



AORAKI DRAGON BOAT ASSOCIATION

Chair's Annual Report

25th August 2012

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I write this the fifth annual report for Aoraki Dragon Boat Association (ADBA) to be presented at the fifth AGM.

Before I begin with my report I wish to acknowledge the very sudden and tragic passing of one of our founding Aoraki Dragon Boat Association board members. Julian Yee passed away on the 8th July 2012 while on holiday with family in Rarotonga. Julian was a fantastic human being whose contribution to Aoraki will be sorely missed. His genuine interest in, and care for his fellow board members, paddlers and Sampan Warrior team members was above reproach. We will miss his cheery wee smile, legendary breakfasts and enormous help on regatta days. Rest in peace Julian. We will observe a few minutes silence for quiet reflection in honour of Julilan.

The 2011-2012 board consists of the following:

Chair:	Meri Gibson
Secretary:	Noel Anderton
Treasurer:	Janice Melville
Boats/Equipment Director:	Rick Smith
Events Director:	Peter Mitchell
Junior Development Director:	Glenn Dickie and Scott Johnson
Special Interests Groups Director:	Lorraine Flintoft
Development/Promotions Director:	Julian Yee (deceased)
Communications Director:	Meri Gibson

At this AGM the following directors are up for retirement under the Constitution's rolling retirement clause: Chair-Special interests – Development/Promotions- Communications. All have indicated they are up for re-election. Due to Julian's passing there is a further vacancy on the board.

The 2011-2012 season saw paddlers continue to train at Lake Pegasus as Owles Terrace was still out of action. This facility has worked well and along with this venue some of the teams have also used Lake Rua and post the season finish Sharian was on Lyttleton Harbour.

We are still using the Owles Terrace facility for wintering over our boats and had a working bee in early May to clean and store our boats and other gear.

During this past season Aoraki has run several regattas, they included the following:

Icebreaker 4th December 2011

Bbbbrrrrrrr, another cold day again. Why is it that we always get cold days for our regattas. It is really great to see the teams starting to get into the swing of competition so early in the season. Tu Meke won the 1000m turns race and also the 250m sprint race, and although Beca Crewsaders were fastest qualifier they were runners up in the sprint final. Sharian and CIAL also placed well. Each season we try to bring in a new fun event and this one was the Tug Boat of War, where two boats face off against each other by attempting to pull the other over a buoy line in the middle of the beach while they are attached by a 10m rope. A lot of fun was had and lots of laughs at the antics, this new event saw Airways taking out the inaugural Tug of boat War

Super 12

January 29th 2012

What a great day this was. We are certainly loving this smaller boat racing and it adds a great fun element to the day. We were joined on the day by Aero Dragons from Southern California. Aoraki appropriately welcomed the paddlers

The introduction of the fun element of 12's racing and the Le Mans style beach races created a huge amount of good-natured competition. A great relaxing bbq and drinks along with a prize giving followed. Aero Dragons were very competitive and quickly decided they would take on Tu Meke, it was close racing on the day but again Tu Meke reigned supreme in the sprints, with Sharian taking out the Le Mans.

Aoraki Open (formerly Earlybird) 26th February

Yes another great day of fun. Good to have a strong fleet of teams out there this early back on the water. We had held over the Tug of War until the open and defending champions Waimak Attack were looking strong but were held at bay by a very strong Airways who are now the land and water based Tug of war champs. Another great days racing was had by all and with some lovely sculptural birds as prizes to all our winning teams.

South Island Championship

The South Island Champs were held at Lake Hood on the 10th March. This was a good trial run for Aoraki before hosting the NZDBA Nationals at the end of March. The racing was interesting to say the least, and the weather set up a great deal of challenges for us. Schools prizegiving was held at the lake and after pack up the adults headed into Ashburton for another successful prize giving event at the Allenton Rugby Club, with many staying on to dance the night away. Great food too thanks to Swampy from the Islington Tavern.

Tu Meke were one again crowned South Island champs keeping a firm grip on the beautiful carved trophy. Congratulations to all of the season's winners and huge congratulations to everyone for just coming along to continue in the sport of dragon boating considering the challenges we have all faced this last year.

NZDBA Nationals March 31st

Aoraki hosted the NZDBA Nationals at Lake Hood. The weather was kind and the day was a great success with all visitors voting it one of the best nationals. Thank you to all of the Aoraki Board for their magnificent effort, to our volunteers and in particular Dale (Scruff) Hewinson for his mammoth efforts as always. Excellent racing, brilliant venue and fun after party and prize giving.

Financials

ADBA has again enjoyed strong financial success and through the responsible approach of the board in making hard decisions about the structure of events and the costs attached to these events. As always we have endeavored to offer the very best of value to our teams and to give back as much as possible. We remain in a strong position in terms of the assets we own and we continue to build on this asset base.

We have been very lucky with our funding applications, receiving \$4,796 from Fonterra Earthquake fund for the purchase of life jackets. We have also received \$46,347 from Pub Charity for the purchase of 6 ten man

boats and a trailer, the exchange rate and price increases from the supplier may see us unable to buy the trailer immediately but will be able to purchase this once our cash reserve position is better known.

Our income for the season including grants was \$86,271. Our season regatta costs were \$24,625 leaving a balance of \$61,646 of which \$51,143 is committed as per the grants allocated. Our treasurer's report will detail this further report.

Our Boats and Equipment Director will give a full report on our assets and their current state.

Conclusion

I am thrilled to have been involved with ADBA since its inauguration and despite the difficulties we have all faced to follow that up with another very successful season has been personally incredibly satisfying. ADBA has achieved all the goals it set for itself in remaining in a strong financial position and staging another major event, whilst growing the sport and its asset base, it continues to place dragon boating in Christchurch on a very firm footing and looks forward to expanding this success into the Nelson and West Coast regions.

I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of my fellow board members for their commitment and dedication, as without them none of this would have been possible.

Meri Gibson



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Directors' Annual Report

25 August, 2012

The following directors report on activities in their area. These reports supplement the Chair's report and the Treasurer's report submitted at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 25-August-12.

Secretary and Communications Report

Administratively, Aoraki continues on a stable footing, with a sound set of systems. Our physical assets are well established, and to match the 'things' we have grown enough knowledge to set up and run events and regatta with relative ease.

This coming year we face the prospect that our Event Director (Pete) may be accepted as an ATC trainee so we must now ensure his skills are transferred within the team. This may take the form of documenting things such as how to plan and assemble a Finish line scaffold tower, or the steps in laying a 500m course at Pegasus.

We continue to make Funding applications to organisations such as Pub Charity and Canterbury Community Trust and Fonterra for assets such as PFDs and boats, and this season we have been very successful. Aoraki DBA was registered under the Charities act in 2009 but we found that an administrative oversight meant it was revoked - we have applied for it to be reinstated.

Aoraki continues to leverage off resources to give the best to our paddlers. The aoraki-dragons.co.nz website is being regularly updated with content on past events, photo galleries, news stories etc. And our Gmail and _director_@aoraki-dragons.co.nz email networks continue to take numerous calls from individuals interested in joining teams etc.

Newsletters have also been difficult to generate during the season. Social media like Facebook, while only sporadically utilised, are tools we can make better use of, especially sites like Youtube, Instagram, Flickr, StumbleUpon, Delicious or Digg.

Noel Anderton,
Secretary, Aoraki Dragons

Development Report

Aoraki continue to deliver quality events, generally to a core of faithful teams, but we face the challenge of growing team (and paddler) numbers. The following avenues have been pursued, although they have generally been reactive rather than proactive opportunities.

General public promotion

- Sports Med Canterbury – approached us for information to start a team.
- Pegasus Open day – in early April Pegasus ran a school holiday program and we filled a dragon boat on two days.
- AvON River petition – an opportunity to support the Avon Corridor recovery program while promoting and raising the profile of dragonboating
- Spring Festival – coming up on 20-October, the chance to showcase how we can collaborate with Rowing, waka etc. Potentially a big audience.
- Join a Club – advertising in the Press

Schools

- Rangiora High School – Rick Smith is actively promoting DB to the School sports leaders.
- Greymouth High School – PC Helen Dawson is working hard on logistics on the coast. We have provided (CDHB) old paddles and will ship an old boat across. We have provided contacts for a sweep/coach, and Christchurch Schools providing advice on the issues she will face.
- Ashburton College – Noel promoted DB at a School open day, with about 30 interested students.
- Westmount School – an opportunity (on 24-Sept) to expose the sport to about 70-90 high school kids. Longer term prospects are relatively unlikely.

Corporate and Sports Clubs

- Aurecon Engineering are starting a team, based around paddle Reon Tiweka (ex Waimak)
- Holmes Consulting Engineers want us to run a corporate team building afternoon for them in November.

Noel Anderton,
Secretary, Aoraki Dragons
pp Development Director

Equipment Director Report

The last twelve months have been relatively quiet from an equipment point of view. The boats have remained in good condition over the season with no major problems.

The boat that had to have the transom and tail section repaired last year has another crack in it and needs to be repaired again. Several of the boats have big chips in the fiberglass where contact has been made during racing.

Once again it was necessary to repair the gelcoat on the bottom of the boats which have been used at Pegasus. The sand there is very abrasive and it just strips the gelcoat off back to the fiberglass underneath. Thank you to Marie and Noel for helping me to get this done last weekend.



Most of the advances we have made have been in equipment other than the boats.

We have done a lot of work to try to make the transport and set up of our equipment a lot easier.

We have constructed a number of stackable containers on wheels which we use to store the seats for the boats and the drums.

We have also made a rolling rack for the heads and tails.

Now that we have the use of the truck for transporting our gear, using these containers to roll the equipment on and off the truck makes life much easier.

The big news is that we have funding for 6 ten man boats. These small boats are fantastic to race in and very manoeuvrable.

We also have a funding application underway for a new rescue boat. This is a 5.5m RIB with centre console and a 60 Hp outboard. It will be a fantastic asset for setting up and providing safety cover for the racing.

Before the season begins we need to remove the tail sections from all the boats and seal them so that water does not get inside the hull. This wasn't done last year and some of the boats had a lot of water in them after the nationals.

Rick Smith, Equipment Director, ADBA