



ASCOT KAYAK CLUB

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP YEAR

2014/15

# President's Report

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## Membership Stats

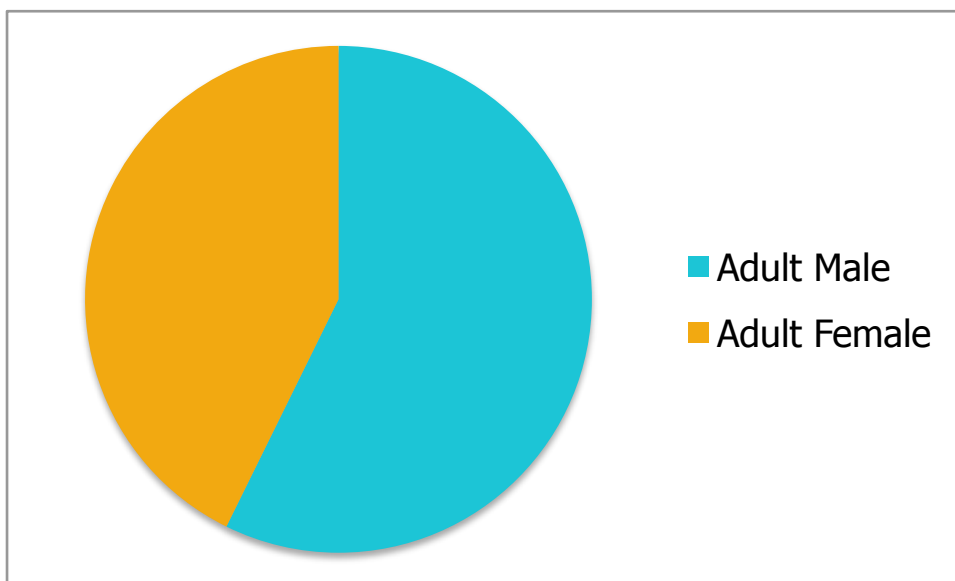
We have maintained a base of over 600 members for the last 7 years.

At the end of July 2015 our current membership was 667

Adult males 326

Adult females 243

Juniors 98 (males 67 and females 31)



Female membership numbers have been steadily increasing over the last 6 years.

Our membership base is relatively stable, 515 members renewed their membership for 2014/15.

426 have been club members for less than 5 years

205 have been club members for 5 - 9 years

28 have been club members for 10 - 19 years

8 have been club members for 20 years or more

John Nash is our longest serving club member with 36 years of membership.

10 and 20 years of club membership is a notable milestone. Perhaps we should be acknowledging these milestones in a meaningful way. An agenda item for discussion at our next club meeting?

## The Executive Committee

During the year we had a change in the Treasurer's role. Helen Feasy retired to concentrate on other matters and Louisa Pietersen stepped into the Treasurers role. Since becoming a member Louisa has hit the ground running. She took on City Lights catering, ran the Come and Try and is now getting her head around the Treasurer's role.

Three of the Executive Committee are vacating their seats, Donna Beeson, Peter Kioutis and Laura Cass. There are many tasks and many things to do when running a large club. Laura has given so much of her time and stepped in so often to fill the gap. Donna took hold of a new initiative (volunteering is part of your membership) and ran with it. Peter's knowledge has been invaluable for club boat matters and now his skill in coaching is helping to embed our Tuesday Night Training initiative.

On behalf of the club we thank them sincerely for their contribution to their club and from me personally a big thankyou for your contribution to executive committee discussions and decision making.

During the membership renewal period for 2014/15 we had three large challenges. Australian Canoeing closed down the events system, membership system and web page. This caused chaos and a lot of extra work for a few of us. We survived it, but currently our website is not as good as it could be. With membership renewals of 660 it is essential to have a good working online renewal option. With Michael steering, we have planned and communicated to AC early and feel relatively confident it will come together in time for this years renewals.

Louisa and Kylie have been setting up a new cloud based accounting system, which is proving to be an excellent choice of software. Soon all cash, accounts, payroll and club budget will be incorporated into the one club based accounting system.

## Club Development

More than 30 members attended the special meeting. An impressive list of club strengths were collated

- Club Events
- Members
- Facilities
- Location
- Club Races
- Support of other parts of Canoeing
- Great Xmas parties
- Top Food
- Communication via website and FM
- Boat storage
- Membership cost
- Hot Water System
- Recruiting members
- Lots of volunteers when required

- Being able to use club boats
- Planning and managing Events
- Support of club high performance paddlers
- Support of Juniors slalom and flat water
- Introduction to Kayaking course
- Friendly and welcoming environment
- Administration – Kylie behind the scene stuff
- Diversity e.g. slalom, juniors, oldies, Recreational and Racing
- Sponsorship of the club
- Senior executive group
- Experienced members available to everybody
- Car park and security cameras
- Great comrade and team spirit
- Club Merchandise

With such a good solid base of club strengths there is not too much more the club needs or wants. Mainly it is developing and improving on what we already have.

Numerous ideas were shared and discussed and some have been actioned and some tagged for possible future action. Already actioned is Expanding the Wash Area, Quality Club Craft, strength and stretch, Facebook page, logo refresh and uniform upgrade.

Myself and Michael have added the extra wash stand as a permanent arrangement. All OK so far.

The club has purchased a K2 Velox Ascent, K2 Foxbat and K1 Velox Ignite. Thanks to Kevin White from Canoe's Online for his generous club discount. Space in the club boat shed is at a premium and for this reason club boats will be more regularly scheduled for maintenance and upkeep or sold and replaced.

Amanda has created an Off Water Strength and Stretch Training club survey to better ascertain the more specific requirements and wishes of club members in relation to this area.

Doug Hodson has created a club facebook page. Thanks Doug.

Jane and myself have met a graphic designer. The brief is to refresh the logo and create a design for a club singlet uniform option.

## Other Initiatives

## Volunteering - Part of Your Membership

Introduced in the 2014/15 membership renewal' It is now expected that all members contribute to the running of the club, its event and activities. At the time of renewal each household will choose at least one volunteering task to assist with. It is not an onerous request and the positive outcomes are many. There are over 25 volunteer areas to choose from. To run all our activities and events we require approximately 335 volunteers. Clearly if everyone volunteers then you will have a turn once every 2 years.'

## Tuesday Night Training

Introduced earlier this year this training session is becoming part of Ascot Kayak Club. Numbers fluctuate but each Tuesday there is a steady flow of club members training at beginners, intermediate and advanced levels. Each group has evolved and continues to develop to meet the needs of the group.

Some comments from participants

*"I thoroughly appreciate having an organised beginners group overseen by competent paddlers. I don't feel like I am floundering around on my own"*

*"Its great to have others to train with and to have something structured"*

*"I'm really enjoying it even though I had a bit of a disaster this week and did quite a bit of swimming. But the guys were great and all took turns trying to help me out. It hasn't really felt like training more a paddle with some new friends with the benefit of learning new things"*

*'Thank you for providing such a safe , fun and enjoyment environment.  
What a great club you are running..'*

A heart felt thanks to all the training leaders, (ie club members) who are ensuring Tuesday night training is successful and remains as an option for club members to attend.

## Kayaking - AKC Basic Skills Course

Myself and Steve Myers trialled a basic skills course where members aim to improve and become a more skilled paddlers for white water. The response was positive and we plan to run more in the future.

## Introduction to Kayaking in White Water Course

Steve Myers and Terry Brooke are offering an Introduction to White Water kayaking at Bridgetown this year for club members

### Kayaking 2 Day White Water Trip

This is something I have had humming in the background for a number of months. Special thanks to Peter Ashby (club member) and Ben Hyde (club supporter). AKC is very privileged to be able to provide a 2 day trip of the Avon Valley with an overnight camp stop. This is only possible because of the support from Peter and Ben. Peter and Leanne Ashby will be our camp directors. It is exciting and hopefully we will have a successful, first, 2 day trip. Looking towards the future we (Steve Myers, T2 and myself) plan to offer a few more club trips, not all will be white water and rapids. We will include flatwater camping trips as well.

### Community Contributions

We do pretty well with our community contributions but we could be doing more. As a club we are extremely lucky to have the river front and Garvey Park as our home, financially we are a very healthy club and in reality there is not much we need. We have a positive and productive relationship with the City of Belmont. We are indeed a very fortunate paddling club community. Last year we added a new community contribution via a Grant Pepper initiative. Through the Nanga Challenge Event we supported Breast Cancer WA. Laura Cass organised 3 Christmas food Hampers for St Vincents. This year under Jane Liddles guidance the Nanga Challenge is supporting the Samaritans.

This joined our annual scheduled contributions of supporting 'Swim Thru' with paddle escorts, COB's Autumn River Festival's Come and Try and Avon Descent - Event Marshalling and Scrutineering. We make our venue available at no cost to worthy paddling initiatives, like Women of the Avon, Junior Camps, NADA Board Meetings and Discipline Meetings. Within the paddling community we make a good showing of supporting Canoeing WA activities and there are always a solid group of AKC volunteers that the association calls on. In reality a lot of this is from a core group of club volunteers. We say thank you to them and I encourage you to become more active and contribute in some way.

### City of Belmont Garvey Park Foreshore

The long term plans to improve and develop the Garvey Park foreshore are coming to fruition. Work will start later this year and there will be some disruption, but the long term outcomes will be worth it. We will continue to have excellent beach access right in front of the club, but consideration to our ageing membership means a more manageable drop down to the beach.

### Junior Programs

#### AKC Slalom Program

Slalom has had a very busy and successful year. They have had impressive enrolments for Come and Try's and Paddle Passport

The club has received outstanding feedback for participants in these slalom courses. some examples follow

*'Absolutely excellent course for the children. A big thank you to everyone involved.'*

*'Thanks, a very enjoyable three days. Variety of skills and fun games! Beautiful location, well organised, fun and fantastic value for money!'*

*'Fantastic course. My son really enjoyed it and will definitely be continuing. The instructors were awesome, very encouraging and skilful. Thank you so much.'*

From this they have built a strong and healthy junior program. On a Wednesday night at the club approximately 20 school age children are paddling and at least 15 seniors are paddling. They have developed a network of coaches and trainee coaches and enjoy a high level of parent support and contribution. The Coaching level 1 White Water Course is near completion. Trainee slalom coaches are Brodie Crawford, Steven Lowther, Isaac Seeley, Genie Collins and Alexandra Vogel who will join the ranks of Ben and Cody Pope and Bevan Dashwood.

Slalom has had 2 senior paddlers (Ben Pope and Georgian Collin) selected to compete at the ICF juniors and U23 World Championships. Sausage Sizzle fundraising and club night timing, plus passport enrolments has ensured a successful fund raising year. The pope family have introduced racing under neon lights.

The icing on the cake is that Ascot Kayak Club has been awarded 'Gold Pathway Program Accreditation for 2015/16. This is based primarily on the contribution of Ascot Kayak Club Slalom Program to the Canoe Slalom high performance pathway and the operations of the Ascot Kayak Club Slalom Program.

#### AKC Marathon and Sprint (flatwater) Program

Kobe Wilson, Caleb and Gabrielle Bushby went to National Sprints and returned with Medals. There are several AKC paddlers training with Andrew Hayden at Bayswater who did well at the Sprints and have been named in the Australian Junior Sprint Team, Olympic Hopes Team and National Talent Squad. Tim Feasey was the only Junior from AKC to attend National Marathons and returned with a bronze medal in the K2.

Coran Longwood has a small group of paddlers gaining experience and race skills twice a week and there are 4 more Juniors paddle with Jenni Batemans group. Currently flatwater have quite a strong group of U10s in the Guppy Class which will be developed further. They have also hosted a Guppy day at Ascot Kayak Club with Guppy Paddlers from CLBC, CRCC, SCC and BPC attending and helping on the Day. Through fundraising the AKC flatwater has been able to purchase an EVO K2 for the Juniors.

In the Avon Challenge 23 AKC Juniors and 1 senior (paddling an Outrigger) entered in the 3 leg , 2 leg and Iron Person Events . Most of the teams where a mixture from all Perth Canoe clubs. AKC paddlers placed well in all classes

### Club Events and Activities

The club is well represented in national and international events with numerous Juniors from our Slalom, Marathon and Sprint doing very well. As a club we realise the hardship and financial strain

this level of competition has on a family. We are committed to assisting through the AKC Gold Medal Sponsorship Program.

Club events continue to shine. They are well attended and well run and this is due to the highly competent volunteer Race Directors. Thank you and acknowledgement for a job well done to Grant Pepper for the Nanga Challenge 2014, Lawrence Greed for Pairs Enduro 2014, Doug Hodson for City Lights Long Distance Event 2015 and Richard Molek and his team for John Sims 2015. This is a major contribution to your club and much appreciated by us all.

The Introductory courses conducted by club volunteers continue to be highly successful and a benchmark for other clubs running similar courses.

Although numbers have dropped from a few years ago, Wednesday night club racing continues in high spirits for those who attend. Colin, Steve and Wendy hold the fort with help from a few other members. Those who race definitely enjoy themselves.

## Concluding Remarks

We continue to be a multi faceted club. We have a good mix of recreational and competitive paddlers, pretty good gender balance and solid junior programs. At AKC a paddler has a choice of 4 canoe disciplines ( Marathon, Slalom, Down River, and Sprint). Our club community is friendly and welcoming. If racing is your pathway then there is a wealth of experience, knowledge, camaraderie and support.

We are developing, growing and improving each year. If there is momentum and demand we will have 2 training session per week, we hope to grow our White Water preparation courses and increase the number of club trips on offer. We should have Canoe Polo starting in September, negotiations are progressing.

The club continues to benefit through the ongoing sponsorship from CDU - Terry Bolland, ASWA - Grant Pepper, Water Wanderers - myself, Canoes Online- Kevin White, Ascot Riverside Kiosk - Kathy Tasovic and Joondalup Sports Remedial Massage - Greg Murphy. The club is very grateful for your support. If you would like to be a club sponsor please drop us a line.

Leonie Cockman

AKC President

12/8/2015

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