



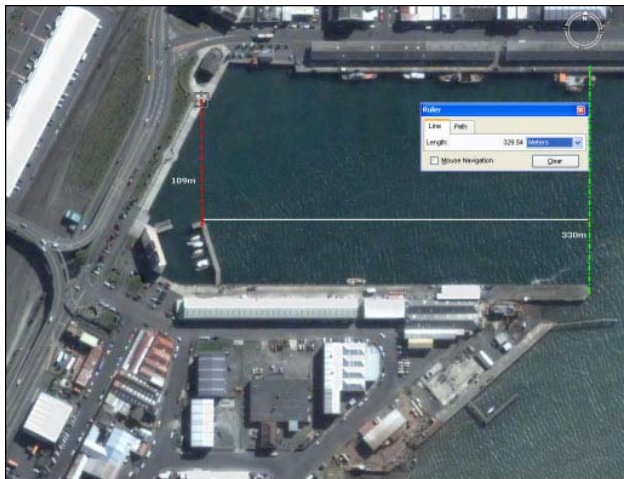
Welcome back

All teams are back on the water now, gearing up for the events ahead. New paddlers will be more comfortable in the boat, and we can see better fitness levels, techniques and timing (always timing) on the river. For 'old hands' we hope we are still keeping it fresh for you...

Waitangi Day in Dunedin

In the recent past, Dunedin had a great Dragon Boat community. Aoraki would love to see a revival in the South, so we were thrilled when Emma Burns of Otago Museum asked us to run an exhibition event in conjunction with their "THE EMPEROR'S DRAGONS Precious Collections from the Shanghai Museum".

The Regatta on Dunedin Harbour will be on the coming weekend, 6th February, Waitangi Day.



If you are interested we're making a composite team – a great way to get to know other paddlers. So far we have paddlers from Evacut, Sampans and ABOL (as well as several Aoraki board members who will help run the day). Aoraki have organised a van to go down so if you are interested and want a ride, email us aoraki.dragons@gmail.com

You could make it a long weekend away with family or friends. Accommodation would be at your own cost. There is no entry fee involved and Aoraki have donated some nice prizes.

In this issue (click to view):

- Welcome back
- Waitangi Day in Dunedin
- Capsize is off
- More Champions
- New Paddles
- Funding applications
- Early Bird Regatta
- ID Photos
- Blenheim gets some expert advice
- South Island regatta – Lake Hood
- Calendar Dates

Racing starts at 11 am on Friday so you can either go down Thursday (when we are towing the new boats) or hitch a ride on the Friday morning - but you will need to be up with the sparrows. Some people come back Friday night and some on the Saturday so plenty of options for a ride home.

We have a good corporate rate at www.commodoremotel.co.nz in Dunedin, and Jucy car/van rentals, so just mention Aoraki!

The Dunedin Community Newspaper has become very excited about the Dragon Boat Festival and have done a big piece for their publication on Thursday. Dunedin Mayor Peter Chin has agreed to be the official "eye dotter" for the starting formalities.

Five Otago teams are confirmed entries, with maybe a sixth.

The schedule for Friday is:

8:30 am .. set up for the day

9am till 10:30am.... capsizes drill (simulated) and team briefings

11 am Opening by His Worship the Mayor

11:30..... Racing Begins

3.45 pm .. Final race

4 pm..... Prize giving

The trophy will be a beautiful crystal 3D block, rather than a cup, so it can be kept on show for whoever wins it. Aoraki is also donating Presentation Paddles.

Capsize is cancelled

Sorry to disappoint y'all but we will not run the Tip-out day this year. Lyttelton boat ramp will be busy on the only day we had available, so we will have detailed team briefings instead (at one of your training nights).

Training at Owles Terrace

All teams are now training from the New Brighton base. You may have noticed that two of the old boats have 'gone south'. One is now based in the Ashburton Rowing Club sheds at Lake Hood. And another has gone to Dunedin to live. So we are encouraging teams to use the remaining old boats for practice, but the Champions in the shed are available...

... except that two of the new Champions are being stored outside the shed. These (black) boats have been bought by Tu Meke and Abreast of Life, so unless you have an explicit agreement with them to borrow their boat, please use a red one (or an old boat).

We need to take particularly good care of these new boats, so we have bought some rubber mats to lay out on the concrete ramp. The first team out must **take the mat down** (and tie it to the railing please, so it doesn't float away). And the last team out must **take the mat back** to the shed and **give it a good hose down**.

Likewise, we need all teams to **hose down the boats** when they are brought back into the compound. There are two hoses available plus soft brushes. There's a lot of silt in the Avon and it's not so pleasant when you kneel on the grit, so let's keep it clean (but not so green)!



Aoraki will run a safety boat along the river during designated times, to give you that extra support (and maybe some objective advice, if you are

interested). Thanks go to CPC for allowing Aoraki to use their Parkercraft (for a nominal rent) and to Scruffy for letting us use his outboard.

Please email aoraki.dragons@gmail.com or phone 358 1633 to organise access, check the safety measures and clarify restrictions (eg off the water by twilight) **before** any extra training.

More Champions

We have been so impressed with the new boats here, that we have decided to import more! Four new Champion Dragon Boats are presently in a container heading to Christchurch. The container is also bringing two boats for Auckland plus one for Taranaki, so this model is definitely becoming the National Standard. There have



been some delays (around Chinese New Year, ironically) so we expect to have them here just before the South Island Champs at Lake Hood in mid March.

New Paddles

NZDBA has taken the opportunity of the extra container space to import a large batch of Champion Paddles (in fact this is partly why the container is delayed).

These are international spec'd wooden paddles with a T-Bar handle (as opposed to 'Palm grip'). IDBF have approved these paddles for all international regatta (except the ultimate level, World Champs).



They are a very good paddle – longer, broader and MUCH lighter than the style most of us are using – you will be amazed at how much more water you can pull!

There are only limited numbers available, so if your team wants to take

the 'next step up', please email aoraki.dragons@gmail.com to order a set. They are NZ\$70 (including freight) plus GST per paddle compared to around \$300 for carbon fibre.

Aoraki may also consider buying a couple of sets of the Champions paddles to have available for special occasions.

So how about making a funding application then **"donate your old paddles"** to the new teams that are starting up in Ashburton and Dunedin.

Funding applications

Team managers should note that as from 1 July 2008 all organisations that wish to retain (or gain) charitable status must register with the Charities Commission, (www.charities.govt.nz). Without charitable status, potential exists for any income received to be subject to income tax... IRD tax exemption is no longer applicable for determining charitable organisations in New Zealand.

It may also be wise for teams to become an "incorporated society" – it is not as hard as it sounds. Contact us for more info.

Early Bird Regatta

Our first major race event for the season is the "Early Bird", although this year we are having it a couple of weeks later, to give the Schools a chance to join in. The Adults and Schools will race on the same day, namely **Saturday 21-Feb.**

Team Entries must be in by Friday 13-Feb.

We will email the draft draw by Monday, and give you 24 hours to ask for any changes (in case we've scheduled your sweep in consecutive races etc). Final draw will be emailed Thursday.

Note, this year the racing will start relatively late. As we recall from last year, the tide has a significant effect on race results, and this year they are best between about 3 and 5pm. So the day's schedule goes like this:

- Teams should start setting up (their own tents etc) from 10:30 am.
- Formal proceedings start at 11:00 for a Captain's briefing at Race HQ (the caravan between the tent sites and the pontoons).
- At 11:30, a Lion Dance Troupe will officially launch our fleet of new Champion Boats, complete with an Eye Dotting ceremony by a Buddhist monk (Abbess).
- Teams in first race must be at marshalling (behind the pontoons) by 12:10, and in their boat by 12:20 heading for the start.
- **First Race starts at 12:30 pm**, with each crew having heats to determine their place in the finals.
- Races are at 10 min intervals, three boats per race. Races may include Corporate, Open and BCS teams, as well as school squads.

- Trophy presentation at about 6pm after the last race (in the Riverside Pool Club).

Team tent sites will be allocated ('BYO' tents, table and furniture). Tent sites are non-powered, but some facilities are available at the Riverside clubrooms (including drinking water and toilets).

Food vendors (such as Hot Dogs and fries, Coffee, Ice Cream etc) will be near the tent area. Portaloos plus a couple of flush toilets will be set up between the tent area and Crew Loading.

While Aoraki is not putting on an official "After Party" (we're saving ourselves for Lake Hood), the Riverside Bar will be open for any celebrations and story-telling you'd like to take into the night.

PS, we will of course be racing in our new Champion Boats, but keep an eye out – you may just see one of the old boats make a guest appearance!

ID Photos

NZDBA is starting to enforce the IDBF system of photo ID for national regattas. Aoraki wants to lead the way with this and has developed a database. Paddlers will need to provide a head and shoulders photo for ID. It would be nice if you had a shot you like rather than one that is taken one night after paddling! So get that (digital) photo ready and when you are asked to, it can be sent quickly.

Ultimately we will move to the international standards of having a centralised online database with photo IDs for crew verification. This will cost about \$7k to set up a fully online professional database (plus \$10 per ID) so Peter Mitchell from Tumeke/Aoraki is designing a database in the meantime.

Blenheim gets some expert advice

NZDBA Chair, Dave Elliott spent the weekend in Blenheim with the "Simply the Best" BC team. He took them out on Saturday for coaching and sweep training on the Wairau River and had a great time all round. Dave thanks them for "Good hospitality and the best BBQ steak roll I have munched on. :-)

South Island regatta – Lake Hood

Planning is going well for our big event of the year. Using the water skiers 'side lake' is going to be too hard to work around this year, but we're working with a very enthusiastic Ashburton Rowing Club crew to provide a great venue in the northern half of the lake.

The main lake gives us accurately marked out lanes, with no obstructions. That part of the lake should be fine in most winds, and there is plenty of room for transit lanes etc.

Several adult teams will be staying overnight in Ashburton - Evacut have asked that you keep them company at The After Party! We will have a band (or DJ) at the rowing club, reasonable priced drinks (at your expense) and catering.

"Host Responsibility" means we must provide a feed (assuming you would like a beer or wine with that!). Teams will often spark up the barbie after racing, but caterers will provide the following:

Over 2 hours the caterers will serve a selection of bread rolls, buns, knots and sliced bread which can be filled with any or all of the following and people can come back several times: Spit roasted beef or ham, Tossed lettuce, with mushroom, radish, red onion coleslaw with all the goodies in it, baked onions, sliced beetroot, Tomato, cucumber, gherkins, grated cheese, carrot and a variety of dressings. After 2 hours the rest of the food is left for everyone to serve themselves.

We will **need firm numbers of how many will be staying on**. Sorry, but we have to pass on the \$17 per head catering cost to the teams.

Some teams are keen on the idea of taking a bus down in the morning for the (about 10 o'clock) race start. Then pour the team back on the bus at about 10pm, and back to The Strip etc.

A rough cost would be about \$830 for a 45 seater, which would be ideal for two teams to share. So that's about \$18 to \$25 a head return.

Aoraki Board members will stay for the party - we will be back to enjoy a day's racing with the kids the next day (yelling will be banned). Meri has even offered to be the sober driver for our lot... maybe.

Calendar Dates

Remember, the Early Bird is Saturday for Adults AND schools, with a late start because of the tides. No racing Sunday, just recovery!

[Dunedin Festival](#) • Friday 6-Feb-09

[Early Bird Regatta:](#) • 21-Feb-09

[South Island Champs, Lake Hood:](#) • Sat 14 and Sunday 15-March-09

[Wellington Dragon Boat Festival](#) • Sat 21 and Sunday 22-March-09

[National Champs, Blue Lake, Rotorua:](#) • Sat 28 and Sunday 29-March-09

