



Chair's Annual Report

3rd August 2013

Introduction:

It is with great pleasure that I present this the 6th Annual report for Aoraki Dragon Boat Association (ADBA). This report is presented at the AGM being held on the 3rd August in Christchurch.

ADBA has enjoyed another very successful year bringing dragon boating to its members and the wider community.

The ADBA board this season was made up of the following:

Chair Meri Gibson
Secretary Noel Anderton
Treasurer Janice Melville
Boats and Equipment Rick Smith
Events Peter Mitchell
Development Scott Johnson
Special Interests Lorraine Flintoft
Development Julian Yee
Junior Development Glenn Dickie

Sadly, Julian Yee passed away in July 2012 but was replaced very ably on the board by long standing Sampan Warrior, Rosalie Mehlhopt.

Scott Johnson resigned early in 2013 and we unanimously elected Caleb Te Kahu to the board.

All other board members have served the board admirably with their knowledge and massive enthusiasm. As a board we remain in very good heart; however we continuously strive to be better and to offer more to our paddlers.

Finances:

We started the financial year with \$70,030.83 in the bank, this large sum was in part due to a donation from Pub Charity for the purchase of ten-man boats, which at the end of the 2012 season had not yet arrived, therefore \$46,000 plus of these funds were "tagged" and not available for general purposes. We finished the financial year with \$16,301.18.

During the financial year we returned \$4,946.27 to Pub Charity as we were unable to complete the trailer purchase for which these funds had been approved.

We were granted \$10,000 by Canterbury Community Trust. These funds were tagged for the purchase of an IRB, which was purchased after the end of the season.

By way of background to the funds being returned; in Dec-12, ADBA applied to Pub Charity for funding to buy a 5.5 metre Inflatable as a safety boat, plus a boat trailer. At that time we requested \$32,826 but had also applied for the same amount from Canterbury Community Trust.

In Jan-13, Pub Charity turned down our application on the basis that we had applied with another provider, so our hopes lay with Canterbury Community Trust. Canterbury Community Trust then granted us \$10,000 but we

only had \$19,000 on hand of our own funds to carry over to our new season, so we did not have enough funds to purchase an IRB and trailer. We then applied for \$5,000 funding from Fonterra Grass Roots Fund, and while waiting for a decision further applied to Pub Charity for \$17,826 to buy the boat and trailer.

At the end of April Fonterra emailed to say they had granted Aoraki \$5,000 for an IRB/Safety boat, but then realised they had made an error in doing so. Their offer was withdrawn. At that stage ADBA reassessed what we really needed and we then decided to purchase an \$11,000 aluminium hull boat on TradeMe.

Janice Melville will elaborate further on the financial situation in the treasurer's report. Suffice it to say that ADBA remains in very good financial stead and with careful and diligent fiscal management we will continue to do so.



Figure 1 - Aoraki assets cleaned up at the end of Season

Boats and Equipment:

We have been very fortunate to obtain funding to keep expanding our asset base, which enables us to put on more events for our members while also ensuring their safety. We now have 6 new ten man boats and a very nice IRB/safety boat. Rick Smith will expand further on our purchases and the state of our assets.

Regattas:

We started the season with our traditional *Icebreaker* in December 2012 at Lake Pegasus. This event gives the teams an opportunity to see how they are gelling together, and for new paddlers it is a bit of a fun day to try out their new-found sport and to get over those competition nerves.

This year saw the introduction of ten-man boat racing which was held at the Akaroa *Super 12* on January 26th 2013. Akaroa was a new venue for us along with these new boats and an opportunity to try them out in a harbour setting. There were a number of factors that could have turned the event sour but we were exceptionally lucky with the weather, the tide, the running of the day, the volunteers and generally the camaraderie of our teams and supporters. What a fantastic day we had in Akaroa, an adventure certainly to be repeated. The paddlers loved the venue and the ten man boats, so this bodes very well for taking the sport forward.



The *Aoraki Open* followed on the 24th February – this regatta is a serious run for the build-up to the South Island Champs. The regatta was held at Lake Pegasus and there was good competitive battling out on the water.

The *South Island Championships* were held at Lake Hood, with another great days paddling on the 9th March. This is such a good venue and we always have a very good day's racing on good water. And with such a brilliant venue we know that the teams will be very competitive on a level playing field.

For some this signalled the end of the season, but for many others the training continued in quest of the *National Champs* being held at the Blue Lake in Rotorua on the 6th April.

There was also a paddle by Avonside Girls High School on the 22nd February to commemorate the Christchurch earthquakes. They paddled in the *River of Flowers* ceremony from Kerr's Reach to the bridge near their school.

Avonside Girls High were also the recipient of the first *Julian Yee Memorial Trophy* presented to the team that showed outstanding sportsmanship, camaraderie and general excellent attitude at regatta days.

Avon/Otakaro:

ADBA has been very much a part of the discussions regarding the future of the Avon River and the desire for a water park in the central city. Noel Anderton has been representing ADBA at several meetings. He will expand further in his report on proposed outcomes. ADBA also took part in a report prepared by Jackie Fanning re what the river users are looking for the future.

Secondary Schools Challenge:

This initiative was launched in February 2013 under the steady leadership of Marie Childs and Terry Coyle. This was a 5 week training programme for high schools not already dragon boating. We had 6 teams join the programme which culminated in a challenge racing event on

the 20th March with medals presented to the participating teams. This was a fantastic series, with huge thanks to Marie and Terry for leading the charge, with help from our sweeps and coaches. We will certainly repeat this great initiative.

Owles Terrace:

Sadly our storage and ablution buildings at Owles Terrace have been yellow stickered by the CCC and access is now limited under supervision. We have access to the compound itself and are still storing our boats there. Noel Anderton has been involved in the on-going discussions re this facility and will expand further in his report.

Conclusion:

ADBA has enjoyed another very successful season with much added value for its members.

We are excited by the future of dragon boating with a number of corporate firms, schools and social teams interested in having a chance to paddle this coming year.

I am again thrilled to have been involved with ADBA since its inauguration and I find myself each year when my enthusiasm starts to wane, buoyed by the camaraderie of my board and the paddlers in the wider dragon boating community.

I would sincerely like to thank each and every one of my board members for their dedication and commitment to not only ADBA but also to the sport of dragon boating and its growth within the community. I know that without you all, none of what we have achieved would have been possible.

Meri Gibson
Chair, Aoraki Dragon Boat Association

Secretary's Report

Aoraki continues to operate on a stable footing, with solid processes, well established assets, and a growing knowledge of how to run events. Such innovations as 'Ocean Racing' in Akaroa, Twilight Racing and the Schools Program show that we have the will and wherewithal to grow the sport.



Our Funding applications continue to be very successful, so we have not had to rely on avenues such as naming sponsors, yet we still give the best value to our paddlers.

Communications

The aoraki-dragons.co.nz website is being regularly updated, but will soon have a clean new look with features such as the ability to post comments and queries. Our Gmail continues to take numerous calls from individuals interested in joining a club, or starting new teams.

We have sent three Newsletters during the season (in October, January and June), and a Race Pack is under development for this season. We have been approached by several groups wanting to start teams so these are useful resources.

Owles Terrace Earthquake recovery

Aoraki's operating plan was turned on its head in June when we met with fellow 'tenants' (Waka clubs and Surf Life Saving) and engineers from City Council to discuss earthquake repairs at the site. Aoraki uses the abandoned CCC maintenance base in collaboration with Waka Clubs and SLS, but Council told us a "Level Two

Rapid Assessment" now show the buildings are unsafe to occupy – they are "Yellow stickered".

Unfortunately this means that we cannot go into the buildings for safety reasons. While Council cannot make a formal decision about the building's future until they have a Detailed Engineering Evaluation and/or a Damage Assessment, it is unlikely anyone will spend the money to take it from Yellow to Green.

That being said, Council have indicated there is still a change some structures or buildings may be inhabitable, using some of the (very limited) insurance pay-out.

Aoraki Dragons is working with Council and the other tenants to organise a day when we can get into the buildings and retrieve our gear. We might leave some boats in the shed in the meantime, but we will need to get some of our gear out.

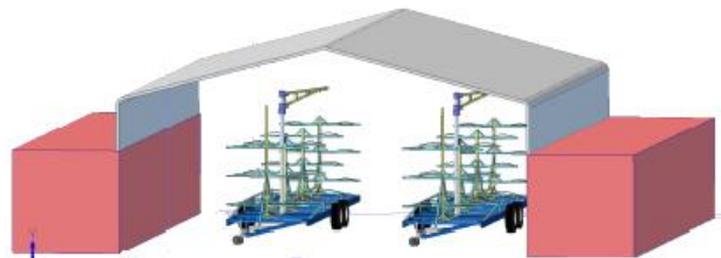


Figure 2 – Concept of two 40 ft containers and a roof

We are working on other plans which include buying weatherproof shipping containers and semi-temporary roofing structures. These should allow Aoraki to relocate if needed, perhaps to Lake Rua or Pegasus.

Meanwhile, I am pleased to announce that the *Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust* (CEAT) has just approved funding of \$50,000 to assist in providing continued equipment shelter. Note that the sum is to be used for the benefit of all current tenants (including the SLS and outrigger

clubs), but Aoraki will be coordinating the design, negotiating and ordering containers etc.

When times comes to move out of the Owles Terrace Shed, the job will be much easier thanks to the storage systems our Events and Equipment Directors have developed over the years, plus the response our paddlers give when we ask for a hand at our working bees.

Avon River Corridor User Group

Aoraki continues to have a voice on the Avon River User group initiated by Sport Canterbury, although the support from Sport Canterbury has dried up due to staff changes.

In 2012, Sport Canterbury commissioned an independent report to identify Community sport requirements and aspirations for the Avon River Corridor. Jackie Fanning's report is in draft but it reflects the needs of paddlers, and the concepts are well supported by government so far.

We also have our voice at the Avon Ōtākaro Group who are promoting the future use of the river and the surrounding red zone lands as an ecological and recreational reserve for the community.

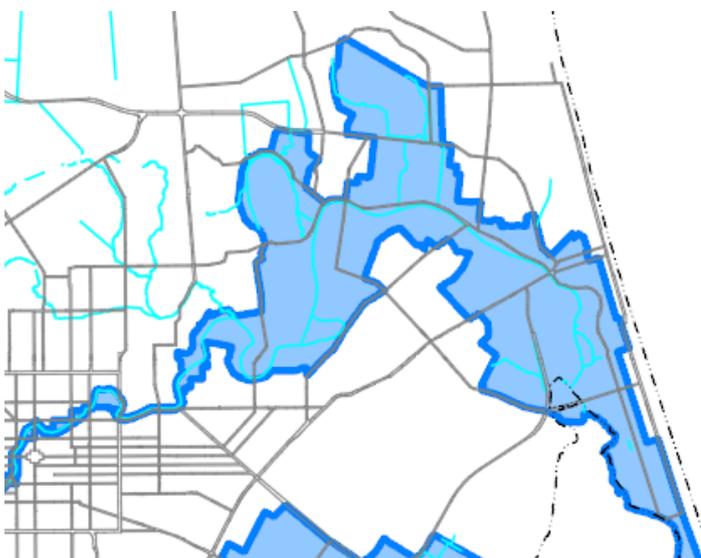


Figure 3 - Avon River in the Flood Management Area

Dragon Boating will need to collaborate with other users such as Waka and Rowing, so we can develop shared resources that will bring paddling back to the metropolitan area. We still see a longer term vision of a quality water course and event venue in close reach of the city.

Operations

I would like to thank teams who have helped us (and NZDBA) to improve our standards in the sport, particularly through their efforts such as sending us timely team photos for Crew Loading Checks.

Aoraki is working closely with NZDBA who are developing more structure around the sport, such as Sweep Accreditation, and formalised Rules of Racing.

Finally I would like to remind teams to thoroughly read and understand what you are signing each season – such as the age limits for paddlers, our safety protocols and implications of our safety waiver.

Noel Anderton, Secretary
Aoraki Dragon Boat Association

Boats and Equipment Report

The last twelve months have seen us take some big steps forward from an equipment point of view. In December we took delivery of 6 ten-man dragon boats from Swift (China). These were put to the test in our first Akaroa event and performed famously. The boats are fast and very manoeuvrable and the racing was close and exciting.

Only a small amount of damage was done during the numerous clashes in the Le Mans event!

Just after Christmas our truck was torched in the compound at Owles terrace. What a terrible waste! For the rest of the season we used hired trailers to transport our equipment to each of the events. It has worked out quite well and we have made a decision not to replace the truck.



Boat maintenance

Before the season even started I had to replace the sweep oar arm and the tail section on one boat after it crashed into the bridge at Pegasus but there has not been much else to talk of.

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.

Safety Boat

Although it didn't happen until after the season the big purchase of the year was a new power boat. This is a Sea Surge 4.8m pontoon boat which will be perfect for setting up and as a rescue boat.



Equipment Storage

The big news this year relates to the compound at Owles terrace where we store all our gear. Two and a half years after the earthquake the council decided that the buildings were unsafe to occupy

and yellow stickered them. This means that we are not allowed to access our gear and need to be supervised by council staff to enter the shed. We have applied for and been granted funding for a temporary shelter, and this will take the form of two 40 ft containers with a 12m roof

between them. The roof will provide good shelter for our boats and the containers will be great for storing our gear and possibly also act as a changing room. We should have this in place for the start of the 2014 season.

Rick Smith, Equipment Director
Aoraki Dragons Boat Association