

## WELCOME...

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PADDLENSW CHAIR MAN ~ Tony Hystek

16 December 2008

Dear Paddler,

I'm going to be in trouble tonight. Instead of going down to Auburn Pool as I said I would, and having a good go in the washing machine they call Canoe Polo, I'm sitting here gathering my thoughts on the progress and outlook for PaddleNSW, and thinking of suitable excuses to give to the Polo Committee, with whom we met last night.

As you can imagine, there is much to write about.

Of particular significance are the unfortunate health issues facing Phillip Chellew, who has had to resign his membership of the PaddleNSW committee. This has also forced Dianne Chellew to step back from her President's position and active participation on the committee, in order to care for him and try to run the family business. We appreciate all they have contributed to the establishment of PaddleNSW, and wish them both the very best. We hope Phillip can make a speedy recovery.

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## SUMMER SERIES OF CANOEPOLO IN SYDNEY...

The Summer Series is conducted across four States at Melbourne, Canberra, Adelaide and on the weekend it was Sydney's turn.



*Setting up the shot.*

A new field has been set up at Penrith Whitewater Stadium by the National CanoePolo Committee and by all reports it is first class. The wild wind of the weekend did not deter these enthusiastic players when men and women alike fought it out to get to the top of their ladder.

If you want to join this fantastic game, check out the new season starting in Sydney Auburn pool on February 2 2009. Please go to the Canoe polo page on our website for details of the Oceana Games and the World Masters Games to be held in Sydney next October.

You can enter the World Masters Games if you are over 35 in any one or all four paddlesports of marathon, sprint, slalom or canoe polo. <http://www.2009worldmasters.com/>



*Canoe polo is constant action and adrenaline.*



## A RECREATIONAL PADDLER... by Tony Carr.

The Historic Parramatta River recreational paddle planned for Nov 23 had to be postponed because of forecast gale-force winds and was eventually held on Dec 6. It was well worth the wait. The day turned out to be warm with a light breeze early – ideal for paddling.

We had visitors from as far afield as the Central Coast and Burley Griffin club in Canberra. Sutherland, Windsor and Lane Cove clubs all were represented.

After launching at Kissing Point, we headed upstream past the former Halvorsen shipyard and the park where Bennelong is buried, then into Homebush Bay where the foreshore, rehabilitated since the removal of smelly chemical plants, is rapidly being developed as apartmentland.

At the bottom of the bay were the wrecks we had all been waiting to see. Big, impressive, still largely intact. The main ones were two colliers (the 1140-ton Ayrfield and the 1371-ton Mortlake Bank), a tug (the Heroic, 268 tons) and a boom defence layer (HMAS



*The wreck of the Mortlake Bank, which Japanese minisubs used as a decoy to enter Sydney Harbour in 1942. On the extreme right, at the rear, is another collier, the Ayrfield.*

Karang, 971 tons). The Mortlake Bank was the ship the Japanese minisubs used as a decoy to slip past antisubmarine nets and attack Sydney Harbour on May 31 1942. The Karangi was used to lay antisubmarine nets and was in Darwin harbour when 188 Japanese aircraft attacked it in February 1942.

On to Armory Wharf, where during the 20th century munitions were taken to be stored in nearby underground bunkers.

Then back past a number of other landmarks, including a delightful



*Landing on the beach at Cabarita Point, ready for lunch.*

1891 heritage brick boatshed, complete with smoking room and lounge, serving an equally historic convalescent hospital, for lunch overlooking the beach at Cabarita Point.

Despite a strengthening nor'westerly we visited several bays on the north side of the river, but when some friendly sailors in a launch told us a strong southerly change was on the way, we headed back for Kissing Point.

The outing was led by Derek Simmonds and Justin Paine from Lane Cove River Kayakers and organised, in his usual precise way.

## OCEAN RACING... Wollongong Classic Postponed until 11th January 2009

High winds blowing paddlers direct towards New Zealand forced the postponement of last Sunday's event.

See [www.illawarracanoeclub.org.au](http://www.illawarracanoeclub.org.au) for new details including great course maps.

### SURFSKI LADDER...

The surfski ladder is now coming into its own really reflecting the rundown of top surfski paddlers in NSW. Go to [www.paddlensw.org.au](http://www.paddlensw.org.au) then click on the Ocean Racing Ladder on the right hand panel. See where you are! There is also a spreadsheet showing which of the Surfski Paddlers are with PaddleNSW. It's also growing steadily.

### NSW STATE 200M SPRINT CHAMPS...

hosted by PaddleNSW, is being held under floodlights at the Sydney International Regatta Centre on Friday night 9th January 2009. This event is going to be great fun and is open to paddlers of all ages. Try it out, you may be the discovery of the season and for sure you won't die of boredom! Entries must be in by 5th January 2009. See the news section of [www.paddleNSW.org.au](http://www.paddleNSW.org.au).

### NSW STATE MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS...

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th March at Wallamba River, Forster.

Put it in your diary now. The Forster Marathon is a great venue and it makes for a terrific weekend, particularly at that time of year when you want summer to last for ever, but it won't! The Caravan Park has really improved and the cabins are great for a family or a team. The timing is so the event ties in with the National Marathon Champs. Show us what you can do!



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Just prior to this, Ian Hancock also resigned his position as treasurer due to work, family and WTC club president's commitments. Ian had taken to his treasurer's role with gusto, and we appreciate his efforts equally.

We have several new faces on the committee now, including Treasurer Simon Mann, from Lane Cove River Kayakers, who has a background in accountancy and will make a valuable contribution to the organisation.

In addition, we met for the first time last night Tom Balaam from Windsor Canoe Club, who will be looking after things of a marathon nature, and Chris Thompson, from Penrith Valley Canoeing, our new slalom coordinator.

Both Tom and Chris bring a wealth of knowledge to the committee, and a desire to get things moving in our sport. More detailed information on the new committee will soon be posted on the 'contact us' page of the website. With a full complement of committee members, PaddleNSW will be able to once again achieve some formidable targets.

Some things we can be proud of include the recreational series of paddles which have been a great success, and we thank Tony Carr in particular for his efforts in establishing the programme.

Tim Hookins, the new Vice Chairman, has been instrumental in uniting a diverse group, the Ocean Ski paddlers, and has established a competitive series and ladder uniting the various ocean racing events from different clubs. The Marathon 10 series came through the difficult transitional times mid-year (following the winding up of NSW Canoeing) with flying colours, and the recent 5000m flatwater championships were a great success. The young and enthusiastic team of paddlers from Manly Warringah, under the guidance of Coach Damien Daley, gave us some great racing in all the K-boat classes.

On a more strategic note, it is with pleasure that I announce that discussions with AC regarding a degree of affiliation are progressing well. Up till now, there has been little opportunity to commence negotiations due to the Olympics, the appointment of the new AC CEO Greg Doyle, and the recent AC AGM. Both organisations recognise the need to represent our sport in NSW in a unified fashion, and more detailed information on future negotiations will be available once more formal meetings have taken place.

One of the issues raised at our recent meeting was the ability of PaddleNSW to send teams to the National championships of the various paddlesports. It was acknowledged that PaddleNSW will be able to send a Marathon team to Queensland as NSW representatives, and an announcement regarding this process should be made in the New Year.

## Where to from here?

There are so many opportunities our committee need to pursue that it is sometimes difficult to maintain our focus on just a few.

We see education and training as one major area we need to develop.

This will become easier once we become more closely aligned with AC, and we can participate in training programmes such as the ACAS award scheme. The development of our junior paddlers is essential to the growth, and even the stability of our sport. We must broaden our membership base, expose our sport to more people outside the usual group of outdoor recreationalists, and create an image for the sport that makes it a more desirable and better serviced.

Essential to this expansion is a broader skills base at club level. Every club should have amongst its members some qualified instructors and coaches, officials and executive. There are many courses available on-line and through the Department of Arts, Sport and Recreation which will give club enthusiasts a better understanding of their roles in the administration of their sport, and hence greater personal rewards and satisfaction. First hand evidence of the effect of quality training can be seen at Windsor Canoe Club, where a couple of club coaches have transformed the club competition results in the space of a year. Transfer this expertise to a junior development programme and you have an ongoing supply of young, enthusiastic paddlers ready to rise to the top of their sport.

The future of paddle sports in NSW looks rosy. The management committee of PaddleNSW has been hard at work establishing the framework of the organisation, and can now begin to focus on the important development issues so important to our sport's future.

I am sure you will take this enthusiasm with you and do your bit to introduce someone to paddling, do an online course or first aid certificate, maybe even attend a Coaching or Instructor's Course. The more you put into your sport, the more you will get out of it. And let us know what you want from your organisation. Better still, get involved and help us by volunteering your services.

On behalf of the Management Committee, we hope you enjoy the holiday season and paddle a bit of water you've never paddled before.

Now, I wonder if there's still time to get to the Polo....

*Tony Hystek*  
Chairman

PaddleNSW management committee.





# KAYAKER WITH A SENSE OF HISTORY

Dear Paddlers of NSW,

Here are some photos of a 4m single kayak that was saved from a bonfire, her canvas hull was completely rotted and timbers damaged. I'm now in the process of rebuilding her into a 6.2m double sea kayak [Named Helsal]. Hence I'm pretty keen to complete her and get into races for fun and fitness.

Big goal is also the Hawkesbury race for 2009.

I have also built a 5.5m single kayak from marine plywood as well, so if you know of other kayak builders e-mail them my details!

Mr Geoff Molloy ~ [geoff.molloy@defence.gov.au](mailto:geoff.molloy@defence.gov.au)



## Employment Opportunity.

PaddleNSW is seeking the services of a **Webmaster** to fill a paid part-time (2 days per week) position.  
Office and equipment supplied.

Contact [webmaster@paddleNSW.org.au](mailto:webmaster@paddleNSW.org.au) for more information.

*Of course, an interest in paddlesports would be beneficial. Some illustration poster work also.*



Seen someone with a Slalom boat who doesn't seem to know the front from the back?

**Chances are it could be stolen from Penrith Whitewater Stadium.**

One stolen boat is the C1 of Olympic medal winner Robin Bell. It has sentimental value to Robin, but not much value to anyone else. Robin wants it back, please.

**The other is a rare Strawberry Red - ZIG ZAG - ARK (only 2 in Australia) K1 of Natasha Jones.**

Any information, please contact [admin@paddleNSW.org.au](mailto:admin@paddleNSW.org.au)



*The missing ARK.*



# CROSSING THE DITCH... The Paddlers talk at Blue Earth

James Castrission and Justin Jones, the two intrepid kayakers who became the first people to paddle from Australia to New Zealand, gave an exciting account of this 3300 km trip to an audience of enthralled kayakers on Dec 8. The talk, organised by Lane Cove River Kayakers, was held at Blue Earth canoe shop in Drummoyne. Not only did the two young adventurers describe this trans-Tasman crossing, they also detailed the struggle they had to build a kayak capable of doing the job. Realising they could not pack all the gear they needed into a conventional kayak, they built a craft designed around a boat used to sail across the Atlantic. When first launched, it had a precarious 30 degree lift to starboard.

Lead was placed in the bottom to stabilise it, and the boat almost sank with the extra weight. James and Justin persevered and eventually came up with a kayak which took everything the Tasman had to throw at it, including a storm which kept them inside that tiny cabin for four days, and survived.



*The intrepid kayakers with their specifically designed craft, built for the crossing*



## Facing the elements

There were some scary moments during the journey, among them an anxious three hours with two sharks, one almost as long as the 9m craft. These creatures circled them and kept rubbing against the side of the kayak! By the way, the boat, named Lot 41 after the race-horse Phar Lap, weighed 1000 kg fully loaded!

Go online to see the full epic adventure  
[www.crossingtheditch.com.au](http://www.crossingtheditch.com.au)



## KAYAK FOR KIDS ANNOUNCEMENT:



PaddleNSW has agreed to support the Lifestart Kayak for Kids annual fundraising event on Sydney Harbour. This City to Surf style event will be held on water on Sunday 29 March 2009. We believe that PaddleNSW members will jump at the opportunity to either enter the challenge to be the fastest boat on Sydney Harbour or if you're not the competitive type then you can bring your family and friends to relay all the way from Blues Point to Clontarf. PaddleNSW will provide safety kayaks and canoes and a big prize especially for PaddleNSW members.

For further information go to  
[www.kayakforkids.com.au](http://www.kayakforkids.com.au)



We are looking for volunteers to help with the logistics and prizes, on water safety, and training and course orientation paddles on weekends prior to the event, so if you can spread the word and find some time to support this charity then contact [admin@paddlensw.org.au](mailto:admin@paddlensw.org.au) with a great Xmas gift.

### PADLENSW IS AN EVENT SUPPORTER FOR "KAYAK FOR KIDS" FUNDRAISER.

This is a 17.5km harbour paddle starting from Lavender Bay and finishing at Clontarf. It can be done by a single paddler or as a relay.

See [www.kayakforkids.com.au](http://www.kayakforkids.com.au) and help PaddleNSW support a good cause!!