

FAIRFIELD CANOE CLUB

*Celebrating 82 years
1919 – 2001*

Newsletter

WINTER ISSUE – AUGUST 2001

Fairfield members flying the flag



- Club history night •
- City race report • Coaching news •
- Dragonboating in Penang and China •



Fairfield Canoe Club Newsletter

The Fairfield Canoe Club newsletter is published five times per year.

Contribution deadline for next issue

15th November 2001

How to contribute

All contributions to the club newsletter are welcome – photos, articles, letters to the editor, humour, advertisements. Articles can be supplied on disk (Mac or PC). Disks and photos will be returned.

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EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Paddlers,

Welcome to the August edition of our newsletter. The days are getting longer again if not warmer and the winter marathon series is coming to an end. Although Fairfield may not be first on the points score we have enjoyed the racing and have been involving many new members and novice paddlers to the sport as reported by Shane in his article on the City race. The canoe polo teams, however, are getting competitive with the Amazons winning for the first time! The dragonboaters have also been paddling well with some great reports on their overseas trips. Stephen and Julie have written about their escape from Melbourne's winter to compete in Katherine.

We also have some reports of wet weekends, namely the Murray River sea kayak trip and the Mars Multi Sport Challenge event that was held in a torrential downpour. This did not dampen the enthusiasm for multi sport events as some members are already planning and training for the JLL Mt Buller Challenge which Fairfield members did well in last year. There is also talk of the Murray Marathon already and to assist with that the club is introducing some coaching seminars detailed in this newsletter. To help you keep track of these special events we have introduced a social calendar.

If I haven't stopped to have a chat to you on the river recently it is because all my powers of concentration were being used just to stay upright. See 'Under the Yarra' for the latest on K1 fever at Fairfield.

See you on the river,

Andrew McConnell, aka Mr Mavic.

Report from the Chair



by Tony Payne

This will be my last “report from the chair” as my two year stint as a Director comes to an end at the Annual General Meeting on 17th September. I strongly believe that in a voluntary organisation such as ours there is a need to continually get new blood into the management of the club. It is very easy to rely on the same few people to shoulder the responsibility and do all the work. I took on the role of Chairman with some clear objectives:

- To facilitate the development and implementation of a new club structure with all members being shareholders
- To ensure that all members were able to vote and participate in the management and organisation of the club
- To establish and implement a plan for the development of the club facilities.

I feel confident that the first 2 of these objectives have been achieved with our new shareholding structure coming up for its first anniversary and our membership level moving steadily upwards past the 170 mark. In addition to the usual Annual General Meeting we are now able to use postal ballots to reach all members rather than just those who can make it to meetings. This enables the club to improve and modify its rules on an ongoing and timely basis. We will continue to hold meetings for major changes to rules so that discussion on the proposals can take place.

On the third objective I am disappointed that we have not yet achieved all that we planned.

Our short-term plan included:

- Repair of the damaged tiles in the showers
- Replacement of the western side fence
- Repair of the damaged western side path
- Upgrade of the driveway and parking area
- Installation of a kitchen

Although members would have noticed little activity on some of these this has not been from lack of endeavour. We have finalised designs for the side fence, side path and driveway and are making final changes to the kitchen design. Unfortunately obtaining reasonable and competitive quotations for the work has seriously slowed down our progress. We are still working toward the implementation of these projects and hopefully their completion before the busy summer paddling season.

For the new Board in September there will be further challenges to maintain and develop the club facilities. Such issues as the long term improvement/expansion of the changeroom and showers, the upgrade and modification of the racking facilities to ensure safe handling and storage of boats at higher levels and the lining of the inside of the club room walls will all need to be considered.

One very pleasing aspect over the last 2 years has been the great work done by the Social Committee (coordinated by Rose Curtis). Last year’s Big Bash was a great success and we are looking forward to an even better one this year. By the time you read this hopefully you will also have enjoyed a night out at the movies – helping to raise funds for the kitchen and to assist our canoe polo players.

On the paddling side Fairfield continues to be very active. Marathon is our obvious strength and although we are third on the club points championship we have had fantastic participation. An example of this was at the recent City race where a relay was conducted for the first time. We managed to have 27 participants in the 2 relays alone, almost double any other club.

Under the guidance of Brendan Kenna canoe polo has started to flourish and Fairfield is now represented by 2 teams. There are also paddlers interested in sprint racing, touring and sea kayaking and there are enormous possibilities for development in these areas.

Finally I encourage all members to contribute ideas, time and enthusiasm to the club over the next year. Your contribution, no matter how small, will go a long way to make your time at the club a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Cover photo: courtesy Tom Ohman – outside the club showing the flag.

Come along to the club history night on Thursday 1st November to find out about this great photograph. See page 19 for details of the night.

To all Members

Important Notice

Boat Racking

Since 1999 there have been several isolated incidents where boats have fallen from the boat racks at the club, apparently due to strong gusts of wind. As a result, the Board is currently looking at engineering methods to minimise this occurrence and would welcome member's ideas on how to eliminate the chance of boats falling from the racks.

In addition it is necessary for the Board to confirm the following details:

- All members storing boats at FCC do so at their own risk.
- Any damage to boats in racks from wind damage or similar causes will not be paid by the club.
- FCC does not hold insurance cover for member's boats stored at the club. It is each member's responsibility to take out their own insurance for their boats as they see fit. Members who own high value boats are strongly encouraged by the Board to take out their own insurance for the appropriate level of cover.
- The Board currently provides stable metal racks for storage of boats. Some of these racks are fitted with carpet or similar material to prevent surface damage to the boats. It is each member's responsibility to secure their boats to the racking as they see fit. One method already used by some members is to use strapping to hang boats. Other members have tied their boats to the racks with rope or cord.
**Note that members should not use elasticised material with solid fittings such as 'octopus straps' due to the known eye injury risk they present to users.
- No boats should be stored at the club without the express permission and rack allocation by the boat racking coordinator (currently Tony Payne).
- All boats stored at the club should be clearly identified by the owners name. Boats without names will be moved to the highest levels to free up space for boats with clear identification.

We trust that all members will take careful note of the above information and act accordingly. In the meantime we invite ideas and contributions from any member regarding improvements to the existing racking arrangements.

Regards

Tony Payne

Chairman

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Fairfield Amazons

Winners of the greatest of all battles – the battle for the wooden spoon!

by Sarah Flanigan

The anticipation of the opening game, the roar of the crowd, the water splashing along the edge of that most roman of all baths, the Brunswick pool, the look of steel in each of the Amazonian warriors eyes...the blow of the whistle, the throw of the ball, THE CHARGE.

At that stage reality kicked in with the team still sitting there at the end of the pool with me screaming for them to paddle up and join me, several of the team attempted to do so and started what we have now fondly labelled the snorkel roll, honed to a fine art by our very own Kelly (Kaos) O'Shannassy. (It is worth saying that by the end of the season this Kamikaze chick was steering her boat into the most fiercesome of tussles for the ball without a snorkel in sight).

The first game passed in a blaze of confusion and I think many of us thought by the end of it what the #&?! are we doing here! However, the enthusiasm never waned for the whole season and with Brendan Kenna discovering the 'Idiots Guide to Canoe Polo' on the internet the team started to understand why the people on the side of the pool in black and white were waving their hands around like gesturing madmen.

Julie Camilleri showed early promise as the David Beckham of the Amazons and saved some amazing throws at goal by the opposition. Shane Cavagna soon revealed himself as the charging king, happy to play chicken time and again with intimidating Achilles-like foes.

As the season progressed it was amazing to see the confidence of each person develop. Phil Griffiths started with the attitude of "I'll sub off first, you guys go on" and this quickly changed to "Guys, I am going to go straight through their defence so get yourself ready to pass the ball up."

I admit that we may not have won a game for the whole season, but we drew several times, and the win lose results don't reveal how close the games always were. For instance, the impressive teamwork of Lisa Ellis and Allison Haines passing the ball down the pool resulting in some awesome goals should not be overlooked.

It is a testament to each of the players that we begin the new season with the original team intact. Together with Brendan we believe canoe polo is a new facet of the club that has enormous potential. I think with a little bit of training and determination Fairfield can field teams to be reckoned with.

Gladiators ready for battle again!

by Brendan Kenna

The Gladiators ventured into E grade last season with little equipment and survived against some fast and skilled opponents.

When the dust had settled we managed to win 2 games, draw 3 and battle out the other 9 games – managing to stay clear of last position. We are hoping that we can survive the big thumbs down of relegation and use this experience towards a big and successful spring season.

After 5 players from last season couldn't play it was always going to be tough. We had great contributions from Greg Blackman as our attacking forward, Alex Lesniowski as our much improved link man, Paul Kenna as our besieged goalie, Rachel Heath as our Iron Woman with the best esky roll in the team, Rohan Mostert from Whitehorse CC a creative midfielder and myself the Capsizing Captain Coach.

We had some welcome support from Amazon players who filled in for us including Shane Cavagna, Julie Camilleri, Lisa Ellis, Kelly O'Shannassy, Phil Griffiths and Allison Haines.

We finished off the season with presentations at our social headquarters at Bridies in Brunswick and the spirit was there for both teams to keep rolling – so to speak. The Flounders from Northcote Ivanhoe deservedly won the E grade premiership over the Bohica team from Whitehorse.

We need the club's support so we can proudly represent Fairfield in Canoe Polo. Please support our fundraisers, as we are very short on equipment. If anyone would like to have a go at polo or just learn some of the skills I will be arranging some training sessions shortly, which I'll put up on the board at the clubhouse. Or just call me at home on 9836 5522.

On the Wallaby

by Julie Perriam. Photographs Stephen Beitz.

On the Queen's Birthday weekend Stephen and I participated in the Red Cross Katherine Canoe Marathon, paddling 81 kilometres over two days.

The race attracted about 100 competitors including paddlers from Mt Isa, Alice Springs and a few from interstate. As well as experience canoeists, a large number of less experienced paddlers attempted the race.

The Katherine Canoe Marathon started in 1982 and has become more successful each year. Apart from being a challenging canoeing event, the marathon is the largest fundraising project for the Katherine Red Cross.

The section of the Katherine River on which the marathon is held consists mainly of long deep water holes separated by sets of rapids. This year the condition of the river was higher than in 1998, the last time we attempted this race.

The weather was very hot, overnight temperatures around 25° and during the day temperatures reaching the high thirties. Even the locals were complaining about the heat. We both suffered during our lead-up preparation to the race, paddling most of the legs only two days before race day.

Day One

Beginning day one under the High Level Bridge the course runs 47 kilometres to King River Junction. There are many hazards including trees that have been up-rooted and lying across the river, substantial standing waves in fast flowing water and rocky rapids. Another hazard crocodiles – the Parks and Wildlife Commission Rangers believed that they had caught most of the crocodiles! We saw many freshwater crocodiles during our practice days but not on race day.

At the Low Level Weir most of the competitors jumped the weir, approximately two kilometres from the start, but we decided to portage not wanting to damage the rudder so close to the start of the race. This is a great spot for spectators to watch the many spills. There are also plenty of spectators at many of the fast flowing chutes such as Galloping Jacks and Carbeen Rapids.

Day Two

Day two the course continues downstream to Limestone Creek and returns to King River Junction, a distance of 34 kilometres.

Although we were the only K2 mixed open, we were very happy with our results as we broke the record by approximately 16 minutes.



Stephen and Julie paddling through Galloping Jacks. Photographer unknown.

The Kimberley Adventure

With the Katherine race over and my mother on board, who had never camped before, we were all looking forward to our Kimberley adventure.

Departing Katherine we travelled west to the Gregory National Park to spend our first night 'roughing' it. Only staying one night we topped up supplies in Kununurra, before heading south for Turkey Creek and then into Purnululu National Park (the Bungle Bungles). The turnoff to the park is 55 kilometres of rough dirt that takes 2–3 hours to negotiate through Mabel Downs cattle station. Only 4WD's are allowed on this track, however the rough ride was well worth the effort. We counted 93 creek crossings along this road!

The Bungle Bungle Range is renowned for its striking sandstone domes striped with orange and grey bands. The range is one of nature's masterpieces – a vast maze of domes and narrow canyons. We booked a helicopter ride to enjoy the spectacular view from above. The helicopters take three passengers at a time and have no doors!

We spent one day hiking into Echidna Chasm, Frog Hole Gorge and Mini Palms Gorge. The next day we walked around the Beehive Domes and up Picaninny Creek to the 'elbow'. In the evening we watched a Bungles sunset.

Departing Purnululu National Park we headed north to the Gibb River Road travelling through the Cockburn Range. The Gibb River Road is the only land access to the vast and remote regions of the northwest Kimberley and is suitable only for 4WD vehicles. We made a small detour to visit Emma Gorge on El Questro Station, but didn't stay as there was a charge for parking the car! Back on 'The Gibb,' and just before fording the Pentecost River,



Hiking up Picaninny Creek, Purnululu National Park.

we got a flat tyre. We headed for Jack's Waterhole on the Durack River to repair the tyre. This is a great place for fishermen as there is no danger from saltwater crocodiles.

From the Gibb River Road we turned north onto the Kalumburu Road staying at Drysdale River Station, a working cattle station, one of the more isolated parts of the Kimberley.

We continued north to the Mitchell Falls, crossing the King Edward River before making the climb to the top of the unique Mitchell Plateau and hiking to Little Mertens Falls, Big Mertens Falls and the magnificent Mitchell Falls.

Travelling south we headed to Windjana Gorge and Tunnel Creek. We waded through the 750 metre tunnel which is carved out of the limestone range by flowing water. You need to carry a torch and wear shoes on your feet. Near the centre of the cave the roof has collapsed and is the home of a colony of bats. Small freshwater crocodiles are sometimes seen in the tunnel where they feed on small fish.

On sealed road at last we visited Fitzroy Crossing and then headed west to Derby, where from the wharf you can see the highest tides in the southern hemisphere.



Testing the new vehicle – one of the many river crossings in the Purnululu National Park.

We enjoyed a scenic flight out of Derby over the intriguing patterns of the marsh flats, towards the thousand islands and remote bays of the Buccaneer Archipelago and the Horizontal Waterfalls.

We visited Cable Beach which is the most famous of Broome's natural attractions. Stretching for over 20 kilometres along the Indian Ocean coastline, its turquoise ocean and warm sand make a day at the beach very hard to resist.

From Broome, leaving the Kimberley behind us, we headed southeast to explore the gorges in the Karijini National Park set in the Hamersley Range in the heart of the Pilbarra. This park offers spectacular rugged scenery and the reddest dirt – there was not a single blade of grass to camp on.

On the west coast of WA we stayed in Exmouth spending a wonderful day snorkelling in the Ningaloo Marine Park. It is the only large reef that occurs so close to the Australian land mass and it is WA's longest coral reef.



Mitchell Falls on the Mitchell Plateau.

From there we visited Denham (Shark Bay), Francois Peron National Park, Monkey Mia, Carnarvon and finally arriving in Perth.

A quick hello to Chris and Brian Troy (former FCC members) before heading home to Melbourne. At the Head of the Bight the waters were transformed into a marine nursery with the activity of the visiting Southern Right Whales and their calves.

Our holiday went according to plan with no real hiccups and in particular, the flights over the Bungles and Buccaneer Archipelago were unbelievable and should not be missed under any circumstances. In all, we had an absolutely fantastic holiday travelling over 14,000 kilometres in five weeks!

If you want to have a look at some of the best scenery and visit some ancient landscapes experience the Kimberley.

Inland Sea Kayaking

by 'A Paddler'. Photographs Roger Tralaggan.

Mission

Weekend sea kayak trip around Rutherglen (Winery Boat crawl).

The plan

3 days of leisurely paddling along the Murray, stopping at a few wineries. Sea kayaks full of camping gear, but sufficient room left for our wine purchases.

The event

Day 1 – Arrive at Albury to warm sunny weather and a film crew waiting on river banks. Still can't believe how a news piece on fish is more interesting than a winery tour by boat. Paul demonstrates exceptional skill in converting what looked like a tent on steroids into an inflatable sea kayak.

We set off full of optimism and heavy kayaks. My optimism and everyone else's enjoyment deteriorated rapidly when I realised that I could not steer Paul's kayak. After a few kilometres and lots of grumbling I finally mastered the steering and we were away. The rest of the day was spent paddling at a leisurely pace enjoying some great scenery. We didn't make it to the designated campsite but found a lovely beach to get a roaring fire going. We were well fed by camp cook Rachel that night.

Day 2 – Another great day's paddling. Big expectations, lunch at a winery. The winery is marked on the map, we think we know where we are on the map, but somehow we have paddled past the winery. Back on the water after a quick lunch and the weather has deteriorated. We have planned a campsite for tonight and are paddling hard to make it before dark. Just when we are closing in on the campsite the heavens open. Tired, cold and very wet we opt for a closer campsite, and luckily find the town picnic ground with a shelter. Our 5th paddler joins us, having driven up from Melbourne. We have dinner at the pub. Paul discovers a masseur in the town and we file in one by one for a neck and shoulder massage.

Day 3 – A breathtakingly beautiful morning greets us. It's cold and foggy but the sun is creeping in. Four paddlers set off for the final day's journey and I take the car to the next campsite. The plan was to finish the day's paddling at Pfeiffers winery. But in spirit of the journey we ran out of time. We did manage a brief winery tour, but by car.

Thanks to Tony and Lofty for lending us their sea kayaks. We had a wonderful weekend, and still managed to drink a few good reds.



The intrepid adventurers: Jim Anderson, Roger Tralaggan, Paul McKay, Rachel Heath and Jenny Hill.



A beautiful sunny day enticed Jenny to work on her tan.



What is Rachel doing?

The Cappuccino Run

by Natalie Sherlock

9.30 Saturday morning, rain, hail or shine at the Club House for a paddle down to Studley Park Boathouse.

The cappuccino run consists of two types of paddlers. There are those who perform a gruelling paddle and a refuel at Studley Park boathouse; or alternatively others who enjoy a leisurely paced paddle and de-stress from the working week and indulge in a *caffè e torta*.

Recent highlights have included a "doing a Rachel," where a person by that name on attempting to get into her boat at Studley Park slithered over duck poo and mud, all the way down the wooden boat ramp until she fell into the water (we hope she didn't swallow any of that fine eau de Yarra.) There is a sign banning swimming from the landing, which Rachel repeatedly ignores.

One recent Saturday, the wettest in over 2 months saw a large group turnout who were rewarded with the sight of several instant waterfalls that sprang up after heavy rain.

Recently there has been much planning of race strategies, sorting out relay teams and selection of partners over a latte or two.

All are welcome to come and join us, especially beginners and those new to the club as a great way to meet other FCC members. Or maybe you just want to dust off the boat and get back into paddling. There is often someone in need of a doubles partner. The more experienced members of the club are happy to lend a hand or offer friendly advice. Several of the club boats have recently been fixed up so even not having a boat is no longer an excuse.

Join the FCC fashion parade of thermal wear in various shapes and sizes. Bring your favourite hat and a warm jacket to put on while sitting sipping cappuccinos. We can always be found under the umbrellas, or enjoying the winter sun sipping warm lattes, cappuccinos or hot chocolates, so see you there.

If you have any questions please contact me, Natalie Sherlock on 9523 0235.

Win! Win! Win! Mystery Paddler Competition



Can you identify this Fairfield Canoe Club member?

If so, write your answer on a sheet of paper and send it to:

The Editor, FCC Competition Officer,
15 Hotham Street, Collingwood 3066
or hand directly to Andrew at
a Sunday morning session.

Don't forget to include your name on the entry as well. Note family or relatives of the photographed member are excluded from this competition.

Entries close last mail 30th September.

Congratulations to Margaret Buck on correctly identifying that photo of the long haired, unshaven youth to be Peter Thompson.

Keep your eyes open when you are around the club to see if you can identify who the Mystery Paddler above is. His/her identity will be revealed in the next issue.

For Sale

Brand new Competition Kayaks
G Force Carbon Fibre 214cm paddle
Marvellous paddle
but too short for owner

Contact Kelly on 9645 8758

Fairfield goes to China

by Tim Scott. Photographs Craig Waghorn.

The call came one autumn night just before Easter. The Heather Brae team needed a couple of extra dragon boat paddlers for a boys trip to China, leaving in two weeks time. Ten seconds think time...have passport, re-schedule work...count me in.

China – the land of people, history, culture and revolutions. A vast country filled with people and farms. Farm plots tilled by ox and plough. Farm plots that run right up to the bitumen edge on roads and freeways, then ring around the dam walls of fish farms. Once you leave the city you are in farming country, when you leave farming country you are in a city.

Yichang was the first city we stopped in – a minor rural city on the banks of the Yangtze river, about 1000 kilometres inland from Shanghai. Large (by Chinese standards) the city was not, but warm and festive the 2 million or so locals were towards our multicultural bunch of Aussies.

The dragonboat races were part of a major city festival and these folks really know how to turn on a festival. Banners and streamers lined the major cavalcades, while on race day 100,000 people lined the racecourse.

International dragonboat festivals in China are a bit like a mix between the Aussie Rules Grand Final and the Melbourne Cup. There are two hour opening ceremonies, live national TV broadcasts, professional race teams, big crowds and all the whiz bang that you would expect at such an event. Then the Melbourne Cup attitude kicks in and no one really cares about the racing. “The Festival” is just as important as the race.

Unfortunately our sweep got a bit caught up in the atmosphere of the “Three Gorges Storm” Dragonboat festival (April 28-29 2001). On race day he didn’t steer straight nor stay in our race lane. No one told the steer that you have to stay in the lane, so instead of placing second we were disqualified from the 1000 metre race.

There was time to make amends on the second race day. A 76 kilometre jaunt down the Yangtze.

For anyone who has ever raced dragon boats over the normal 500 metre course, it was just like doing one hundred and fifty two races in a row (for Murray Marathon paddlers think Day 2).

We placed a respectable 4th in this race – a top effort from our crew.

The second regatta was held at Jingzhou 200 kilometres downstream from Yichang (May 1–2 2001).



Dragonboats ready to be launched.

The people of Jingzhou were every bit as friendly as their countrymen in Yichang. Being one of the “28 westerners” in town for the week meant large city anonymity did not apply. Everywhere you went people recognised you. A smile is the international greeting of friendship and these people showed many smiles.

The race venue in Jingzhou was fantastic with 500 metre and 800 metre races held on the moat of a walled city. After a three hour opening ceremony extravaganza, the local teams showed that they train for 500 metre races and kicked our butt. This hurt because all of us still had sore butts from the 76 kilometre race. The 800 metre races were more our style and we won the “B” final, posting the 3rd fastest time of the day. If only we had made the “A” final...maybe next year...

Paddling proud in Penang

by Julie Varcoe Cocks. Photographs Roger Tralaggan.

The Melbourne Dragonflies Women's Dragonboat Team continue their successful international paddling career.

Background

The Dragonflies formed in 1999 and in their first competition successfully won the Community Cup at the 1999 International Melbourne Dragonboat Festival. The team went on to compete for Australia in China, later in the year placing in the top 3 positions.

The Dragonflies again returned triumphantly in 2000, competing in Melbourne and Sydney. In 2001, the team continued their international campaign in Penang.

2001 Melbourne women's champions

The Dragonflies started training in December twice a week. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings, you would see the 20 women in motion on the Yarra River. Coach, Joe Alia, continued to remind the ladies on the needed Big C "Commitment," if they were to be successful 2001 campaign.

In March 2001, the Dragonflies again competed at the International Dragonboat Festival. Paddles in motion, the ladies bonded together in unison as one on the water. The months of training were well rewarded.

The Dragonflies won the Women's Final by 3 boat lengths over New Zealand – showing they were a team to be reckoned with.

After the successful win on the Yarra River, the Dragonflies set their sights to compete for Australia in Penang. The training continued into the dark winter months – again you would see the team paddling at night, the paddles in motion slamming

into the cold Yarra River water. But the atmosphere was alight with the fires from the Casino's gas torches guiding the boat on its way. The team's spirit was strong and still the Big C prevailed. From the Southbank pathway, passers by would see the team practise their starts and sprints – paddling from one bridge to the next, in between the traffic of the rowers.

The Dragonflies also were active with their various campaigns off the water. A fundraising committee was formed which arranged a film night at the Westgarth Theatre and Trivia night in Carlton. The funds raised were put towards uniforms designed by the uniform committee in black, silver and red. Sponsorship was also obtained from Porsche and donations for raffles from other kind contributors.

Paddling in Penang

In June, the Dragonflies journeyed to Penang flying overnight via Singapore – in their red and black glory. Accompanying the ladies was the Australian Men's Navy Team, who was also competing from Down Under.

On Thursday, the team relaxed and adjusted to the warm Malaysian climate. Friday morning, the competitors were given a guided tour around the sites of Georgetown visiting a batik factory, temples and local markets. The locals were very friendly and amused by the Aussie Aussie, Aussies...

In the afternoon, the teams trained on the racecourse situate on a reservoir, with the Dragonflies being for first on the water, still adjusting to the lightening and stormy conditions.

Continued next page



Paddling proudly in Penang....continued

On Saturday racing commenced – the first event was the mixed that was used as a practise run by the team, placing a male, Roger the photographer, in the back of the boat for his maiden voyage. In the afternoon, a series of 12-person boat races were held – fun events and something new to the team.

The Dragonflies made their finals and did the Aussies proud in spirit and song.

The teams competed in the finals on Sunday. The Dragonflies placed a close 4th by 0.3 of a second to Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong in the Women's final.

Sunday night was a huge celebration for all the teams at the victorious street party and dinner. Teams from all nationalities put on skits and danced to national songs. Competitors from many countries exchanged shirts, stories and gifts in the spirit of good sportsmanship.



Joe Alia steering the Dragonflies.

A special thank you goes to the Dragonflies Coach, Joe Alia, for all his support and training with the team over the past 3 years. Special mention to Rose Curtis for her fundraising efforts and continued enthusiasm. Fiona in her part in arranging the uniforms ensuring the team looked the part and of course, Captain, Gail Williams for her continued leadership.

In 2001, the ladies have enjoyed a successful campaign on and off the water – meeting many new challenges and friends.

What are the Dragonflies doing now? Well a few of the newer team members have continued their paddling adventures by taking up kayaking and completing the Sunday morning Zoli's sessions. Rose, Julie and Joe continue competing and have represented Fairfield in the Winter series...planning is also underway for dragon boating expeditions in 2002!

Club member profile – Tony Payne

by Michael Loftus-Hills

At the end of his two year term as President we talk to Tony Payne about canoeing, horses and life at FCC.

When did you join FCC and why?

I joined FCC in 1985 after signing up with Zoli's beginners course to prepare for my first Murray Marathon. The Fairfield A frame was just an A frame – no floors, upstairs, showers or much else.

Can you tell us about your paddling career so far? What is your favourite boat type?

I successfully completed the Murray that year with Peter McLean (no longer a member) in a TK2 and recall we had a fabulous but tiring time. We came in 19th which we considered a great success as there were 72 boats in our class that year. It seems that these days the numbers have significantly reduced – a pity really as the challenge of completing the full distance is something to be treasured. Since then I have completed one more Murray, full distance, in a C7 and am yet to try the relay version.

For many years my preferred boat was a TK1 but even though I still haven't mastered the K1 I prefer this to the TK1. Have also had great times Dragon Boating in Australia, Singapore, NZ and Canada, paddling a sea kayak locally and in Alaska and more recently have spent most time in a TC2. I find each type of paddling enjoyable and I guess as I get older and slower the types of boat that allow me to look around and enjoy the scenery are becoming the preferred option.

Can you describe some unusual things that have happened when you have been at FCC.

I have had several encounters with wildlife whilst at Fairfield. Typically most have been with tiger snakes and fish but the unusual ones include finding and helping to rescue a horse which had wandered into the river and couldn't get out. My most memorable encounter was when at twilight on Zoli's straight a duck flew out from the bushes and struck me in the head. Not sure who got the biggest surprise – me or the duck which ended up flapping around in the bottom of my kayak.

I have witnessed many funny paddling episodes but one that I recall vividly was when Lofty purchased a new paddle and was having a bit of trouble with it. Stephen Beitz happened along and in his usual style told Lofty he'd love to have a go



Tony and Holly Payne.

and sort out the problem. One stroke later Stephen was in the Yarra muttering something about the wrong angle...

Why did you decide to become a director and president?

This is my second go at being Director, the first being back in the late 80s early 90s. In 1999 I thought it was time that I stopped stirring the Directors and therefore put my hand up to have a go at making a difference. This coincided with a strongly held belief that all members at Fairfield should be on the same footing so the opportunity arose to be part of the Board to introduce this significant structural change. As I had been a critic of the Board in the past I felt it was important that I take on the responsibility of the chairmanship. Fortunately the rest of the Board allowed me to do this and over the last 2 years have taken on the challenge to the best of my ability. Although at times I have found the challenge frustrating and time consuming, overall the experience has been a positive one for me and I hope I have been able to contribute something back to the club that has given me so much over the last 16 years. Perhaps, in the future, when my family time commitments reduce I will again put my hand up to be part of the Board.

What has it been like. Achievements and disappointments?

I believe the main achievement of the Board over the last 2 years has been to establish the new shareholding structure for the club, allowing all members to have an equal say. Following this I have been very encouraged by the increased participation of club members in the running of the club. Peoples willingness to be part of the Social Committee, the Awards Committee, the Newsletter Committee and the Winter Marathon race coordination have all been positive steps forward.

My main disappointment has been the length of time that we have taken to implement changes to the club facilities. I didn't imagine the difficulty in moving these projects forward so hopefully the new Board in September will be able to address these issues. The only other disappointment has been the lack of progress we have made in streamlining the administrative procedures for the club. Whilst the financial systems are slowly on the improve there is enormous scope to improve the membership systems, another challenge for the new Board.

Has being a father changed your paddling? ie ability to paddle etc.

The time available and spent paddling by both Robin and I since becoming parents has significantly reduced. We both feel it is important to maintain some semblance of physical fitness but the logistics of getting to the water and looking after the 2 children has meant a major curtailing of activities. Perhaps the new Board can look into the establishment of a creche at the club for those parents with young children? We certainly want Lucy and Holly to feel comfortable being at the club and around us whilst we are paddling so that perhaps in the future they can pursue the activity should they desire.

When will Lucy be having her first paddle?

She had her first paddle in the C7 late last year and thoroughly enjoyed herself. I am currently investigating the availability of a 'joey' kayak (small sized K1 for youngsters).

Welcome to the following new club members

Cheryl Angus	Kathryn Lee
Gregory Bauld	Damon Lewis
Rod Brooks	Cameron Lindley
Joanne Chapman	Livia Lo Giudice
Bruce Edwards	Emma Martin
Paul Engellener	Aaron Peterson
Rosemary Fisher	Rita Phillips
Stephen Gadsden	Mark Pitman
Jenny Hitchcock	Susan Ramus
Valentina Inserra	Cameron Rennie
Louise Juracich	Michael Ryan
Michael Kane	Michelle Scanlon
Vaughan Koops	Mark Snell
Paul Kuna	Ian Wells

The Mars Challenge

by Annette Kendall, Glenn Anderson and Melanie Watson

The preparation

Collecting the mail for the club I received an envelope promoting a triathlon event from Ballarat to Barwon Heads – 21km run, 77km bike ride and a 30km paddle – it was to be the inaugural Mars Challenge. A couple of days later having put some flyers on the club noticeboard I sent an e-mail around to a few buddies to see if anyone was interested in entering as a team. I hoped to get maybe a couple of teams together and make it a bit of a fun weekend away – however, I appear to have more crazy friends than I thought, and before I knew it we had 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 teams!

Everyone under took to train in their own unique ways – some reckoned that actually running/riding/paddling would be excellent training whilst others figured that salsa dancing, drinking, smoking and late nights was the best preparation. Along with the actual “athletes” we engaged the help of a couple of land crew to help look after us. With accommodation booked at a local caravan park basically walking distance from the start line and a restaurant booked for a pre-race feed on the Saturday night we were all ready to go.

Saturday night proved bigger than expected for some – the food was good, and the wine and company excellent – so in many cases the sleep was lacking.

In the beginning there was a run

At 5am the runners were starting to rise and prepare for their assault of Mt Buninyong – it was a cold, dark damp morning with a light drizzle of rain. As we made it into Sovereign Hill for the start in the main street the rain started to get a bit heavier – and as the gun fired to signal the start of the race the runners headed off up the muddy main Street. By the time they had done their lap of Sovereign Hill they were splattered in mud – but still in high spirits as they headed off into the distance.

Waiting at the run/bike changeover was very wet and cold – the rain had really started to set in and the ground was very soggy. Chris Sando and I made it to the changeover about 30 mins before the rest of our team riders turned up – we had really been beginning to wonder if they had stopped off at the warm cosy pub on the way and figured that given the weather the pub was the better option (and it has to be said who could have blamed them!).

As the first of our runners, Rod Mason, came through there was mayhem in the changeover area trying to get warm clothes ready and get Chris off on the bike leg. All of the runners put in a sterling effort – and despite the mud and the rain seemed to have enjoyed the challenge they had just faced.

Then there was a ride

The bike leg was a great course – we knew this as a few weeks prior Chris, Glennyboy and I had ridden the course on a beautiful sunny day with a great tail wind all the way. Needless to say conditions were slightly different on the race day – torrential rain and a headwind all the way. However, all our gallant riders made it up and over all the hills and down all the steep slippery hills without any falls and to the finish in under three and a half hours – an excellent effort. The final results would in fact show Sando had managed to lead in our teams, and that all of our female members had put in sterling efforts and had in fact beaten a number of the male members – but we won't dwell on that too much otherwise we will have to pay for more counselling for Evan and Rusty!! Some of us were however in a worse state than others. The Paddy medical team sprung into action helping me into Dan's 4 wheel drive, wrapping me in a convenient doona (by the way Dan why was it that you always kept a doona in the back of your car!?) and dashing off to the local pub for a few beers – I mean hot chocolates.

Finally there was a paddle

Whilst I was defrosting our gallant paddlers were off down the river towards the newly appointed finish line – due to the horrendous conditions it had been decided that it was too dangerous to paddle across the lake so the event would finish just before the lake crossing. Well, most of our gallant paddlers were off, poor Rose was going around in circles due to a rudder problem. After trying to band aid a fix and battle against the elements eventually decided that even if she did make it to the end all the officials would be long gone and in a warm shower. All our paddlers, whether in K1 or TK1 stayed upright, (which I reckon is a great effort as I'm sure I'd have gone for a swim) and managed to make it through all the portages etc etc in one piece without getting lost. No mean feat as apparently there were no markers to show where to go. Unfortunately the

finish was a bit of a washed out, muddy location choc-a-bloc with cars with soaking wet people huddled in them. One would have thought that having made it to the finish line the challenges of the day were over – but no, the last challenge was still in store – the venue for the after event barbecue had been changed. So some people headed home having had their fill of being cold and wet for the day and in need of a hot shower – others made it to the venue to eat and drink and relive the experiences of the day and hear all the other stories...

Glenn's big adventure

Glennyboy Anderson had signed up to do the run of 20kms over the top of Mount Buninyong – but there was a problem Glennyboy had never run this far in his life.

He had been training and was rather relaxed about the whole thing, even having a beer or two the night before, until the morning of the event. Lining up at 7am in the morning very cold and wet with all these professional athletes with their gloves, Vaseline (what do you do with that) and stretching/warm up routines, etcetera. Glennyboy was just there to run in his old pair of runners and Paddy rashy, he had never seen this type of professional preparation previously and wondered what the hell he was doing there. Glennyboy prepared himself with a big breakfast but realised a few minutes in that running is a bit different kayaking, your stomach bounces up and down when you run. And then he also realised that kayaking the Murray downstream was a lot different to running up Mt Buninyong in mud and slush after nine tenths of the crowd had squelched up the narrow bush track before you. And on the Murray Glennyboy always had a partner in the boat. But by this stage Glenny and Kirby O'Brien had found each other in the bush and decided to team up to encourage each other across the line. Glennyboy was starting to realise what the Vaseline was for. Finally at the top of the mountain they had 5 kilometres to go of which much was downhill and crossed the line to pass the baton onto their team mates.

Glennyboy then decided to follow the race along for a bit giving himself an hour and a half to get back to a friend's wedding at 4pm not realising that this day was to be the wettest in the history of the universe and that Geelong Road would be cut off for 4 hours. Glennyboy slipped into the church just as the bride said I do, missing his chance to speak up or forever hold his piece, and then his shins were so sore from the run that he couldn't hit on the bridesmaids for a dance at the reception.

The view from the side of the road

by Melanie Watson

Nobody told me we had to be up at 5.30am, nor did they tell me it would be raining at that time in the morning.

Thus I stood around in the rain in my trusty Gortex coat waving off the runners, collecting their jackets and trying to work out with Mary how to get to the half waypoint. We found the halfway point all right, and proceeded to stand on the side of the road proffering Gatorades and words of encouragement to our 7 runners. It was still raining.

My Gortex is wet, my jeans are wet, my boots are wet...and it is not even nine o'clock in the morning. Not happy.

We make it to the bike changeover, where, surprise, surprise, it is still bloody raining. Standing huddled under umbrellas trying desperately to keep the cyclists warm and dry (huh) we stood in ankle deep mud and tried to anticipate when each runner would come through. Nobody anticipated Rod coming through quite so quickly (within the top 20 I think – sterling effort).

The cycle leg was horrendous, by this time the rain was coming pretty much horizontal with a vicious Antarctic wind behind it. As we sailed past in the car, even though we were wet through, we really felt very fortunate not to be out there.

In a very muddy car park and still torrential rain to deal with, we huddled around trying to keep the paddlers dry whilst waiting. Watching the cyclists come in wasn't for the faint hearted most were at the very least exhausted, cold and wet, but many of our team had pushed themselves well beyond that and were physically and mentally destroyed. Most had to be helped off their bikes and rushed to nearby warm cars to be seriously warmed up due to the hypothermia.

Despite already being very wet and cold the paddlers all set off. There were a few portage points along the way where the rest of the team (cyclist and runner) would be required to help carry the boat for the paddler. Literally moments after arriving at the portage, Jimbo Anderson pulled up at the bank. I grabbed one end of the boat, he the other (no shoes, gravel road, ouch) and ran the 100 or so metres to get back in, the whole dash done with Jimbo oozing expletives about the absence of the rest of his team. ("Where the @\$% is that @\$%ing #&*@ Rusty?") We made it to the edge of the Barwon Lake where Jimbo had to re-board, however it was quite deep and very windy, thus in a wave of rash enthusiasm I waded into the water to hold the boat for him to get in., he got in, and

Continued next page

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**for the Victorian
Marathon Championships
September 8th & 9th**

Fairfield Canoe Club
is conducting this year's
Victorian Marathon Championships
on the Yarra at Princess Bridge.

We require people to help
in the canteen, on support boats,
at checkpoints and running a raffle.

We will require at least 26 people.

**If you can help please phone
Stephen Beitz on
9816 4670 or 0412 968 729**

LAWN MOWING You thought we joking!

We really do need assistance
to mow the lawn.

If you can contribute some time
to the maintenance of the lawns
around the club Stephen would
love to hear from you.

The club has a lawn mower
so there is no need to lug a mower
around in your car.

**Please contact Stephen Beitz
on 9816 4670 or 0412 968 729
with your offer of assistance.
Or a donation to cover the cost
of the club paying someone
to mow the lawn.**

The Mars Challenge....continued

whilst I am still holding the boat for him, my mobile phone starts ringing. I ignore it, and with Jimbo paddling off into the distance still spewing forth expletives regarding Rusty I waded out of the lake, mud up to my knees (still no mud cake) and listen to my voicemail to hear the following in a typically self assured and content tone:

"Hi Melanie, it's Rusty here, Melinda and I have just had a lovely hot shower and a spot of lunch, and are all warm and dry and we're in the car now heading back to Melbourne. We'll have to catch up sometime and have a nice bottle of red, thanks for all your help."

ARGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH. The Mars Challenge, a piece of cake.

And next year?

Initially I would like to offer a HUGE thankyou to everyone who took part and supported us all in taking part – it was definitely a character building experience. Hopefully next year there will still be a few of us idiots – I mean elite athletes keen to give the challenge a go again. I think it would be great if we could clock up a few more angle trophies. (This year Jo, myself and Liz claimed a 3rd place in the women's and Jenny Hills team claimed a 3rd in the mixed) However, if on the Saturday night I hear a forecast for the Sunday of wind and rain I for one will be spending the night sampling the local red wine, and the next day in coffee shops and pubs – anyone else interested?

An individual effort

Liz Eedle competed in the Mars Challenge as an individual hoping to complete the entire event herself. She reports the run leg was wet, muddy and fun, but the rain and wind picked up on the bike and she pulled out before getting to the best bit – the kayak leg. Liz is already talking about next year's event.

Annual General Meeting

**17th September
at the Club House
8pm**

Election of Directors

Coaching News

by Margaret Buck

Coach Updating Seminars

The Victorian Coaching Centre conducts Coach Updating Seminars for coaches. Dates for upcoming seminars are as follows. For further details, read the brochure on the club notice board. (please leave it for others) or ring 9290 8356.

Tuesday 28th August Kids – What to Expect

Tuesday 25th September Practical Biomechanics of Throwing

Tuesday 30th October Speed and Power in Team Sports

Wednesday 28th November Heat: Keeping Your Cool.

All sessions held between 6.30pm and 9.30pm at the Caulfield Grammar School except for the last session, which will be held at the Victorian Institute of Sport.

Level 1 Coaching Qualifications

The Victorian Canoe Association is planning a Level 1 Coaching Course later this year. If you are interested, please ring Eric Ward, Executive Officer, on 9459 4251 week days.

First Aid Training Successfully Completed

Several members have already successfully passed Level 1 first aid training, a pre requisite to the level 1 Canoe Coaching Course. Congratulations to Tony Payne, Margaret Buck, Neil Grierson, Werner Bolz, Zoli Szigeti, Dorothy James and Julie Perriam. Thanks to Neil Grierson for organising the venue and catering.

All the best Diane

During this year Zoli and Livia Szigeti's daughter Diane has not been well. We know she has tremendous support from Zoli, Livia, her husband Richard, brother Thomas and all her family. Members at Fairfield also send their best wishes for a continuing recovery. As a long term member at Fairfield Diane has always shown great determination to succeed. She represented Australia overseas in the Australian Junior in the Australian Junior Canoe Team in 1981. Later she also completed a full Murray marathon in a K4 with Wayne Cook, Celia Burke and Laurie Chenoweth. Again, best wishes Diane from all at Fairfield.

Wash Riding Skills and Race Tactics Seminar Coaching Information Sessions at Fairfield Canoe Club

We are planning a series of coaching information sessions for all interested members, as a way of sharing our collective experiences to apply to our canoeing skills. Discussion will be followed with a light supper and socialising.

The first of these will be:

Wash Riding Skills and Race Tactics

Tuesday 25th September at 8pm at the Club House. Presenter Neil Grierson, a kayaker with over 25 years experience and past Director of our Club.

Highly recommended for anyone contemplating the marathon races especially the Murray Marathon. Any queries, please ring Margaret Buck on 9489 0556.

Murray Marathon Seminar

The next seminar will be held in late October and will cover training and preparation for this big event. Both team relay paddlers and full distance paddlers will benefit from this session. Come and find out what you have let yourself in for.

Thursday Coaching Sessions

Thursday coaching sessions will commence again at the end of September with Margaret Buck. All paddlers will be welcome, as always.

Time: 5.30–7.30pm

(or the end of daylight, whichever is first).

Location: Zoli's Straight.

(Upstream, beside the freeway).

Any queries, please ring Margaret Buck on 9489 0556.

Sunday Coaching Sessions

Our talented and dedicated coach Zoli Szigeti continues to conduct coaching sessions for all members on Sunday mornings from 10am till midday. Everyone is welcome.

Beginner Sessions

Zoli also conducts beginner sessions from 8am till 10am on Sundays – but these sessions are by prior arrangement with Zoli. For details, ring him on 9874 1260 if you know someone who'd like to start canoeing with an experienced and understanding coach. As always, special thanks to Zoli for all his assistance to the club.

City doubles race report

by Shane Cavagna

Mid season in the winter marathon season saw a surge of Fairfield die hards and most welcome new paddlers out for a paddle on the city end of the Yarra.

The group gathered close to the University boat sheds and was easily spotted with Tony Payne in his usual very formal race attire and Joe in a close huddled with Mr Mav working over race tactics. Alex, Rose, Roger and a very tanned/refreshed Julie gathered together to work out the in and outs of the mixed relay.

The weather held off until the race had started which is often the case and, as the crowd headed for cover, those committed Fairfield paddlers stuck to the task ahead.

Special mention to Steve a new member in the club who put his hand up to be a part of men's relay crew. Glenny and Rusty pulled themselves away from their new found Sunday religious activities to dig deep in the strong head wind that drove relentlessly into their six packs. It was also lovely to see Paula back out gracing the river teamed up with Rachel. Emma after months of serious iron pumping in the gym teamed up with Julie of Dragonboating fame to help Nat and her very proud women's team out.

Special Note: Women's Marathon Distances

At the race committee meeting it was held via majority vote that the length of Victorian Championships would be shortened to the lengths raced in the winter series. The issue was raised as the future length of women's marathon races both during the winter season and at championship level. However as requested by many clubs including your Fairfield representative that such a matter should not be voted on without further and wider consultation with female competitors. Should female competitors wish to provide feedback on the follow topic:

- 1) Happy with current winter series distances or
- 2) Would like distances of women's race lengthened to same distance covered by men.

Please forward communication/feedback on to Shane Cavagna personally home: 9376 9080 or 0413 187 762.

Winter Series Points			
Ivanhoe	204	Geelong	75.5
Patterson Lakes	192	Ballarat	72
Fairfield	178	Essendon	70
Sherbrooke Knox	138	Cobram	64
Mitta	122	Footscray	56.5
Bendigo	109.5	Gippsland	23.5
Yarra Valley	90.5	Echuca	.5
Warnambool	80		

FCC Social Events Calendar 2001

- 17th September** Annual General Meeting
8 pm at the Club House
- 25th September** Wash Riding Techniques and Race Tactics Seminar
8 pm at the Club House
- 20th October** The Big Bash
Venue to be advised.
Keep your eyes open for this one.
An event not to be missed.
- TBA October** Murray Marathon Seminar
- 1st November** Early History of the Fairfield Canoe Club and Canoeing on the Yarra
8 pm at the Club House
- 16th December** Christmas Party
at the Club House

And for next year...

February Launching of the New Season
Clean Up Australia Day

The committee need people to help make these events successful again so please contact one of the social committee members, listed below, and offer your skills and time.

- Peter Thompson** 9819 5128 0417 086 851
- Rose Curtis** 9484 3929
- Joe Alia** 9489 3787 0418 179 196
- Mick Kane** 9499 4787 0409 850 828

History of Fairfield Canoe Club

by Margaret Buck

Fairfield Canoe Club is 82 years old – the oldest continuing canoe club in Australia.

Our club started when a number of canoe clubs were established along the Yarra. One of these was Rudder Grange at the end of Alphington Street, and another was Willow Dell at the present location of the Fairfield Park Boathouse.

Many members have a long involvement with our club, and many of our members have indicated they want to find out more about the earlier part of last century on the Yarra.

Now, Arthur Howard, noted local historian, has agreed to present a talk and discussion on the early history of our club, and other early clubs, Arthur is also a life member and past president of the Victorian Canoe Association, and a past member of our own club.

Date: Thursday 1st November at 8.00 pm.

Venue: Club House.

Topic: The early history of Fairfield Canoe Club and canoeing on the Yarra.

This will include slides.

All members, friends and past members welcome. Bring along any memorabilia such as photos, newspaper cuttings, paddles or flags to add extra colour to the discussion.

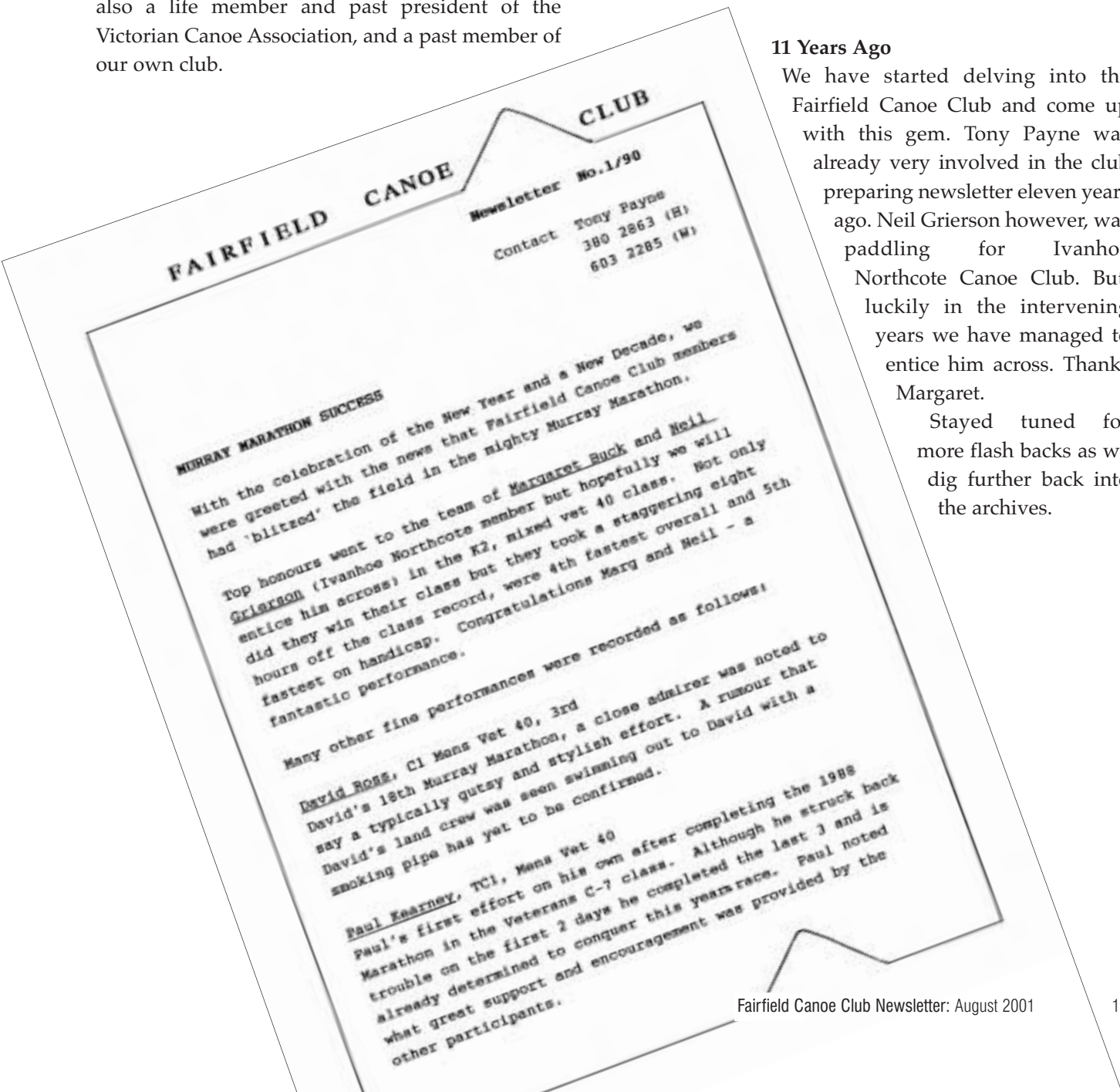
A light supper and socialising will follow the discussion.

Any queries please ring Margaret Buck 9489 0556.

11 Years Ago

We have started delving into the Fairfield Canoe Club and come up with this gem. Tony Payne was already very involved in the club preparing newsletter eleven years ago. Neil Grierson however, was paddling for Ivanhoe Northcote Canoe Club. But, luckily in the intervening years we have managed to entice him across. Thanks Margaret.

Stayed tuned for more flash backs as we dig further back into the archives.



Vale Fred Miller

by Tom Ohman

Fred our oldest member passed away at Easter 2001 a few weeks short of his ninetieth birthday. He was born at Jeparit in 1911 and joined the club in 1933. Like a lot of young men the Depression hit him hard and was unable to continue his chosen profession as a butcher, but after a course of boiler making spent the rest of his working life at Australian Iron and Steel in South Melbourne.

He spent a lot of time at the club and progressed to the rowing club when it was formed. This rowing club – The City of Heidelberg Rowing Club – was formed to save the clubhouse when the canoe club went bankrupt and canoeing became secondary, although he still had a canoe until about 1944.

When the Second World War caused canoeing to go into recession, the rowing continued with Sunday morning rows and combination regattas held at the major rowing clubs. Fred competed in these and took the younger members along as well.

An industrial accident at work left him with a stiff right leg but a motorbike accident made a knee reconstruction necessary and gave him back his movement in the leg. This allowed him to return to his other love, ballroom dancing. Fred coached rowing crews but did not compete again after his accidents.

When the mortgagee decided to call in the loan on the club (it had been about 10 years over term and only interest had been paid) canoeing was booming but rowing was very quiet. This left the obvious solution, sell the rowing boats, which were in pretty short supply, and save the club house. Fred had the task of completing the sale, which meant considering offers from most of the rowing clubs in Victoria. This he did very professionally getting enough money to pay off the mortgage and settle the legal costs.

This secured the club for all us for all time. Fred slowly withdrew from club activities at this time, concentrating on his family and playing a bit of golf. His wife preceded him by about 18 years.

He always had the interest of the club at heart calling in to see us at odd times for a chat and a reminisce.

He is missed already.

Postal Ballot

Returning Officer report to members of Fairfield Canoe Club – Postal Ballot 7 August 2001

Returning Officer: Michael Loftus-Hills
Assistant to the returning officer: Neil Grierson
Observer and assistant: Tony Payne

All proposed rule changes received over 75% of yes votes.

Ballot breakdown percentage of ballots that showed yes

17 (9) 84%
21 (1) 87%
21 (3) 93%
29 (6) 89%
30 91%
30 (1) 93%
30 (4) 89%

STOP PRESS

Fairfield Amazons win their first game!

The Fairfield Amazon began the new season with a Win 2-0, the first win for the team.

Game highlights included...Shane bringing home the bacon with two spectacular goals. Some fantastic saves in goal by both Lisa and Kelly ensured that the Bohica team never got on the scoreboard. Julie with practice out of the goal is gaining confidence in moving about the pool and managed some great passes. Sarah remained in a defensive position to support the goalie rather than getting too enthusiastic and rushing up the pool leaving the defence open. For a first timer (actually for an anytimer) Brent did brilliantly and with a bit more practice will be getting goal after goal.

Applications are invited for positions on the newsletter team.

Can you use a telephone?
Can you beg, cajole and plead?
Do you have a camera?

Apply now to Mav, Julie or Lofty.

No-one will be refused!

UNDER THE YARRA

Big baby

A very excited Rose reported after one too many lattes that Louise Ray had given birth to a 18 kilogram boy, appropriately named Hugo. Further investigative journalism revealed that the baby weighed somewhat less and both mother and baby are well.

Night paddling

Glenn and Rusty together in a TK2 were bashing it in at the front, pulling long strokes, sprinting towards the bridge during one of their night paddling sessions neck and neck with the editor who reminded Captain Glenn that there were some branches in the river. "No there isn't. We're right" was the reply shortly followed by a bump, a splash few gasps as the paddlers surface and drag the boat to the bank. Oh well its not too bad we are nearly back to the club house and hot showers. Unfortunately in the swimming Rusty lost the key. Never rains but it pours. So it was a quick run for your editor to Marg's and Neil's to borrow a key. On my return I found Glenn doing star jumps and Rusty doing a little Irish jig in vain efforts to keep warm.

FCC members on the move

Several FCC members have since the last newsletter plunged into the real estate market. Helen Neill loved the place she was renting so much she brought the place when it was auctioned. She had to rush home from the cappuccino run to place her bid. Rae and Alex Lesnioski have moved into their new home in Coburg. Sarah Flanigan and Graham Sims have relocated to their new house in Thornbury. Livia Lo Guidice has almost finished renovating her place in Fitzroy North and is preparing to move in. Annette Kendall and Chris Sando will be moving down to a new apartment in South Melbourne. Brendan Kenna and Eleanor Whyte

will be taking up residence in a Californian bungalow in Oakleigh. And finally Jenny Hill has purchased a flat in Alphington only a couple of hundred metres from our beloved Yarra River. Talk about dedication.

Now that these people won't be spending their weekends doing the rounds of open houses and auctions we hope to see them paddling.

Scalping of movie tickets

Unconfirmed rumours have been circulating of scalping of tickets to the social committee screening of "Bridget Jones Diary" marring an otherwise hugely successful social event. Make sure you don't miss out on the next major social event, The Big Bash. We recommend that club members purchase tickets as soon as they become available from the authorised Social Committee ticket sellers to avoid scalping.

K1 fever

K1 fever has abated some what at the club with the on set of the colder weather however I am still suffering. One of my ongoing symptoms is the inability to speak on occasions while paddling as it requires all my powers of concentration to stay upright. So, apologies to those of you that I was unable to chat to on the river. K2 fever is now spreading through the Paddies with their recent acquisition of a second hand K2. My introduction to K2 was with Joe Alia. In this case I didn't need to speak and even if I did the rudder wires were noisily slapping against the hull as the boat was shaking so violently it would have drowned out my voice. We raced successfully a week later in the City (we stayed upright.) to the surprise of many onlookers. We are still collecting on the bets we made that day.

Got some gossip that we could put in 'Under the Yarra?' Contact the newsletter team now.

Don't be shy!

We want to know what you've been up to – contribute an article to the next FCC Newsletter.

**Contribution deadline:
30th September 2001**



ZOLI'S FAMOUS SUNDAY SESSIONS

10am–12 noon every Sunday –
rain, hail and especially shine
at the club and upstream
to Zoli's Strait.

Come and bash it in at these
friendly training sessions.