an issue raised by Lynette Ferrari concerning the registration fees for 2025/26 referred to in the Minutes and agreed to take this on notice. This resulted in the ratification of the Minutes being held over until the next meeting. **Action: Marie #91**

5.2 Action List

Reviewed. Noted Pat Doogue would complete #78 by 8 December race day.

78	Write a procedure for task #27 – “Assist boat drivers with the 2km buoys to/from boatshed etc.”
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6 DBSA

6.1 40th anniversary – 28 August 2025

Discussions were held on the celebrations and commemoration for this event, with the Board suggesting that Club involvement be sought.

It was agreed Clubs would come back by 14 December with their ideas for this event for collation and volunteers to form a working group. **Action: Clubs #92**

BSD put forward some ideas, such as a fun water games day, talent night, fancy dress, and nothing formal.

6.2 Meeting cycle 2025

Agreed to keep the quarterly meeting cycle with dates to be advised once the Board confirms. **Action: Marie #93**

6.3 Events

6.3.1 Level 1 Coaching course –22&23 Feb-25

Noted John Holland is running this course, and at that stage, it will proceed with the number of registrations received to date. A reminder email is to be sent. **Action: Marie #94**

7 CLUBS / OTHER

- SADA – returned from Pan Pacs with four medals. Silver (x2) – Mixed 200/500, Gold in the All Cancer 200m and a Bronze in the All Cancer 500m. The x2 5000m races were touted as a fun event but were not really.

Julie Lister advised she attended and felt that the sweeps from the combined regional team that she competed with could do with some training as they won the Female 20s 200/500 races but ended up with no medals due to their sweep being disqualified twice. It was a fun event.

- PBs – competed at the WCCC in Ravenna with a team of 36 travelling. Happy overall with their performance despite not winning any medals as they had a significant reduction in their race times as compared to the AusChamps. Considered a success.
- PBs – extended appreciation to DBSA for their efforts on what they are achieving.
- Subsonix – noted issue in RevSport with non-financial members not dropping off the membership list and sought advice on how this could be resolved.

Response given to email Marie Cunningham with any issues for follow up. **Action: Jack #95**

- Waiwilta – attracting new members, younger members and encouraging any member that wants to then join a racing Club to do so. 20th anniversary was celebrated recently with a trip taken to a McLaren Vale winery followed by celebrations at the Irish club. Looking to have a Christmas function.
- ASA – 20th anniversary in May 2025 and may look to do a McLaren Vale wine tour. Training on Tuesday mornings is open to all Clubs (10am-11am). They had five new members recently but three are going through breast cancer and two are quite ill.
- BSD – returned from Ravenna. Did well despite not winning any medals. They have 12 members lining up for Auroras, ramping up their overall training. Event will be held in Germany in July 2025.

PBs – noted they have 6 members trialling out for the Auroras team.

- VP – great news with an SGM held recently and agreement reached to change the name of the Club to the Murray Bridge Dragon Boat Club. They hope the new name will be more relatable to more people. Did a long paddle to Taillem Bend with lunch at the pub and accompanied by a houseboat which towed the dragon boat back. Morning tea was held at River Glen with the paddle starting at 9am and finished by about 1pm.

Jack Salagaras noted he had competed in the Murray Marathon (100km race) several times and their Club looked to enter some years back, but the organisers wanted too much money. He suggested DBSA look to schedule a similar event as only one rescue boat would be required and the event could finish with a BBQ. It would be good comraderie like the Wallaroo Marina Challenge.

- DAA – going fine. Noted Neroli Mills is now a qualified Sweep and they are looking to train someone else to add to their team of 3 qualified sweeps.
- VDs – travelling along well. Enjoyed the Copper Coast event and competed as a team this year and stayed on for an additional two days. Preparing for the 8-Dec race day and hoping to have a mixed crew because of having more male members joins. Fielding a mixed team at the next race day, will ensure qualification in all three categories.

Planning lots of social events, Christmas pageant and Carols on the lake. General meeting scheduled for next week after reviewing the strategic plan recently. The Dragon Pass is working well and looking to convert some to registered paddlers with some new younger paddlers joining which is wonderful.

- ACDC Desert Dragons – only recently returned to paddling on the lake due to shortage of water so now paddlers are slowly returning with a reasonable turnout on Wednesdays and Sundays weekly. Unfortunately they were not in a position to attend the Copper Coast event and working towards being in a stronger position in order to be able to race
- Coorong Dragons – membership numbers are rising and have 7 Sweeps with 2 more to be put through. Tuesday night paddled in 50km gusts. Last season did not compete but looking to do so in January and at the State Championships. They have lots of younger paddlers joining and are keen to compete.

Some of their talented creative members are working on having the dragon boat look like a dragon for the Christmas pageant and working on how to get smoke to come out of the mouth. Paddling session planned on the Coorong through the barrages and out to the Coorong Café to a sponsor's venue for fish and chips and a return paddle.

- Mannum – extended appreciation to Powerblades for allowing Julie Metcalfe and Mike Farrelly the opportunity to compete with them in Ravenna. Noted Copper Coast event was great and it was a pity re the wind but a good idea to call it off for safety concerns. They enjoyed the socialising afterward.

Preparing the boat for the Christmas pageant. They have one located at the marina and the other in the shed in town, so they can train at either venue weather dependent. In January 2025, they will have a long paddle from Caloote to Mannum in memory of one of their paddlers, David Barr, who recently passed away. It will be a fundraising event for whichever charity Alison Barr nominates. A Come & Try event is scheduled to attract more members.

With respect to nominating someone to the working group on the 40th anniversary celebrations, they have someone in mind who is great with fundraising and may also have another.

Julie Metcalfe noted she would register for the Level 1 Coaching course.

- DAPL – going well. Experiencing problems with winds similar to other Clubs and looking to enter a team in for the Regional Masters Games in Port Augusta. Training on Sunday mornings.
- WWs – in a good position compared to 12 months ago when they had only 12 active members. They undertook a rebranding and are now sporting new uniforms. They have 2 new Sweeps ready for evaluation and 2 registered for the Level 1 Coaching course.

8 OTHER BUSINESS

- SADA – noted they took the opportunity when some new people passed by who were keen for a paddle to take them out and were now querying if they would be covered by insurance.

It was suggested that they take down emergency contact details in the future before going out on the water. Some Clubs have a form to complete and then look to enter them into RevSport afterwards.

Julie Lister advised that even though AusDBF is keen to keep its paddling statistics up to date, it is not always possible to ensure new participants are registered beforehand to avoid missing out on an opportunity.

Peter Button noted that when he was on the Board previously, they had sought clarification from AusDBF on this, and the response was that they would be covered.

- Mary-Ann Holt queried what the new hoist equipment (spreader bar) was in the boatshed as nothing had been advised to Clubs on its availability or use and that the Standard Operating Procedure would need to be updated.

Waiwilta said they had used it that morning and it was easy to use.

Noted any new piece of equipment introduced should have Board approval first. Agreed to follow up Rodney Purbrick for details as it was felt he may have arranged this. **Action: Peter #96**

- Peter Button noted that the Copper Coast President had left the meeting and stated that it would be good to highlight to them from a DBSA and Club perspective that the Wallaroo Marina Challenge event was a good event.

Agreed to leave discussion to next season on the course direction to be taken.

- Jennifer Bould reminder Clubs of the PFD exemption noting the below conditions:
 - A paddler must be at least 16 years old;
 - All paddlers must be able to swim at least 100m whilst clothed in paddling attire
 - Be a financial member of DBSA and/or AusDBF (DragonPass and Corporate paddlers must wear PFD, registered interstate paddlers would be exempt)
 - Paddlers must have participated in a capsized drill (or actual) in the last 12 months
 - If a paddler does not meet all the criteria they must wear an approved 50 or 50S PFD at all times when on the water.
 - have a list of paddlers available for inspection by DIT should they want to see the list of those paddlers who have confirmed they can swim 100m.

It was noted that a DIT inspector was present at the last metropolitan race day, and the onus was on them to meet these conditions.

- Chris Wood advised of an upcoming School event on Wednesday, 29 January 2025, with 300 students for a Come & Try. The group would be split into three 90-minute sessions, and the school would be responsible for providing other activities in the interim.

Sweeps and Drummers would be required and receive a small honorarium which they could keep or donate back to their Club. It provides a good income stream for DBSA and details will be sent out separately. **Action: Chris #97**

9 NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 9:16 pm.