

UP THE CREEK

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

The club continues to go from strength to strength. Our members participated in many events over the later half of 2017 and at all times did the club proud with their enthusiasm and energy.

3Rivers, Port Macquarie – Sun 20th Aug 2017

Great weekend away for the Orange Army in Port Macquarie for the 3 Rivers Marathon.

Congratulations to Heidi, Gidget and Cheryl for completing their 1st 25km event in pretty tough conditions. With 40km head and side winds plus little run-out tide, made it a challenging race.

Marni Kay did the race in a K1 which was a fantastic effort just to get over the line. Congrats to all Newy Crew for making the journey, also thanks to Jenny, Gay and Kaz for road crewing and also those yummy treats, plus Gay for the pics. The Orange Army salutes you



Marathon Series – Race 10 Grays Point – Sat 26th Aug 2017

What a beautiful day turned on by the Cronulla Sutherland Kayak Club!

With limited parking available at Grays Point carpooling was essential and an early start was required by the Orange Army of 12 paddlers and 2 support crew. It was cool and breezy at 7am setting up Newy HQ, but before long the day warmed up and the breeze dropped off to produce a beautiful winter's day and ideal paddling conditions.

With Charly and Frank executing ground crew duties with panache, we were all soon on the water and racing. Some excellent times were produced, on the day despite equipment malfunction (paddle), injury and the flu.

Ian pulled a PB paddling the Fusion but Guy Holloway blew him out of the water with his new SLR despite a paddle malfunction (great groundcrew save Charly). The new SLR seems to suit him with the time being 18 seconds outside his previous PB. Darren Forbes was promoted to join the boys in Division 6 and also cracked out a PB for 2017.

Sally and Russell had some hard racing at the end to be 36 seconds off their own PB for 2017, while Mark and Cheryl Bretag improved their time significantly from the last few races. Jack and Jenny Ward battled hard and did a great time with Jenny under an injury cloud.

Heidi is improving out of sight and, despite being struck with the dreaded lurgi, even pulled a PB! You go girl!

Marni was also hit with the lurgi but, being a competitor, soldiered on with a 5km hit out in Division 12. Well done Marni!

Paddle of the day had to be Helen who did a PB while stepping up to Division 11. Her previous Div 11 time was 15 minutes slower! Well done Helen!

A big thank you to the many volunteers of the CSKC and PaddleNSW who provide us with the opportunity to compete and to have so much fun!



TCP arrives at the Vatican - 5th Sept 2017

Well today was the day Newy Paddlers visited the Pope at the Vatican. I took a tea cake and Charly Wellard took a Chelsea bun. He seemed to know a lot about kayaking and asked about leg drive and rotation.

I invited him to Throsby Creek for the start of the season and he offered to give a blessing of the fleet. He then let us roam the Vatican with no less than 20,000 of his besties, ALL of whom enquired about purchasing a Newy Paddlers shirt. I hope you don't mind Cheryl Bretag but I gave them your number.



Myall Classic, Tea Gardens – Sat 16th Sept 2017

Myall Classic 16/09/2017 What a beautiful day!

The Orange Army once again travelled North to take on the world in in a uniquely scenic, tidal waterway, in the Myall Classic ultra-marathon race!

The whole event was hugely successful with nearly 300 paddlers taking part with funds raised going to support the Marine Rescue units that so ably support PaddleNSW events.

With distances of 12km, 27km & 47km, the Myall has events for every paddler. Our crew this year included Heidi Duncan (12kms), Darren Forbes and Abbey (47kms), Gaye Robertson (12kms), Russell Brown & Sally Verheul (27kms), Lindsay Freeman (12kms), Marni Kay (47kms) and Mark Bretag & Jack Ward (47kms).

With the tide ebbing at the start, it was tough going up the river but the return promised to get exciting with those who had turned early in the shorter distances having the benefit of the last of the tide. For those doing the 47km, the return journey quickly changed to a character building event as the winds increased across the broad water and moorings disappeared under the fast advancing incoming tide.

Grinding it out became the catchcry with “get those hands high” getting a run as paddlers found fatigue battling their techniques.

With determination and the vocal support of the Orange Army, everyone returned triumphant with some paddlers opting for a quick dip before exiting the event.

A big congratulations to Heidi for winning her event (You go girl!) and to Abbey for putting up with Darren for 47km. Truly awesome efforts from our own #candosistas.

A great day and a great lead up to the Hawkesbury Classic in 6 weeks time. Paddle on!



Recreation Paddle, Allworth – Sat 23rd Sept 2017

A good roll up for Russell's first organized Rec Paddle with 10 paddlers (and 1 dog) attending. It was a beautiful sunny day with the expected strong winds remaining moderate and paddling conditions perfect.

After making introductions with some new paddlers such as Ross and Emmanuel and getting a group photo, we kicked off upstream at a leisurely pace. The exception to this was Ian and Taneika who shot ahead with Taneika paddling like a professional and Ian not wanting to curb that enthusiasm.

Soon enough the whole group caught up and we explored some side creek action, dodging rocks on the flooding tide.

Quite a bit of birdlife was spotted throughout the day with Helen tracking a pair of sea eagles who were scaring the local shags and cormorants.

Morning tea was held on the corner of the river just after the old Booral Wharf (which was built in 1824) with the group enjoying the peaceful river and some of Russell's biscuits.

After refreshments we continued up to the rock bar where the group turned around and started back into the diminishing tidal flow.

Russell's dog Jewell was transferred to Taneika's boat on the way back which made her day but reduced the horsepower of the double with Ian having to pick up the slack.

Emmanuel was enjoying himself in the Mirage 580 he purchased from Russell and played chaser to keep the group together. Ross, Malcolm, Michael and Frank kept up a fairly regular pace while Helen and Debbie chased all over the river.

Everyone enjoyed the relaxing paddle and everyone that went on the paddle came back.



Arrival of Containers, Throsby Creek – 3rd Oct 2017

Wow!

A lot of hard work by our wonderful committee members has finally come to fruition with a new era in the Clubs development. Our new storage containers are on-site and ready to go with a lot of help from our paddling partners at the Newcastle Outrigger Canoe Club. Get down and have a look while you're at our Family Paddle and Picnic Day on Saturday 21st October at Carrington. See you on the water!



Marathon Series – Race 11 Burrill Lake – Sat 14th Oct 2017

What a great trip to Burrill Lake for the final race of the Marathon Series.

We were down on numbers but those that were able to make it did us proud both on the water and on the dance floor. As usual it was all about making plenty of noise and having fun.

The Orange Army performed credibly with Darren (Cool Cat) Forbes coming 5th in Division 6 with a PB and Marni Kay 9th giving it her all. Jack Ward was on his own in Division 9 due to Jenny having a shoulder injury and kept everyone honest in his Fusion with a great 7th.

Mark & Cheryl Bretag Division 10 came second in the Double Dragon after leading all the way till the last kilometre with Heidi Duncan 9th and Abbey Phipps 17th both doing amazing efforts and also doing PBs. Malcolm Lewis came 10th in Division 11 taking 4 minutes off his best time and there are rumours that he is looking for a faster boat for next years series.

A big thank you to the two Jennys for coming along and being a great cheer squad.

A special mention must go to Guy Holloway & Sally Verheul (family commitments), Charly Wellard, Kerrell Hack, Ian Davey, Jenny Ward and Russell Brown (injuries) who were very disappointed they couldn't participate. Their support (as were all 29 members that participated during the year) was what made the difference and made the year a huge success for the club.

This was reflected in the presentation where we received the following awards:

- Highest Point Scorer of all participants - Darren Forbes
- 1st Division 7 - Darren Forbes
- 2nd Division 9 - Sally Verheul & Russell Brown
- 2nd Division 10 - Mark & Cheryl Bretag
- 3rd Division 11 - Heidi Duncan

Over the whole series 16 participants from all clubs attended all 11 Marathon Races of which our club had six of them.

- Darren Forbes
- Marni Kay
- Jack Ward
- Heidi Duncan
- Cheryl Bretag
- Mark Bretag

In addition to this Guy Holloway, Jenny Ward and Sally Verheul did 10 out of the 11 only to miss the final race of the series.

Our first full season competing in the Marathon series has been truly remarkable with our 4th placing a just reward for the effort and enthusiasm displayed by our members.

The night was finished off with good food, music, funky dancing and enjoying the company of our fellow comrades from other clubs.

Finally, a big thank you to the PNSW Marathon Committee for hosting such a wonderful series. We appreciate the effort everyone makes and look forward to the improvements outlined at the presentation. 2018 looks like an exciting one and the Orange Army will be supporting you all the way.



Family Paddle & Picnic Day – Sat 21st Oct 2017

What a day!

The weather changed to bright and sunny just in time for everyone to turn up to our picnic day.

With kayak's, canoes and outriggers available, everyone got out for an enjoyable test paddle.

Great location, great facilities and great people!
Brilliant day sharing with our paddling partners in the Outriggers!



Hawkesbury Classic – Sat 28th – Sun 29th Oct 2017

Newy Paddlers attended the Hawkesbury Classic for our second year as a club and what a great event it was. Thank you to the organisers, volunteers (hundreds of them) and the paddlers for making the event what it is, a Classic.

We only had two doubles competing, (Darren Forbes & Heidi Duncan in the Open Mixed LongRec2 (Zero Tolerance) and Jack Ward & Mark Bretag in the 50+ Men's LongRec2 (Double Dragon) plus our fabulous land crew but you could've believed we had 200 down there, they generated so much noise. The support we received was unbelievable, it came in person, text messages, facebook posts and phone calls from our members and as a club we would like to say thank you for your kind words and support throughout the event and also after our journey. Orange Army we love you.

The great thing though was the support we received from the other clubs and their land crew, to hear their support and encouragement was fantastic. The help we received at Sackville and especially Wisemens

was unbelievable and to get in at Durrubin Reserve and hear the crowd cheering NEWY, NEWY, NEWY was heart warming to say the least, then just to bring a tear to the eye the crowd started applauding one of our paddlers on their first Hawkesbury Classic triumph.

Newy Paddlers are not going to mention clubs or individuals names, but you know who you are. All we can say is thanks and of course the Orange Army salute you and we hope that one day Newy Paddlers can do the same in return.



Coach of the Year – Darren Forbes

Darren Forbes, take a bow!
PaddleNSW's 2017 Coach of the Year!!!

Coach of the Year is a great achievement for a relatively new paddling coach in a relatively new club.

Darren puts in many hours preparing coaching plans, organising boats, paddles and lifejackets and helping families with their involvement in the sport by organising car-pooling rides with club members to events.

A part of our vision here at Newy Paddlers is to offer our members an opportunity to learn in an encouraging environment to become champions on and off the water.

A large part of being able to develop such fine paddlers is a great coach and a supportive environment!

The club is so lucky to have you. Your enthusiasm and passion is contagiou



Award Presentation/Christmas, NCYC – Fri 22nd Dec 2017

What a year it has been for the Orange Army. 34 eager members of the club celebrated the inaugural Awards/Christmas party at NCYC.

We were fortunate to have 4 Juniors there - Luke, Nathan, Loghan & Abbey as well as Justin Borthwick & Ian Davey representing their daughters, Maya & Taneika respectively.

They all had a great time and we should be very proud of their efforts at the Marathon Series and how they conducted themselves as members of our club.

We were entertained by the talents of "The Complete Package" alias Guy Holloway who put together 2 great videos - one of Darren Forbes - PNSW Coach of the Year & the other being highlights of 2018. What great memories & thoroughly entertaining.

Each of our juniors were presented with medallions & the following awards were presented to the much deserved recipients:

Encouragement Award: Helen McNaughton

Most Improved: Malcom Lewis

Junior of the Year: Abbey Phipps

Paddler of the Year: Heidi Duncan

Club Person of the Year: Mark Bretag

There were a number of members who couldn't make it but made a valuable contribution to Newy Paddlers by their positive attitude & wanting to have fun. We certainly did that. Thank you Orange Army for who you are, a great bunch of people enjoying life.

See you all on the water in 2018 and a Merry Christmas to all our colleagues in other clubs.



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New Year's Eve Paddle, Newcastle Harbour 31st Dec 2017

Newy Paddlers last paddle of 2017.

The club went to watch the last fireworks of 2017.

It was an excellent paddle through some "interesting" swell and chop.

Darren, Gay, Mick, Dean, Noah, Yvonne, Ian and Taneka came along. Nice people enjoying our local waterways.

Taneika paddled the double with Yvonne and they truly surfed their way home.



Container Shelves – Sat 6 Jan'18

Newy Crew got together today and cleaned all the boats making them shiny and bright, much like our members, any way the container is now organised with racks and all the boats, paddles, pfd's and many other assorted things are settled and tucked up in bed ready for a nice day on the water.

As always these things don't happen without good people being involved. Thanks must go to Trevor for making it happen, Malcolm (and his son in law that donated the steel), Russell, Jack, Jenny, Gidget, Gaye, Mark (and his son in law Luke who donated the carpet for the racks), and Justin. Thank you also to the members (and there were quite a few of them) that contacted us and said that they had other commitments, skiing in Japan was the best one!



Paddle4Good, Throsby Creek – Sun 28th Jan 2018

Thank you to all competitors, and volunteers for coming along to the Newy Paddlers "Paddle 4 Good". Today thanks to 60 (double from last year) competitors and rec paddlers we raised.....\$773.00 for Trish's House. What a great effort by the local paddling community.

Big Thanks to these clubs, Central Coast Canoe Club, Hunter Valley Canoe Club, Brisbane Waters Paddlers, Newcastle Outrigger Club, Lake Mac SUP Club and Dean Little from Ocean Playground for organising competitors from the local surf clubs for the day. Special thanks to Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club for turn buoys and safety boat.

Special thanks to Sonia Hornery local member for Wallsend (a great supporter of the community) for starting the race, Kelly from Trish's House for coming along and telling everyone about the great work they do.

Our sponsors, C-Kayak Australia, Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club and The Family Hotel Newcastle who very generously gave prizes for the event.

Last but not least, a HUGE THANK YOU to the competitors, without you it wouldn't happen and of course Newy Paddlers members, what can we say, always giving so much in so many ways. The Orange Army salutes you.....

