



KAYAK KAPERS

April 2008

New State body to spread its wings

by Justin Paine

Goodbye NSW Canoeing. Welcome Paddle NSW!

The recent turmoil over whether NSW Canoeing could continue as the representative body for canoeists in this State has ended with NSWC now in the final stages of being dissolved.

It has been replaced by a new organisation, Paddle NSW, which has a far broader vision for advancing and promoting the sport.

Tim Hookins believes Paddle NSW "has the potential to cater for the needs of paddlers in NSW far better than did the NSWC/AC combination".

Paddle NSW will have no immediate link to Australian Canoeing but is very open to negotiation. The issue of a pathway for elite paddlers is in the hands of AC.

In the short term, members of Lane Cove River Kayakers and other clubs will notice little difference, with care being taken to ensure a seamless transition that retains their rights and privileges. The marathon series will go on as previously scheduled.

The demise of NSW Canoeing is the direct result of action by AC, which had incurred debts said to be up to half a million dollars, that virtually emptied the coffers of NSWC to make up for the losses. NSWC was going to go broke very quickly if AC continued to deplete its assets, and attempts to resolve the situation were going nowhere.

Club delegates couldn't fathom why AC should be so hard-nosed in its demands as to eliminate a major source of its own revenue. Better part of the cake than none at all.

Why? Power? Control? Misreading the outcome? A determination to effectively replace NSWC with its own organisation? Maybe a clash of personalities was a decisive element.

Lane Cove, as befits our status as a leading club and as was the case for years with NSWC, will play an important role in Paddle NSW.

Tim Hookins is the Public Officer and was fast off the mark to register Paddle NSW Incorporated as an

association with the Department of Fair Trading. He has also taken the first steps to register a website at www.paddlensw.org.au.

Tony Hystek is Vice President and, as part of a small group determined to get the website operational quickly, will be a major player in gaining acceptance from not only existing clubs and their members but also the wider canoeing community, including industry and recreational paddlers.

Diane Chellew from Just Paddlers is President, Lynn Parker from River Canoe Club is Secretary and Laurie Kenyon from Manly-Warringah is Treasurer.

The first steps to get Paddle NSW up and running were taken at a meeting of clubs and interested parties on March 30 which generally agreed on "making participation our biggest goal".

This attitude was reflected in the discussion of objectives for the new organisation. The general consensus was that more emphasis is needed on recreation. The use of "paddlers" rather than "canoeists" will be used to encourage wider participation.

There are thousands of people

paddling around casually, often in plastic boats, who are not catered for, and they will be a prime target. Provision will be made for individual membership, and care will be taken to cater for the disabled.

Industry will also be invited to participate, with the promise of mutual benefits. Industry stands to gain from wider exposure through Paddle NSW, and in return offers access to potential members.

Existing discipline activities will transfer across from NSWC to Paddle NSW, plus the addition of "recreational". Further down the line they may be further expanded to include, for example, outriggers, surf skis and dragonboats.

Some clubs were against leaving AC - for instance, those in white water events rely on AC timing equipment. Efforts will be made to gain the support of these clubs for the new organisation.

A lot of detailed work has to be done on matters like membership criteria, fees and voting rights before the inaugural annual general meeting on Sunday, June 15. In the meantime, a fee of \$20 will apply for any new

Continued on page 2



Our club runs smoothly because of what goes on behind the scenes. The Lane Cove River Kayakers Committee at its meeting on February 19. Clockwise from left: Nick Chai, Tony Hystek, Rob Vallis, Tom Simmat, Matt Swann, Graeme Jeffries, Tim Hookins and Ian Hofstetter. Missing is Justin Paine, who was on the other side of the camera.

members until June 30.

The meeting accepted that the main focus of what Paddle NSW does will be on communication in the broader sense. Its activities need to be widely promoted and publicised, it needs to be responsive and accessible to paddlers generally, and it must be the place where inquirers go to find out anything about paddling in this State.

An attractive, informative website will be critical. It must be more pictorial, interesting and user-friendly, have a broad-ranging, up-to-date calendar, and have fast publication of results from events. The intention is to seek advertising and sponsorship on it in the hope of making it self-funding.

Well known kayaking figure Mike Eggleton will act as spokesman for any public inquiries about the new organisation.

The decision to establish Paddle NSW was taken by clubs which attended a special general meeting on March 15 called by NSWC.

NSWC, in a letter to all members, had said the drain on its financial resources by AC would soon leave it in a position where it would rapidly go bankrupt. The situation stemmed from AC's attempts to recover from losses of up to \$500,000 dating back to 2005 or earlier.

The Australian Sports Commission apparently came to their rescue with a loan which had to be paid off, to a large extent, by money from the State canoeing organisations. NSWC felt hardly done by, because the basis of repayment laid down was that the States paid proportionally to the total population of each State. NSW has fewer paddlers proportionally compared to other states, but the main problem was that NSW gets a far smaller State government grant than, say, Queensland or Victoria.

The situation became worse when NSW Seakayakers withdrew from NSWC, substantially reducing the membership and therefore the main source of revenue – membership fees.

Tim Hookins, in a recent detailed report to LCRK on the impasse between AC and NSWC, said: "In 2005 the liquid asset of the organisation (NSWC) was \$151,446.29. By the end of 2006, after making the required contribution to AC, the liquid asset had gone down to \$75,844.36. This one way street can't last long!

"In an attempt to salvage the deteriorating financial situation the Board of NSWC had put to AC a proposal to pay AC 70% of its actual income for the next 5 years. The Board considered that if this were agreed to, NSWC would not go under and there would be just a little money to get going again. If membership increased,

AC would benefit accordingly. During the week before the (March 15) meeting it was announced that AC had refused this proposal."

Another factor which seems to have influenced AC's hard line in pursuing State revenue was a report from a Dr Kidston, a sports consultant, who was commissioned to produce a review of "the Sport of Canoeing in Australia". Published in July 2006, it recommended dissolving the State Canoeing organisations in favour of a central organisation and placing officers of this organisation in the States. It included a recommendation for "the sport to be delivered in each State through branch offices of AC employing staff responsible to the CEO of AC". Each State would then have "Advisory Boards". This did not go down well with the States, specially NSW.

To try and get both sides of the story, Hookins and Graeme Jeffries arranged a meeting with Kate Heeley, the CEO of Australian Canoeing.

Hookins said in his LCRK report: "While arranging the meeting, I asked Kate Heeley what had become of the Review of Canoeing in Australia by Dr Kidston.

"The answer was amazing to me and it goes to the heart of these negotiations.

"Sometime since the review was done, Dr Kidston had reversed his proposal to disband the State Boards. He now says, according to Kate Heeley, that he supports the retention of the State organisations into the future as a means of delivering the administration of canoeing. So he now thinks NSWC and all the others should not be disbanded! (Perhaps because the revenue would otherwise dry up!)

"I asked Kate whether this information was publicly available. She said it was contained in a new appendix which is not on their website yet. I don't know if its existence is common knowledge in the canoeing fraternity and I have not yet been given access to it.

"The meeting was held on Monday March 10 and was attended by Kate Heeley, Graeme Jeffries, Ian Hofstetter, Tony Hystek, myself and Laurie Kenyon from Manly-Warringah.

"It became clear from Kate's opening statements that NSWC and AC had been at loggerheads for some time. She dismissed the 70% offer made by NSWC as having no sound basis for acceptance...

"Kate's next statement took me by surprise. She said the financial woes of AC were over and they had plenty of money! If this is the case why are they not more financially supportive of NSWC? The financial woes of AC are what brought about Dr Kidston's review in the first place! Kate emphasised that

AC did not wish NSWC to disassociate or disband.

"There is clearly a huge blame game running between the two organisations and communications between them seem from the outside to be very poor. We left the meeting with no feeling of hope except that there might be some counter offer from AC which would save NSWC from financial failure. It crossed my mind at the time that in Dr Kidston's first report, he had recommended giving all the power in NSW to someone in Kate's position i.e. the CEO of AC."

The meeting called by NSWC on March 15 followed, with member clubs asked to vote on two proposals: That the Board of NSWC voluntarily resign from Australian Canoeing (this would mean that no more payments would be made to AC and NSWC would go it alone), or that NSWC voluntarily wind up and apply to the Department of Fair Trading to cancel its incorporation as an association.

Two AC representatives at the meeting offered a counter proposal: They would accept 70% of the NSW income now, the remaining 30% to be paid during the next 5 years and all the subsequent years to be paid as per AC's original requirement. AC would also take over NSWC's accounting and administration. (But the Board would still be responsible!) Most agreed the proposal was no help and appeared unworkable.

Hookins said: "The first vote seemed easy: To vote not to wind up NSWC. That was carried unanimously. Motions at a special general meeting require a 75% majority to be carried...

"What was not so clearly understood was that if the delegates voted not to resign from AC, the Board would immediately resign and the NSWC would almost certainly be wound up if no replacement Board could be installed. But there were quite a few including myself bound (by club direction) to vote not to resign from AC.

"The majority of delegates wanted to vote to disassociate from AC to give three months space (to June 30) for serious negotiations and if those failed, to have time to make unhurried plans for going it alone. The vote produced a two-thirds majority in favour of this action, unfortunately not the required three-quarters for the vote to be carried.

"The effect was that we had voted against resigning from AC. This was a vote against our Board and as an unintended consequence it gave the opportunity for all of them to resign immediately ... because their position was financially untenable."

Efforts to elect a replacement Board failed and. Rules for Incorporated Associations required that the NSWC be immediately wound up.

Hot competition in marathon racing

Lane Cove has started the marathon racing season in great style, with some emphatic wins in tight finishes and some outstanding personal performances.

At the start of the 2008 Marathon 10 series on Lake Burley Griffin, the dominant feature of the day was the duel in division 2. Only a fingernail separated the first three boats on the finish line, where Michael Mueller/Rob Vallis continued their brilliant form from 2007 by coming in ahead of Ian Hofstetter, with Craig Elliott/James Mumme third. Close behind in 4th and 5th respectively were Tim Hookins/Tony Hystek and Bruce Goodall/Christine Lalor.

It was just as exciting in division 6, where the veterans showed they can race too. The combination of Jon Harris and Don Rowston edged out John Greathead and Tony Walker's double.

Division 2 again featured in race 2

at Narrabeen, where Ian Hofstetter won comfortably from Matt Acheson, with Michael Mueller and Rob Vallis consigned to 4th.

Tom Simmat was well clear in winning division 4, and Jeremy Spear and Matt Swann had more than 2 minutes to spare in taking out div 5



Lane Cove River Kayakers were out in force for the racing at Narrabeen. Left: Matt Swann and Jeremy Spear fine-tune their steering. Above: Ian Wilson, Wayne Wanders, Jon Harris, Tim Dodd, Jason Cooper.



M10 Race 1 Canberra

Competitor	Div	Time	Plc
Michael Mueller/ Rob Vallis	2	1.36.12	1
Ian Hofstetter	2	1.36.14	2
Craig Elliott/ James Mumme	2	1.36.16	3
Tim Hookins/ Tony Hystek	2	1.36.56	4
Bruce Goodall/ Christine Lalor	2	1.40.00	5
Tom Simmat	4	1.47.21	4
Jeremy Spear/ Matt Swann	5	1.51.15	3
Steve Paget	5	1.54.48	6
Andrew Charlton/ Mark Gillett	5	2.00.23	15
Jon Harris/ Don Rowston	6	1.55.50	1
John Greathead/ Tony Walker	6	1.55.52	2
Steve Russell	6	2.03.14	10
Ian Wilson	6	2.03.19	11
Bert Lloyd	6	2.06.30	12
Jason Cooper	6	2.07.41	14
Andrew Whitehead	6	2.55.32	25
Joanne Mansell	6	2.55.34	26

M10 Race 2 Narrabeen

Competitor	Div	Time	Plc
Matt Blundell	1	1.34.45	2
Ian Hofstetter	2	1.37.15	1
Matt Acheson	2	1.37.40	2
Michael Mueller/ Rob Vallis	2	1.39.45	4
Tony Hystek	2	1.42.20	6
Peter Giesbuhl	2	1.44.30	7
Bruce Goodall/ Renee Watkins	3	1.42.08	2
Thomas Reif	3	1.49.15	7
David Edelman	3	1.51.04	12
Tom Simmat	4	1.47.51	1
Tim McNamara/ Derek Simmonds	4	1.48.37	4
Roger Aspinall	4	1.50.47	7
Tim Hookins	4	1.53.05	10
Steve Paget	4	1.53.09	11
Len Hedges	4	1.54.17	16
Jeremy Spear/ Matt Swann	5	1.52.38	1
Evan Oppen	5	1.56.20	7
Andrew Charlton/ Mark Gillett	5	1.56.35	9
Tim Dodd/ Ian Wilson	5	1.57.07	10
Simon Mann	5	1.57.32	14
Peter Janacek	5	2.04.07	23
Jon Harris/ Don Rowston	6	1.59.27	2
Wade Rowston	6	2.04.04	7
Bert Lloyd	6	2.06.13	10
Wayne Wanders	6	2.06.56	11
Jason Cooper	6	2.07.22	12
Greg Appleyard/ Trevor Williamson	6	2.11.42	14
Justin Paine	6	2.14.32	16
Paul van Koesveld	6	2.14.35	17

Liz to the rescue

Tim Hookins and Tony Hystek distinguished themselves in the annual dash from under the Harbour Bridge to Manly harbour beach on March 9 by going for a swim and having to be rescued by one of the ladies.

They were dunked in the last stretch of choppy water and were flailing towards a buoy when Liz Winn stopped to offer assistance. Once she had helped them to remount their Supersonic steed, they did the ungentlemanly thing and passed her.

But Liz had the last word and ran past them up the beach to the finish line.

As you can see from the results the race had terrific support from Lane Cove - about a quarter of our members!

Competitor	Time	Category	Plc
Matt Blundell	48.03	MOpen	8
Peter Giesbuhl	49.35	M40-49	8
Alan Whiteman	49.58	M40-49	9
Graeme Jeffries	51.03	MSeakayak	2
Matt Acheson	52.07	MOpen	20
Roger Aspinall	52.17	M40-49	11
David Kavanagh	52.27	MOpen	21
David Edelman	52.51	MOpen	26
Jeff Bannerman	54.09	MSeakayak	4
Dean Wayne	54.30	MOpen	31
Tom Simmat	54.36	M50+	3
Rob Vallis	54.37	MOpen	32
Julie Stanton	55.07	W40-49	2
Darren Keen	58.23	M40-49	19
Tony Carr	1.03.18	MSeakayak	10
Jason Cooper	1.03.39	MSeakayak	11
Derek Simmonds	1.04.54	MSeakayak	15
Wayne Wanders	1.05.24	MPlastic	2
Frank McDonald	1.06.34	MSeakayak	21
Tim Hookins/ Tony Hystek	1.11.23	MDouble	19
Liz Winn	1.13.38	W50+	1
Marg McDonald	1.13.49	WSeakayak	3

AUSTRALIAN CANOE MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lane Cove at the National Titles

Penrith Regatta Centre, March 22-23 2008

Australian Marathon Championships

Competitor	Category	Dist	Time	Plc
Matt Blundell	MOpen K1	33k	2.43.06	11
Steve Paget	M35+ K1	25k	2.17.48	3
Ian Hofstetter	M45+ K1	21k	1.50.33	5
Tom Simmat	M55+ K1	21k	2.07.00	5
Derek Simmonds	M55+ TK1	21k	2.15.16	3
Rob Vallis/ Craig Elliott	MOpen K2	33k	DNF	
Ian Hofstetter/ Tony Hystek	M45+ K2	21k	1.41.14	2
Tim Hookins/ Tom Simmat	M50+ K2	21k	1.51.02	4
Frank McDonald/ Ian Cooper	M55+ TK2	21k	2.01.08	2



Tom Simmat crosses the finish line



Ian Hofstetter and Tony Hystek in harmony



Steve Paget at finish



Ian Hofstetter in action



Tim Hookins, Tom Simmat, Ian Hofstetter, Tony Hystek



Tom Simmat demonstrates a full rotation for Tim Hookins



Derek Simmonds finishes the 21k



Marg McDonald congratulates husband Frank and Ian Cooper



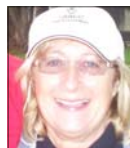
Tom Simmat, Justin Paine, Marg McDonald, Frank McDonald, Tony Hystek, Alanna Ewin, Tim Hookins

AUSTRALIAN CANOE MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS



POETRY IN (SLOW) MOTION. The Open categories at the Australian Marathon Championships at Penrith Regatta Centre required a lengthy portage each lap (exit and re-entry both from pontoons) as executed exquisitely by Craig Elliott and Rob Vallis. Sadly they had to withdraw just over a lap from the finish.

Rec paddles — be in it! by Christine Simmat



Those of you who know me will be aware that I am not a kayaker. I prefer swimming and walking. However, as Tom (my current husband) was guiding the Middle Harbour paddle, I was compelled to participate.

I whinged and complained that I can't paddle, my neck hurts and I would hold everyone up. Tom's reply was: "I will take a tow rope and if you can't do it I will tow you."

In the morning it was raining but that didn't deter Tom. It will be a fine day, he said.

I actually enjoyed the paddle. We paddled for 2 hours, stopped for lunch and then paddled back. I was the slowest paddler but the others enjoyed the scenery, did more exploring than

me, and I didn't feel I was holding anyone up. I didn't need to be towed.

The reason I am writing this is that 2 people I have spoken to were surprised that I was able to do the paddle.

They had considered doing it but thought 4 hours paddling would be too difficult. They would have come had they known I was doing it.

I want to reassure everyone that recreational paddles are to introduce partners and friends to kayaking and they will be enjoyable, and don't be put off by the distance or the time.

**Next recreational paddles:
Saturday, April 19, Cowan Creek.
Saturday, June 7, Douglas Park
(joint with Windsor Canoe Club).**



Expanding horizon

Lane Cove River Kayakers has asked the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic organisers to introduce a 70-plus age category in future Classics.

It says such a move would allow paddlers aged 70 or over to race against competitors of their own age and would also provide a major incentive for paddlers in their 60s to continue racing when they reach their 70s, thus "expanding the horizon for our veterans".

Lane Cove has 11 members aged 60 or more, including 2 in their 70s and another turning 70 this month (all 3 are Classic veterans).

The Classic introduced a 60-plus age category in 2004. Last year there were 10 competitors in the men's 60+ long rec and 7 in the men's 60+ medium rec, making them 2 of the best contested categories.

See Melbourne at sunset — by kayak

by Joanne Mansell



For our sunset kayak tour of Melbourne we parked the car on Boathouse Drive (opposite Federation Square). If driving, this is a good option as the car is at the finish, allowing a faster trip home.

Although there are public transport options to get to the start at Shed 2 Victoria Harbour Docklands, we decided to walk. It took us about 50 mins at a pretty good pace.

The group size was limited to 12, with two types of double kayaks available. Rob, our guide, did the safety briefing and showed us how to set up the equipment and basics of paddling. In teams of 6 we carried the boats to

the water ready for a pontoon launch.

We stretched our “legs” with a paddle around Victoria Harbour to get a feel for the boats. From there we admired the moored motor boats and paddled under the Bolte Bridge between the Pylons.

We were now officially on the Yarra.

Rob kept up the challenges with a few more paddling skills games of ducking under bridges and between pylons without clipping any.

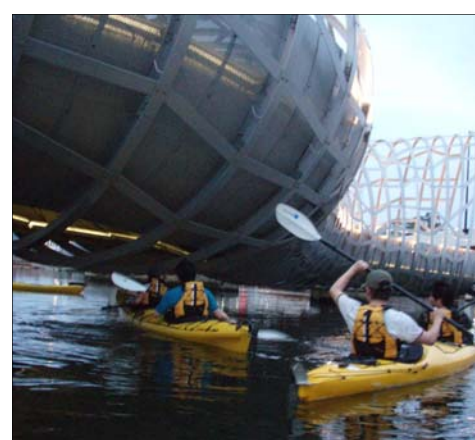
We turned on the safety lights on the kayaks and enjoyed the city lights — particularly the reflections on the water.

We were at Southgate on time for the 9pm gas fire blasts. So many of the city features and attractions have a different image at night with the lights seen from the water.

The trip was over all too soon — suddenly it was 9:45pm.

It was a magic and enjoyable night. Go with family, friends or even on your own. A trip I'd highly recommend for any level of paddler, any age, any fitness level.

You haven't seen Melbourne until you have seen it from the water like this! Fantastic 10/10! I'll definitely be back again.



Stealth kayaks to hunt whales

by Tom Simmat



After finishing the Yukon River Quest last June, Christine and I travelled up to Barrow, Alaska, the most northern point of the American continent.

Barrow is a small town where the population is 95% Eskimo. They still survive as hunters of whale and seal.

Eight whales will keep the village in meat for the year. The whales may exceed 20 tonnes.

They hunt the whale from seal-skin canoes mainly, we were told, because when stalking the whale, the seal skins are nearly silent in the water compared to aluminium, fibreglass or timber craft.

The canoes are about 8 metres long, of timber frame. Although there is no tree for perhaps 1000 kilometres, there is a lot of driftwood that has in fact come down the Yukon. While they have different names, the Eskimos are aware of the different species of wood – pine, cedar, ash and spruce – and their different building properties.

Over the timber frame are stretched a number of seal skins sewn together. The canoes are powered by paddle and sail, so the distant links to Lane Cove River still exist.



The Eskimo canoes are stored with the skin off.



Skin on, ready to launch



Water-tight sewn joint of seal skin cover

MaxAdventure Paddle

by Tony Hystek



A fairly ordinary day greeted Steve Russell and me as we headed off to Tunks Park for the start of the MaxAdventure Paddle in Middle Harbour on Feb 2. Overcast, threatening rain.

We'd been kindly loaned Tim and Oli Hookins' Supersonic for the day, and after a couple of familiarisation paddles, felt reasonably comfortable and pleased with our pace.

Easy, we said. And besides, don't know anyone else doing the event from Lane Cove, so competition shouldn't be too hot. Mmmm....

Arrive at Tunks early and get a prime parking spot. Matty Blundell, with partner Mike Snell, already there and raring to go. Then Kato and Craig Elliott turn up in Graeme Jeffries' Supersonic. Jeremy Spear and Matt Swann arrive in the Vulcan. Steve Paget with friend Brian Cardelli opt for the plastic fantastic double supplied boat. Jo Mansell and Andrew Whitehead go solo, and Jay Wilson is ready to race. Go Lane Cove!

Big seas force the cancellation of the Manly leg, so we lose 3 checkpoints and half an hour of paddle time.

Steve and I prepare for all eventualities, except the obvious ones.

"Steve, have you got a watch?"

"No... have you?"

"Never wear one."

Especially at timed events where every minute late costs you points. Doh! So, borrow a watch from Roger Aspinall, and a plastic sleeve to put the map in (yes, that too!) and tape it to the deck in front of Steve.

"Not wearing your glasses, Steve?"

"Too expensive to replace."

Mmmm....

All ready, marathon drink system in place, extra gear and food at the ready.

Lots of stuff we didn't need. Push off to the start, and go!

Matty B and Mike launch off the start, and soon leave the field behind on their Red7 double ski. There's a Supersonic close behind, and Jay in hot pursuit. They're heading down-harbour, but Steve and I have decided to do the upstream points first. Only problem, we're in the lead of the upstream bunch, and have to locate all the checkpoints unassisted.

"What's the next checkpoint, Steve?"

"Can't tell...don't have my glasses." Doh!

Rip the map off the front deck, but it won't stick to the back deck because it's all wet. So, I lay it across my knees. It stays there for a couple of minutes before it slips off. Mmmmm....

Race around the first few checkpoints, feeling great. Way out in front of our bunch. Get to a short run checkpoint, rip the fittings off the drink system as I get out of the boat. Tear my race number in half. Excellent!

Back in the boat, up to the top turn, then a good no-stops slog back down to the major run. Undecided whether to paddle or run to the top run checkpoint, we see Craig and Kato return looking all the worse for wear. Took them an hour to find it from the water, through mud and scrub, so we opt for the run, in increasing rain. Track has turned to slush, I cork the sole of my foot on a sharp rock, and we pass Jo and Andrew going the opposite way. First time we'd seen them all day, great surprise. Jo has bloodied her leg, where she took a fall on rocks during the run. No slowing down, though.

Matt and Jeremy come down the hill, shouting encouragement and advice, well received. We're not

runners, so we lose a little time on these checkpoints, but soon enough back on the water and making good time down to Spit.

My navigation skills have already showed some flaws, and we head under the bridge and straight for a group of kayaks on the opposite beach. No checkpoint. Frustration building, we go to the next checkpoint, and overshoot it by a kilometre. Doh!

Map is looking very sorry for itself, all wet and falling to bits, and I have a good long look at it to try and get us back on track. Head across the harbour, and the map disappears over the side. Double Doh!

Remember the locations and find them easily enough, but time is running out. Back to find the missing checkpoint 17, but have to leave it out to get back in time. Don't realise that it has a bonus checkpoint attached to it, so lose a mass of points.

Belting back to the finish, catching wash rides with the cruise boats, and make it in 50 seconds over time. So, we get all the checkpoints except for the one that became two.

Matt Blundell and Mike came in with a perfect score, and nearly half an hour ahead of time. Craig and Kato pipped us for 4th in the doubles, Matt and Jeremy next behind us. Jay Wilson won the singles class with a perfect score but 4 time penalties, Steve Paget and friend took out the plastics class, and Jo and Andrew finished well, arriving back at the same time as us.

We find out later that Andrew had some interest from a big fish, or so he thought. Apparently, the Maritime Services boat came up alongside him around the Spit Bridge, and suggested he not dip his feet in the water as a hammerhead had been trailing about a metre behind him for quite some time....

We had a great day, learned heaps, and enjoyed the variety of scenery and the company. What more could you want from a Saturday morning?



At Nelligen for the State titles: Tony Hystek, Julie Stanton, Derek Simmonds, Tim McNamara, Rob Vallis, Michael Mueller

2008 NSW Marathon Champs

Competitor	Category	Dist	Time	Plc
Ian Hofstetter	M40+ K1	20k	1.45.07	3
Ian Purves	M50+ TK1	20k	2.01.00	3
Derek Simmonds	MLRec	20k	2.05.13	4
Frank McDonald	MMRec	15k	1.40.23	1
Julie Stanton	WUn Ski	20k	1.54.57	1
Michael Mueller/ Rob Vallis	MO K2	24k	1.59.09	1
Julie Stanton/ Tony Hystek	Mx35+ K2	24k	1.59.49	1
Roger Aspinall/ Sara O'Connell	Mx35+ K2	24k	2.00.13	2
Ian Purves/ Warren Lopez	M45+ TK2	20k	1.51.31	1
Frank McDonald/ Ian Cooper	M45+ TK2	20k	1.55.56	3
Bruce Goodall/ Christine Lalor	UN2	20k	1.41.03	1
Tim McNamara/ Derek Simmonds	UN2	20k	1.47.39	2

A Short History of the Tu-tu Challenge

by Tony Hystek



Late in 2007, after a memorable double performance by Rob Vallis and Michael Mueller in the Hawkesbury Classic, some chest-beating took place.

Rob and Michael had beaten the record time set by Graeme Jeffries and Ian Hofstetter by 13 seconds.

Much was made of this result, to the point where a challenge to rectify the situation was set for the second last Wednesday paddle of 2007.

"If you guys (by this time, the team of Graeme Jeffries and Dave Kavanagh) can beat us (Rob and Michael) around the course, we'll wear pink tu-tu's next week."

Not to be left out in the cold, Tim Hookins and I volunteered our services to keep the warring parties separate.

So, on a fine and mild December evening, three doubles lined up for the 17-minute start. Rob and Michael in the venerable Vindicator, with Graeme and Dave in one Supersonic, and Tim and me in another.

The result was neck and neck, with

Tim and I taking line honours by a nostril from Graeme and Dave (master tactician Tim at the helm kept the others wide at the final turn). Somewhere in the distance were



Michael and Rob.

Tu-tu's well earned, we all agreed!

Hence the wonderful sight of Rob and Michael resplendent in pink regalia at the Fatboat Challenge.

After licking their wounds for a couple of months, Rob and Michael built up their courage to once again put their reputations on the line.

On March 12, several crews lined up to make life just that bit more difficult for Rob and Michael.

But this time, Craig Elliott had replaced Michael in the pilots' seat of their new K2, and I teamed up with Ian Hofstetter in the Struer, both as a preparation for the National Marathon Champs. Graeme and Dave once again in the Supersonic. Matt Blundell and Jay Wilson were in their K2 as well, and giving everyone a minute's start.

In another very close finish, Ian and I once again took the inside line and pipped Graeme and Dave by a short half head. Matt and Jay broke the 50-minute mark to leave everyone in their wake.

Unfortunately, Rob and Craig failed to finish, as Rob's arm flared up with what seemed like tennis elbow. The tu-tu's were theirs by default. A very unfortunate way to earn the pink, we all agreed.

Anyway, it seems like there might well be a regular doubles "tu-tu" event occurring. We'll keep you posted.

Chantal for Beijing

Chantal Meek has won selection in the Australian team for the Beijing Olympics. This came with her win - by 0.33 seconds - in the women's K1



500m final at the Oceania championships at Penrith Regatta Centre in mid March.

She was unfortunately denied a chance to race the Olympic K1 500m when Australia lost a rerun of the qualifier against New Zealand. She will now be in the K4 500m.

Chantal is a good friend of Lane Cove River Kayakers and we'll be cheering for her when the Olympics come around. Let's hope she strikes gold in Beijing.

Beat Your Age

There's a new challenge for those taking part in the weekly Wednesday night time trials - but it's only for the oldies.

It's to record a time (in minutes) that is less than your age (in years). Single times only - no doubles.

With Matt Blundell believed to have the best time for the 12k at 51.03 it's obvious that the younger brigade need not apply.

However there are a number of regulars in their late 50s and above

who are strong candidates.

Justin Paine, 73, has sneaked under several times, with a best time of 72.18. Any others?

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