

LANE COVE RIVER KAYAKERS ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2005/2006

The members of this club participate in a wide range of Kayaking activities. The main focus is the Hawkesbury Classic. 42 members participated in last year's event. Records were broken by our members in 4 categories. Members were winners in 14 of the categories. We had 4 paddlers in the top 10 handicap places.

We are keen participants in the NSW winter marathon series with about 30 members participating on average. We had 6 paddling in the Murray Marathon with 4 paddlers in the top 10 handicap placings! Tom Simmat won the handicap event overall, Urs Mader came in 7th and Margaret Cook and Merridy Huxley came in 9th. Rob Vallis won his category. Tom went further, to Canada actually, to participate in the Yukon River quest, the longest kayaking marathon in the world and came 2nd in the Men's single kayak event. About 10 members paddled in the Men's Health Ocean Racing series last summer.

Membership is steadily growing, though the club has to be cautious about new members because the Lane Cove River at night in winter must be treated with respect and safety procedures must be observed. There are about 80 different people who paddle with the club during the year, though actual paid up members number about 60.

As a result of the collaboration of Robert Grozier, one of our committee members, with Willoughby Council, a pontoon has been built on the Lane Cove River. It is associated with the Willoughby Memorial Athletics oval facilities. The Club has been progressively moving to this area and now holds very successful BBQ nights after a paddle once a month. Once teething problems with launching procedures at the pontoon are ironed out, it is likely we will move permanently to this area. Parking is adequate and the toilet, changing facilities and covered areas are good.

The Lane Cove Marathon was held in good weather this year on Sunday 28th May. Overall it was a most enjoyable and worthwhile day. However, some paddlers used the wrong markers and a few incorrect times may have been registered. The Committee was unhappy with this outcome and has taken clear steps to ensure this will not be repeated. A coloured marker buoy system independent of the navigation buoys will be used next year and the rescue boats will be making clear directions of the course. A tradition of the Lane Cove Marathon was upheld: Free and very nice food and drinks served once again by the Barnes family.

After a lot of planning and design by the Rowston family, Derek Simmonds and the Committee, the new Lane Cove River Kayakers paddling uniforms were issued just before the Club AGM ready for the Wyong Marathon. They look and feel good and will be a distinctive marker of the club in future competitive events.

The Club AGM and Dinner was held on July 28th at the Lane Cove Club. 45 members and their partners attended and as usual, it was the social highlight of the year for the club. All the committee positions are filled as follows: Derek Simmonds: Vice President, Nick Chai: Treasurer, Don Rowston: clothing, James Mumme: Secretary, Rob Grozier: Waterways, Rob Vallis: Wednesday night convenor,

Marathon co-ordinator: Graeme Jefferies, membership secretary Matt Swann, Magazine editor Justin Paine, President: Tim Hookins.

The Club has been developing a website which promises to be a useful tool for the club members and for visitors and people interested in the Club. It will feature such things as: Regular updates of time trial times, the newsletters, club chat room, etc. and will be fully operational in next few months.

The club with the benefit of Justin Paine as editor puts out a magazine called Kayak Kapers. The quality and interest of this magazine has been progressively improving with each edition. It is a benefit to members and a source of interest and enjoyment. It is 8 pages long and though it has been produced quarterly it may come out every two months from now on.

The past year has clearly been a successful one for the Club. The focus for the future will be to iron out new membership procedures, safety procedures for night paddles and the transfer of most of our activities to the pontoon.

Timothy Hookins
PRESIDENT 2nd Sept 2006