

So much has happened since our last Newsletter, it has taken me all this time to compile this report.

Our Time Trials began in October and have proved a great success with up to 20 people on the water. They continue every second Thursday at Throsby Creek, with 4 distances to choose from. \$5 entry fee, registrations from 5.00pm, briefing at 5.50pm and on the water for a 6.00pm start.

As part of our Recreational Paddles, in November ,a group of us headed up to Lake St Clair for the weekend, the weather was miserable, but not enough to dampen our spirits, but enough to test our skills on the water.



A highlight of the year was the Hawkesbury Classic, here is a report written about the event.

First and most important is the recognition of the organisers and volunteers that ensure that the HCC is such a fantastic well organised event, Newy Paddlers cant thank you enough for your wonderful support.

Next in line are the land crews that give up their time (and sleep) to pamper our sorry little bums as we come into the check points with our sooky la la attitudes and our faces looking like a smacked arse. **You people are amazing and it is extremely comforting to know that if it all goes pear shape, you lot have our backs. thank you.**

Then comes us crazy paddlers, well done to all the Newy Paddlers that gave it a shot, whether you made it or not it is still an achievement to give it a go. To the paddlers that won their categories congratulations, Charley Wellard, Guy Holloway, Liz Pralica a job well done. to the rest of us that finished, Mark Bretag, Warren Bretag, John Gruhn, Darren Forbes well done also, and Jeff Bretag and Kieth Farrow who had to retire through injury to Kieth, bad luck but great effort.

Our President of Newy Paddlers Margy Wade (a.k.a. The big Kahuna} has asked to pass this message on to all of those involved in the Classic:

'The 40th Anniversary Hawkesbury Classic. Congratulations to all Newy Paddler members who participated in this amazing event. Your dedication and determination was inspirational.

For such a newly formed club of 34 members to have a representation of 9 paddlers and 15 land crew is truly remarkable.

I am proud and happy to be associated with this great club. Looking forward to the Hawkesbury Classic, 2017.'

Funding

We were thrilled, last month, to be able to announce that we had received a State Government Grant of \$18,315 to help with the development of the Club. This has been a great effort by Mark and Darren and we applaud their time and effort.

A number of days were given over to raising our profile, membership and of course funds to keep our Club going. There was the RAAF day at Williamstown.



Then there was the Bunnings BBQ, both fantastic days – thank you for those volunteers who gave up their time.



With the end of the year fast approaching, it was great to catch up with old and new friends at our Christmas Party held at the Family Hotel.



Our inaugural New Years Eve paddle on the harbour, went off with a bang, with a promise to be bigger and brighter next year.



Our Club continues to grow, with membership now hitting the big "40".

We look forward to a bigger and better 2017 with our first event being Race 1 of the Marathon Series at Wagga on the 4th February 2017.