



Aoraki Dragon Boat Association Incorporated
PO Box 319
Christchurch 8140,
New Zealand

aoraki.dragons@gmail.com
www.aoraki-dragons.co.nz

Directors' Annual Report

30 August, 2011

The following directors report on activities in their area. These reports supplement the Chair's report and the Treasurer's report submitted at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 30-August-11.

Secretary's Report

As outlined by the Chair, it has been a year like no other before. And we hope we will see only better times ahead.

But Dragon Boating in Christchurch has survived the shakes and storms that have been thrown at it since September 2010, because, well, it had to. Cantabrians rely heavily on sports to see them through tough times. Not just our "Crusaders" and other teams that wear the red and black. But also the people who get out to paddle our waterways.

Aoraki DBA is fortunate that it has, since 2007, developed sound systems and processes that allow us to organise teams into training and regatta. We had already developed some very good relationships with the people who share our venues, and this has paid off. In particular, we have been able to work closely with Pegasus Township management so we can have a reliable training base, and a superb venue.

While we have not been able to consolidate our 'learnings' into tangible and documented procedures (as we hoped to last year) we *have* been able to respond to changing conditions. And not just venue availability and access to equipment. But Aoraki has hopefully played a part in helping Cantabrians survive an horrendous year.

Aoraki has continued to deliver quality events, and there are challenges ahead as Canterbury rebuilds. In particular this includes Aoraki's ability to work with NZDBA to host a National Champs in the region (Lake Hood). Longer term Aoraki has an opportunity to collaborate with other recreationalists to develop the "Avon Corridor" into a very valuable flat water venue in the heart of the city.

Meantime, we face challenges in terms of growing team (and paddler) numbers, in the face of a very real change of mood in the (potential) paddling public.

Noel Anderton,
Secretary, Aoraki Dragons

Equipment Director Report

The last twelve months have taken quite a toll on Aoraki's boats. Following the earthquake in September our training venue on the Avon River was unusable and training was carried out at Lake Pegasus in North Canterbury. There is no cover for the boats there and the four we took there were stored outside for the whole of the season.

At Pegasus there was no supervision of training like we had at Owles terrace and there were no facilities to wash the boats after training. I am sure they did not get the care they would have had if we had stayed in town. The sand used on the beaches at Pegasus is very abrasive and six of the boats have had the gelcoat stripped from the bottom of the boat. The gunwales of all the boats were very knocked around by the end of the season. One of the boats had to have the transom and tail section repaired after the sweep oar arm came in to contact with the pillar of the bridge. This work was carried out by fibreglassing expert Suname surf in Kaiapoi.

Over the winter we engaged a contractor to sand and repaint the gunwales of all the Aoraki boats and the ABOL and Tu Meke boat. Three of these are now complete with the remainder to be done during September. The gelcoat on the six boats has been repaired but a little bit of fine finishing still needs to be done. The boats should be in good condition for the start of the season.

The trailer with the hoist has proved to be a fantastic asset for the association over the last two years. This year we undertook to purchase a second trailer so we did not have to do return



trips to take all our boats to our paddling venues in Ashburton and Dunedin. This trailer was delivered in late March just in time to bring the last three boats back from Pegasus after

the South Island Champs. It already has the hoist fitted and will be ready to use for the start of the season once it is wired up. Special thanks to the engineers at Patience & Nicholson who have done this work for us.

Before the season begins we need to remove the tail sections from all the boats and seal them so that water does not get inside the hull.

Looking forward I think it would be advisable to paint the trailers to protect them for future years as both of them are showing signs of rust.

Rick Smith, Equipment Director, ADBA