

UP THE CREEK

The club known as “the Orange Army” where fun, support and equality are the foundations of its success

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

Time Trials

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. If you are looking to stay fit and be around like minded people this is the place you should be.



Recreation

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. Anyone interested in recreational paddles should contact the committee if they have suggestions on where they would like to go. We have a weekend planned on the 6-7 May at Port Macquarie so keep that date free.



Hawkesbury Classic 29-30 Oct 16

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. The monies were granted for a new rubber duckie and disability mats. These will come in handy to meet safety requirements on the water and meet the club's vision of being able to support people with disabilities. This has been a great effort by Mark and Darren and we applaud their time and effort

RAAF – Children’s Christmas Party 2 Dec 16

Our members supported this in a big way with over 10 volunteers coming along to promote the club and potentially attract new and young members into the club. It was a great afternoon with the Orange Army showing its colours.



Bunnings BBQ – Fundraiser 9 Dec 16

Again, our members turned up in force at Kotara for a full day of cooking sausages, selling raffle tickets and promoting our club. By the end of the day we were sick of sausages but raised some valuable funds that will be used to buy equipment for the club. A big thank you to everyone that gave up their personal time to support the club.



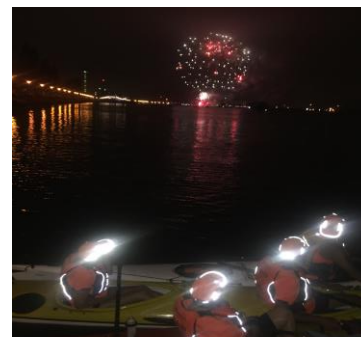
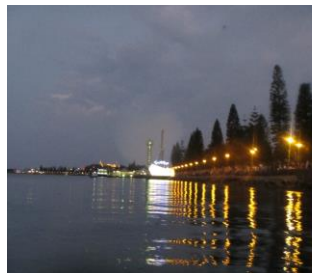
Christmas Party Thursday 15 Dec 16

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. The raffle winner was drawn and thanks to Darren's efforts in securing various donations our members were able to raise over \$1,000 to assist our club. Liz Pralica and John Gruhn kindly donated trophies for the land crew and participants in the Hawkesbury Classic this year as well as a perpetual trophy that will recognise category winners each year. It was a wonderful gesture by two passionate Newy Paddler members and very much appreciated.



New Eve's Paddle 31 Dec 16

Our inaugural New Year's Eve paddle on the harbour, went off with a bang, with a promise to be bigger and brighter next year. We tied up at a wharf in a great position to view the fireworks on what was a beautiful night. We followed this up with a drink and a few nibbles back on Throsby Beach to celebrate what has been a wonderful year for Newy Paddlers.



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.

GO THE ORANGE ARMY!!!!!!