



Lane Cove scoops the Classic pool

Fastest single paddler ever, winner and the first four on handicap, 6 category records, 5 finishing within an hour of the record, retaining the Commonwealth Bank Cup, an enormous fleet of 45 boats which is almost certainly our biggest ever, a row of PBs, enthusiastic veterans celebrating with overjoyed first-timers, just about everyone in the club involved either on the water or on land – you could say that Lane Cove River Kayakers had a pretty good Hawkesbury Classic in 2012.

We've had some high points in the past, but this one will be hard to top. It was an enormous day and night and part of another day, an exhausting ordeal filled with satisfying personal achievements and dominated by club spirit.

The Classic has become a rallying point for all members of the club, a time when individual goals are set and unqualified



Toby Hogbin ... fastest single paddler in the 36-year history of the Hawkesbury Classic

support is offered to those aiming for them.

The big goal, of course, was keeping our hands on the Commonwealth Bank Cup as the most successful club. Lane Cove was first, Central Coast second and The Armidale School third. The result was announced at the Classic presentation dinner but the actual points table was not given. We sent in a claim for 24876.9 points, almost 600 more than last year – the difference was more bonus points for fast times and more paddlers competing, with everyone scoring points. It was our 9th win in 10 years.

Toby Hogbin set the bar at its highest mark with an amazing 8h 18m 19s sprint down the river. His pre-race target was Lance O'Connor's 1998 UN1 record of 8.51.57. He not only demolished that but in the process blitzed past Paul Lancaster's 1996 K1 mark of 8.29.28 to become the fastest single paddler in the Classic's 36-year history.

And he could have been 5 or 6 minutes faster had he not been held up by ferries.

The fact that he did it in an Epic V12 ski did not go unnoticed.

"Technology in skis has improved a lot in the last couple of years while K1s have stayed pretty much the same." he said.

"The K1s are faster, but when it comes down to getting power to the water skis have more stability and you can concentrate on the power. I paddle a ski faster than a K1 over longer races, and was quicker on a ski in the Marathon 9 series.

"There is no way I could paddle a K1 over 100km without my legs going numb."

Toby got away to a flyer from the 6pm start, washriding a K4 to Sackville, then going on alone when they stopped for a break. He was out of the boat briefly at Wisemans and regretted it – the stop saw him having to wait for both the Webbs Creek and Wisemans ferries.

With the tide running out, he knew by Pit Stop he had the UN1 record in hand, and going through Milsons Passage he knew he was ahead of the K1 mark.

But even his superlative time left him 20 minutes adrift of the best on handicap and in 6th place, which perhaps raised some questions. It seems impossible for a UN1, or a K1 which is handicapped even harder, to win the Handicap Cup.

Handicap winner Rae Duffy looked and felt comfortable the



Rae Duffy ... winner of the prestigious handicap title

whole night. For an accomplished ocean paddler like her, the Classic holds few fears.

To combat the tendency of her Flash to have its nose out of the water, she put a little weight in the front of the boat and moved her seat as far forward as possible. She finds this helps tracking and washriding, although on the night she didn't get



Anjie Lees tells Paul Gibson how easy it is to paddle the Hawkesbury Classic



Richard Robinson missed a record by 9 seconds (damn that ferry!)



Rae Duffy (handicap winner) and Toby Hogbin (fastest paddler) with their LCRK trophies



Tony Hystek in his new Kayakpro Vampire



Paul van Koesveld and Wade Rowston with THE TROPHY, the Commonwealth Bank Cup, at the presentation dinner

any washrides at all.

Rae kept her eye on her GPS to maintain target speeds, speeding up whenever it dropped below the mark.

“When the tide changed after Wisemans I was flying down the river and it felt effortless. I’m rapt with the time and result.”

After the race she emailed members to say: “What a night! Makes me proud to be a member of LCRC. The positive energy from everyone must be a big part of what keeps us coming back for a tough event.”

Bob Turner and Kristy Benjamin’s Marathon 9 and Myall Classic form turned out to be a good guide to their Hawkesbury Classic chances. Not only did they take over an hour off the record, they smashed 9 hours with a thrilling time of 8.58.02 to be second on handicap and third fastest double overall.

Tom Simmat came to grief when he holed his boat on a fence picket but despite losing over half an hour while making band-aid repairs he still came fourth on handicap and broke his category record – by 6h 50m 36s!

For this year’s Classic he cut the nose and stern off an Apollo ski which he transformed into a short rec disguised as Darth Vader and with a nose like an Amazonian anteater (see page 11). With the ironic sense of humour for which he is renowned he named it Stealth – bullocking along through the water it was about as stealthy as a World War II submarine breaking wind as it surfaced.

Paddling a Fenn Elite ski, Tim Hookins took well over 2 hours off the 60+ UN1 record with his time of 10.51.18 – he’s another convert to skis. He dispelled early “negative thoughts” and was buoyed throughout the night by frequent contact with Janet Oldham and Friederike Welter – they kept overtaking each other.

Janet and Freddie entered the ladies 40+ K2 but were told by scrutineering officials they would be switched to UN2 because of a weed deflector. They thought their superb time of 10.43.55 had established a UN2 record – until the preliminary results listed them as K2. “We figured one arm of officialdom



Craig Ryan and the catch of the day



Bob Kenderes and Tim Dodd



A very happy Joy Robinson



Urs and Arni Mader ... came down from Queensland to break their own record and finish third on handicap

had not communicated with the other and emailed them to set it straight, but never had a response from anyone,” said Janet. So they finished up back in K2, where their time was 4 seconds outside the K2 record. “Never mind, we are thrilled regardless and achieved a PB, that’s all that matters in the end,” added Janet.

Urs and Arni Mader, long since self-exiled to Queensland, fulfilled a promise to return to Sydney to paddle again for LCRK in the Classic. They caught up with a lot of old friends before the race but unfortunately weren’t around for long afterwards.

Looking extraordinarily fit and healthy, they shaved 47 seconds off their own 2006 record in the 50+ Rec2 with a time of 10.40.12 and were third on handicap in their borrowed Nomad. Please come back again next year.

Tony Hystek was determined to break the 50+ UN1 record in his recently acquired 6.4m Kayakpro Vampire, a multisport kayak similar to a Rocket. Between D and E he stopped for 14 minutes to help Lawrie Kenyon and Rob Chant, who had capsized. He subsequently asked to have his finish time of 9.08.01 reduced by the stoppage time. He said he did not receive any reply and discovered from the official results booklet that he had not been allowed any time deduction. *Kayak Kapers* has learned his request was denied on the ground that he failed to lodge it within 3 hours of finishing – and as a result he missed the record by 11m 19s.

Richard Robinson was aiming for the same record in the 40+ UN1 (by some strange anomaly that record covers both the 40+ and 50+ age categories) and his time of 8.57.51 missed by just 9 seconds! If only he hadn’t delayed at Wisemans and been caught by Webbs Creek ferry ...

When seconds really count, missing a ferry or having to go way off the paddling line for a checkpoint like F



Above: The Ellis camp at Windsor. Right: Caron Jander enjoys a swim at the finish – her third of the night, only this one was planned

Lane Cove competitors in the Hawkesbury Classic

Competitor	Category	Time	Plc	Hcp time	Hcp plc
Toby Hogbin	UN1 O	(R) 8.18.19	1	9.08.39	6
Tony Hystek	UN1 50+	# 9.08.01	1	9.27.12	11
Richard Robinson	UN1 40+	# 8.57.51	1	9.34.25	12
Bob Turner/ Kristy Benjamin	LRec2 XO	(R)8.58.02	1	8.55.21	2
Glen Orchard	Ocean Rcg ski #	9.09.38	2	10.05.09	22
Matt Shields/ Michael Quinn	LRec2 O	9.48.45	1	10.29.58	26
Craig Ellis/ Carmen Ellis	BoB2	10.20.55			
Urs Mader/ Arni Mader	XRec2 50+	(R)10.40.12	1	8.57.08	3
Tom Simmat	SRec 60+	(R)10.35.24	1	8.59.27	4
Janet Oldham/ Friederike Welter	K2 L40+	# 10.43.55	1	10.04.00	21
Tom Holloway	MRec O	10.44.58	1	10.50.08	40
Oliver Hankin/ Lachlan Lee	BoB2	10.46.22			
Tim Hookins	UN1 60+	(R)10.51.18	1	10.59.46	47
Rae Duffy	MRec L50+	(R)10.55.09	1	8.48.42	1
Cathy Miller/ Trevor Waters	BoB2	11.08.52			
Phil Geddes/ Paul van Koesveld	LRec2 60+	11.19.01	1	11.08.09	53
John Duffy	BoB	11.22.37			
Tony Carr	BoB	11.36.29			
Neil Duffy	BoB2	11.46.31			
Peter Edney	TK1 O	11.49.35	1	11.51.43	67
James Mumme/ John Thearle	LRec2 40+	12.01.37	4	12.28.19	86
Richard Barnes/ Joan Morrison	BoB2	12.06.59			
Tim Dodd/ Bob Kenderes	BoB2	12.31.50			
Chris Thompson	BoB	12.33.49			
Anjie Lees	BoB	13.06.14			
Matt Swann	BoB	13.24.33			
Nick Race	BoB	13.24.33			
Craig Ryan	MRec 40+	13.17.07	3	13.00.14	
Kenji Ogawa	Bob	13.52.53			
Joy Robinson	UN1 L40+	# 14.10.40	1	12.57.31	94
Caron Jander	BoB	14.35.01			
Bill McIntosh	BoB	14.35.01			
Tim Knox	BoB	14.35.01			
Meg Thornton	LRec L50+	14.42.26	1	12.04.29	78
Mike Finnegan	BoB	15.02.27			
Ruby Gamble	MRec LO	15.50.20	3	13.43.56	103
Ann Lloyd-Green	TK1 L60+	15.49.59	1	12.23.50	85
Andrew Kucyper	BoB	16.27.27			
Andrew Mathers	OC1 40+	16.44.59	1	16.14.50	125
Wade Rowston	MRec 50+	11.55.00		withdrew checkpoint P102.5km	
Justin Paine	BoB	9.12.00		withdrew Wisemans	65km
Andrew Pratley	BoB	9.26.00		withdrew Wisemans	65km
Duncan Johnstone	LRec 50+	5.23.00		withdrew checkpoint F	47.3km
Andrew Benoit	BoB	6.42.00		withdrew checkpoint F	47.3km
Marilyn Golden	BoB	4.35.00		withdrew Sackville	31.2km

(R) Record

Within 1h of the record





Friederike Welter and Janet Oldham arrive at the finish looking very relaxed – and 4 seconds off the category record



Chris Thompson finishes with a different paddle to the one he started out at Windsor with the previous afternoon



Greatgrandmother Joan Morison, 81, already a kayaking legend, made history when she became the oldest person to complete the Classic and the first person over 80 to do so. Joan, from Sutherland Shire Canoe Club, competed with Lane Cove's Richard Barnes in her 22-year-old TK2. She is shown here arriving at the pre-dawn finish and being reunited in an emotional moment with her husband of 61 years, Bruce.



An emotional, teary finish for first-timer Ruby Gamble makes all the difference.

Also scoring bonus points by finishing within an hour of their class record were Glen Orchard in the new Ocean Racing Ski category and Joy Robinson in the ladies 40+ UN1.

Some memories from this year's Classic:

- The flora version of road spikes in the carpark paddock, mutant bindy-eyes the size of small ballbearings and sharp enough to penetrate thin-soled paddling shoes – woe betide anyone in bare feet!
- Swarms of midges out in the middle of the river around Sackville at dusk, they got in your eyes, ears, nose, mouth, everywhere.
- Chris Thompson canoeing his Mirage into Cattai after snapping his paddle and losing half of it, but soldiering on with a borrowed kayak blade and amazingly beating his 2011 time for the race.
- Craig Ryan arriving at Wisemans with a fishy tale and a fishy tail – a fish jumped into his cockpit and stayed there, flapping around.
- A fallen tree in the middle of the river in the left turn just past Dargle lit up like a Christmas tree with red cyalumes – the outlying branches still snared lots of victims.
- A full moon hidden for most of the night behind cloud, but the river was well lit and there was NO FOG.
- Eric Barnes celebrating his 80th birthday at Low Tide Pit Stop in the wee hours with, among others, sons Richard and John, John's wife Mardi (a competitor) and drop-in Joan Morison.
- Glen Orchard introducing a portage, running himself aground on a mud flat at Bar Point and having to drag his ski across 30 metres of mud to continue the race.
- Caron Jander dumping her ski on the concrete ramp at the finish and going back into the water for a swim – it was her 3rd of the night, the earlier 2 were impromptu.

The enthusiasm with which the club tackled this year's Classic stems to a large degree from the wonderful achievement by Paul van Koesveld in organising and marshalling our forces with military efficiency while living temporarily hundreds of kilometres away on the Murray. He surpassed last year's excellent effort with an enthusiastic stream of information and updating, keeping all advised via emails and our website of latest developments and entries.

The LCRK sites at Windsor, Sackville and Wisemans were a rallying point not only for club members but also for non-member landcrews, many of whom said later how much they appreciated the help and encouragement offered. Nigel Colless, Jon Harris, Bill Donohoe and Jeff Tonazzi were among those setting things up. Special mention should be made of Jeremy Spear who seemed to be everywhere, helping not only his assigned paddlers but everyone else's too. Once again Andrew Mackay did a magnificent job with his BBQ at Wisemans, feeding the waiting landcrews and passing paddlers and keeping the party going.

Scrutineer Rob Grozier sent out thanks to John Greathead, Tony Walker, Jeremy Spear, Tom Simmat, Nigel Colless, Elke van Ewyk, Richard Barnes and family, Mark and Rhiannon Sier, Tim McNamara, Rae and Neil Duffy, and Bob Turner for their assistance.

The Classic will be held next year on Oct 26-27.



Tom Holloway won his class



Bill McIntosh and Tim Knox finishing the Classic together



John Duffy had a big PB



Tony Carr is a happy finisher



John Greathead, Bill Donohue and Jeff Tonazzi



Andrew Mathers has "a bit of a snooze"



It's important to rug up and keep warm – ask Phil Geddes and Paul van Koesveld



Peter Edney gets a warm welcome from Jen Broadbent



James Mumme and John Thearle... "It ain't pretty but we'll make it"

Each story tells of a personal battle against the river

Richard Barnes/Joan Morison (BoB2, landcrew Eric Barnes, Bruce Morison, Lyn, Wendy, Don): Richard: "We planned for 14 hours and took it easy, going to and fro with Tim Dodd and Bob Kenderes at the start, just motoring along, never quiet. Joan has a magic change room which the landcrew brought down to Wisemans, she came out with a complete change of clothes and smelling of Dencorub. We had 3 stops, 20 minutes at each, Joan was keen to be on time. Joan has a fine history of the race and shared it with me and lots of others. From Spencer to Bar Point she took us on some dodgy shortcuts to avoid the worst waves and we made it across the mud flats. She's like a 20-year-old." Joan: "Richard is a wonderful paddler who checked on other paddlers and knew who was on every checkpoint. I call him Richard the Lionheart. It was a most unusual race for me - I have never been to A in daylight and never finished in the dark, there were lots of other firsts."



Andrew Benoit (BoB, landcrew father Ashley): "My doctor said I couldn't do any exercise because of a medical problem, so I couldn't train. I entered at the last minute to see how far I could go and was hoping to get to Wisemans. But my clothes got wet and I didn't take any spare clothing and got cold, so I pulled out at F."



Tony Carr (BoB, landcrew Bryon Merzeo, Mel Triffitt): "This year I changed my training completely and had a minimum of three 25km paddles each week plus a weight-training regime matched to muscle groups used when paddling. I was 10 minutes late to Sackville, where I stopped for 10 minutes, and 10 minutes early at Wisemans, where I stopped for 20 minutes. From Spencer to the finish was more difficult than I expected and I had to punch to get 9½km/h. Coming into Milsons Passage I realised I had to veer across to a checkpoint out of the way and I blame that for making me 3 seconds over my time last year."



Tim Dodd/Bob Kenderes (BoB2, landcrew Mitchell Smith): "We paddled an old TK2 Bob has had under his house for about 20 years, it's hardly been used. We got to Sackville in 3 hours and had a 20-minute stop. Bob had a lot of trouble with a sore bum and tried various types of cushioning without success, stopping on beaches and on the water, but he pressed on, he's a trouper. We were at Wisemans by 11.30 and stayed for half an hour. We stopped for 35 minutes at Pit Stop for soup and scones, then hit the incoming tide around Spencer. There was a lot of chop from the wind and tide and we had to slow down and try to find protection on the left bank, but by Bar Point it was smooth and easy."



Neil Duffy (BoB, landcrew daughters Shannon and Megan): "I felt good until E, better than planned. Then my stomach started to rebel. At Wisemans I decided to just keep going to the finish, whatever time it took. Then at O I looked at my watch and realised I could beat 12 hours, so I just stuck to it and kept going. At the finish I was very shaky, absolutely shattered but elated. It was my first finish in two attempts."



Rae Duffy (Ladies MRec 50+, landcrew daughters Shannon and Megan): "I put a little weight in the front of the boat and set the seat

forward to get the nose of the Flash in the water so it would track better. I was hoping for a washride but didn't get one all night. I was feeling good the whole night. I watched the GPS and every time it dropped below what I wanted I would speed up, and when it was above I just sat back and cruised. I had different speed targets for different places according to the tides and where I was. When the tide changed after Wisemans I was flying down the river and it felt effortless. For 2½ hours after Wisemans I didn't see another boat. My paddle in this year's Classic is going to be a hard act for me to follow next year."



John Duffy (BoB, landcrew James Toomey): "I really enjoyed the race, I had no back pain which I put down to Wednesday night paddling and tutoring. I still can't believe the time I did, a PB by 90 minutes. Some of the credit for that must go to Neil Duffy and Tony Carr for a washride from B to D, and Rae Duffy for a washride from Sackville to E. From Wisemans I was largely on my own, just hooting along with the tide. All the planets lined up for me, my preparation paid off and I crossed the finish line in the rare situation of having plenty of energy left."



Peter Edney (TK1 Open, landcrew Jen Broadbent, 2nd Caringbah Rovers): "I had four weeks of with injury before the race but some physio at Windsor before we started left me confident. I went out strongly with a downriver racer to Sackville where I had a pizza supreme during a half-hour break. The next 65km felt like a dream. I caught my training partner, Andrew Pratley, in his Dancer at Lower Portland and we had a chat. At Wisemans I had some more pizza. After that I felt good and skipped Pit Stop, the scones weren't enticing enough. I got to the finish in time to have a beer before sunrise."



Craig Ellis/Carmen Ellis (BoB2, landcrew Greg Gearing): "We were first to the bridge. That was our mission, it was all that mattered. Ladies stops were mandatory - twice. After Wisemans I had trouble with the GPS map, couldn't activate it, my mind wasn't working. But we had a fantastic race, very comfortable. I had a pinched nerve in the coccyx which caused dead right leg, Carmen was getting grumpy because I had to keep lifting my left bum off the seat. The lesson was don't change your seat two days before the race. We were sore and tired at the finish but happy. Our aim was to finish, it was all preparation for the Murray."



Mike Finnegan (BoB, landcrew wife Alison, Darryl and Leanne Harkness, Mark Davies): "This was my 3rd Classic and first in a single ski (Epic V8), along with my double paddling partner from last year, John Davis, also in a ski (Epic V10). I felt really good at the Sackville stop, very average at Wisemans and relatively good at the finish. It was a less adventurous Classic this year than last when John and I had to make a 'hypothermia' stop next to check point K who were brilliant like so many of the other wonderful volunteers. We actually popped in again this year just to say re-thank them."



Ruby Gamble (Ladies MRec Open, landcrew Leita Hutchings): "I surprised myself by finishing the HCC - I'd only ever paddled

30km in one go before. I was feeling good when I maintained 7.9km/h to Sackville and arrived before my predicted time. I set off again in the dark, and managed to get through to Wisemans by washriding a karaoke boat. From there I kept up 8km/h for an hour and then mentally and physically crashed. After another hour, I couldn't resist the call of the sirens at the Low Tide Pit Stop, where I enjoyed a quick 15-minute cup of tea and a scone. I found myself facing my final 15km with zero energy, body aches and minimal mental energy. That painful 15km took me three hours. As I approached the finish line at 8am, paddling at about 3 km/h, I cried with relief. While I thought I would never do it again, it's amazing how quickly you decide you will!"



Phil Geddes/Paul van Koesveld (LRec2 60+, landcrew wives Rita Geddes and Angela van Koesveld, Carol Glasan): Phil: "We had planned on an easy start and were ahead of schedule at Sackville despite waiting for the ferry. We were still ahead of schedule at Wisemans but starting to feel the pain, and I was nauseous because of something I had at Sackville. We decided to spend as much time as necessary at Wisemans and I had pumpkin soup which I was able to keep down. We got caught by both the Webbs Creek and Wisemans ferries and lost time on the outgoing tide. We were still feeling pain so every now and then we would stop and stretch. At Pit Stop we nearly got run over by a floating block of flats pushing out a big wave. It was an interesting ride from Spencer to Bar Point through the wind and chop, then just a matter of fighting the tide to the finish."



Marilyn Golden (BoB, landcrew children Ami and Zac): "The adventure was not my anticipated one - the weather and water conditions were a struggle for me in the K1 with the wind against me. I conquered the first 25km in 3 hours which was a relatively good time. Then I got into trouble - my GPS with the map course on it froze and wouldn't work and there was nowhere to stop to try and fix it. I had to balance in the now turbulent water in the dark while trying to push the buttons with no response. My left ischial tuberosity had become progressively and agonizingly painful, causing me to compensate by sitting differently as I paddled. (I was silly to join a friend in having my bottom taped before the race - I had never raced with a strapped bottom before this and it was causing constant friction with the rotation of every stroke.) At Sackville the pain and cramping were so severe, and I withdrew."



Oliver Hankin/Lachlan Lee (BoB2, landcrew Lucy and Lynde Hankin): "We finished in 10h 46m. We were hoping to get under 12h so were shocked when it looked like we were on track to get under 11h, especially since we were not feeling great at Sackville. It was much more challenging than we both expected and the feelings of euphoria at the finish were overwhelmed by tiredness, soreness and mild hypothermia. Ian Wilson was very generous in lending two inexperienced (and unknown to him) paddlers his Mirage 730. We have been training since early September on weekends and in the two weeks leading up to the race we came down to the Wednesday night sessions at Lane Cove. We hadn't really done any serious



paddling prior to this."

Toby Hogbin (UN1, landcrew Ryan Cousins, Stewart Chandler): "I washrode the K4 to Sackville, they were quick and I worried that I might have overcooked myself. They said they were stopping for 10 minutes there, it was too long for me, I stayed in the boat for a couple of minutes and was off. Sackville to Wisemans went pretty quickly, the incoming tide was not as bad as I thought. I broke the race into 20km lots, you only have 5 of them. It's 20km plus 10 to Sackville, then another 20 plus 10 to Wisemans. I was out of the boat briefly at Wisemans, if I hadn't I wouldn't have got caught by both ferries and lost 5 minutes. I was going for the UN record of 8.51 and knew by Pit Stop that this was definitely attainable. My time kept coming down and going through Milsons Passage I knew I was under the K1 record. At the finish I was sore pretty much all over, particularly my ribs and stomach muscles."



Tom Holloway (MRec Open, landcrew Trish Couch, mother Marie Rose): "Originally I was going in Brooklyn-or-Bust but some LCRK members put a bit of guilt on me so I paddled the club's *Frank McDonald* Flash in the open medium rec. It was the perfect boat for the Classic, and it was nice taking Frank down the river one more time. I found I much preferred the competitive class and overtaking people, and enjoyed myself. I had a steady paddle the whole way, not flat out, with a quarter-hour stop at Sackville and a half-hour stop at Wisemans, plus another brief stop to rearrange my clothing. Tom Simmat washrode me until B, and before Dargle I saw him on the bank with a torch examining his boat. At Wisemans I saw him come in, screaming for duct tape."



Tim Hookins (UN1 60+, landcrew wife Judy): "Tom Simmat has been my ski coach and all the training with him really did help. With his guidance I was also able to get a handle on using my GPS to my advantage for the first time. I thought I would be lonely from the 6 o'clock start but there were other UNs around, and I kept bumping into Janet and Freddie and that helped me through the night. I have a feeling that I suffer a lot more pain than anyone else and had negative thoughts at Sackville but was fine by Wisemans although I lost 20 minutes in that second section. Steve Russell brought out my favourite rice pudding at Wisemans but I stopped for only two minutes and couldn't have it. I finished very strongly even though the tide was crashing against us and overtook quite a few people."



Tony Hystek (UN1 50+, landcrew Alanna Ewin): "I trained and planned to do the race with Richard Robinson - washriding, rafting up etc - but nothing goes according to plan and it came to nothing. I got a great washride with Lawrie Kenyon and Rob Chant which lasted until they fell out between D and E. I spent 14 minutes assisting them with a very dubious re-entry. I had a big problem drinking water, same as last year, and became dehydrated. I was determined to get the record and kept pushing and fortunately got no ferry stops. Coming into Wisemans I was feeling ill, I had some Coke and food during a 3-minute stop and that settled me down."



Caron Jander (BoB, landcrew Michael Maitland): "Sackville was a little rushed, for some reason I had not been checked in at the

checkpoint before so I had to spend time checking up with the official that all was in order. I donned my winter gear and set off. After about 15 minutes I was soooo hot and sweating, so decided to take off the beanie and thermal top. An hour later I lost my concentration and flipped the boat. With my thermal and beanie not secured in I said farewell to both. At about 3 am it was time for a swim again. I take my feet out after each checkpoint to stretch, this time it was more than my feet. Pit Stop seemed too festive to miss. Then the magic sight of the Brooklyn bridge which seemed to just hang in the distance and not come closer."

Duncan Johnstone (LRec 50+, landcrew Jeremy Spear, Neil Raffan): "2012 was supposed to be the year I completed unfinished business, having failed to get beyond Wisemans in 2010. It was not to be. A fast (for me) 8-minute turnaround at Sackville saw me confidently on my way. 4km on I safely negotiated the point I fell out in 2010 but started feeling very tired, weak and disoriented and spent the next two hours paddling to checkpoint F, a mere 12km. Backing off to try and recover didn't work, so it's back to the drawing board on my nutrition and training for better endurance."

Tim Knox (BoB, landcrew wife Sue, daughter Poppy): "I enjoyed it. The thing that got me was being too hot. All the advice about rugging up was over the top. When I started I had on a long-sleeved sailing top and PFD. At Sackville I was so hot I replaced it with a fleece. At Wisemans I thought it would get colder or might rain so I put on a waterproof jacket but left it unzipped and it was okay. Pit Stop was absolutely fantastic, such nice guys out there in the middle of the night - they wash your feet when you get back in the kayak! When I saw the bridge, coming out of Milson Passage, I got a bit emotional. Monday was a write-off because I was telling everyone what I did."

Andrew Kucypr (BoB, landcrew son Jack): "To Sackville I was dragged, at a fast pace, by the LCRK group of 5 kayakers commanded by Matt Swann. The fast pace was not planned and I arrived before my landcrew. I started to feel cold because of wet clothes and Liz Winn ordered me (this is true - it was an order!) to continue to Wisemans. I had loaded my Mirage with spare clothes, food and drinks and Liz took my wet smelly clothes to Wisemans. I could not resist racing other kayakers and paid the price in the form of recurring strong pain in my right shoulder. I resorted to my usual pattern of paddling in such situations, which means start-stop-start etc. Regardless of this I enjoyed this Classic and enjoyed paddling the last 20km."

Anjie Lees (BoB, landcrew daughter Brianna, Liz and Al Hayes): "I got to Sackville at 10 past 7, exactly as planned, and had a 10-minute stop. A paddler named Chris fell in somewhere after E and was helped back in by an outrigger, we paddled together to Wisemans. The tide was going the right way then. I was in at 11.39 and out at 12.10. I felt good all the way to Pit Stop where I stopped on the mud and said 'Can I have paddle-through service?' They brought me out some scones and coffee. Going through Milsons Passage I saw phosphorescence coming off my bow and paddle, I thought at first it was cyalumes. I had a good sleep Sunday and was back into



normal training Monday."

Ann Lloyd-Green (Ladies TK1 60+): "I was a good half hour ahead of my scheduled time when arriving at Wisemans. I changed into dry clothes, had some yummy hot macaroni cheese then went to the physio tent to get knots unknotted. Was told I looked cold, to go to the warm tent next door. Oh oh, as soon as I walked in a thermometer was in my mouth and when pulled out I was declared with HYPOTHERMIA. With that blankets and silver paper enveloped me like a mummy and I was laid down. My hope of breaking my record was blown out of the water. BUMMER. 2 hours later I went back to my boat, much to their vain attempts to discourage me. Close to Spencer I noticed the water was jumping around my boat in lovely dome-like forms and realised I was hallucinating. For a nanosecond I thought I should stop but my head kicked into gear. In a soporific state I crossed the finish line. Oh, what a feeling. I love it all. I'll be back again next year."



Urs and Arni Mader (Mixed Rec2 50+, landcrew Liz Winn): "Arni and I have taken up outrigger but dusted up the Vortex and got in 8 good training runs totalling 196km. For the Classic I borrowed a Nomad, the same boat we had done our previous Rec2 record in, from Ron Elliott. Like any other year we have raced (Arni 4, me 10) we planned a no-stop strategy. We settled into an early good rhythm and then, as the temperature dropped, added a bit more power beating into the tide up to Wisemans. This was the first race where I did not wear my glasses and as a result I had difficulty reading my GPS and seeing what was coming up in front of the boat. Arni soon realised I was as blind as a bat and helped me out with the steering and miraculously we got to the finish without any mishaps."



Andrew Mathers (OC1 40+, landcrew Marie Carr): "The HCC is special for Marie and me because we met when she landcrewed for me in 2009. This year, for something different, I decided to do it in a single outrigger canoe. I wasn't expecting to break any records - I just wanted to finish. I knew OCs aren't as fast as kayaks, but the seating position is more comfortable. I got the canoe in mid-August and was aiming for a 16 hour finish. I was ahead of time and feeling good at Sackville, so I had a "luxury" break for an hour. By Wisemans I was still ahead of time but feeling very sleepy so I figured I had enough time to sneak in a snooze. The long breaks meant that the boats I passed got ahead of me so I could pass them again - probably the same boats three times! I finished in 16.45, feeling a lot better throughout than I have in previous Classics."



Bill McIntosh (BoB, landcrew wife Susan, children Jamie, Tara and Liam): "It was great, although I have some residual numbness in my toes. I have been paddling for only three months. The hardest bit was just before Sackville where I lost touch with my group and was very despondent, but they waited for me. At Wisemans the group split up and Caron, Tim and I stayed together for the rest of the race. It wasn't cold, I only had one thermal on all night. At Pit Stop I saw someone I recognised, it was one of my neighbours, John Barnes."



Cathy Miller/Trevor Waters (BoB2, landcrew Kaye Swanson and Angela Welsh): "As Trevor



had not done the Classic before, he paddled with an 'L' plate on his back, but he didn't need it as he proved a great strategist in reading the river and planning the best route. Our goals were to get to the end as quickly as possible in comfort and good shape with a smile for our landcrew. We paddled a Mirage 730 and entered BoB2 for the best tides with a race plan of 12 hours. As it turned out we would have won our class (Mixed Vet 50+ LRec2) by a couple of hours as we finished in 11.08, so far ahead of our plan that our landcrew were napping at Brooklyn! Our best tips – sit on a thermarest cushion with a tiny bit of air in it and wrap it in a garbage bag so it slips, and plenty of rice-cream and Nurofen."

James Mumme/John Thearle (LRec2 40+, landcrew Steve Russell): "We paddled quite well for 5km into Sackville, the rest of the race we won't mention. We didn't train, John had been overseas for weeks and I had been in Hawaii to watch my son Chris in the Ironman. Before the race we would have been disappointed with much over 10 hours – we did 12 hours, it just goes to show that training is essential. The wheels fell off just before Wisemans and progressively from then on. The story of the night was just before Spencer when John said: 'It ain't pretty but I think we'll make it.' Or maybe it was when a stand-up paddler behind us for 5 or 6 kilometres said 'Thank you for the tow'. I wouldn't have minded getting a lift behind him."

Kenji Ogawa (BoB, landcrew wife Gilda): "Because of my recovery from cancer and being without practice, my aim was to take it easy and enjoy an overnight paddle. I chose my Pittarak instead of the Flyer because although it's slower it's more comfortable. I was worried about my bum and sheepskin on the seat in the Flyer makes it unstable. I go camping in the Pittarak and carry everything, so I didn't need to stop and had dinner before Sackville, just floating along. Sackville to Wisemans was quite hard, then I really enjoyed it after that. I stopped at Pit Stop for coffee and scones. With the tide coming in hard, the final stretch from Milsons Passage to the finish was the hardest. It was my 18th Classic."

Janet Oldham/Friederike Welter (Ladies UN2, landcrew mother Margaret Oldham, Jo Bramma): "We entered as a K2 but were put into unrestricted at scrutineering because we had a weed deflector. We had a target time we were aiming for but all the planets had to align and a miracle occur to reach this. Freddie was freezing at Sackville, then the tide was against us to Wisemans, that was a slog and we were half an hour behind time. It was better when the tide turned. Between M and N we got out of sync, I was going steady and Freddie was going a hundred miles an hour, her rhythm is faster than mine. We had a digital metronome to get us together but couldn't hear it so I thought nothing for it, I'll have to speed up. We got back on schedule and just hit it. We finished 3 seconds off the time we aimed for."

Glen Orchard (Ocean Racing Ski, landcrew William Pape): "I paddled with Damien Daley, who was 2nd overall, to Sackville, we took turns washriding each other. The tide was horrible to Wisemans, I was in pain and cramping trying to get the power to maintain an average of 9½km/h. I stopped for 10



minutes at Wisemans and then the tide turned and was just beautiful, I averaged 13½ to the finish. I went to Spencer by mistake and at Bar Point got caught on a mud flat and had to get out and drag my ski 30m across the mud. When I saw the bridge I thought I still had 10km to go, I was feeling great there, it's amazing that when you get your speed up you don't hurt as much."

Justin Paine (BoB, landcrew Paul Gibson): "I had hoped for a good start with a following tide, but the headwind for the first three hours took a bit out of me. Despite this I was happy enough to arrive at Sackville in 4 hours and have a 15-minute break. From Lower Portland on I had lower back pain which caused me to rest with increasing frequency. I picked up over the final 10km coming into Wisemans but decided to call it quits there. I really appreciated the number of people, mostly but not all Lane Covers, who recognised me during the race, even in the dark, and called out encouragement."

Andrew Pratley (BoB, landcrew Jennifer Hunt): "I did the race in a Dancer, which is a whitewater boat four point something metres long. It's an all-purpose traditional river boat, I take it out on the harbour every Tuesday, I live in it, it's my second home. Half an hour into the race I found the chop disconcerting, then after 1½ hours I began to feel tired so started eating and then felt good to Sackville. From there on I had to work a lot harder and hit the wall sooner than I expected. I was OK to E but F just never seemed to turn up and I was struggling to stay awake. At Wisemans I was more fatigued than I thought. To go on I would have had to sleep and that would have created a logistical nightmare for my landcrew, so I withdrew."

Nick Race (BoB, landcrew Gerard Hogan and Dom Race): "As part of the Diamond Dogs team, under the leadership of Matt Swann, expectations were high that a rotating diamond formation would get us through to the finish. Everything was going to plan with a tight formation up until Sackville, however on the way to Wisemans the team got separated and I arrived slightly ahead of the others, to be greeted by a hot bowl of stew and a comfy chair. The decision was made for Matt and I to push on, with the rest of the Diamond Dogs making their own way down river. Apart from the lure of scones at Pit Stop, we pushed on to the finish through calm seas and crossed the line just before dawn at 5.30am. This is my first finish of the Classic, a goal I've had for 10 years."

Joy Robinson (Ladies UN1 40+, landcrew Danielle Seisun, Samantha Schiedel, Marty Mulcahy): "I knew I was going to have a tough race with a 6pm start and 2 incoming tides. The start was fast and I washrode Gaye Hatfield for a short while, getting into Sackville in 3½ hours and ahead of time but suffering with my water tube not working. Bruce Goodall fixed my bite valve at Wisemans but unfortunately my stomach was not coping with my usual training food and from Wisemans the body deteriorated, average speeds dropped and I limped home after Pitt Stop. After a pounding from Spencer on in choppy conditions I missed Milsons Passage and went the long way around the island, and was sure glad to make the finish. Oh well, a bit more training and another year..."



Richard Robinson (UN1 40+, landcrew Dino Brown, Rory Brown): "In summary, I paddled like crazy, got sick, missed a ferry, hated the choppy bit at the bottom and was too slow. Thankfully there's room for improvement next year. At the start I was going to jump on to the K4 but let them go and couldn't find a washride, doubles were swerving everywhere and it was very untidy. I had been on antibiotics all week for a sinus infection and I think that's what made me feel nauseous. After the first hour I settled down, not 100%, I had hardly any drink right through. I couldn't get any power on in the chop past Spencer and that was the end of it."



Wade Rowston (MRec 50+, landcrew father Don, Leon Baker): "The object was to cruise and feel well the whole night. I had a brief stop at checkpoint A and a good stop at Sackville. From Sackville to Wisemans I had a really good run, including a 3-minute break at F where I got out of the boat, and was feeling extra strong. After Wisemans I started to get lightheaded and dizzy. I stopped at Low Tide Pit Stop and started to get nauseous, I couldn't keep any food down and was throwing up. After 1½ hours it was no better and I decided to pull out. The people at Pit Stop radioed ahead and my landcrew drove back from Spencer and I paddled across the river to get picked up."



Craig Ryan (MRec 40+, landcrew David Mason, Brona O'Mahoney): "My objective was to beat last year's time of 14:29 and I had an Excel spreadsheet with my paddle speed decreasing by 2% per 90 minutes. At 11.59 I was watching the clock on the GPS waiting for Sunday to begin when the GPS went black! There was a bang, and a slap on my face!! Welcome to Sunday! What the hell just happened! On reaching Wisemans I reached down and grabbed the little flapping thing between my legs, the culprit was a somewhat undersized fish which had leapt out of the water, knocked my GPS off its bracket and ricocheted into my face. My finish time was 13:17, 3 minutes ahead of my spreadsheet planned time."



Matt Shields/Michael Quinn (LRec2 Open, landcrew Bob Stanbridge, Kevin Hopko): "Our race plan was to stick with Bob and Kristy, that lasted about 500 metres, although we kept within a couple of hundred metres for 20km until Bob burned us off. We started getting into the groove approaching Sackville and pushed hard to Wisemans where we had an 8-minute stop. We thought we could beat 10 hours and kept pushing hard and finished in 9.48. This was my first Classic with Michael, he's the paddler who fell out of his ski a dozen times in the Classic coming down from Spencer in that storm a couple of years ago, he said he'd never do it in a ski again."



Tom Simmat (SRec 60+, landcrew wife Christine, son Daen, Kirri Morris): "The boat went well until I ran into a steel fence picket half a kilometre before G. It ripped a big hole in the side of the boat but I managed to get to G and pull up on to a concrete ramp, where they helped me empty about 20 litres of water out of the boat. They only had about 20cm of gaffer tape, so I got some more off my bananas, torch and other things and managed to patch the hole. I told passing Lane Cove



people to let my landcrew at Wisemans know I would need more tape, and the checkpoint people also phoned ahead. I couldn't paddle hard because I was scared I would rip the tape off. I lost about half an hour. At Wisemans it was repaired properly. The delay meant I caught the incoming tide between Spencer and Bar Point and lost more time."

Matt Swann (BoB, landcrew Jeremy Spear): "The idea this year was for a relaxed paddle and to lead a group of first-timers – Marilyn Golden, Caron Jander, Bill McIntosh, Tim Knox and Nick Race. We named ourselves the Diamond Dogs because we were going to go in a diamond shape. We lost Marilyn before the first bridge, Nick fell behind then went through, Caron fell in at F and we did a deep-water rescue. We all joined together at Wisemans where Nick wanted to go early, so I went with him and left the others. I pulled in at Pit Stop where an angel came down, knee deep in mud, with scones and coffee. At the finish I felt really strong, picked up my boat and walked up the ramp. It was great having Jezza, when he says he'll do something you know it will be done."



Meg Thornton (LRec 50+, landcrew John Bucholz): "I flew to Sackville, but when the tide turned I decided I was tired and the pace fell off. A female paddleboarder overtook me and that was a reality check, so I had to pass her, and I also won a race to the finish against two male paddleboarders. During the race I had two Red Bull drinks, full of caffeine and go-fast stuff, I've never had one before but it does the trick."



Chris Thompson (BoB, landcrew Helen Thompson): "Unfortunately my paddle got as far as about 6km when one blade snapped and sank into the river. Oh well, let's try Canadian-style with one right-hand blade, luckily the tide was with me for the 6-7km to Cattai. A good samaritan had warned his brother at Cattai that I was bladeless and arranged for me to collect his spare paddle to continue to Sackville where my landcrew awaited with my spare. After Sackville I paddled with a lady who has done this race 15 times, the Murray Marathon 4 times and kayaked in Antarctica earlier this year. When we got to Wisemans together she thanked me for paddling with her because she was afraid of the dark... I ended up beating my time from last year by 23 minutes."



Bob Turner/Kristy Benjamin (Mixed LRec2 Open, landcrew Kristy's partner Dimos, Jason Cooper): Bob: "Jason was my paddling partner for the last 2 years until I replaced him with a younger, more attractive model. Kristy and I wanted to have a crack at the record of 10:01 and also better the 40+ XLRec2 of 9:26 so our objective was set at 9:15. I've paddled with Kristy all year and I know she is steady, solid and almost uncompromising in her approach to endurance racing. We didn't say more than half a dozen words all night, just head down, arse up, and on a mission. We stopped every hour and a half (Kristy for Vegemite sandwich, me for a Goo). With the tide behind us when we got to Spencer we knew we had a chance of posting a good time, and with Damien Daly riding our wash we had a sprint to the finish. 8:58.02 and a record were our rewards."



BULB BOWS ON KAYAKS

by Tom Simmat

I have in my shed three Short Recs, two of which have won the Murray on handicap. One has achieved second on handicap in the Hawkesbury Classic.

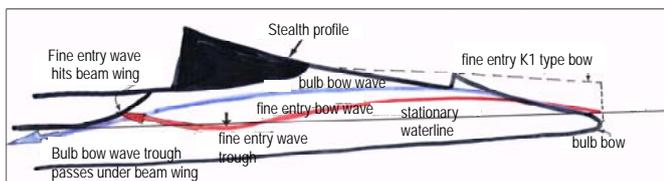
The Classic last year changed the class specifications for the Short Rec so none of my previous boats now met the class rules. In principle they now introduced a flatter box measurement half way along the hull length.

The great advantage of experimenting with the Short Rec is that it is, after all, a small boat so takes fewer resources in time and money to complete or modify the boat.

One of my previous Short Rec designs, "The Cow", did have a bulb bow and I had achieved a Classic time of 9h 58m in 2007. I did consider altering this boat but the new specs required a complete rebuild so I decided to start from scratch.

Well, sort of.

I had an old Apollo XI (Flash ski) which I had modified to meet Medium Rec specifications. I had taken out (dissolved)



the foam spline and added a lot of bog to increase the beam. This had weakened the boat and it had split across the seat in an ocean race.

I had discussed designing a Short Rec Apollo with Apollo Craft, so here was an opportunity, but I don't think that they believed it needed to be quite so radical.

I had to reduce the length by a full metre and increase and lower the waterline beam, all without losing too much of the original Apollo XI speed. So half a metre was cut off the stern

and the seating position moved forward to stop the stern dragging, beam added and a bulb bow introduced.

The Greeks used bulb bows on their fighting rowing galleys and they were reintroduced to ships in the 1980s and used on fast passenger ships in the 1930s and Second World War.

The wave system of any boat is made up of "divergent" and "transverse" waves. A bulb bow interferes with these wave systems and the peaks and troughs of the wave systems can be manipulated to significantly reduce the boat's drag.



What I was trying to achieve was that the bulb bow at marathon race pace would create a trough in the wave system at the same place down the hull as the new specified low wide "waterline" beam. By doing this I did not have to extend the wide low beam lines into the boat forward. A bonus by doing this was that my paddle entry position could be kept at a relatively narrow part of the boat.

I added a fixed weed-deflecting skeg, as required by the rules, a drop-down venturi to keep the foot well dry and a windscreen to keep some water out of the cockpit.

The result after a bit of chopping and changing was a very different looking kayak.

The Stealth was born.

It is a surprisingly comfortable kayak to paddle, even in very rough water, very noisy, very wet but high-end fun, so long as I can avoid large submerged logs and the odd submerged fence post.

My time this year was 10.35.24. I think that perhaps had I not put a hole in the boat about half way through the race I would have beaten my 2007 time of 9.58.35 in "The Cow".

Bass Strait crossing

The Richard Barnes Travelling Aquatic Circus hits the road again - hits the water, actually - early next year.

Richard will be leading another group of first-timers across Bass Strait on what will be his fourth crossing. Accompanying him will be Andrew Pratley, Peter Edney and John Duffy.

They'll go directly from the Murray Marathon, in which Richard, Andrew and Peter will be competing, to Little Musselroe Bay, on the north-eastern tip of Tasmania. From there they'll paddle via Flinders Island to Wilsons Promontory, starting on January 4.

In February 2014 Richard plans to paddle with Phil Newman, sister-in-law Mardi Barnes and possibly brother John from Adelaide to Melbourne, finishing "up the Yarra, somewhere in the heart of Melbourne."

Down-river race in NZ Southern Alps

Matt Blundell and former LCRK member Mike Snell are planning to enter a new 4-day 261km down-river race in New Zealand's South Island called the Wild Descent on January 17-20.

In stages of 65km, 75km, 77km and 44km it goes down the Clutha River from Lake Wanaka in the Southern Alps generally south to the Pacific Ocean at Lake Molyneux. Looking at a map, it's between Queenstown and Dunedin.

The route includes fast flows through narrow lakes and gorges with repeated grade 2 rapids.

In the Oct 31 LCRK 12km time trial Matt and Mike, who apparently has recovered from a shoulder injury which has troubled him for some time, recorded 47.30, the fastest time ever on the course. That's an average of 15.1km/h.

Buried treasure at the pontoon

by Andrew Benoit

A few weeks ago I dropped one half of my split-shaft paddle in the river at the pontoon as I was draining my boat. I took a swim to see if I could find it but it was pretty dark and the tide was quite high so I gave up. Next day I went back at low tide with a diving mask. The visibility was pretty low and I ended up just diving down and feeling around in the mud with my hands for as long as I could hold my breath. The water was about 2 metres deep where I thought it had fallen in. It took about ten minutes of searching but eventually I found it. I think what kept it from being washed away with the current was how soft the mud is around the pontoon. It was a \$600 paddle so I was pretty happy with that. There's probably a few other treasures buried in the mud around the pontoon.



Timekeepers

Dec 5 Tim Dodd, Anjie Lees
Dec 12 Chris Thompson, Adrian Clayton
Dec 19 Christmas BBQ
Jan 2 Richard Diaz, Matt Swann
Jan 9 Tim Binns, Phil Geddes
Jan 16 Bill McIntosh, Wayne Wanders
Jan 23 Paul Seaberg, John Duffy
Jan 30 Tracey Hansford, Steve Paget
Feb 6 Nick Race, Martin Dearnley
Feb 13 Andrew Benoit, Tim Knox
Please confirm your availability a week before with Andrew Mathers at roster@lcrk.org.au.

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Treasurer: Nigel Colless
Committee members: Jon Harris, Derek Simmonds, Liz Winn, Phil Geddes, Matt Swann
Kayak Kapers Editor: Justin Paine 9858-3323

Sprints are booming

The PNSW sprint series at the Penrith Regatta Centre is now well and truly established on the racing calendar, with over 100 boats competing in the November 11 event. This is a big jump up on previous numbers and promises to increase even further.

LCRK was well represented, both on the water and among the officials, who were spearheaded by Nigel Colless.

One of the fun races of the day, at the end of the program, was a 4km K4 race in which a pick-up LCRK crew of Jason Cooper, Richard Robinson, Wade Rowston and Tim Binns, paddling together for the first time, finished a



credible second behind a more polished Manly Warringah crew. A relay event, with 4 boats in each team, also proved popular.

1000m. Race 6: Jason Cooper 4.36 3. Race 7: Richard Robinson 4.21 2. Race 8: Tom Simmat 5.02 4. Race 9: Derek Simmonds 5.26 5, Wade Rowston 5.26 6, Andrew Benoit 5.28 7. Race 11: Joy Robinson 5.32 2, Tim Binns 5.48 3.

500m. D final: Jason Cooper 2.05 7. E final: Tom Holloway 2.11 5. F final: Nigel Colless 2.23 4, Tom Simmat 2.40 8. G final: John Greathead/Friederike Welter 2.38 4, Wade Rowston 3.13 7, Andrew Benoit 3.19 8. H final: Derek Simmonds 2.40 3, Joy Robinson 2.45 4, Tim Binns 3.09 8. I final: Tony Walker 3.15 4.

200m. D final: Richard Robinson 0.46 4. E final: Tom Holloway 0.49 4, Jason Cooper 0.50 6. G final: Wade Rowston 1.05 5. H final: Tim Binns 1.04 3. I final: Joy Robinson 1.07 2.

PNSW Awards

Two LCRK members were honored in 2012 PaddleNSW Paddlesport of the Year awards. Tony Hystek was named Master Paddler of the Year and Tim Hookins was named Administrator of the Year.

Tim Hookins has been elected Chairman of Paddle NSW, replacing Tony Hystek, who remains on the Board.

Murray Marathon

Lane Cove will have a strong team at this year's Murray Marathon. Those planning to compete include Richard Barnes, Peter Edney/Jen Broadbent, Andrew Pratley, Rae/Neil Duffy, Craig/Carmen Ellis, Meg Thornton, Tony Hystek, Tom Simmat and Cathy Miller/Trevor Waters.

Marathon winners

The Marathon 9 season finished on a high note for Lane Cove with three of our boats being series winners in their divisions – four if you include dual member Matt Blundell who paddles for Manly Warringah.

Phi Geddes and Paul van Koesveld had a win in the final race of the series, at Lake Illawarra on Oct 13, to emphasise their dominance in division 4.

Wade Rowston, recently promoted to division 4, did most of his racing in division 5 and came away with the series winner's prize for that division.

In division 8, the "old firm" of John Greathead and Tony Walker showed the oldies can still teach the young fellas a trick or two and took out the series prize.



In division 1, Matt Blundell was again unbeaten throughout the season. Toby Hogbin was third.

Lane Cove was fourth among the clubs with 164 points, behind Burley Griffin 252, Southside Paddlers 222, and Manly Warringah 198.

M9 Lake Illawarra Oct 13

Competitor	Div	Time	Plc
Matt Blundell	1	1.26.24	1
Steve Newsome/ Jeremy Spear	1	1.38.12	5
Tony Hystek	2	1.36.18	3
Bob Turner/ Kristy Benjamin	2	DNF	
Craig Ellis/ Carmen Ellis	3	1.42.59	5
Tom Simmat	3	1.43.00	6
David Hammond/ Tim Binns	3	1.46.35	10
Phil Geddes/ Paul van Koesveld	4	1.46.18	1
Janet Oldham/ Friederike Welter	4	1.49.01	4
Wade Rowston	4	2.01.01	7
Tim Hookins	5	1.51.46	5
Derek Simmonds	5	1.55.37	12
Duncan Johnstone	5	1.57.20	14
Joan Morison/ Richard Barnes	6	1.58.10	3
Richard Lindsay	6	2.01.19	5
Anjie Lees	6	2.12.23	7
Tony Walker/ John Greathead	8	57.13	6
Ann Lloyd-green	9	1.02.18	5
Don Rowston	9	1.06.32	8
Andrew Kucyper	9	1.06.44	9

Divs 1-6 = 20km, divs 8-9 = 10km



Marathon division series winners Wade Rowston (top left), Phil Geddes and Paul van Koesveld (below left) and John Greathead and Tony Walker



Tony Carr, the Master of Fancy Dress, celebrated his 70th birthday with a party in which guests were, appropriately, asked to come dressed in the style of the seventies (1970s, that is). Can you recognise any of these dashing celebrities?