



President's Address

2009 Annual General Meeting

PaddleNSW President's Address for 2008/2009

Back in June 2008, the then fledgling management committee of PaddleNSW set itself some lofty goals, which some of us thought would be very difficult to achieve. I'm very happy to say that the board of PaddleNSW, with the help of volunteers and other organisations, has risen to the task and achieved much more than expected.

Those people include the current board of PaddleNSW, including Vice-president and Open Water Racing co-ordinator Tim Hookins, Secretary Lynn Parker, Treasurer Simon Mann, Sprint Co-ordinator Lawrie Kenyon, Marathon Co-ordinator Tom Balaam and Slalom Co-ordinator Chris Thompson.

Thanks also to former committee members Dianne and Phillip Chellew, and Ian Hancock, who unfortunately had to resign from the board for health and business reasons.

Roger Aspinall and Liz Wilson have taken Marathon to new levels of quality, and a report on Marathon is contained in the Annual report . Roger has also provided a fantastic service for PaddleNSW by printing and distributing membership cards, usually within a week of a new registration, while Liz has recently taken on Sprint from Lawrie Kenyon.

Two of the committee, Lawrie Kenyon and Simon Mann, are not standing for re-election. Lawrie has been a huge asset to the organisation, with a wealth of knowledge on event management, especially Sprint, and is well overdue for a break. He is still heavily involved in Manly Warringah Kayak Club, and no doubt he will still be trying to tip me in at the next Marathon Race.

Simon Mann has a senior accountancy position, and has found the additional workload of treasurer for PaddleNSW unsustainable. He has done a great job setting up the accounts for the forthcoming year and we thank him for his contribution.

We also thank those clubs and business members who have supported PaddleNSW through its formative year. But most of all, we thank the members who have shown faith in what we have been trying to achieve on their behalf. There have been questions, but no criticisms about our progress, and I think we have represented their interests as well as could be expected.

Back in June 2008, we aimed to achieve the following targets:

1. **Be substantially re-united with AC**, (in a manner we may not even be considering at this time)
2. Have our **sporting committees fully functional** and self-sufficient. This includes the conduct of regular competition series in all current disciplines where possible
3. **Have created a substantial membership base** of all category members, especially those in category 2
4. Have developed or adapted a set of **guidelines** and documents pertaining to the **granting of sanctioned status** for paddling activities – and implemented them.
5. Closely involve all **Non-category 1** members in discussion of their own **requirements** of PaddleNSW, and their responsibilities to PaddleNSW.
6. Determine the **terms of financial association** PaddleNSW will have with **category 4** members.
7. **Develop communication channels** with all relevant publicity sources, and ensure their information is made available to members as soon as possible.

8. **Made application to relevant grant programmes** for capital grants for the funding of human resources and equipment to further the support and services PaddleNSW can provide to their members at PaddleNSW level and Club level
9. Have developed a set of **roles for each committee member**, with periodic reporting requirements
10. **Ensure that PaddleNSW remains financially sound**
 - a. A review of our membership data base and how it is managed
 - b. A contract drawn up for producing membership cards
 - c. A review of our financial structure that determines how we run and manage the finances of the disciplines and the committees that run them
 - d. Budget and policy for equitable distribution of funds across Paddle Sports, Clubs and areas for development – education, marketing for increase membership, office, web, Nat teams,
 - e. A review of NSWCI assets and now Paddle NSW assets,
 - f. An asset register developed and protocols for adding to that register.
 - g. Protocols for expenditure decisions and purchasing decisions
 - h. Processes for passing on and handling sales, payments, donations, etc
 - i. Protocols for timely reimbursement of expenses by MC
 - j. Protocols for timely reimbursement of expenses by PaddleSports Committees
11. Have conducted a **broad industry survey** to determine the services required by all members and
12. Provide regular **updates on the activities** of the PaddleNSW committee for the information of members.
13. **Provide forums** for likeminded groups to communicate via the website
14. Have a **fully functioning, maintained website** with input, either directly or indirectly, from all member organisations.
15. Have the **objectives of PaddleNSW** fully decided and implemented
16. Have **changes to the constitution** ready for voting at the 09 AGM.

In relation to the above, **PaddleNSW actions for the short to medium term** were:

1. **A guideline for sanctioning events:** We need to develop a set of guidelines and approval method for sanctioning PNSW events. **Under development**
2. **A regular update of the negotiations with AC.** **Happening**
3. **Terms and costs for our category 4 members.** **Sorted**
4. **The employment of a webmaster.** **A priority**
5. **A discussion forum set up on the website.** Some research required on this one...not a priority to begin with. **Still not a priority, as other exist now**
6. **A set of office procedures for dealing with communications.** **Procedures now in place**
7. **A finalised set of aims and objectives for PaddleNSW to be ratified asap.** **Done**
8. **A discussion and decisions about changes to our constitution for next AGM....a longer term discussion..** **deferred to 2010**
9. **A Calendar of events** to be introduced for general information and to avoid clashes between events. **Done**
10. **A realistic timeframe for the implementation of new programmes.** We should have an agenda of desired outcomes to work towards.. **working flat out!**

11. **A regular bulletin of our plans for the future.** We should give members and website browsers a regular list of things we want to achieve (our dreams), so we can get their feedback and get some interest happening. **Possibilities are:**
- **Getting a Sprint Series off the ground**, possibly combined with some marathon events? **Sprint series happening now**
 - **Starting an ocean ski series**, short races in the harbour to start with. **On the boil**
 - **A timing system purchased through grant application.** To be used for sprint, marathon and ocean racing events, and to hire to event organisers. **Currently under evaluation**
 - **A complete competition** package including barcode registration, automatic allocation of race numbers or timing devices, and a timing system to simplify and improve the running of our events. **Well under way**
 - **A complete manual of conduct for clubs**, outlining their responsibilities and what we can do to assist them. **Via Regular Newsletters**
 - **A regular sanctioned recreational paddle.** Really promoted well, with interesting additions so recreational members see they are getting **value for their membership.** **Well and truly happening!**

While the above targets have largely been met, we have also been considering how paddlesports have been conducted nationally, and where PNSW fits in the scheme of things.

Paddlesports, like so many other sports, are anchored by a huge population of ordinary people who may only occasionally go paddling, but are the largest sector of participants by far. The ERASS Australian Government Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2007 shows that there were 121,000 people participating in either organised or non-organised canoeing/kayaking sports in 2007 (not including Canoe Polo, so the figure is likely to be closer to 200,000!)

We must ask ourselves where we are failing the great majority of paddlers of this country. Why have we not been able to reach these people and engage them more actively in our sport?

Why is it that the elite handful of paddlers get so much financial and technical support, for a few medals at Olympics or International Competition, when we have a base line of over one hundred thousand people who indulge in paddlesports at least 20 times a year, with virtually no support!

Surely the priorities of national sports administrators are misdirected.

Do we gain more from the few elite stars who give us belief in the ability of Aussies to 'beat the world', or would we do better by directing some of those funds back to the baseline of our sport, the development and education of the new paddler, the improved access and training facilities for the larger majority of paddlers who are keeping themselves healthy, and retailers happy!

It is the responsibility of our State organisation to develop the sport at its baseline, to give new paddlers a flying start, and it is with a great deal of pride and anticipation that we present to you the 'Start Paddling' scheme.

PRESENTATION of 'Start Paddling' initiative

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There are so many new initiatives we are pursuing at this time, that the human resources required are becoming a most precious commodity.

Our support from the NSW government agencies is so much less than that provided to other states that we can only look on with envy at the programmes possible elsewhere. Employing paid staff to manage the day-to-day affairs of the office has been a pipe-dream till now, however due to the spending restraint shown during the year, and a satisfying increase in memberships, we are now in a position to consider part-time paid administration assistance.

It is our intention to advertise a part-time position shortly, if we can find the time to write the advertisement!

In conclusion, there is much to discuss, and I would like to draw your attention to the little chat we will be having after the lunch break, where I will elaborate a little on some developments, and you can contribute your ideas or ask questions to make the organisation better serve your interests and that of your club.