

UP THE CREEK

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

Our club is about to turn 3 at the end of March. It continues to amaze me how much we do which is all due to the passion and energy of our members. Here is a summary of what has been happening and some important plans being undertaken to improve the club experience.

Marathon Series - Round 9 Teralba - Sat 6 Aug 18

This weekend had the Orange Army at Teralba for round 11 of the Paddle NSW marathon Series. We had 18 Newy Crew compete on the day and fly the Orange flag for Newy Paddlers. Big thank you to Claire, Charlie and David for being our Super Sup representatives. Well done.

Thank you to Hunter Valley Paddle Sports Club for another great event and congratulations on the 50 years milestone.

Results are:

Div 2 Justin Borthwick 2nd in 1:44
Div 4 Charly Wellard and Guy Holloway 10th in 1:56
Div 7 Elizabeth Van Reece 1st in 2:08
Div 7 Bernie Edstein 3rd in 2:14
Div 7 Marni Kay 4th in 2:15
Div 7 David Sorensen 8th in 2:29
Div 7 Claire Browne 9th in 2:35
Div 10 Guy Fiddes 3rd in 1:02
Div 10 Cheryl and Mark Bretag 6th in 1:04
Div 10 Malcolm Lewis and Darren Forbes 8th in 1:05
Div 11 Ian Davey 5th in 1:07
Div 12 Michael Keegan 1st in 1:15
Div 12 Duncan Handley (Ranking Race) in 1:01
Div 12 Charlie Dunkley 6th in 1:26
Div 13 Jenny Liu and Jack Ward 7th in :37 min



Well done to all participants and thank you to the volunteers from HVPC and Paddle NSW for making the event.

Nabiac Sat 18 Aug & Winterfest Sun 19 Aug 18

Another fantastic weekend paddling with the Newy Paddler Crew. Saturday saw us at Nabiac paddling on the Wallamba River, this is certainly on our do again list. Big thanks to Michael, Murray and Liz for arranging the day.



Disability Training Workshop - Healthy Hunter Challenge Fri 7 Sept 18

The club has been working for the past 2 years on having members with a disability come along and enjoy the sport and after a lot of work and organising, Newy Paddlers have joined forces with a number of groups to ensure that paddling can be for everyone regardless of ability.

Last Friday Newy Paddlers were privileged to have 6 members from the Healthy Change Challenge group from Maitland come down to the shores of Throsby Creek for an introduction to kayaking. With Malcolm Lewis and Mark Bretag running doubles for our adaptive athletes there were no shortage of smiles.

Big thanks to Jed Dickson from Healthy Hunter Challenge for transporting our guests and of course thank you to the participants for getting in and having a go.



Marathon Series - Round 11 Davistown - Sat 15 Sept 18

A small band of us turned up for Darren's last paddle for the club before he headed off to NT. Conditions were difficult with strong winds but in true spirit the Orange Army took it head on and won. Gareth Baker won Div 8 and Daz & Malcolm teamed together in the Zero Tolerance to take 3rd in Div 10. Mark Bretag started his preparation for the Hawkesbury Classic by borrowing Darren's Mirage and doing 20kms. Great effort by all who competed, especially Ian Davey in his canoe.

Results below:

Div 6 Mark Bretag 9th in 2:33 min

Div 6 Guy Fiddes DNF

Div 8 Gareth Baker 1st in 1:30 min

Div 10 Darren Forbes & Malcolm Lewis 3rd in 1:07 min

Div 10 Lindsay Freeman 5th in 1:08 min

Div 11 Ian Davey 6th in 1:16 min

Div 12 Cheryl Bretag 4th in 1:32 min



Farewell Darren & Karen Forbes - Family Hotel, Newcastle Thursday 20 Sept 18

A surprise farewell last night for Daz & Kaz Forbes who are heading off to work in NT tomorrow for an unknown period of time with their 3 dogs, 2 bikes, 2 kayaks and a trailer full of essential items. Daz's passion, energy and enthusiasm to help everyone he meets has been a key reason for the Orange Army's success, with his infectious nature to have fun being passed on to the wider paddling community. Kaz has been a massive support with time keeping and being part of the PNSW board. The night was celebrated by a group of 25 enthusiastic members and rugby mates with a presentation of a framed collage of photos to remind them of the many wonderful memories they were part of. As a club we want to wish them all the best in their new adventure and we look forward to hearing about our club's expansion into Tennant Creek and beyond.



Myall Classic Sat 22 Sept 18

Another Myall Classic is over and it was great to see our members turn up in force over the various distances of 12, 27 & 47km.

We had an outgoing tide to fight on our way up to our respective turns with the wind and current helping us home, although some did face a strong head wind in the last few kms which was challenging.

Here are the results:

12 Km

Cheryl Bretag TK1 1:45min - a big improvement on her time from Davistown

Charlie Dunkley SUP 1:55min Best SUP Male - Well done!

27km

Guy Fiddes Flash 3:05min - going from strength to strength although a comment was made that he prefers the 10km races

Mark Bretag Mirage 3:15min. This was Mark's second go in Darren's mirage - all looks good for the upcoming HCC & Murray with a bit more training.

Nicki Day DNF Unfortunately Nicki didn't make the cut off time at 16km. Well done Nicki for a great effort especially with the fact you weren't feeling well.

47km

Annie Moore & Charly Wellard SLR2 4:30min. Great effort & only missed by a couple of minutes in taking out Best Open Women's Doubles.

Guy Holloway 4:46min SLR. Who says he needs Charly. TCP is looking good for the HCC & Murray although he was seen laying on the ground at the presentation.

Helen Tongway & Ian Davey Mirage 730 4:47min. Ian

filled in for the injured David and paddled for Burley Griffin. Great to see the comradery and support for

other clubs. Ian had to switch his single blade to a double blade and enjoyed the paddle with Helen.
Liz Van Reece K1 4:53min Best Masters 50+Single Female - Well Done!
Justin Quinn K1 5:10min. This was Justin's first paddle for the club and enjoyed the experience. He is doing the HCC in this boat and is looking forward to the challenge.
Bernie Edstein - DNF Unfortunately he didn't finish as the boat started leaking. Needless to say he is looking for another boat for the HCC & Murray.

A great effort by the Orange Army. Thanks as always to the organisers PaddleNSW who did an amazing job.

Bring on the final Marathon race at Burrill Lake, the HCC at the end of October and the 50th anniversary of the Murray Marathon.



Marathon Series - Round 12 & Presentation Burrill Lake-Sat 21 Oct-Sun 22 Oct 18

What a great weekend at Burrill Lake for the final round of the marathon series and the presentation at Milton Ulladulla Ex Services Club.

The race was held in beautiful conditions with a light breeze and no rain. The small band of the Orange Army turned up ready to paddle and achieved the following results, the stand out performance being Ian Davey with a 3rd in his trusted canoe.

Mark Bretag Div 6 20 km 2hrs 19 min
Ian Davey Div 11 10kms 1hr 6 min
Malcolm Lewis Div 12 10kms 1hr 15 min
Cheryl Bretag Div 12 10kms 1hr 16 min



At the presentation Ian achieved 3rd overall in Div 11 for the year and Guy Fiddes received an award for the most improved paddler.

As a club we achieved 5th overall which is an amazing result for the size of the club. This is a reflection of our members support and willingness to participate. Congratulations to everyone that paddled, had fun and made 2018 the year it was.

A big thankyou to the PNSW committee, our hosts at Burrill Lake and to Ian Wrenford for taking the time to take some incredible photos throughout the year.

We appreciate the time involved in running the series and are excited about the upcoming 2019 calendar.

PNSW Most Improved Paddler 2018 – Guy Fiddes

A great recognition for our club and obviously for Guy Fiddes was winning the “Most Improved Paddler 2018 at the presentation at Burrill Lake. This profile was recently released:

As we ramp up towards the 2019 Paddle NSW Marathon Series, we're turning the spotlight on some of our high-achieving paddlers of 2018. Guy Fiddes from Newy was a Most Improved Paddler in 2018.

- How long have you been paddling?

I started paddling in 2014 needing to improve my fitness. I started with SUP then shortened my single blade and tried the canoe, then last year decided to give the kayak a go. I must say that the kayak well and truly has my attention for now.

- What is your current boat?

My current kayak is a full carbon Sladecraft Sonic, dressed in red gelcoat.

- Where do you normally train?

Living in the Newcastle area provides me with loads of paddling options but my go to spot is Throsby Creek at Carrington. This is home for the Orange Army (Newy Paddlers).

- Best location you've ever paddled? Why?

I love paddling in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie so my best location is limited to this, but I am quite fond of Woronora as an alternative. I love the sandy river environments.

- Favourite thing about the Paddle NSW Marathon series?

It would have to be the inclusion. There are no barriers for anyone who wants to have a go at paddlesport racing. Choose a craft and then a division that suits your ability and you're on your way.

- Do you have a paddle 'super-power'?

Lol, I would love to say yes but that might give paddlers ideas on how to beat me this year!



Hawkesbury Classic - Sat 27 Oct - Sun 28 Oct 18

The rain, wind and tide have finally settled and it is now time to reflect on the wonderful efforts made by Newy Paddlers at the recent 42nd Hawkesbury Classic.

For a small club we were well represented in different categories and had 8 enthusiastic members participate, ably supported by a passionate landcrew.

Ladies Open LREC2 - Charly Wellard and Annie Moore (CCP) 10 hrs 53 min - RECORD. This dynamic duo came together and made an awesome team.

Ladies 50+K1 - Liz Van Reece 12 hrs 48 min - RECORD.

This was Liz's 19th HCC plus she raised over \$1,000. Incredible outcome with the big 20 next year.

Mens 50+ UN2 - Guy Holloway and Tony Hearn 11 hrs 52 min. The package showed a lot of grit and determination on a night that was already tough but made harder by Tony's back issues.

Mens 40+ORS1 - Justin Quinn 12 hrs 36 min. This was Justin's 1st HCC so a great result.

Mens 60+LREC1 - Mark Bretag 12 hrs 37 min. This was Mark's 7th HCC and was the category winner.

Ladies Open SUP - Nicki Day 10 hrs 44 min. As always Nicki showed a lot of courage but had to pull out at Wisemans 65km.

Mens Open SUP - Dave Sorensen 14 hrs 37 min. A result not recognised officially. He retired at Spencer but decided to continue onto the finish with his mate Patrick Wynne who was doing his first HCC.

Well done to everyone on the night for doing their best and showing who the Orange Army are. Judging on the amount of orange PFDs we have a lot of opportunity to recruit

As always we could not do this without the support of our landcrew. A big thank you to Jack & Jenny Ward, Cheryl Bretag, Guy Fiddes, Owen Walton and Murray Reece. Everyone went beyond the call of duty and in true classic spirit were seen helping many of the other paddlers.

This year was more of a challenge than most for the HCC committee but as always Claire Shanahan and her team did a very professional job and acted in the best interest of everyone's safety.

A few of us attended the presentation dinner last night at the Mooney Mooney Club to celebrate the club's personal achievements and those of our fellow paddlers. It was a great night with a few of us collecting some trophies. Our member Murray Reece was responsible for making the trophies and did a great job.

The most important outcome was that they were able to donate \$90,000 to Arrow to continue the valuable research into Leukaemia.

This iconic event while down in numbers is still one of the events not to be missed. Keep the 26 Oct'19 free and turn up in force, that is of course "if you are tough enough". Happy paddling and well done to all the wonderful groups of volunteers that gave up their time so we can enjoy our passion.



Moon Island Classic - Sat 10 Nov '18

On Saturday 10th November two of our clubs more experienced ocean paddlers took on some elite athletes in the Moon Island Classic. Due to the wind prediction being a 15 to 20 kmh SE the start line was moved to Catherine Hill Bay and concluded at Blacksmiths Beach in Belmont. The overall event was won by well-known Surf Ironman Caine Eckstein but our champions did us proud in their respective age groups. Justin Borthwick finishing well in the top 10 of the over 40's with a time of 61:40 (I want to check his birth certificate), and Steven Brinkley winning the 60 plus age group in 69:34. By all reports it was a fun downwinder and more of us should aspire to do this race next year.



Preparation & Painting of Container - Fri 16 Nov & Mon 19 Nov 18

A couple of days cleaning, preparing with rust kill, primer and then a paint of green. It looks new even though they are 17 years old - just a little bit younger than the volunteers.

A big thank you to Malcolm Lewis, Trevor Jordan and Mark Bretag for doing a great job.



SLR2 picked up - Tues 20 Nov 18

Our latest addition to the Newy Paddlers fleet has arrived - a sleek white SLR2 built with dual pedals to assist people with disabilities.

Thanks to Greg Slade, Sladecraft located at Berkeley Vale on the Central Coast for sharing in our vision to make this a reality.

Fun times ahead for the Orange Army and anyone that wants to enjoy being on the water.



Murray Marathon Mon 19 Nov - Fri 23 Nov 18

This iconic event of 404kms over 5 days was celebrating its 50th anniversary. A number of members intended to go but due to personal reasons dropped out leaving only 2 intrepid members to take it on.

- Bernie Edstein & Liz Van Reece supported by Murray Reece & Michael Keegan.

Liz finished 26th in 36 Hrs 43 min paddling a K1 & Bernie finished 32nd in 37 Hrs 52 min paddling Darren Forbes's Mirage 580 Sport.

From all accounts it was a very tough race starting in very hot conditions over 40 degrees on the 1st day to experiencing hail on the 4th day – obviously if you can get through that you will get through anything.

Well done to Liz & Bernie for not only finishing but raising valuable monies for their respective charities.



Barefoot Bowls & Club Presentation - Sun 2 Dec 18

Newy Paddlers celebrated the end of another successful year by getting their shoes off and having a go at barefoot bowls (all we needed was Darren Forbes, well known for his lack of footwear to show us how it is done - this man was sorely missed).

It was a great afternoon in warm and windy conditions, attended by 25 keen and competitive people. There was plenty of banter as we all attempted to gain an upper hand on each other in a game none of us knew anything about. As you know that has never stopped us from having a fun time so it was the perfect way for the Orange Army to unwind.

We had a small presentation before dinner to congratulate the stand out members of our club in 2018:

Club Person of the Year - Darren Forbes

A passionate and selfless member who attempts to help everyone, his contribution to the club is truly amazing.

Paddler of the Year - Ian Davey

A keen promoter of the "Single Blade" in the Marathon Series and a true advocate of the club.

Most Improved Paddler of the Year - Guy Fiddes

Recognised by PNSW already this was a just reward at club level.

Stirrer of the Year - Trevor Jordan. Our wonderful non-paddling "Keeper of the Coin" who controls our finances with wit and guile.

This was followed by eating, drinking and recalling our memories of the paddling adventures in 2018. Congratulations to Liz Van Reece and Bernie Edstein for recently completing the 50th anniversary of the Murray Marathon. They both achieved great results which the club are very proud of.

The Orange Army will return to paddling in 2019 knowing that they are more suited to being on the water than a bowls green.

A huge thank you to Carrington Bowling Club for their support over the last year. It is a wonderful venue and we are proud to be part of this community.



Paddle Racks - Sun 13 Jan & New Buoy Trolley Wed 16 Jan '19

As part of organising the equipment in one of our storage containers Guy Fiddes donated his time and materials to install paddle racks. Thanks to Guy's efforts and generosity they are now off the floor and easily accessible for members to use.

Trevor Jordan and his grandson, Preston put together a trolley for transporting the buoys. We now have a convenient way of storing them so they don't get tangled and an easy way of getting them down to and from the creek for races and events. Thanks Trevor and Preston for seeking out the solution – it makes a big difference to the volunteers in setting up.



Maintenance of Aquatic Activity Buoys Sun 10 Feb 19

Four buoys were placed in the creek by Darren Forbes and Maritime Services about a year and half ago. The purpose of these buoys were to provide a course for our handicap races and segregate the various paddling craft for safety reasons. One of the buoys had fallen over and another been washed away from the cove during a big storm last year.



Thanks to our sister club “Lake Mac SUP Club” we were able to borrow their safety boat to undertake maintenance and move one of the buoys back into the cove. This involved removing the barnacles and adding extra weights to the buoys.

A big thank you to Guy Fiddes and Mark Bretag for the time they spent which all members and paddlers in general will get the benefit of.

Review of Club Assets Tuesday 12 Feb 19

Due to the efforts of our hard-working committee and members the club has been able to build substantial assets over the last 3 years. An important part of governance is the control of those assets, that is where they are located and to ensure they are protected from possible damage and theft.

Thanks to Trevor Jordan, Malcolm Lewis and Mark Bretag for relocating the boats between the 2 containers and laying the carpet tiles. Cheryl Bretag did a great job taking photos of all the assets and recording any boats that needed to be repaired. The day was not without incident when Trevor twisted his ankle stepping out of one of the containers and ended up in hospital. Trevor is our Treasurer and a non-paddling member of our club – a special thank must go to him for the time he spends supporting our club.

We now have a detailed register that supports our insurance cover which will be a valuable tool going forward. All the assets now have individual waterproof stickers for identification.



Paddle4Good Sun 17 Feb 19

Another successful Paddle4Good day ran by Newy Paddlers as our annual community fund raising event. With over 40 craft on the water on a smaller course, the creek was alive to the sound of paddling. (Enter Julie Andrews).

There were certainly some good battles happening on the water as Trevor and Mark had the fleet split into 4 groups, well done to all.

As usual these days can't be without that dedicated group of people that put the big ones in to ensure a successful event and that all runs smoothly on the day. So, a huge thanks to:

- 1: Paddling Fraternity: Competitors, social paddlers, family and club members. Newy Paddlers salute you.
- 2: Lake Mac SUP Club: Known as our sister club, these paddlers are the bestest EVER. Thanks again for your help and support we love you guys. Newy Paddlers salute you.
- 3: Sponsors: Sydney harbour Kayaks (Mirage) for gift vouchers, Family Hotel for Wine and gift voucher, Cheryl for organising the raffle and Vicki who could sell ice to the eskimos for selling tickets.
- 4: Newy Paddlers Members: Hard working and always there to help and offer assistance all the time. Without you we have nothing. Newy Paddlers salute you.
- 5: Local community: From our local State (Sonia Hornery) and Federal (Sharon Claydon) members, to maritime and the Carrington community, thank you for being there. Newy Paddlers salute you.
- 6: This Mob: Charly (Club Pres), Malcolm, Trevor, Guy, Ian, the incredible Bretag's Mark and Cheryl and to those that are always helping out. Newy Paddlers salute you.

How much was raised on the day? Well thanks to the above the club raised \$832 dollars for Trisha's House Women's Refuge. Great effort to all involved. Even the TV Crew turned up again.



Where to in 2019

The committee is currently revamping the club website to provide online payments and lift the profile of its activities on the internet. We are hoping that this will be finalised by the end of April in time for renewal of membership and are looking for members to rent space in the containers to provide an extra income stream so that further benefits can be offered to people joining the club.

We expect more of the same regarding our involvement in the PNSW Marathon Series but see a greater diversity in the type of paddling as different members come into the club. It should be an exciting year as we head into our 4th year of operation.

Go the Orange Army