



Aoraki Dragon Boat Association Incorporated
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Chair's Annual Report

17 August, 2010

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I write this the third annual report for Aoraki Dragon Boat Association (ADBA). I am writing this report some months after the end of the third season of ADBA, so I rely on memory to recap the year that has been. This report is being presented our third AGM on the 18th August 2010.

ADBA was formed on the 16th August 2007, three years ago almost to the day, and what a fantastic three years it has been – the time has just flown by. The association is a not for profit organisation registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, and registered with charitable status through the IRD in early to comply with the regulations of the Charities Act 2005.

The Association is bound by its Constitution as attached and is governed by a board of Management.

The 2009-2010 board consisted of the following:

Chair: Meri Gibson
Secretary: Noel Anderton
Treasurer: Janice Melville
Boats/Equipment Director: Rick Smith
Events Director: Peter Mitchell
Junior Development Director: Scott Johnson
Special Interests Groups Director: ... Lorraine Flintoft
Development/Promotions Director: .. Julian Yee
Communications Director Rebecca Polachek

As Chair I have also been predominant in the role of PR/Communications. The role of websites usually sits with the PR/Comms director but our Secretary, Noel Anderton, has fulfilled this role. Noel maintains the website and manages the newsgroups of ADBA.

ADBA felt it was critical to retain many of the initial board members in their roles during the establishment phase and therefore did not commence the rolling termination clause until 2009. The following members were up for retirement at the last AGM and were re-elected to their posts:

- Noel Anderton
- Rick Smith
- Scott Johnson
- Peter Mitchell

The following members are up for 'retirement' at the 2010 AGM:

- Meri Gibson, Chair
- Lorraine Flintoft, Special Interests groups
- Julian Yee, Development/Promotions
- Rebecca Polachek PR/Comms

Rebecca has elected to resign from the board. In clause 22.3 all others are eligible for and are seeking re-election.

ADBA has again run a successful season whilst keeping the membership/regatta fees very low (\$3,150). ADBA has endeavoured to offer exceptional service and value for money to its member teams whilst maintaining a viable organisation and ensuring there were enough funds to grow the asset base.

ADBA has enjoyed strong financial success, and through the thorough and responsible approach of the board started the 2009-2010 season with a surplus of \$5,730.

ADBA now has a full complement of boats at its disposal with the seven (7) boats owned by ADBA and the three privately owned boats belonging to Abreast of Life, Tu Meke and Canterbury Paddling Club. ADBA is very grateful to these three private sports clubs for their generous use of the boats for regattas and training purposes.



ADBA did not buy any further assets in this season, but instead concentrated on making modifications to its custom-built trailer and in streamlining its storage facility and the management of events. ADBA also appointed a Development Director to help grow the sport. Whilst ADBA acknowledges the time it takes to grow the sport, it is also aware that the interest in the sport is starting to grow. There was a new team this last season; Waimak Attack and they are proving themselves to be a force to be reckoned with.

Last season saw the amalgamation of Screws Loose (Corrections Dept) and CPC (Canterbury Paddling Club). Both of these have been very strong clubs in the past and we certainly hope that once they are through this rebuilding stage that they once again are a strong force both off and on the water.

2009-10 was also a very good season for a number of Aoraki teams at all competitions. Tu Meke Dragons performed incredibly well, winning the South Island Championships and also taking home the silver medal at the Auckland Regional Championships and then taking out the silver medal at the NZDBA National Championships. These strong performances meant Tu Meke dominated the NZDBA league chart, as the top team in New Zealand. A well deserved placing with their consistent paddling throughout the season.

Abreast of Life stood out in the BC Division, winning gold in the South Island Champs, Silver at the Auckland Regional Champs and Bronze at the Nationals. Nationally, the Breast Cancer division shows strong growth.

And in the Schools division, Shirley Boys High School continues to dominate in local and Nationals, although St Bedes are keeping them honest. In the Girls division, Christchurch Girls High finished a very strong season with an outstanding win over arch rivals Epsom Girls from Auckland. Meanwhile other Christchurch teams such as Marian continue to impress.

Safe, secure storage of the boats continues to be critical, and Owles Terrace is proving to be a great asset for this, along with the clubroom facility and training at the doorstep. The season has worked really well from Owles with teams enjoying being able to see others training on the water and taking the opportunity to catch up with paddling mates. Negotiation of a joint lease on the site with the Christchurch City Council has staggered along and to date has not yet been fully finalized – we are in the interim continuing to take care of our facility and to keep the compound safe and secure... Our co lessees are the various waka teams represented by Otautahi Waka Hoe Association.

We on the board of ADBA are all incredibly proud of what we have been able to achieve in such a short space of time. In three years we have \$125,000 of fully paid up assets "in the shed", and now have a very strong asset base from which to grow the sport in the South Island.



Operations and Events

ADBA has run three very successful regattas for its member teams this season.

Race Regatta – Ice Breaker and Early Bird

The opening event for the year was the Icebreaker, which we introduced last season. From Noel Anderton's initial concept we are now refining this regatta so it is more fun and has greater participation. The regatta, on 6th December 2009, had more teams than the previous year and also more schools attended. The best part of the day was again the 2 km races with a turn at the 1k mark. It certainly proved to be a great deal of fun and with the much better start regime all teams had a good tilt at trying to pass others. Excellent endurance paddling by all who thought that they might not have been able to complete the race. This will become a permanent feature of the paddling calendar and the race lengths may even be extended!!!!

Our Early Bird Regatta was held on the 21st February for the adult and school teams. Time to try a new venue. We had long anticipated being able to paddle at Lake Pegasus and WOW what a venue this turned out to be.

The day was just stunning, glorious sunshine from start to finish. The proximity of the tents to the lake front and the start finish line was just brilliant. Even the kids swimming in the lake, although at times a bit dangerous, certainly added to the fun of the day.



The day for the other paddlers began with a huge flurry of activity as the many colourful tents were erected on the banks of the beautiful lake at Pegasus town. The regatta attracted 25 adult and school teams of up to 30 = 750 paddlers, coaches and sweeps.

Seeing our beautifully bedecked dragon boats plying the waters of the lake was fantastic against the backdrop of the mountains – quite stunning. The day was incredibly successful with many paddlers saying it was one of the best regattas they had attended in a long time.

We finished the day off with a shout of a bbq and drinks for all the paddlers – another way for Aoraki to give back to its members.

This was a colourful, energetic start to the competitive season.

South Island Championships

ADBA ran its third regatta, the South Island Championships on the weekend of the 6th March. Rather than have the adults and schools days split into two, we ran both grades on the same day. Many adult teams really enjoy the energy and spirit that the school teams bring. We all know what a fantastic venue we have for our racing at Lake Hood, just out of Ashburton. We had attendance from all crews plus *Simply the Breast* from Blenheim so approximately 800 paddlers, coaches and managers over the Saturday.



The event was also well attended with local spectators and we counted 200 cars at one stage, so assuming two per car, there were in the vicinity of 400

spectators. The Saturday was a little overcast at times but this was no deterrent to teams. The Schools' prize giving was held within an hour of the completion of the day with the presentation of the fiercely competed for cups and medals. An 'after party' was held at the Ashburton Hotel, where the adult cups, medals and trophies were presented. Aoraki had commissioned the carving of a new trophy, "South Island Champion". This carving was completed by Alex McLeod from Tu Meke. Alex is a master carver and he has produced a stunning piece to adorn anyone's trophy cabinet, fittingly the first recipients of the trophy were Tu Meke Dragons.

The Ashburton Hotel venue was very good for an after party and with a little fine tuning we knew it would be great for the upcoming National event at the end of the month. For many this event marked the end of their competitive season and a sad farewell to their many new friends...

The plaudits from all the competing teams were all loud and long for a very successful season, it all ended far too soon.

National Championships

Aoraki still had a task to complete before the year ended and that was to stage the NZDBA National Championships on behalf of NZ Dragon Boat Association. This event was held at Lake Hood on the weekend of the 27th and 28th March. The board converged on Ashburton on the 26th to complete the setup. This task had already been started by Peter Mitchell, Chris Sheppard and Riki Hopkinson, who had laboured away in 30 plus degrees. The set up day was just fantastic and at times too hot. Teams dropped by to inspect the race course and some even partook of a dip in the cool waters of the Lake. All proclaimed it to be a stunning venue.

Unfortunately Saturday dawned anything but sunny and definitely not warm at all. Racing was delayed due to the inclement weather. Finally a start was made and teams took to

the water for feverish competition. Racing was of a high standard and any issues that arose were dealt with in a professional and expedient manner. A very moving flower ceremony took place in shivering weather and this was followed by the very hotly contested championship finals. A brilliantly successful day was topped off by a fantastic after party and prize giving. This was all followed the next day by the schools championship.

Only two things spoilt the event, the cold weather (we couldn't do anything about that) and the low competing numbers (we couldn't do anything about that either), other than that AORAKI, its board, volunteers and teams should feel immensely proud of a brilliantly run, professional and exciting event. The photo finish, camera work, television coverage, live to air feeds, race commentary and resulting DVD have certainly set a very high standard for other event organisers to follow.

Trustees/Directors

There have been no changes to the directors of ADBA since the AGM on the 31st July 2009. Rebecca Polachek is retiring at the 2010 AGM and there is therefore at least one vacancy on the board. The rotational retirement plan came into effect at the 2009 AGM. All retiring directors at the 2010 AGM are eligible and willing to stand for re-election. All other directors are expected to stay in their positions until the next AGM in 2011.

Staff/Volunteers

There has been no staff in ADBA since its incorporation in 2007. The organisation has been run completely on a voluntary basis for the first two seasons with the board meeting once a month in the off-season and more regularly in the season.

ADBA undertook a strategic planning day in 2009 and developed a five-year plan from the outcomes of this day. ADBA identified the need for a Development Officer to grow the sport in the South Island, and appointed Peter Mitchell as an independent contractor in this role. ADBA continues to review the need for this role and will sub contract the services of a Development Director as needed to ensure the future viability of the growth of the sport.

ADBA has also sub contracted out the event management of its two major regattas, the Early Bird and the South Island Championships. The board and volunteers still do all the ground work but the day itself is managed independently and professionally by Sheila Paisey.

I would like to particularly give a massive vote of thanks yet again to Dale Hewison, whose dedication to dragon boating is legendary. He gives up every spare moment of his time to ensure teams get off to training on time, that the boats are all in good condition and steps in as a substitute sweep and coach whenever he is asked. ADBA acknowledges the huge input from its many volunteers over the last year and agrees that without

the dedication and support of those many volunteers the organisation would not exist today.

Fundraising

ADBA has endeavoured to acquire services either at no cost or very competitive rates and has budgeted to meet its obligations for the season from entry fees and therefore to eliminate the need to fundraise per se. ADBA has moved various motions throughout the year to apply to the many and varied charitable trust for funding. ADBA has previously had very good success in its applications but were limited this financial year.

ADBA wishes to acknowledge the support from each and every one of these organisations and we are extremely grateful for the ongoing support as we are well aware that without this support we would not find ourselves in the very strong financial position we have attained.

Publicity

ADBA had a fantastic response to its profile in the media. Several media releases were sent out and the uptake has again been fantastic. Dragon boating tends to draw very good response from the media – we have featured in newspaper and television articles and will continue to promote the sport via media releases.

Sponsors/Partners

ADBA has chosen not to be affiliated with any particular sponsor or partner this season as the objective has been to manage and run the season as cost effectively as possible and to determine from there whether we chose to offer sponsorship or naming rights to another party. ADBA is however very grateful for the support of the numerous grants in the past seasons and will certainly continue to display the appropriate banners and marketing material at any further events to acknowledge these tremendously generous grants.

Financial/Budget

ADBA has continued to keep its fees at the same low level as the previous season whilst offering excellent service to its member teams. Careful fiscal management has enabled us to end the season with a surplus of approx. \$7,500. This figure is after all assets have been fully paid for and there are no outstanding accounts. The asset base now totals \$125,000. I am very pleased to report that we have more than achieved our financial objectives with not only having another fantastic season but also returning a profit. The accounts for the end of the financial year based on the actual figures is attached and will be commented further by our treasurer.

Conclusion

I am thrilled to have been involved with ADBA since its inauguration and to follow that up with another very successful season has been personally incredibly satisfying. ADBA has achieved all the goals it set for itself, it has placed dragon boating in Christchurch on a very firm footing and looks forward to expanding this success into the Nelson/Marlborough, Dunedin and Southland regions.

The highlight of the 2009-2010 season has been to see establishment the sport grow even stronger throughout the South Island.

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
Chair

