

New Webmaster and Administration Assistant

PaddleNSW has now filled the part-time paid position recently advertised, and new webmaster **Sarah Grant** will perform administration duties for 2 days a week. She will be based in the PaddleNSW office in Olympic Park, usually on a Monday, plus additional hours as required.

Sarah is a Victorian Slalom paddler who has moved to Sydney to spend more time training in Penrith. It is great to have a paddler to fulfil this role, and we look forward to taking advantage of her knowledge of paddlesports, especially at elite level.

We welcome the contribution she will make to reducing the administrative tasks taking up so much of committee time. It will allow PaddleNSW to concentrate on development of paddling initiatives and policy.

Sarah can be reached on the webmaster@paddleNSW.org.au email address, one which will be shared with the committee in her absence.

New regulations regarding the wearing of PFDs

The National Maritime Safety Council, in conjunction with the NSW Maritime, is conducting research and requesting comment and submissions on a proposal to standardise the requirements for the wearing of PFDs in all water craft, including paddlecraft.

While the current regulations are vastly different state-to-state, and even in NSW appear to be contradictory, a more standardised regulation may bring some benefits.

However, the regulations may also prove onerous to some, especially elite ocean racing and wave ski paddlers, as one proposal is for ALL offshore paddlers to be required to wear a PFD.

Please consider the whole issue and make comment by visiting the website

<http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/hys/lifejackets.html>

Current regulation comparison between states can be seen on the pdf

http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/docs/hys/lifejacket_comparison_table.pdf

Whatever the final decision, PaddleNSW will have to adhere to the regulation and incorporate the changes in its paddler safety documentation. Have your say...get onto the forum and join the debate. Send your opinion to PaddleNSW, to help us draft a policy to present to the NMSC.

Education

We welcome our new committee member Bill Graham, who has taken on the huge responsibility of education. He has a mammoth task ahead, not only in co-ordinating education and training courses, but also creating an atmosphere of improvement in technique and training amongst our membership. In many ways, NSW is lagging behind the other states in access to education and certification of paddlers.



There are currently two coaching courses being organised:

30 & 31 January : Narrabeen
February tbc: Canberra

Please contact education convenor Bill Graham bill@paddleNSW.org.au for more information on these courses.

In addition, PaddleNSW is organising officials' courses for Flatwater and Whitewater, and any clubs wishing to host events on the Marathon or Sprint calendar are requested to nominate attendees to these sessions.

New Grants

The NSW Government has announced new grants for the development of disability participation in sport. The grant guidelines are also **included with this newsletter**, and would be most suitable for clubs interested in providing better facilities / human resources for disabled athlete assistance.

The future focus of Sport & Recreation funding programs will be on:

- Increasing participation in recreation and sporting activities
- Reducing barriers to participation in recreation and sporting activities
- Supporting the development of recreation and sporting facilities
- Supporting achievement in sport at all levels

Grants will be available for

- Development of participation in sport and recreation,
- Development of disabled sporting opportunities
- Sport and Athlete development

.Applications must be submitted by 21 December 2009, so immediate action is recommended. Further grants for International Sporting Events and Facilities Grants will be opening in December 2009.

A seminar will be conducted at the Nepean Room, Penrith Council Chambers on the 25th November from 7.00 – 8.00pm. Attendance is recommended for tips on successful applications.

Crawford Report

By now, you would have heard many comments on the recently released Crawford Report into the delivery of Sport in Australia. This is certainly well overdue, and introduces much needed discussion on the funding and opportunities available to sports in Australia. A section of the report comprising a summary of the findings is also **included with this newsletter**. The full report can be found at <http://www.sportpanel.org.au/internet/sportpanel/publishing.nsf/Content/crawford-report>

The report openly questions the 'trickle down' policy from elite to grass-roots level. Evidence has shown that the vast sums of money spent seeking 'Olympic Gold' may not be producing the desired effect of increasing interest and participation at entry level in our sports. We welcome any increased development of the base-line of our sport, be it in schools, clubs, community or youth groups...surely, with more participation at entry level, there will be a greater number of potential young athletes to choose from. Retention of these participants is an equally serious consideration. Those not making selection into National Training Squads are often left questioning their involvement with the sport, so more emphasis could be placed on creating suitable alternatives to retain their interest.





Single Event membership issues

A gentle reminder to member clubs, that all paddlers who are not members of PaddleNSW and who participate in organised club activities such as races, time trials and recreational events, must have PNSW single event membership for the day. Some clubs have been very good at forwarding their Single Event membership forms (and money) back to the PNSW office. If a paddler makes a claim on PaddleNSW insurance, and the paddler either hasn't filled in their membership form, or it hasn't been forwarded to PaddleNSW by the host club, **the club is liable** and won't be covered by PNSW insurance.

Here is a scenario that will demonstrate the potential exposure of a club to litigation.

A non-member of PaddleNSW wishes to take part in a regular PNSW club race on a Sydney Waterway. This Ski paddler doesn't think he needs to join PNSW as he is a member of NSW SLSA. He argues this case with the club, and he and his friends are permitted to take part in the race by the club, overlooking PNSW membership requirements.

During the race, he is hit in the face with a competitor's paddle, breaking a tooth. This is not covered by medicare, so he makes a claim on his private health insurance, to cover the costs of reconstruction.

His private health insurance company investigates the incident, finds the host club answerable for the incident, and makes a claim on that club. The host club IS NOT INSURED, because it has broken the terms of its membership of PaddleNSW, one of which is a requirement that all participants in any organised activity, be members of PaddleNSW. The individual club directors are liable for the costs.

Some clubs claim to have sought advice directly from Willis, our insurers. Unfortunately, it is not Willis who determines the scope of cover of PaddleNSW insurance, but PaddleNSW itself. In any case, Willis has denied giving such advice. PaddleNSW acts on behalf of its entire membership, and has drafted the terms of the policy to best serve and protect the interests of its membership. Clubs that do not adhere to these requirements are acting against the interests of the remaining PNSW membership, and will not be covered under the policy. The Insurance brochure clearly states that ALL enquiries regarding terms of insurance should be directed to PaddleNSW.

It has been suggested that duplicate single-event membership receipt books be introduced to ensure that the forms are being returned to PaddleNSW. This may make life easier for clubs as they have a written record of their single event memberships, as well as the copy sent to PaddleNSW.

Further clarification of the insurance available to clubs can be found in previous newsletters, available for download from the Archives page of the PaddleNSW website.

Website Changes

With the employment of our new webmaster, we are seeking increased input for our 'for clubs' menu. This section of the website is devoted to the needs of Clubs, and can be used for any issues relating specifically to club operations etc. Please send your contributions to webmaster@paddleNSW.org.au





Upcoming State Championship and Series events

Some dates in the 2010 Marathon 10 calendar have not been filled, and any clubs wishing to host a round are advised to contact tom@padleNSW.org.au to nominate for an event.

There are 4 events in the Sprint Series for 2010, and PaddleNSW requests assistance from clubs in running these events. Most of the proceeds of these events are returned to the host clubs, and with added interest from paddlers this year following the World Masters Games, good competitor numbers are anticipated. Please contact liz@paddleNSW.org.au if your club is interested in hosting a round. The events need a minimum of 6 volunteers to run, and are very simple in structure. PaddleNSW will be on hand to organise the timing and results sheets.

NSW state championships in 10,000m and 5,000m flatwater are approaching. The 10,000m is scheduled for the reliable water conditions of SIRC on the 17th April 2010, while the date of the 5,000m event is 16th May, though the location has yet to be decided. PaddleNSW requests that clubs contribute toward the running of these events by nominating some volunteers to assist on the day. We will be having officials training in conjunction with these events, which will lead to officials' certification...a bonus for club event management capability.

AC AGM

The Australian Canoeing AGM was held over the weekend of the 14th-15th November. The strategic forum following on from the AGM was used to demonstrate the new initiatives being proposed by AC, especially in relation to engaging businesses in providing benefits for members (PaddlePals), and some new insurance package initiatives for events (Paddling Australia event sanctioning scheme).

Affiliation fees were discussed in a very spirited manner, with several models proposed. PaddleNSW' request for membership-based fees was not well received, with most states opting for a fixed fee structure, though the formula for determining this has yet to be decided. With the majority of the debt having been repaid, it was suggested that affiliation fees be reduced to the former level, in place prior to the special levy introduction. A compromise position was accepted where the other state affiliation fees were reduced across the board by around 18%, while the interim arrangement in place with PaddleNSW (of \$40,000 incl GST) remains unchanged.

Education and training issues were discussed, especially relating to an attempt by the Outdoor Council of Australia to introduce a new certification scheme which threatened to make redundant the ACAS scheme). Information of this organisation can be found on the website <http://www.outdoorcouncil.asn.au/> AC has had input into this organisation, and has managed to turn around the paddling components of the new proposed standard to incorporate the current ACAS components.

The issue of volunteer management was raised, and a future forum will be devoted to this topic. Much work and sharing of ideas is required to address the falling numbers of volunteers in our sport, especially those certified officials and trainers required for safe conduct of events and other related activities.

Unfortunately, no time was available for discussions about issues faced by the states in the administration of their paddlesports. It is something PaddleNSW will be actively promoting, as a national approach to paddlesport administration must take into account not only the strengths, but more importantly the weaknesses of each state, and address them.

