

## **2021 West Lakes Canoe Club – Presidents Report – Lynne Donnelly**

### Introduction –

Thank you everybody for coming. Back in April there were a few changes to the committee with George Hucks and Kerry Sax stepping away. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for all their hard work, time and efforts given to the club throughout their time on the committee during their various roles.

As a result of these changes, I became interim President.

### Sprint Season

Overall the 2020/21 sprint season was very successful for West Lakes Canoe Club – although some regattas had to be cancelled due to either the weather or Covid 19, West Lakes course ended up hosting the National sprint championships in May.

Some of the highlights from the local sprint season included a number of club athletes being selected onto the state team.

The club had a very successful Nationals with some of the highlights being Dan Kucharski winning the U23 K1 200 and Finn White completing a clean sweep of the K1 U16 male events, and I cant go without mentioning the West Lakes contingent in Canoe and how they dominated their events.

With the Nationals happening in Adelaide gave the younger club paddlers a chance to compete at a National Event

On the back of these, and other strong performances West Lakes won the National Club trophy!

3 club members were named on the National development squad. Finn White, Demi Bates and Rachael Donnelly

1 to the U23 World Championship Squad – Dan Kucharski

2 to the Senior World championship Squad – Josie Bulmer and Bernie Wallace who also did us all proud with their performances at the Olympics. Hopefully they enjoyed the sendoff we gave them after the nationals as they departed to their Queensland training camp!

### Marathon season

The delay in the ending of the sprint season meant the Marathon season had already started before sprint had finished!

The highlight of the season to me has to be the RPM – this was attended by both junior and senior club members, some who were competing for the first time!

George broke records by being the first Para paddler to complete the RPM 200km. this was an amazing feat. He was accompanied the entire time by his Coach Jayden Ellis – I can only imagine the conversations that were had during those long hours on the water!!

Another club member Pavel Berdashkevich - paddled the 200 for the first time and had the blisters to prove it afterwards!

#### Grants –

Thanks to the outstanding work of Kerry Sax, the club received a number of grants which meant the club got new life vests, new trolleys and a new rebel 50 and will shortly have new and improved boat racks.

Another person who deserves our thanks is Ian Hume of Roof Rack City who sponsored the purchase of 3 plastic Kayaks for the club's Recreational and Para Programs - this is an amazing addition to the club fleet and they are getting a regular work out at the club's come and try sessions!

#### Coaching program changes, very successful come and try program –

Most of you should now be aware that Junior Sprint Development Pathway has undergone a number of changes in the last 12 months driven by Paddle Australia and changes to funding. This will be covered by George in his coaching report. However, I would like to thank the junior athletes and the coaches for remaining positive and committed to their training and the club throughout this period of uncertainty.

The main takeaways are -

Training will continue from West Lakes club with Jayden and Chloe as club coaches. The club will be providing a number of morning and afternoon sessions during the week with both coaches being present on Saturday mornings. The coaching program will be supported by athlete co contribution payments, and club fundraising.

Talking of Club fundraising – at the moment we are in the middle of a Wine Drive fundraiser - we have available a range of fabulous wines from the Caudo Winery in the Riverland at substantial discounts. If any one wishes to make a purchase or two feel free to speak to myself, or Sally afterwards.

#### Council redevelopment –

We updated club members in May that the Council had plans to refurbish, redevelop the building. We said we would give an update when we had more news – we are still waiting for more news!! The final plans have been submitted

and it is looking like the start date for works will be at the earliest in November. How this fits with the statement that works will definitely be completed by December I'm not too sure!

#### The future –

Thank you all for taking the time to attend and vote at our Special meeting to vote on the new Constitution and Name change. The committee past and present has been working through updating the Constitution for some time and this is the result.

The committee has also been working on updating the club logo and uniform for the start the new Sprint season.

#### Thanks –

I would like to thank the club members for their patience and understanding during this transitional period.

I would also like to thank the committee itself – we are a very small committee – Jim, Sally, Chloe, Mick Ralph and Michael Waterman – who joined us in June. This means there is a lot of work to be done by a few. We are friendly and would welcome anyone who has a desire to join us on the committee or on a working group!!

I stepped into the role of President when George stepped aside in March. I have been honoured to be President of this great Club for this period and would be happy to continue in this role if it is desire of the Committee and club members.

In the meantime, have a great year paddling and enjoy your Caudo wines! !

See you on the water!

Lynne Donnelly  
WLCC President