



June 2015

70-plus paddlers and the Hawkesbury Classic

The need to establish the status of paddlers over 70 in the Hawkesbury Classic has been recognised in an announcement by Chairman Kent Heazlett that there will be a special trophy for the fastest 70-plus paddler in this year's race.

While this fails to grant equality to these older paddlers by giving them their own age category, as formally requested by Lane Cove River Kayakers, it does acknowledge them.

The challenge for all parties now is to work towards the establishment of an even playing field for 70-plus paddlers by giving them a category equal to the categories of other age groups. Currently the oldest age group is 60-plus and those over 70 have to compete in it against younger paddlers.

Tony Carr, 72, who is one of Lane Covers campaigning for a 7-plus category, said: "The decision by the Classic Committee, while not granting us what we asked for, at least recognises that we older paddlers should be treated in our own right and not regarded as part of the 60-plus category.

"I urge the Classic Committee, now that it has taken this first step, to go further and give us a 70-plus category this year. The momentum is there, now is the time for a decisive move. It would be good for the older paddlers and good for the Classic."

Classic President Kent Heazlett on May 27 sent this statement to LCRK: "At last Thursday's HCC Event Committee meeting Richard (Barnes) and I 'put the case' in relation to the V70+ scenario that we all discussed at Richard's Narrabeen home a couple of weeks ago. The Committee has agreed that,

as a trial, we should acknowledge the fastest V70+ boat in this year's Classic. It was also agreed that there will be a perpetual trophy created, named in memory of Bruce and Joan Morison (subject to the Morison family's agreement), for the fastest V70 crew and that the ongoing cost of this trophy could be met by financial support from the proponents of the class. Trophy winners will be announced in the results and the trophy presented at the Dinner. V70+ paddlers will start in the 4.15pm start irrespective of boat type, single/double/whatever. I know that this may not be all that some wished for but I see it as a huge step forward."

The statement avoids any direct reference to LCRK's request for a 70-plus category, and does not give any reason why the HCC would not approve it.

Kent's reference to a discussion at Richard Barnes' home was to a meeting between representatives of the HCC Committee, LCRK and Paddle NSW on April 23 which agreed to support the introduction of a single 70-plus category, one each for men and women, which would cover all types of craft regardless of their specifications. At this meeting the Classic representatives were asked to present any issues which they felt hindered the introduction of a 70-plus category. These were discussed and resolved.

It is disappointing that this proposal failed to win the approval of the Classic Committee. No reasons have been given for the decision. *(Continued on page 4)*

LCRK President Paul van Koesveld has issued this statement:

"Lane Cove River Kayakers has long been a strong supporter of the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic and of the hardworking volunteers, including active LCRK members one a club Life Member, who have organised this iconic event over many years. LCRK is also proud of the extent of its participation in the Classic which has strengthened further in recent years when the event has faced participation headwinds. The club is keen for the Classic to return to growth to enable further increase in its financial support for the Arrow Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation. LCRK plans to continue its strong support for the event.

"LCRK has raised with the Classic Organising Committee some suggestions that we believe would encourage participation and fundraising. One of these is the introduction of a 70+ class. With more competitive paddlers approaching or already over 70, this will be a growing group if older paddlers can compete against paddlers of similar age range; this is strongly supported by the club's Committee as a matter of fairness as well as a growth and marketing opportunity.

"The LCRK Committee is appreciative of the substantial recent efforts of the Classic's chairman and some other Committee members to make headway on this matter after much of the 2015 arrangements were already in place; it is true that we don't really understand the delay in considering this suggestion, originally submitted shortly after the last Classic, and lack of response to our offer of assistance which might offset the additional burden on already heavily committed Classic volunteers. Nevertheless, we regard the subsequent decision to offer

70+ paddlers a group start in 2015 as positive and a real basis for developing a full 70+ class next year; we thank the Classic Committee for taking this step.

"If the Classic organisers now actively promote the 70+ class to potential participants and older paddlers take up this opportunity, a 70+ class will be successful over the longer term."

Tim Hookins, Chair of PaddleNSW, issued the following statement:

"There have been moves spearheaded by Justin Paine of Lane Cove River Kayakers to introduce a new class in the Hawkesbury Classic, that of an over 70s category in any type of paddling craft. Other possibilities include a mens, a womens and possibly a doubles category for over 70s paddlers.

"This proposal has been put to the Hawkesbury Classic Committee. They seriously considered the issue and went some way down the track in accepting the idea by agreeing to issue a trophy for the fastest over 70s paddler this year.

"In common with the Hawkesbury Classic Committee, PaddleNSW Inc supports the principle that as broad a spectrum of paddlers possible should have encouragement to do the Hawkesbury Classic. However, it is the responsibility of the Hawkesbury Classic Committee to run the event as they see fit.

"PaddleNSW will support their decisions and their actions as it has over the years. We admire and thank them for their volunteer contribution to paddling in NSW. We will do what we can in a cooperative way over the coming year to see whether the proposal for an over 70s category or categories can be brought to fruition."

Stirring tribute to the Great Lady of Kayaking

There was a stirring moment at the Wyong Marathon 10 race on May 24 when competitors gathered for the race briefing were asked to remember Joan Morison, the Great Lady of Kayaking, who sadly passed away 6 days earlier, aged 84.

Joan was more than a legend, she paved the way 60+ years ago for women to have the right to paddle in major endurance events like the forerunner to the Hawkesbury Classic and later became a leading figure in administration of the sport.

But instead of asking for the traditional minute's silence to reflect on her life there was a call for three cheers to celebrate her remarkable career and achievements. And the resounding cheers that echoed up the river were testament to the love and affection which today's paddlers had for this wonderful woman. It was a very positive and moving sendoff to a remarkable paddler.

Racing was held in near-perfect, calm conditions with a 10km loop introduced to satisfy the many who don't like the 5km loops which have become the norm in the past few years. There were 34 LCRK boats (and 27 in the previous race at Windsor), an outstanding club turnout.

In the 25km open division, we had the unusual sight of Matt Blundell being edged out on the line for the second successive time by Sasa Vujanovic of Cronulla Sutherland.

In division 2, Glen Orchard followed up his ranking race at Windsor, where he was the 4th fastest, by clipping more than 5 minutes off his time and coming 2nd. In division 3, David Young continued his consistency with another 4th.

Anjie Lees and Ruby Gamble, who was suffering from the flu, were bumped up to division 4 after a fast ranking race in division 5 at Windsor and creamed the field to win in style in division 4. In division 5, Ross Fraser and Ken Holmes lopped 6½ minutes off their Windsor time to give LCRK another win.

Performances to note from Windsor included Jeremy Spear's win in division 5 (see his thumbs up photo on the next page), a 2nd by David Hammond and Jason Han in the same division and a win by new member Dave Salter (with Dave James) in division 10.



Joan Morison

M10 #2 Windsor May 3

Competitor	Div	time	Plc
Matt Blundell	Op	1.56.53	2
Glen Orchard	2	1.43.01	Rnk
David Young	3	1.47.25	9
Tom Simmat	3	1.50.42	9
Richard Barnes	3	1.55.18	11
Robert Manning	4	DNF	
Jeremy Spear	5	1.53.29	1
David Hammond/			
Jason Han	5	1.55.05	2
Wade Rowston	5	1.56.59	4
Ross Fraser/			
Ken Holmes	5	1.57.02	5
John Duffy	5	1.59.30	7
Anjie Lees/			
Ruby Gamble	5	1.53.54	Rnk
Tim McNamara	6	2.00.21	5
Jeff Collins	6	2.01.34	7
Paul van Koesveld	6	2.07.59	13
Peter Millard	6	2.12.56	16
Derek Simmonds	6	DNF	
Tim Hookins	8	1.29.58	4
Jeff Tonazzi	8	1.30.41	5
Tony Carr	8	1.35.29	10
Matthew Swann	8	1.35.33	11
Claudio Battistel	8	DNF	
Dave Salter/			
Dave James	10	56.11	1
Don Rowston/			
Harry Rowston	10	1.01.24	Rnk
Oscar Cahill	10	1.04.01	Rnk
Tracey Hansford	11	1.09.17	10
Justin Paine	11	1.21.03	17
Ian Wrenford	11	1.12.47	Rnk

Op=25k, 1-7=20k, 8=15k, 9-11=10k

M10 #3 Wyong May 25

Competitor	Div	Time	Plc
Matt Blundell	Op	1.52.03	2
Toby Hogbin	Op	2.01.37	4
Glen Orchard	2	1.37.19	2
Suzie Rhydderch/			
Gene Burns	2	1.40.19	5
David Young	3	1.47.03	4
Tom Simmat	3	1.50.54	8
Matt Acheson	3	1.51.02	9
John Harrison	3	2.08.39	Rnk
Anjie Lees/			
Ruby Gamble	4	1.50.10	1
Jeremy Spear	4	1.51.15	6
Richard Barnes	4	1.52.27	10
Duncan Johnstone	4	1.53.56	14
Tim Hookins/			
Oliver Hookins	4	1.51.10	Rnk
Ross Fraser/			
Ken Holmes	5	1.50.29	1
David Hammond/			
Jason Han	5	1.54.44	6
Wade Rowston	5	1.55.53	7
Phil Geddes	5	1.59.09	10
Craig Ellis	5	2.00.51	12
Tony D'Andreti	5	2.01.13	13
Tim McNamara	6	1.59.00	5
Paul van Koesveld	6	2.00.58	11
Don Rowston/			
Jon Harris	6	2.01.32	12
Peter Millard	6	2.05.26	20
Derek Simmonds	6	2.06.54	21
Jeff Beere	6	1.59.55	Rnk
Richard Yates	6	2.00.15	Rnk
Jeff Collins	8	1.24.21	4
Jeff Tonazzi	8	1.29.08	5
Dave Salter/			
Dave James	10	56.30	7
Tony Walker/			
John Greathead	10	1.00.29	10
Oscar Cahill	10	1.01.33	12
Ann Lloyd-Green	11	1.02.36	4
Tracey Hansford	11	1.07.59	14
Justin Paine	11	1.14.20	19
Elke van Ewyk	11	1.33.51	23

Op=25k, 1-7=20k, 8=15k, 9-11=10k



Justin Paine, Derek Simmonds, Ruby Gamble, Paul van Koesveld, Jeremy Spear, Tim Hookins, Glen Orchard, Tim McNamara and Peter Millard at Windsor



Jeremy Spear, Paul van Koesveld, Jeff Tonazzi, Claudio Battistel



Lane Cove at Wyong

Harbour Series

Tingira Challenge, Rose Bay Apr 11

Competitor	Categ	Time	Plc	Cat
Long course				
Matt Blundell	40+	1.23.41	2	1
Tony Hystek/				
Alanna Ewin	Dbl ski	1.28.44	15	3
David Young	50+	1.36.26	32	6
Justin Ryan	40+	1.36.40	33	14
Jeremy Spear	50+	1.41.18	43	8
Tom Simmat	60+	1.44.25	46	4
Tim Hookins	60+	1.50.35	49	5
Anjie Lees	W40+	1.50.53	50	1
Rozanne Green	W40+	1.51.00	51	2
Short course				
Claudio Battistel	20+	1.00.34	20	1
Phil Geddes	60+	1.06.01	30	4
Tracey Hansford	Op seakyk	1.37.14	44	1

LANE COVE AT THE WINDSOR MARATHON



Three generations of Rowstons – Wade, Don and Harry

70-plus paddlers and the Hawkesbury Classic

(Continued from page 1)

Tony Carr, who placed 4th in the 60-plus long rec category last year in a sub-12-hour time, said "I relish the competitive aspect of the Classic and look forward to doing what others do – compete against paddlers of their own age. I'm in it to win it and going against paddlers up to 13 years my junior over that distance is a tough call. So come on HCC – if the Australian Masters Games can do it with their 70-plus categories, so can you!

"I haven't decided whether I'll do my 6th Classic this year, but levelling the playing field would be a good incentive.

"You've only got to look at the great times put in by other older Lane Cove paddlers to see how fit and passionate they are. The group is big and they are also highly supportive of the fund-raising aspects of the event. Nice to have some prizes, but we deserve our own category."

Tony is well known for having brought many paddlers from his Freedom Outdoors recreational company into the Classic. "The older Freedom Outdoors paddlers will also be disappointed if there isn't a more appropriate category for them," he said.

For the past four years his company he has taken over running a series of familiarisation paddles which give would-be competitors the opportunity to paddle the full length of the Classic in sections before the race.

Another of the Lane Covers campaigning for a 70-plus category is Justin Paine, who last year became the first 80-year-old to paddle the Classic solo. He said in the absence of a 70-plus category he had decided not to compete in this year's race.

"Both the National and NSW marathon championships had

categories not only for 70-plus but also 75-plus," he said. "I wish the Classic people had been at the Windsor Marathon 10 race on May 3 when medals were presented to some of the 75-plus competitors from the Nationals. The spontaneous burst of cheering from the large crowd of kayakers present showed the enormous respect and support they have for these older paddlers.

"Government, the community and sport in general are all urging older people to remain active and maintain a high quality of life as they age. Full equality with a 70-plus age category would bring the Classic into line with this view.

"Lane Cove over many years has been a tremendous supporter of the Classic – last year we had 41 boats – and we are known as a 'nursery' where first-timers and other paddlers come to prepare for it. I personally have promoted the Classic endlessly through *Kayak Kapers* and was extremely disappointed at the decision not to extend full equality to the 70-plus group.

"Last year there were 7 70-plus paddlers in the Classic, more than in some categories. There are many powerful paddlers in their later 60s who will in the next few years be in the 70s, and now is the time to establish a pathway for them to continue in the sport."

He said the Classic had successfully met the demands of increasing numbers of ocean racing skis and SUPs by giving them their own categories, and should follow this up by dealing similarly with the 70-plus competitors.

Thought of the day

No matter how slow you are, you are still lapping everybody on the couch.

FUN FUN FUN at the Nationals with Meg Thornton

I raced in the Women's K2 55+ age category in the Mighty LCRK Grey Nurse at the Oceania and National Canoe Marathon Championships in Canberra over Easter.

This was a last-minute entry, a stand-in for Dianne Chellow who was injured. The double partner I had inadvertently hooked up with was Judith Derbyshire from Ascot Club, WA, and half way across the Simpson Desert at the time! An incredible learning experience. Judith has been around the blocks a few hundred times. She claimed the rear seat and what a ride we had. Thinking that the gravitas of the Nationals did not match my usual last minute "she'll be right strategy".

This is the first race that I have had the opportunity to paddle strategically. There were 2 entries in this class and the regatta rules were that you had to beat someone to win a medal. So a Gold was on offer but no silver. High stakes indeed! We picked out the OTHER team at the start, which was a mixed bag combo of different classes. We approached the line with the overall game plan of finishing and staying upright. No aggressive adrenaline start for us. Slow and steady with the word "settle" coming constantly from the back seat.

In these races there is a mad washing-machine turbo cycle for the first 250m. Exiting that, we found ourselves upright and midfield, with the OTHERS about 200m in front. Quick conference front to back agreed that chasing a target was better than being a target at this stage. So for 2½ laps we steadily held that distance but closing up a bit at the turns so we remained hidden and unknown.

On those laps we sorted out all the problems of getting sucked into other K2s, truck-size turning circles, my tendency to downwind style random acceleration, the general unwisdom of trying to washride and that word "settle" from the back seat. Surprisingly we closed the gap on the 2nd lap portage run to 50m with 1 lap to go. A quick chat back to front determined a) we can get this b) we have really bad turns c) we must be in front at the last turn d) do not telegraph our punches!

Alas alack, the OTHER back-paddler looked over her

shoulder at the Lake BG turn and spotted us! Oooh! Their cadence shot up but we matched the speed with slow cadence big catch. The buoys all the way to the bridge turn (the last before the finish line) were critical. The hiding game being up, we drew alongside. The ensuing inter-boat conversation was technically interesting, debating the finer points of interpretation of the rule on who is entitled to take the racing line around buoys.

Being girls we chose to be very nice allowing plenty of space for the OTHERS ½ length behind to round each buoy on the inside of us. That was all very fine till the last turn where we went in a 1½ lengths ahead and came out ½ boat length behind. No more nice guy! A Sprint for Sheep Stations for three hundred metres ensued. "Don't look, just paddle" ringing from the back seat.

Moral of The Story: We did it by 3.38 secs and that is all you need to do. This was a thinking race and so interesting. The shortish laps meant buoys and turns are crucial if you are going to play games. FUN FUN FUN



Oceania and Australian Marathon Championships Canberra April 4-5

Competitor	Categ	Time	Plc	Dist	No. of comps
Matt Blundell	K1 40+	1.40.53	1	21.5	6
Tony Hystek	K1 55+	1.28.33	3	17.2	10
Anjie Lees	WK1 40+	1.50.09	3	17.2	3
Tracey Hansford	WMMR Op	DNF			
Ann Lloyd-Green	WK1 65+	1.23.08	1	12.9	2
Meg Thornton	WSki 55+	1.21.50	1	12.9	1
Kieran Babich	K1 Op	2.30.54	6	30.1	7
Lee Wright	K1 60+	1.37.26	4	17.2	7
Richard Robinson/ James Fergus	K2 40+	1.54.54	5	21.5	6
Meg Thornton/ Judith Derbyshire	WK2 55+	1.14.57	1	12.9	2
Ann Lloyd-Green/ Sue Muller-Hawkins	WK2 60+	1.16.49	1	12.9	3
Ruby Gamble/ Anjie Lees	WK2 Op	2.30.45	5	25.8	6

Gaye is an inspiration to the sport of kayaking

Gaye Hatfield starred in a TV report which highlighted the wonderful work she is doing with disabled paddlers.

On April 17 the ABC's 7.30 Report covered the selection of Sam Bloom, who is coached by Gaye, in the Australian ParaCanoe team for the world championships in Milan in August. Sam has been paralysed since she broke her spine when a balcony railing collapsed at a beach resort in Thailand in 2013.

Exceptionally fit before the accident, she took up kayaking to combat the depressing reality of being unable to participate in any of her previous sports – surfing, running and cycling. Her spine was severed high on her back, making kayaking extra

difficult for her. She can't use her torso for strength and balance and has to rely totally on her arms.

In the TV report, Gaye says Sam's natural ability is obvious. "We were just out paddling, doing things, we just went to local competitions, and the Australian coaches were watching Sam."

Sam says: "That's how it all started, not to be competitive – just to be out here on the water, not to be in a dumb wheelchair. Now I paddle five, six times a week; gym three times a week."

The TV coverage showed Sam, who is a member of Manly Warringah club, being helped into her kayak, which has a special backrest, and being coached and encouraged by Gaye.



Pictures taken from the ABC television coverage showing Gaye Hatfield coaching disabled kayaker Sam Bloom

It's official – Anjie holds the world record!

The report below is taken from the Guinness World Records official website.

Farthest distance by canoe / kayak on flat water in 24 hours (female)



Who Anjeanine Lees
Where Australia Canberra
When 06 December 2014

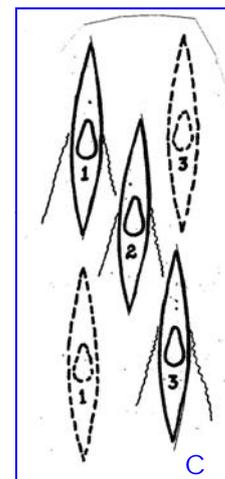
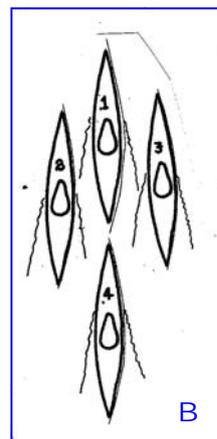
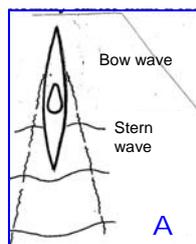
The farthest distance by canoe/kayak on flat water in 24 hours by a female is 201.2 km (125 mi) by Anjeanine Lees (Australia) at Burley Griffin Canoe Club, Canberra, Australia, on 6-7 December 2014.

Anjeanine battled thunderstorms, hail and torrential rain to achieve her record breaking distance.

How to make the most of washriding

by Tom Simmat

Washriding a boat about the same speed saves between 10 and 20 percent of your energy. If you can pick up and stay on the wash of a faster boat, for the same energy output you can go up to 15% faster.



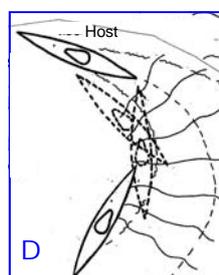
In marathon kayak racing, if two or three boats work together sharing the lead and saving energy in the wash they can be significantly faster than a sole paddler.

A kayak at speed sets up two sets of waves: a *bow wave* that moves out from the bow almost parallel to the direction of the boat, and a *stern wave* that follows the boat at right angles to the direction of the boat (diagram A). The *stern wave* is the one you need to ride. The best place to ride it is next to the *host* boat and almost one-third the length of the boat behind, and as close as possible without clashing paddles.

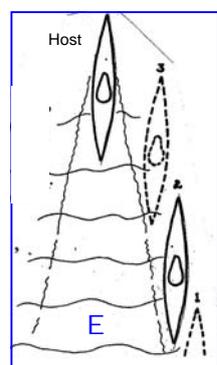
In groups (diagram B), Kayak 1 is the *host*, Kayaks 2 and 3 are *visitors* and Kayak 4 is a *parasite* because it has the best ride and cannot share the *host* position.

Best washriding as a group (diagram C): Kayak 1 starts as the *host*, then drops back to form a V with 2 as the *host*, then 3 takes over. Kayak 2 will be the *host* more often but for a shorter hard burst of speed.

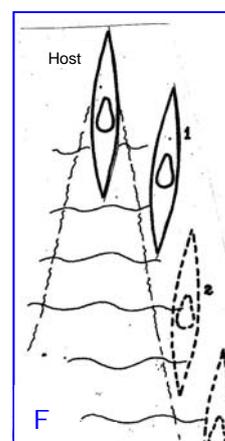
Rounding corners (diagram D): The *stern wave* of the *host* boat increases in power as it is concentrated on the inside of the corner. If you can pick this up it will slingshot you past and to the front. All the more reason to try and get yourself on the inside position when rounding a buoy.



Washriding a slower boat (diagram E): You may be catching up to a slower boat and you can take advantage of their wash. It will take a lot of extra energy to climb over their *stern waves*. So if there is room, move out to the side, just outside the tippy bow waves, and follow the *stern waves* into your *host*, but keeping clear as you pass.



Washriding a faster boat (diagram F): As the faster boat approaches you, the mistake a lot of paddlers make is to try and get in behind them. It is far better to work across and let them come up beside you. Stay beside them as long as you can, then skip just outside their *bow wave* and let their *stern wave* nudge you along.



Rules. In multiclass racing, generally the rules say you cannot washride boats in another class. This is difficult to police unless there is a formal protest by a competitor. Some competition rules say you cannot washride another competitor who isn't in your start. Carefully read the rules of each competition and if necessary get them clarified at the race briefing.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS (continued from page 8)

you can/would like to contribute, either on the Committee or otherwise.

June means it is less than 5 months to the HCC – that's enough for now, just tuck it away in your subconscious.

Thanks. Many people contribute in many ways to the success of our club but I would like to particularly note the generous contributions of BBO chefs/providers, Roger and Mark; Justin for the top-quality *Kayak Kapers* and Café de Justin; Nigel, Jeff and all the timekeeping team; Wade for what has proven to be a lot of work managing our boat hire and storage; Tim McNamara for his excellent river map, now proudly mounted in our shed and David Young as new Marathon 10 coordinator/champion. Oh, a number of these people are also on our hard-working Committee – thanks all.

Lane Cove at Riverland

A small team of Lane Covers will travel to South Australia to compete in the Riverland Paddling Marathon over the Queens Birthday weekend, June 6-8. Anjie Lees and Ruby Gamble will be in a K2 and are aiming to break the record in the 35+ class in the Murray 200 (208km from Berri to Morgan over 3 days). Landcrewing for them will be Anjie's daughter Brianna and her friend Michael. Tom Simmat will also be doing the Murray 200, with his current wife Christine landcrewing. Tony Hystek will be competing, and hoping to complete the Murray 200 despite a recent bout of flu and no training while holidaying at Ningaloo Reef in WA. His landcrew will be Alanna Ewin. A full report on their races will appear in the next issue of *Kayak Kapers*.

AGM on July 24

The LCRK AGM will be held this year in the Chats private function room and courtyard at the Ranch Hotel, corner of Epping and Herring Roads, North Ryde on Friday, July 24. Drinks from 6pm and the AGM from 6.45-7.45pm, followed by a social gathering with lots of cocktail food. Partners are very welcome. Cost \$25 plus drinks. Make a note of the date in your diary now. Details of how to register for the night will be advised shortly. Make sure you're there – it's always a relaxed, enjoyable evening with your mates and their partners.

Best article finalists

Two local history stories are among the finalists for this year's Best Article in *Kayak Kapers* contest. The finalists, in order of publication, are:

- ❖ The Girls from Oz Conquer the Yukon, by Anjie Lees (August 2014)
- ❖ How Fast Could You Paddle the Classic? by Tom Holloway (August 2014)
- ❖ Yukon 1000: An Incomparable Experience, by Richard Barnes (October 2014)
- ❖ Saving Lane Cove River, by Tom Holloway (April 2015)
- ❖ Imagine the Roar of a Sea Fury at Full Blast, by Ian Wrenford (June 2015).

The winner will be chosen by an independent panel and announced at the AGM.

Imagine the roar of a Sea Fury at full blast

by Ian Wrenford

Following on from the recent *Kayak Kapers* article on the abandoned Sydney-Newcastle freeway, there is another piece of local history that may interest members.

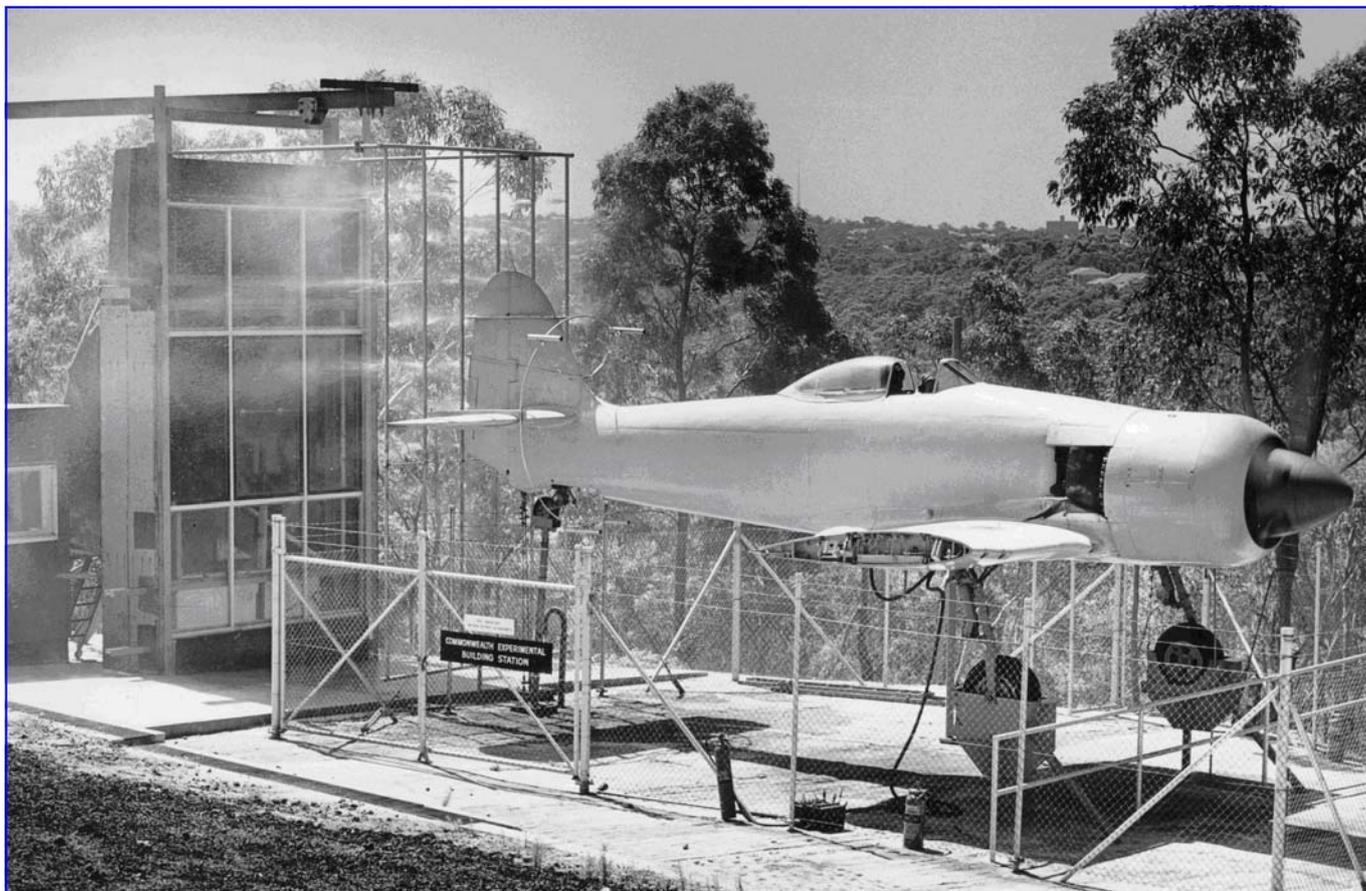


On top of the escarpment immediately opposite the pontoon is the current Riverside Corporate Park. This 28ha site was established when the CSIRO moved to the area in the 1950s to support local manufacturing and primary industries. While the CSIRO still occupies some of the site, there has also been substantial commercial development over

the month” might have been able to offer.

In the picture below, you can just see on the horizon, immediately to the right of the tree in the centre, the TV tower at the Mowbray Rd and Pacific Highway intersection, and the distinctive building to its right which appears to be the current Royal Pacific Hotel on the Pacific Highway at Artarmon. The LCRK pontoon is ~200m away in the valley below the enclosure – virtually in line with the distinctive building.

The aircraft shown in the picture is now in storage at the Camden Museum of Aviation which provided the following history: “The aircraft operated with the Fleet Air Arm, 20th CAG, 805 Squadron on HMAS Sydney and with 723 Squadron based



A photo of Sea Fury VW647 circa 1960s, used with permission from the John Hopton Collection

the last decade or so with some of the buildings easily visible from the pontoon and river.

A lesser known aspect of the CSIRO's occupancy is described in the following quote from the SMH May 26 1982: “In secluded bush at North Ryde, a Korean wartime Hawker Sea Fury aircraft has a curious civilian role. Snapped up with another aircraft and an engine for a mere £100 by the Commonwealth Experimental Building Station in the 1950s, it now tests the weatherability of windows and sliding doors by creating economical wind and rainstorms at speeds of up to 150km/h...”

Photos from the period show that the Sea Fury's folding outer wings were removed, and the airframe was mounted in a flying position high up on sturdy stilts. A chain mesh fence provided a suitable (for the time) security and OH&S solution.

A large steel structure was erected behind the airframe for affixing the “test” windows and structures, and a high-capacity water sprinkler system installed to generate the rain. No doubt there was a long list of volunteers willing to “pilot” the machine although it probably required more skills than the “employee of

at HMAS Albatross. The aircraft was approved for issue to the Department of Works, Commonwealth Experimental Building Station, North Ryde on the 15th January 1959 to create high speed airflow to test modern high rise window glass and surround structure. The Museum acquired the aircraft in October 1969.” The other aircraft is now on static display at the Fleet Air Arm Museum in Nowra.

The Hawker Sea Fury was originally conceived in 1942 by Sidney Camm (of Hawker Hurricane fame) although it did not see production until after WWII in 1946.

With folding wings and an arrestor hook as standard, the aircraft was operated by the Royal Australian Navy and formed part of our then naval aircraft carrier capability. The Sea Fury was powered by an 18 cylinder Bristol Centaurus radial engine generating some 2470hp – entirely capable of generating a decent breeze.

It's perhaps a pity the facility is no longer operating. The roar of that 2470hp engine echoing up the river during the time trials would no doubt inspire a few personal bests. Or at least some worried scans for the approach of a speeding power boat.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT THE PONTOON with Paul van Koesveld

As we approach the end of the 2014/15 year, LCRK has had another couple of big months. We have reached record club membership (127), record boat numbers on our river (58 at the last Crudslime/Coffee Cup evening) and record average weekly boat numbers. There is always room for improvement but we must be offering paddlers something desirable; thank you paddlers for your support for our club.

On our river, the popularity of our time trial has necessitated new top-turn "traffic management" rules. We experienced one unexpected storm and one time trial needed to be cancelled due to log jam and whitewater-like conditions at the top turn which also relocated two buoys and trees to strange places.

Members have said they like the closer racing offered by our new automated start time system. We have tried a mass start to replicate competitive start conditions and we are considering other time trial variations to offer members. The very long-standing ladies open record has been smashed twice by Ella Beere, taking it below the 60-minute barrier (59:46, but further reduction is anticipated). As it became colder and darker, a few members went into their winter hibernation but a number have re-emerged and some new members have joined in, among them **Christine** and **Emilie Okkes**, **Ian Wrenford**, **Harry Rowston**, **Jessica Duffy**, **David Salter**, **David Veivers** and **Suzie Rhydderch**.

The last couple of months have seen PBs achieved by **Paul Gibson**, **Oscar Cahill**, **Jeff Collins**, **Jessica Duffy**, **John Duffy**, **Ross Fraser**, **Peter Harris**, **Duncan Johnstone**, **Michael Jones**, **Christine Okkes**, **Emilie Okkes**, **Harry Rowston**, **Warwick Sherwood**, **Jeremy Spear**, **Jeff Tonazzi**, **David Young**, **Ian Wrenford** and **David Veivers** – an impressive list. Doubles PBs were achieved by **Ruby Gamble** and **Anjie Lees**; **Duncan Johnstone** and **Matt Swann**; and **Suzie Rhydderch** with **Gene Burns**.

It is still too early to think about Crudslime, Coffee and Doubles Cup winners but valuable Crudslime points have already been tucked away by **Oscar Cahill**, **John Duffy**, **Anjie Lees** and even **Matt Blundell** (off his huge 29-minute handicap), and **George von Martini** has started his Coffee Cup defence in the best way possible, picking up good points in all 5 rounds to date. At this stage, **Duncan Johnstone** looks most like "Mr Doubles Cup" for this year but **Anjie Lees**, **Matt Swann** and **Phil Geddes** are well placed.

On the water elsewhere, congratulations to those members who participated in the NSW and Australian Marathon Championships (see page 4) and **Anjie Lees'** world 24 hour flatwater record has been ratified (page 5) – time to buy the book. Competing in the 208km Riverland Paddling Marathon over the Queen's Birthday weekend on South Australian sections of the Murray River will be the **Ruby Gamble/Anjie Lees K2**, **Tony Hystek** (with **Alanna Ewin** again heading up the support team) and **Tom Simmat** (see page 6)



The Marathon 10 series has started with good numbers participating in the first three events and congratulations to those members winning or on the podium. However, club points have been elusive so far and more LCRK participants in the lower divisions would definitely help.

One Marathon 10 change that members need to note is our own **Lane Cove Marathon**. The Blackman Park venue is no longer available to us and Rotary Field will become our M10 home as well as our weekly time trial home. Rotary offers us some advantages and some difficulties to manage. Please put **Sunday August 30** into your diary to paddle, assist or both.

Off the river, we seem to be well settled into our new Shed home (especially around Café de Justin on a cold evening). Our club boat fleet (club owned or loaned by members) has been quietly expanding and we still have supplier-loaned Stellar and Epic skis for members to try. Don't forget they are there for you to try.

Our AGM and associated end-of-year function is on Friday July 24: be there for some fun but also have a think about what extra you would like from your club and what

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(continued on page 6)

Nature Notes by Jon Harris

Cormorants – *Phalacrocorax*

Hated by boat owners around the world for the mess they leave on moored boats, there are 4 different but very similar species in Sydney.

They are the Pied Cormorant, the Little Pied Cormorant, the Great Black Cormorant and the Little Black Cormorant, and all are spread throughout coastal and inland Australia except for the hottest and most arid parts. It is easy to tell them apart, but you will need the aid of a good bird book (*Birds of Australia* – Simpson and Day, or *Field Guide to Birds of Australia* – Pizzey).

Suffice to say that the Great Black is the largest at 80cm tall, all black except for a white face with yellow patch, the Little Black is smaller and all black, the Pied is black with all-white underparts and yellow face, and the Little Pied is the same but without the yellow face.

And then there is the Black Faced, but it is only found on the southern coasts of Victoria and SA.

All have the same body shape, black legs and webbed



Great Black Cormorant



feet, and all feed on small fish, crustaceans and other marine and freshwater life. They are able to submerge for up to a minute and fossick around the vegetation and rocks to flush out their prey and are known to dive to 40m or more.

They have a transparent membrane which covers and protects the eyes while submerged. Because their feathers are not waterproof like other seabirds, cormorants need to dry out their feathers periodically or they can't fly. They do this by perching in a sunny spot and spread their wings to catch the breeze and the sun.

Some birds are solitary but they mostly gather in breeding and feeding colonies sometimes many hundreds in number and are known to feed cooperatively, for instance forming a line across an estuary mouth to catch the fish on an outgoing tide. Each bird dives to catch its prey, drifts to the rear while consuming it, then flies to the front of the line to dive again.

They are strong fliers, often seen soaring in V-formation or long lines. Both sexes share nest-building and rearing of young, the chicks are fed by regurgitation. Large colonies of nests are often found in company with other species, the nest being an untidy construction of sticks either in a tree on the ground or on a cliff face.



Little Pied Cormorant

They have no predators (except sharks during a feeding frenzy in a school of fish!), are not seasonal and not endangered.