

# UP THE CREEK

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

2023 saw the Orange Army actively start racing again and enjoy many paddling activities.

We had one of the founding members of the club, Darren Forbes recognised nationally as the ‘Volunteer of the Year’ for his services to the paddling community, another successful Mud Crab Cup Series, introduced the use of Webscorer to assist with timing of results, held the final race and presentation of the PNSW Harbour Series and enjoyed some beautiful recreation paddles and camping trips.

## Recreation Paddle, Tea Gardens - Sunday 19 Feb ‘23

What a great social paddle was had by 8 members of the club. We started and finished at “Anzac Park” Marine Drive. It was a warm day and a very high tide, so made the paddling fun. We ended up paddling the 12km Myall Classic course, with a morning tea stop at “Zeiningers”, Myall River Camp. We went through the ‘short cut’. and paddled up a mystery creek for about a kilometre and then back, great on the very high tide. With the tide running out on the way back and super clear water a stop for a swim was on the agenda, and how good was it... It was a relaxed and very social paddle. We finished off with fish -n -chips for lunch under the shade. The morning ticked all the boxes...!!



## Mud Crab Cup – Wed 5 Oct 22 - 22 Mar '23

What a fantastic finish to the 22/23 Transitions Chiropractic Mud Crab Cup.  
32 Paddlers with a number battling it out for overall Mud Crab Cup trophy bragging rights.

A number of P. B's in the race with the standout being one of our Junior Paddlers, young Pip, knocking 10 minutes off her time!!!  
Over the season we had over 60 competitors compete with a big improvement in our female participation.  
Big thank you to James from Transitions Chiropractic for sponsorship throughout the year. Very much appreciated.  
And now to the (drum roll please....) place getters for this year's Transitions Chiropractic Mud Crab Cup.....

Wayne Heaton 54 1st  
Freya Franklin 53 2nd  
Rob Reed 48 3rd

Wayne came 7th and with a PB in the last race pipped Freya by a point.  
Great series with good camaraderie and competitive times. Thanks also to those that helped out setting up and packing up, time keeping, taking newbies around the course and of course to Mark for setting handicapper times and all the work in results. Thanks to everyone.



## Mud Crab Cup Divisional Racing Trial – Sat 1 April '23

Humongous thanks to everyone that came and paddled in our Transitions Chiropractic Mud Crab Cup Divisional race trial. Considering the short notice, it was an awesome turn up.

Can't do these things without the support of our members, so thank you. 34 booked in for the race and many helpers.

Big shout out to Mitch, Cheryl and Mark for the 6am start. Moira and Trev on the BBQ tools, Mitch, Mark, Jo-Anne and Daz on the clocks.

Bob Turner from Paddle NSW assisted Mark getting the new format together. We can't thank you enough Mark, the Orange Army salutes you.

11 female Paddlers either on the water or helping out was brilliant to see. Love your work gal's!!!



## Working Bee, Pat Jordan Oval & Throsby Creek Fri 7 April '23

Big thanks to those funky Easter dudes who turned up for the club working bee and Cara Brownie eating competition, washed down with Jodie Adams and Daz on the BBQ tools for dessert.

Thanks to; Cheryl, Mark, Jodie, Naomi, Cara, Craig, Chris, Muzza, Pete, Steve, Justin, Adam, Mitch, Wayne, Hinesy and Charlie for all your hard work. Garbo's were champions as well.

Containers roof fixed, full clean out of containers and boats, all marker buoys cleaned and reset, and Sausages and Brownies consumed with gusto!!!!



## Sponsorship – The Wests Group Sat 30 April '23

Thanks to the effort of Paul Hines, we secured \$1,500 sponsorship for the Newy Harbour Classic on the 24 September 2023, which will cover our expenses.



Our club appreciates the support of local business to showcase this wonderful event.

## Surf Life Saver of year CHSC – Freya Franklin – Sat 28 May '23

Hi there Newy Crew, big shout out to Freya Franklin for being awarded 'Surf Life Saver of the Year at Cooks Hill Surf Club.

A great member of Newy Paddlers and obviously so well regarded at Cooks Hill Surf Club, Freya is one of those "Community Spirits" that are the binding force that make the world a better place.

Congratulations Freya, the Orange Army 🍊 salutes 🙏 you.



## NSW Community Sports Awards – Thursday 29 June '23

Congratulations Darren Forbes for everything you do for our club, PaddleNSW & our community. A well-deserved recognition of a man that never stops giving.

Darren has been PNSW's Indigenous Advisor since 2021; and is a member of the PNSW Diversity & Inclusion Committee, the Harbour Racing Committee, and the Newy Club Executive Working Group. Supported by the RAP Committee, Darren is developing the PNSW Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). He's integral to the planning for the inaugural Indigenous Awareness Round of the Marathon Series.

Darren Forbes is a founding member of Newy Paddlers and is the face of the club at Throsby Creek. Daz's energy and passion to make things happen and create change means that he is well respected in the club and the local community.

He is an ideas man and is always looking at ways to make our events more fun, whether at a competition, charity or recreation event you never go home without having a good laugh. As our only accredited coach he does a wonderful job guiding the prospects/members and is very generous with his time. His ability to make people feel welcome and enjoy themselves has created a sense of pride in the Orange Army and is a large reason for its success.

His passion for paddling and for sharing his Indigenous wisdom is inspiring and infectious. He calls a spade a spade, always with a twist of his unique sense of humour.

Beyond paddling Darren works tirelessly on numerous community projects to support indigenous communities right across NSW. Where he finds the time and energy is a mystery.



<b>Community Official of the Year</b>	<b>Sport</b>
Alana Zic	Football
Cheryl Burnett	Little Athletics
Darren Forbes	Paddle
Rozlynn Grey OAM	Royal Life Saving
Sarah Willis	Hockey
Zoe Turner	Netball



## Camping Trip Cape York, Sun 9 July '23

Murray and Liz had the opportunity to go on a great adventure, up to Cape York. It was a 4-week trip, we did the "real" deal 4wd driving, completed the Old Telegraph Track and a lot more around the York Peninsula. They had a trip across to Thursday Island which was great. Trekked to "The Tip" "Pajinka" to have the mandatory photo taken at the sign, of course, in their orange NP shirts!!!

10 adults, 9 teenagers and 4, 4WD's made it and they saw heaps and did heaps.

The top of Australia has now been conquered by the Orange Army.





## Myall Shores Camping Weekend Fri 4 – Sun 6 Aug '23

With numbers low, those that were there had a few great days of paddling. Good conditions on Friday afternoon for a late paddle. Then on Saturday the day was "perfect", with 2 great relaxed paddles, in both the front and back lake areas. Very social and picturesque conditions. Also, a fun dinner together at the cafe on Sat. night. It was a shame that the weather changed early on Sunday morning, so we packed up and went home.

Cara, Szuszy, Jack & Jenny, Murray & Liz attended with 5 x Just Paddlers joining us as well.



## Annual General Meeting, Wed 30 Aug '23

A good meeting with 20 members in attendance at the Carrington Bowling Club. The committee for 2023/24 is:

President – Liz van Reece

Treasurer – Moira Maiava

Secretary – Mark Bretag

Members – Darren Forbes, Mitchell Webb, Cara Budge, Szuszy Timar & John Allan

**An important task for the new committee was to review the current constitution and thanks to Moira, Darren and Cara preparing a new draft a special general meeting will be held early in the New Year to have this accepted.**

## Myall Classic – Sat 16 Sept '23

What a great day it was. All action at "Anzac Park" at Tea Gardens. A very well-run event by Lane Cove Kayak Club, thank you. This event is always well supported, a not to be missed event on the marathon racing calendar. In the 3 distances there were: 47km - 28 crafts, 24km - 29 crafts, & 12km - 31 crafts. Crafts being either kayaks, canoes, skis, outriggers, stand ups, and either single or doubles.

From the Orange Army we had the following club members taking part. 27km Wayne Heaton 2.35.08, Liz van Reece 2.55.18, Robyn Hawes 3.15.21 12km Andrew Laverick 1.10.30 (3rd overall), Chris Wright 1.38.02 Sup, Nicki Day 1.50.47 Sup, Malcom Lewis 1.21.42 (Mix open doubles).



## Moon Island Classic, Sat 23 Sept '23

The Moon Island Classic was held the day before the Newy Harbour Classic and had 100 people racing overing 16 kms. We had 4 members who battled light conditions so lots of paddling and nottoo many runners. Well done Orange Army.

Alan Cross – 29th Ski Over 40 Male  
Nathan Hays – 30th Ski Over 50 Male  
Justin Borthwick – 39th Ski Over 50 Male  
Steve Brinkley – 80th Ski Over 60 Male



## Newy Harbour Classic & Presentation NCYC– Sun 24 September '23

Race 6 in the 2023 Harbour Racing Series was hosted by Newy Paddlers. Thanks to our wonderful members for making this event a showcase of what Newcastle has to offer. Incredible effort off the water to ensure everything ran smoothly so the paddlers could enjoy the perfect conditions and with a lot of our members away still managed to have 15 people on the water, achieving podium finishes in both the long and short courses.



Of the 56 entries, all competitors completed the course.  
Long Course – the overall winner was Trent Martin with a time of 1:02.00 followed closely by Mario & Carlito Vessley 1:02:22 and **our own Newy crew of Nathan Hays & Dan Stein 1:02:25**

Short Course – **Craig Simpson from Newy finished in 1<sup>st</sup> with Newy's Mick Cowling & Cronulla's Chris Mathews in 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

56 people attended the buffet lunch at Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club and to watch the series winners being recognised for their achievements.

The highlight was a presentation by our President, Liz van Reece to Peter Tate of an orange cap, recognising his 10 years' service as CEO of PaddleNSW.

The Orange Army should be justifiably proud of who we are and what we can do with the support of the local community. Thank you to PaddleNSW, The Wests Group, Newcastle Rowing Club, Cooks Hill Surf Club, Marine Rescue, Maritime Services, Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, Carrington Public School



## PNSW Events

Throughout the year quite a few club members participated in the Harbour Series, Marathon series, and other PaddleNSW events.

A few that made the Orange Army proud are:

Robyn Hawes attended 4 MS races: Windsor, Lane Cove, Davistown & Cockle Creek.  
4 HS races: Pittwater Challenge, Dolls Pt Classic, Central Coast Harbour Classic & Newy Harbour Classic. Also took part in the NSW Marathon State title in Canberra and the Myall Classic, 27km distance.

Wayne Heaton attended 4 MS races: Lane Cove, Davistown, Woronora, & Cockle Creek. 3 HS races: Pittwater Challenge, Iron Cup, & Newy Harbour Classic.  
Also paddled the 27km in the Myall Classic and many of the MCC races.

We also had Justin Borthwick that did 3 HS races: Pittwater Challenge, Central Coast Harbour Classic & Newy Harbour Classic, plus many MCC races.

Other members supported the HS, doing 2 races were:  
Martin Lewis, Chris Wright, Steven Brinkley, Gavin Stewart, Scott Gibson & Chris Hayes.  
There were other club members that took part also in these events, well done to all.

Thank you for paddling in the bright orange uniform, and making the club be seen.

## Paddle Australia 'Volunteer of the Year' Awards Sat 28 Oct '23

Darren Forbes took out the national award, a very worthy recipient for all the work he does in the paddling community. Paddle Australia ran an online presentation and a few of the club members got together at Cara's house to eat some pizza and have some drinks. Well done, Daz – the Orange Army are super proud of your achievement and what you do for our club.



## Hawkesbury Classic, Sat 28 – Sun 29 Oct '23

This weekend saw the running of the Hawkesbury Classic after a 3-year break & it didn't disappoint. Absolutely beautiful conditions - no wind, a full moon & and only 1 tide that was against the flow out of 3 - all they had to do was paddle overnight for 111kms 😊

Newy Paddlers had 3 competing & didn't they do the club proud.

Craig Simpson & Chris Hayes did their 1st race In 10 hrs 23 min, finishing 17th overall. Nick Newton completed his 7th race in 13hrs 5min & finished 45th overall.

A big thank you to their land crew Mark Bretag & Dean Sorley for staying up all night & making sure the guys had every support needed to make it a successful night on the water.

Great effort guys - go the Orange Army!!



## Trailer Vandalism & Sale Sat 25 Nov '23

The club had a number of vandalism issues where 3 sets of tyres were stolen by the local community. It was disappointing that this happened so the committee decided that it was in the best of its members to sell the trailer. We are happy to say it has gone to a good home at Makai Paddlers and the proceeds have been used to purchase double skis for the club.

A big thanks to Scott Gibson for organising the refurbishment and sale and everything he does for the club.





## Club Double Skis

Due to the evolution of our club into a ski club that enjoys ocean racing the committee made a couple of key purchases to support the passion of our members and bought:

An Epic V10 Double Ski and a Stellar S2E Double Advantage Ski for the advanced paddlers. The club already owns an Apex Double Ski which suits intermediate paddlers, so we are looking forward to seeing these skis being put to good use.



## Ultra –Trail Kosciusko 27 km – Thur 7 Dec ‘23

Chris Hayes followed up his amazing effort with Craig Simpson in the Hawkesbury Classic by winning his age category and coming 74<sup>th</sup> out of 845 competitors overall in 3 hrs 27 min.

Congratulations Chris, the Orange Army is showing its versatility and endurance capabilities.



## **Doubles Race, Presentation & BBQ Wed 20 Dec '23 - CANCELLED**

There were high expectations to finish the year on a positive note with our annual doubles race over 7.5km. Unfortunately, the weather had other ideas making it necessary to cancel the event the day before with expected rain and high winds. The race was rescheduled to Wednesday 27 March '24 with all registrations transferring. With 9 doubles and 6 singles lets build on the numbers and spread the word to any PNSW members wanting to enjoy this fun event.

It is not the ideal way to recognise our achievers, but it is important to acknowledge the people that have excelled in the last year doing the best for our club. We will formally present them with trophies and certificates at our next Mud Crab Cup Race Wed 10 Jan '24. In the meantime, if you see them congratulate them and understand their efforts portray who the club is and what we stand for.

### **Mud Crab Cup winners for 2022-2023**

The bragging rights to say that you are the overall winner of the Mud Crab Cup, is pretty good. So, congratulations to Wayne Heaton on being the overall winner for the 2022-2023 year. 2nd was Freya Franklin and 3rd was Rob Reed - a great mix of winners and well deserved by all 3.



### **Stirrer of the Year**

Well, what can I say!! These two are like peas in a pod. So, they could not outdo each other, so the joint winners for 2023 are Peter Holz and Justin Lennon. You will need to share the trophy for 6 months each. Enjoy and thanks for making us all laugh a lot.



### **Paddler of the Year**

Congratulations to Robyn Hawes, who has made a great effort over the last 12 months in attending many events. From Marathon Series races, Harbours Series races, attending the Marathon State Titles In the ACT, the Myall Classic and also doing MCC races – she did it all. Well done to Robyn for her excellent and well-deserved award win.



### **Club Person of the Year**

It gives me great pleasure to announce this award for 2023 goes to Mark Bretag. He has tirelessly given so much of his time to the Orange Army, not in paddling but in all the administrative work that is done behind the scenes. Mark is truly "the Super Glue" that holds the club together. Mark has a real passion for the club, and I am assured that each and every club member appreciates all that he does. So well done and a very BIG THANK YOU from all.



## Message from President

*Amazing that another year is very quickly coming to an end.*

*Once again, the club has been very busy, both on the water and a huge amount of work behind the scenes off the water.*

*Members have participated in both the Marathon Series, Harbour Series, and other iconic PaddleNSW events. Well done to the Orange Army.*

*"Up the Creek " will show and tell how busy we have been.*

*Our 2nd year running a Harbour Series event, the last race, followed by the Series Presentation for 2023. It was a great credit to the club, very professionally and smoothly ran at all levels. A good day had by all. It was a real team effort. Newy Paddlers has left an outstanding impression on the paddling scene!*

*The Mud Crab Cup (MCC) has really come into its own. - now divisional racing & Webscorer being used. The club event is very well supported. A great get together, improve your own personal paddling times, and enjoy the social interaction.*

*Darren has done the club very proud, in being the winner of the Paddle Australia Awards, "Volunteer of the Year" for 2023. We wish Daz & Kaz all the best, as they are leaving us again, re-work location. His input to the club will be missed.*

*The committee again has done a great job, keeping all aspects of the club going forward behind the scenes, such as meetings, emails, phone calls, texts etc. We work as a whole team which is great, and all get along – many hands make light work!*

*I would like to say a Big Thank You to Mark for his huge effort in keeping the wheels turning in a positive direction, thanks, and assured appreciation by every member of the club.*

*Looking forward to another great 12 months, with plenty of paddling for all.*

*Thanks to the whole Orange Army for their comradery, support, and friendships. All the best for a happy and safe and healthy 2024.*

*Thanks.  
Liz van Reece  
NP President.*

