

FAIRFIELD CANOE CLUB

Celebrating 87 years  
1919 – 2006

# Newsletter

JUNE 2006



- Canoe Refurbishment
- Kayaking in Tasmania
- Club Profile
- Marathon Winter Series 2006

# FAIRFIELD CANOE CLUB COOPERATIVE LTD

## CONTENTS

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|  |    |
|--|----|
| Upcoming Events                              | 3  |
| Chairman's Report                            | 4  |
| Canoe Refurbishment                          | 5  |
| Introduction of Members' Guest Book Register | 5  |
| Club Profile                                 | 6  |
| Social Committee Report                      | 7  |
| Do you know                                  | 7  |
| Kayaking Tasmania's Franklin River           | 8  |
| 2006 Grants Award Night                      | 10 |
| Marathon Winter Series Race One Report       | 11 |
| Marathon Winter Series 2006                  | 12 |
| Coaching Update Report                       | 16 |
| What's happening around the club             | 17 |

**Website**

<http://www.fairfieldcanoeclub.org.au/>

**Mail**

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**Newsletter Dates 2006**

Deadline for Submissions:

30 January 1 May 28 August 20 November

**Printing dates**

13 February 15 May 11 September 4 December

**How to contribute**

All contributions to the club newsletter welcome – photos, articles, letters to the editor, humour, advertisements.

Contributions to be made by email.

**Please submit material to the Editor**

Anna Wilson, Phone 9457 1400

Email newsletter@fairfieldcanoeclub.org.au

Postal address 44 Porter Road, Heidelberg Heights 3081

We gratefully welcome any articles or advertisements submitted for publication. However we cannot guarantee that any submission will be published in a particular issue of the Fairfield Canoe Club newsletter. The editorial team reserves the right to make minor editorial and layout changes to any submission while doing its best to preserve the intention of the original submission.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### EVENTS FOR 2006

#### July

|    |                         |              |
|----|-------------------------|--------------|
| 9  | Winter Series 5 Doubles | Tarwin Lower |
| 16 | Renewal Day & BBQ       | Fairfield    |
| 23 | Winter Series 6 Singles | Geelong      |

#### August

|    |                         |            |
|----|-------------------------|------------|
| 6  | Winter Series 7 Doubles | Yarrawonga |
| 20 | Winter Series 8 Doubles | Essendon   |

#### September

|      |                                  |           |
|------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 9-10 | Victorian Marathon Championships | Wesley    |
| 24   | Ted Pace Memorial Canoe Race     | Footscray |

#### October

|    |                               |         |
|----|-------------------------------|---------|
| 7  | Echuca Mini                   | Barmah  |
| 15 | Victorian Flatwater Regatta 1 |         |
| 21 | Barwon Mini                   | Geelong |

#### November

|       |                               |            |
|-------|-------------------------------|------------|
| 5     | Bridge to Bridge              | Geelong    |
| 19    | Victorian Flatwater Regatta 2 |            |
| 25-26 | Gippsland Classic             | Bairnsdale |

#### December

|       |                               |           |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 2     | Ben Ward Memorial             | Cobram    |
| 9     | Victorian Flatwater Regatta 3 |           |
| 10    | Footscray Dress Rehearsal     | Footscray |
| 27-31 | Murray Marathon               |           |

### RENEWAL DAY

Renewal of memberships for 2006/2007 will be held on

**Sunday 16th July, 10am to 2pm at the clubhouse.**

**Keys and locks will be changed on that day so please bring your FCC key and relevant paperwork with you.**

Also why not volunteer to contribute to the club by offering your skills to one of our sub-committees? Speak to one of the board members if you are interested. As part of the renewal day there will be a barbeque starting at 12 midday.

### DO YOU KNOW WHERE THESE PEOPLE ARE?

The following members of Fairfield Canoe Club have not maintained contact and as such we are about to cancel their membership and shareholding. However if you do have contact with any of these persons could you please contact the Chairman, Michael Kane on 043 930 1521 or email [alphington\\_muruk@bigpond.com.au](mailto:alphington_muruk@bigpond.com.au)

| FIRST NAME | SURNAME    | GENDER | JOINED    |
|------------|------------|--------|-----------|
| Greg       | JACOBS     | M      |           |
| Sharon     | MASON      | M      |           |
| Wen Chian  | TAN        | M      |           |
| Fiona      | ATCHERTON  | F      | 1 Oct 01  |
| Shaun      | BROADBENT  | M      | 3 Sep 01  |
| Bruce      | FALCON     | M      | 12 Oct 01 |
| Anthony    | FERNANDO   | M      | 30 Jan 02 |
| Megan      | FULFORD    | F      | 23 Sep 01 |
| Vaughn     | KOOPS      | M      |           |
| Aaron      | PETERSON   | M      |           |
| Kirsten    | BOWE       | F      | 3 Nov 02  |
| Rod        | BROOKS     | M      |           |
| Nathan     | CAVALIER   | M      | 21 Jul 02 |
| Bob        | EAST       | M      | 21 Jul 02 |
| Emma       | FITZGERALD | F      | 23 Feb 03 |
| Richard    | GOERS      | M      |           |
| Simon      | KEENAN     | M      | 20 Oct 02 |
| Paul       | MARIN      | M      |           |
| Ian        | McCURDY    | M      |           |
| Cathy      | BENNETT    | F      | 7 Sep 03  |
| David      | HOWE       | M      | 15 Aug 04 |
| Antony     | CLARK      | M      |           |
| Karen      | O'SHARES   | F      |           |
| Paul       | ENGELLENER | M      |           |
| Andrew     | KEREKES    | M      |           |
| Rod        | MASON      | M      |           |



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to this edition of the Fairfield Canoe Club newsletter. Paddling in winter is a challenge to everyone. We often talk about 'getting out of our comfort zone;' these very cool mornings and evenings take us there. The good thing about paddling through winter is the added appreciation of those long summer evenings. We have now reached the shortest day of the year so it is all good from here.

You will have noticed physical changes happening around the club recently. During the last month we have had professionally erected scaffolding situated on the balcony and inside the clubhouse to enable the placement of insulation and cladding to the inside of the clubhouse. Already members are commenting on how much quieter it is inside the clubhouse; but especially how much warmer it is. While the scaffolding was erected on the balcony we had the outside of the clubhouse painted. To finish off, the board has decided to re-paint the inside of the clubhouse. This will be happening in the last week of June and the first week of July, 2006.

**Renewal Day** is upon us again.

This year we have decided on the 16th July 2006 between the hours of 10am and 2pm. As in previous years the locks will be changed over on the day, and the old key will no longer open the door. If you cannot turn up on the 16th July 2006 directors will be available on the Sundays following between 9.30am and 10am.

On renewal day, please bring along the completed paperwork recently mailed to you. The correct money (if paying cash) and your old key should also be brought along. The club does not have EFTPOS or Credit card facilities. Not returning your key will cost you an extra \$10.

***This is important information for those with a boat rack:***

If you wish to retain your boat rack the cutoff day for membership renewal is 1st September 2006. If you have not paid your membership by that date your boat will be moved and your rack allocated to another member from the waitlist. No correspondence will be entered into. We don't want to do this to anyone so please pay your membership by the 1st September 2006.

Finally the Victorian Canoeing fees continue to rise, however they do offer a \$10 discount if members pay by the 1st September 2006. Take advantage of this as its not often you get something for nothing.

A big thank you to all those persons involved in organizing the film night at the Balwyn Cinema in May. We had 130 persons attend the film and some fantastic feedback was received. I would personally like to thank Joan Doreian and her team of ladybirds for their work.

In closing we congratulate Gary Flanigan and Geoff Hindle for being elected onto the board of Victorian Canoeing. Gary has been elected president of the Board.

Happy Paddling

*Michael Kane, Chairman*

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## CANOE REFURBISHMENT

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Early last year I was fortunate enough to obtain an original Serak Canoe that had been stored under Dudley's home for many years.

The Canoe required an extensive refurbishment, and after a few calls I found my way to Arthur and Jess Howard, three doors down from the club.

The Canoe had been built at Rudder Grange in 1946, where Arthur, now 86, had been working. I now know that when Arthur first saw the boat he felt it was borderline as to whether the boat could be repaired, however he agreed to take on the challenge.

After I delivered the Canoe to Arthur's Garage, where it would remain for the next few months, Arthur provided detailed lists of screws, paints, canvas and other miscellaneous items that would be required for the job.

Arthur worked painstakingly removing nearly every original screw in the Canoe, many of which required drilling out and replaced with new gleaming brass screws purchased from Chalmers in Hawthorn (the only place where they were available).

After refurbishment of the timber parts of the boat, Arthur stretched over the canvas, replaced the gunnels, applied many coats of marine varnish to the timber and enamel paint to the canvas and she was complete.

A highlight of the project was when Arthur removed the front seat and discovered the words "Built by A. Howard Dec 1946" engraved, confirming that Arthur had built this particular boat.

The front seat now has additional words "Refurbished A. Howard 2006".

*Andrew Wright*

*See Andrew, Howard, James and Lily in the Serak on the front cover of the newsletter.*

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## INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS' GUEST BOOK REGISTER

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The Board of Management has elected to introduce the practice of asking all non-financial visitors using Club facilities to record their details in a Members' Guest Book. This change of practice is necessary as the variety of groups and individuals using the club has changed in recent times.

The change arises in part from our decision at the 2004 Annual General Meeting to acknowledge the reciprocal rights of financial members from other canoe clubs to use our facilities on occasion. Good practice deems we must be able to identify all visitors to the club if the need arises. Our intention is to be fair to all our members, their friends and associates, whilst addressing the matters of insurance and safety for all.

Non-financial persons include members who have not renewed their current membership, persons participating in beginner's lessons, elite squad members from other clubs, and members' family, friends or other associates.

All guests/visitors at the club will need to be signed in by a financial member, and the Guest Book will be in place by the end of November. Signs will be posted to remind members to sign their visitors into our guest book.

Failure to comply may result in action being taken by the Board of Management.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

*Michael Kane*  
*Chairman*

## CLUB PROFILE

### NADIA SPILLER AND MANDY KNEE

In this issue of the newsletter we profile Nadia Spiller and Mandy Knee. Nadia and Mandy recently completed the beginners and intermediate introduction/coaching sessions, paddled a winter series race, had a swim near a turning buoy, and both are already talking about 'doing' the Murray Marathon.

***The two of you share a flat together? Did you have any idea you would be paddling in a canal together on a cold rainy day at Patterson Lakes?***

We have been friends since we were about 11 years old and have shared a lot of experiences but neither of us had any idea we would be getting up before 7am on a Sunday morning when it was 4 degrees to get ready for our first paddling race! Normally we would have only just tucked ourselves into bed after a night of reveling.

***Rumour has it that you went for a swim? Is this true? What happened?***

In a media exclusive we can confirm that we did in fact go for a swim. We were paddling so hard and with our thermals on we were really heating up in the Zulu. So we decided we would just cool off for five minutes as we went around the first buoy! Somehow we were still the first girls across the line in our division! And we have a very pretty ribbon to prove it that went straight to the pool room.

***Did paddling on the Yarra at Fairfield prepare you for Patterson Lakes?***

Definitely not! At the last turn we thought we should swap over to a surf ski when waves started crashing over the front of the boat. Paddling on the Yarra is a piece of cake compared to Patterson Lakes. We must say – the water is a lot warmer there though.

***What are your paddling plans for the rest of the year?***

To try and stay in the boat at future races! We plan to keep racing through the winter series. We would also love to do the Murray Marathon at the end of the year if we can rustle up a team. We have heard the party at the end is pretty good!

***How much training had you done before the first race? Have you paddled before?***

We have been doing a two hour session on Sundays with Joe and Connie for about three months. We started out doing the beginners course. We try to go a couple of times during the week.

***Have you paddled before?***

***Mandy*** – I had a friend who taught me to paddle about 3 years ago. She dumped me into the back of her K2 and after a couple of early swims I was away.

Unfortunately, she moved away shortly after and I didn't have a boat to use.

***Nadia*** – Mandy took me for a paddle last year. We hired boats at Studley Park Boathouse. Very romantic!

***What has it been like paddling at FCC?***

We have been having a great time. Everyone that we have met at the club has been so friendly. At our first race it was really great having people there like Joe and Connie especially since they have been so helpful and so great with all the time they have given up to coach us.

***Why did you start paddling?***

***Mandy*** – I have had a severe ankle injury and the surgery has meant that I am unable to run ever again. Therefore, I was forced to look at alternative sports. I tried lawn bowling but the beer was too cheap at the clubs and I kept getting distracted.

***Nadia*** – After years of playing netball and basketball I decided that I needed a change and a new challenge. Also, my body doesn't pull up like it used to.

***Both*** – saw some photos of a few guys paddling – great arms and torso! Thought it was about time we tapped into new resources!

***What do you do when you are not paddling?***

***Mandy*** – I work as an Administrative Manager for both Jason Agosta Podiatry and Stuart Imer Physiotherapy in East Melbourne.

***Nadia*** – I am a lawyer at Monahan + Rowell. I also do volunteer work for the Women's Legal Service which I find very rewarding.

We also spend our weekends going to the footy (Go Bombers), sampling varieties of ale around the city, fishing, surfing and trips home to our parents in Hamilton. There is not much that we have not tried or at least are prepared to try.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT



From left, Joan Doreian, Naomi Williams and Liz Jenkins helping out with the catering at Wesley.

### 1ST WINTER SERIES RACE HELD AT WESLEY

This was a great day both in and out of the water. Fairfield did the catering for this event. A big thank you must go to those who once again gave up their time to help. Gary and Werner and Kevin were superb on the barbecue, Liz Jenkins amazing on the coffee machine and "the Ladybirds" awesome in support on the day. We raised \$700 which will add to the slowly increasing funds for landscaping.

### FILM NIGHT MONDAY 22 MAY THE DA VINCI CODE AT THE BALWYN CINEMA

Over 130 people packed the upstairs foyer to enjoy food and drinks prior to the film. Reports so far have been very positive – a great night and a wonderful film. A big thanks to Jim Anderson's sister who donated a dozen bottles of red – very well received by all. Perhaps a future fund-raiser could be a wine-bottling? Your thoughts please!

Once again, thank you to the Ladybirds for their continued support and to all the other directors of the club who helped share the load and make for a very successful evening. \$800 was raised. Well done all!

### SIGN-UP DAY SUNDAY 16 JULY – BBQ LUNCH PROVIDED

Please mark this date in your calendars to ensure your membership is renewed.

Your assistance is most welcome for any event.

Please contact Joan Doreian:

Home 9836 9348

Work 9874 8333

Mobile 0437 355 578

Joan Doreian

## DO YOU KNOW...

- You can usually find someone to paddle with on Tuesday and Thursday either between 6am and 6.30am or between 4pm and 6pm and on Saturday morning at 9.30am.
- *The Sunday 10am training sessions welcome ALL standards of paddlers.*
- The Club is cleaned every week.
- *Club consumables are supplied by a combination of cleaners, social committee members and other members on a re-imburement basis.*
- The coffee machine was a donation from a club member.
- *Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, milk and sugar are supplied at no additional cost to the members.*
- The fridge is stocked by the club and is run on an honesty system.
- *The red suggestion letter-box on the left hand side of the club is cleared weekly with issues discussed by the board at the next meeting.*
- Beginners boats and Intermediate boats are supplied and maintained by the club and are available for all members to use.
- *The Club newsletter is printed on a quarterly basis.*
- Weekly FCC update email posted to subscribers.
- *Annual Big Bash organised by the Social Committee.*
- The Board of seven meets on a monthly basis.
- *We are always on the look out for volunteers to help on sub-committees or even to mow the lawn or sweep out the boat racking area on a regular basis.*



## KAYAKING TASMANIA'S FRANKLIN RIVER

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Ever since I first visited South-West Tasmania as a boy 15 years ago the Franklin River has captivated my imagination through its grandeur and isolation. A place known only to a select few and shared with the rest of us by their photographs of special locations like Rock Island Bend. Little did I know that I would become a whitewater paddler and be presented with the opportunity to join this select few.

The Franklin River in Tasmania's South-West Wilderness Area is Australia's premier wilderness white water river. With only one road to provide access a trip on this river takes between 8–11 days to complete finishing at the coastal town of Strahan. Most people attempting this river use inflatable rafts or at least kayak with raft support. For the minimalists like us everything had to be packed into the boat, as we were not using raft support. Thus all food was dehydrated and only the bare essentials were taken to minimize space and weight so as not to unduly upset the balance of the kayakers.

We ended up with a group of seven kayakers none of whom had done the river before thus adding an extra element of adventure. With one of the wettest Decembers on record the wild river came alive. The adventure that transpired was thoroughly rewarding and worth the long wait to at last be here with a close group of friends and to experience the full grandeur of this remarkable place.

Starting on Christmas Eve in cold rain, most of the day was spent re-organizing our gear and doing a car shuttle. As we waited for the car to return we watched the Collingwood River steadily rise. The Collingwood River is a log filled tributary and provides easy access to the Franklin as it is only a short distance to the confluence. Starting on the river late in the day progress was swift as all the logjams described in this section were underwater thus no portaging was required. At the confluence we found the Collingwood to be carrying most of the water as the upper Franklin was yet to respond to the rain. However, camping at the confluence we awoke the next day to find the Franklin in flood, thus we spent Christmas day sleeping, eating and speculating how our progress would develop (if at all).

Boxing Day and the Franklin had dropped but not to its initial level but enough that we were able to set off on the Franklin proper. The group had a mixture of experience with the least experienced being Sven. Sven struggled early in the trip with

the high water and had a few swims before the river became serious. This caused some concern amongst the group. In light of the situation we changed our approach, adopting a set structure to our group and proceeding more conservatively. This brought everyone closer together and we worked much more as a team. As a result we paddled through Decention Gorge without further incident. However, our progress for the day was short of expectation and we had already used one of our two spare days.

The next day the rain eased a little and we were able to catch up time and make our way to the start of The Great Ravine, the second and most demanding of the three gorge sections. Our swift progress was due to the high water and gentler rapids on this section. Using the fast current and losing no time portaging as all obstructions were washed out, we were able to make up the lost time from the previous day.

As the name suggests the Great Ravine is a deep narrow gorge with near vertical walls on either side. There are 4 huge rapids in this section that require portaging at all river levels. The worst part of the ravine is the portaging, as the heavy kayakers need to be hauled over steep goat tracks. The steep tracks wind their way up and over cliffs often returning to the river well downstream of the rapid as there is no prior opportunity to access the river. Some portages took up to 3 hours often involving multiple haulage systems to get the kayakers up and then abseil the boats down at the other end. While all kayakers were heavy due to all the camping equipment stowed in the back, Sven's boat seemed particularly heavy. An inquisition led to the discovery of 2 litres of port, which was confiscated and consumed that night. We had all agreed to bring the bare minimum as excess weight made the boats more unstable and heavier to portage. Besides he owed us for having to rescue his boat when he swam earlier in the trip. After a day of hard work, the toughest section completed and full of port we were for the first time confident of finishing our trip on time...

Pleased with our progress and with a rest day still up our sleeve we continued on to Proposting Gorge. Overnight rain had brought the river up significantly and the small creek we had camped next to had become a raging torrent. The swollen river was now full of swirls and boils but the rapids themselves were mostly washed out leaving fast wave trains. Just after the gorge were two more big rapids separated by Rock Island Bend that marked the end of the



*This page from left: Finding a portage track Great Ravine; Grant running Nasty Notch; Ruth happy to be alive below Decention Gorge and Limestone Cliffs on Lower Franklin. Opposite page from left: Jim on Newlands Cascades final rapid; lowering boats down goat track; Sven and Jasmine taking in the scenery and Derek finding the line on Corkscrew.*



*Ruth, Jasmin and Jim taking a break.*

whitewater. Instead of washing out these rapids just got bigger. The first of these is a mandatory portage and there is normally a long pool before the second. Instead we found continuous whitewater between the two rapids. After studying the situation and watching the river rise another metre while we worked out what to do it became clear that we were stuck between a rock and a hard place unable to move until the river dropped as all portaging options were now washed out. We found a flatish space but too small for all our tents so we put up some tarps to sleep under and set about having dinner, meanwhile the river continued to rise and the rain continued to fall and our campsite was soon only just above water. Just before dusk we moved to higher ground, which unfortunately consisted of a waterfall on one side, a cliff on the other and a steep slope of boulders in between. No option of setting tents here. The best we could do was to spread the tarps over the rocks and try and squeeze in between and hope that we could stay dry. Three of us squished into one cavity not much wider than half a metre and contemplated how many days we would be stuck there for. We managed to stay dry and the rain eased during the night. However, finishing our trip on time appeared more unlikely than ever...

During the morning the river began to fall just as fast as it had risen. By midday we decided to pack up with the aim of leaving around 3pm. Thus we moved out down to the next rapid which was still big and boisterous as the water was still high, just not in flood anymore. Rocks down the right bank were now exposed allowing

a portage for those not willing to paddle but those of us keen to give it a go had our biggest thrill for the trip on this long final rapid. Now on the flat water we floated until we found the ideal campsite where we had a huge meal and a good night's sleep.

Having spent 30 hours to move 500 metres we still had 35km to paddle in very slow boats to meet our rendezvous with the yacht and only one day to complete it. But with the rapids over and the swift current to help us we even had time to stop and investigate caves inhabited by the Aborigines during the last ice age. Now off the Franklin River and on the lower reaches of the Gordon River we came upon the remnants of the lower Gordon Dam construction site. Only a few pieces of concrete are all that remain at the site where construction had begun on the dam and where conservationists met the developers head on 23 years ago. The construction was stopped early by a change in Federal Government when Bob Hawke swept to power. It all seems irrelevant now but without intervention the whole Franklin River would have been flooded by a series of three hydroelectric dams. Instead the Franklin remains as perhaps Australia's last wilderness catchment with no mines, no forestry, no agriculture and no civilization from the mountains to the sea, with the exception of one road. I can see the interest in hydro-electricity, as the volume of water, the gradient and deep gorges make the river ideal. But it is also a true wilderness. Never have I been somewhere where your activity is so dictated by the weather. The river is indeed boss. It will dictate the terms of when and how you paddle by sudden mood swings as the river suddenly floods but equally curious is how quickly the floods can clear leaving no evidence that anything had changed. We were rewarded by a true wilderness experience, having to adapt to the conditions and stretch our ability without exceeding it, all in the most isolated and most stunning location imaginable. It was one of those trips that would be foolhardy to try to repeat, as a repeat would only spoil all recollections of the original journey.

Just to top the trip off, the yacht crew had left us a slab of beer at our rendezvous, just the thing for NewYears Eve. The Yacht picked us up early on New Years Day for the seven hour trip to Strahan.

*Jim Anderson*

*All photos Jim Anderson collection.*

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## 2006 GRANTS AWARD NIGHT

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Last year Ivan Gaal and I received a grant from the Department of Victorian Communities to produce a documentary about seven senior members of the Fairfield Canoe Club. The Images of Ages Grants are a key component of the Victorian Government's commitment to supporting diverse characteristics and stories and positive portrayals of older people in Australian television, film and theatre.

The documentary *Grey Paddle Power* follows seven members of the club as they compete in the marathon winter series, the Edmonton Masters Games and the Murray River Marathon.

We showed eight minutes of the documentary at the 2006 Grants Award night held at the Victorian Arts Centre on May 22. In his introductory speech Ivan explained that all FCC members and friends at the awards night were wearing FCC club caps under instruction from the club president because they had not attended the club's fundraising film night held on the same date. Proudly wearing our club caps and with Fairfield getting plenty of mention in the documentary, FCC starred on the night!

We would like to thank all members of the club who supported us in the making of the documentary. And a special thanks to the stars of the show Kevin Hannington, Geoff Hindle, Jonathan Mayne, Margaret Buck, Gary Flanigan and Werner Bolz. Finally we would like to thank the Victorian Government for funding the project.

As part of the grant we must now promote the documentary and we will distribute DVD's of the documentary in the next few months to specific groups in Victoria. We also plan to have the official launch of the documentary at the club this summer.

*Michael Loftus-Hills*



*Ivan Gaal, Max Gillies and Michael Loftus-Hills at the Images of Ages Awards Night. Max Gillies was MC at the event.*



*Ivan Gaal proudly wears his FCC cap as he introduces the *Grey Paddle Power* documentary.*

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## MARATHON WINTER SERIES RACE ONE

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Phew – and that was before the first event of the winter series even started!

From what I gather there were a lot of first timers like me racing (or trying to) at the first winter series event on Sunday 30 April. For me it started on Saturday when I realised that I would actually be able to take part in the event and went down to the club to see if I could organise a boat.

To this end, before I go any further I have to say a very big thank you to Pam and Joe for all their help in making sure that I was able to paddle in the event, let alone all the advice that was very desperately needed.

I arrived at the start with a sense of trepidation, all the advice I had been given the day before had apparently parted company with my brain overnight. 'Now was that advice to start at the front or at the back?' 'Where was the best position to washride?' Once registered I went to have a look at the map of the course...and it was then that I remembered why I never took geography at school. Once again Pam was on hand and ever supportive in going through the course with me before the start.

It was subsequently announced that Division 7 would be the 8th start of the morning and that there were more than 30 paddlers in the start. On to the water we went and, once the wobbles had gone I felt pretty comfortable with the way things were traveling. Since arriving at the event everyone I had spoken to had suggested that the start would be hectic and it was a good idea to get to the front before the start. I did this with zeal, only to find seconds before the gun went off that I had passed the buoys and had to go around. Oh well so much for starting at the front, or even near the front.

Off we went, at the start it all seemed pretty easy, got through the start alright and managed to get onto a wash and got a ride all the way down to the bottom turning buoy, kept it up all the way back up with the help of some fantastic moral support from the 'Tinnie' on the river. Concentrating on my paddling and staying on the wash, I became completely oblivious to all that was around me, until we came around the island and found the shallow water. Well that was hard and the less said about it the better.



*Paul Hoffman with Anna Wilson at the Winter Series Race One.  
Photo Michael Loftus-Hills collection.*

Round the island and the support from the bank was fantastic, although the top buoy seemed a lot closer on the map than it felt actually getting there. Round the buoy, down and around Herring Island once more, through the shallow water up and around the closer marker and finally across the finish line.

FINISHED...Yay completed my first winter series race, not too sure where I finished overall, but finished nonetheless and was pretty happy with that for a first effort. The highlight of the race, apart from not falling in etc, was definitely the Mars Bar that was handed to me as soon as I got out of the boat – that was sensational and capped off a fantastic event for me.

Once again everyone from the club was terrific with advice and support, I think as one of the newer members of the club and certainly to the sport, it has been fantastic to draw on the knowledge and advice of others. From a personal point of view I would really like to thank everyone involved in organising the event and making it so enjoyable for newcomers like myself.

See you all hopefully at the next event!

*Paul Hoffman*

# MARATHON WINTER SERIES 2006

Three races of the winter series have been held so far. There is still plenty of time to get into the action for all those interested in the competitive aspect of the sport. If it is a little daunting contemplating a race by yourself, consider entering one of the doubles races. The Race Organizing Committee can assist you in locating a partner and a boat to race in.

## RACE 1

Race 1 of the Winter Series was held on April 30 2006. This race was hosted by Fairfield Canoe Club and doubled as a fund-raiser for the club. As we hoped for our very own race, the turnout of racing paddlers and club members on hand to organize the day and provide catering services was fantastic. 34 paddlers competed and, although we don't have an official count of the members who were there on the day to organize, cook, serve, assist with set-up of the course, safety boats and all the other jobs required for the day to proceed, my best estimate is that 15 people pitched in.

As set out in our last newsletter, the points system for the winter series has changed. Following Race 1, the *provisional* summary of points is as set out in the table below. As you can see, Fairfield has some work to do to knock Patterson Lakes off the top of the table! Our junior paddlers also need to get cracking to catch Ivanhoe. Fairfield has a proud history at the winter series, having won the series 9 times, a feat no other club has achieved. We would love to claim our 10th victory in 2006.

| Club            | Senior Points | Club            | Junior Points |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Patterson Lakes | 121           | Ivanhoe-North   | 54            |
| Fairfield       | 91            | Patterson Lakes | 37            |
| Ivanhoe-North   | 88            | Fairfield       | 35            |
| Geelong         | 57            | Sherbrook       | 17            |
| GEC             | 35            | GEC             | 7             |
| Sherbrook       | 23            | Gippsland       | 6             |
| CPRT            | 18            | Ballarat        | 0             |
| Ballarat        | 12            | Bendigo         | 0             |
| Gippsland       | 11            | Cobram          | 0             |
| Mitta Mitta     | 9             | Echuca          | 0             |
| Bendigo         | 7             | Essendon        | 0             |
| Echuca          | 7             | Footscray       | 0             |
| Essendon        | 3             | Geelong         | 0             |
| Footscray       | 2             | Mildura         | 0             |
| Cobram          | 0             | Mitta Mitta     | 0             |
| Mildura         | 0             | Shepparton      | 0             |
| Shepparton      | 0             | Warrnambool     | 0             |
| Warrnambool     | 0             | Yarrowonga      | 0             |
| Yarrowonga      | 0             | CPRT            | 0             |

## Individual results for Fairfield paddlers are as follows:

| Paddler                       | Division | Place | Paddler         | Division | Place |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------|-----------------|----------|-------|
| Anthony Miller                | 4        | 7th   | Parn Nakabutara | 7        | 5th   |
| James Anderson                | 5        | 2nd   | Angus Campbell  | 7        | 6th   |
| Michael Loftus-Hills          | 5        | 4th   | Hamish McCoy    | 7        | 7th   |
| Alex James (in a TC1)         | 5        | 6th   | Sam Potter      | 7        | 8th   |
| Roger Tralaggan               | 6        | 5th   | Tony Payne      | 7        | 10th  |
| Kim Taylor                    | 6        | 6th   | Geoff Hindle    | 7        | 13th  |
| Michael Kane                  | 6        | 9th   | Robyn Ward      | 7        | 14th  |
| Chris Runting                 | 6        | 10th  | Sam Hill        | 7        | 15th  |
| Anna Wilson                   | 6        | 13th  | Hugh Buzacott   | 7        | 19th  |
| Marc Vellette                 | 6        | 15th  | Paul Hoffman    | 7        | 20th  |
| Raymond Ingwersen             | 6        | 16th  | David Bevan     | 7        | 21st  |
| Steve Batancs                 | 6        | 18th  | William Norcott | 7        | 22nd  |
| Kevin Hannington              | K1V65    | 2nd   | Ivan Gaal       | 7        | 29th  |
| Werner Boltz                  | K1V65    | 3rd   | Lisa Newton     | 7        | 30th  |
| Jonathan Eager                | 7        | 3rd   | Andrew Buzacott | 7        | 31st  |
| Jim Buzacott                  | 7        | 4th   | Roger Barratt   | 8        | 2nd   |
| Nick Hill and<br>Shams Shamid | TK2 U16  | 1st   |                 |          |       |



David Bevan (left) and Tony Payne.

# MARATHON WINTER SERIES 2006

Following Race 1, the ranking of some paddlers has changed due to better than expected performances or, for some, slightly worse than expected performances. Special mention must go to Anthony Miller who has moved from Division 7 to Division 4 in one fell swoop. Anthony has been training hard with Liz Hirschoff's squad and has become a lean, mean racing machine. Well done Anthony!

Approved promotions and demotions after Race 1 as at 9th May.

## Promotions

|                   |        |                    |        |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| Andrew Bray       | 4 to 3 | Jim Buzacott       | 7 to 6 |
| Arthur Alger      | 6 to 3 | Parn Nakabutara    | 8 to 6 |
| Mark Hudgell      | 4 to 3 | Angus Campbell     | 8 to 6 |
| Daniel Ryan       | 6 to 4 | Hamish McCoy       | 8 to 6 |
| Megan Braithwaite | 5 to 4 | Sam Potter         | 8 to 7 |
| Anthony Miller    | 7 to 4 | Paul Miles         | 0 to 7 |
| Euan Kilpatrick   | 6 to 5 | William Norcott    | 9 to 8 |
| Tony Peach        | 7 to 5 | Riley Le Lievre    | 8 to 7 |
| Ian Kilpatrick    | 5 to 4 | Robert Barratt     | 8 to 7 |
| James Anderson    | 5 to 4 | Jarrad Byrne       | 9 to 8 |
| Eric Alger        | 6 to 5 | Alex Virgo         | 9 to 8 |
| David Accadra     | 7 to 5 | Sean Kelly         | 9 to 8 |
| Andrew Cox        | 7 to 5 |                    |        |
| Tim Wadsworth     | 7 to 5 | <b>Demotions</b>   |        |
| Roger Tralaggan   | 6 to 5 | Michael Bray       | 6 to 7 |
| Kim Taylor        | 6 to 5 | Elly Hobbs         | 8 to 9 |
| Michael Kane      | 7 to 6 | Emily Castaldi     | 8 to 9 |
| Chris Runtng      | 7 to 6 | Cat McArthur       | 8 to 9 |
| Chris Bennett     | 7 to 6 | Annie Chan         | 8 to 9 |
| David Pritchard   | 7 to 5 | Milly Waller       | 8 to 9 |
| Nicholas Byrne    | 7 to 5 | Sonja Thomson      | 8 to 9 |
| Jonathon Eager    | 7 to 6 | Alexandria Wajcman | 8 to 9 |

All photos Michael Loftus-Hills collection.



Fairfield Canoe Club members at the first Winter Series race held at Wesley.



From left, Kevin Hannington, Werner Bolz and Gary Flanigan.



Steve Batancs.



Anna Wilson and Marc Bellette.



From left, Geoff Hindle, Jim Anderson and Kim Taylor.



Alex James and Robyn Ward.

# MARATHON WINTER SERIES 2006

## RACE 2

Race 2 was held at Patterson Lakes on 21 May 2006.

This race was a doubles race. Fairfield results are as follows:

| Paddlers                                 | Division | Place |
|--|----------|-------|
| Wennie van Lint and Helen Neill          | 3 and 4  | 4th   |
| Tim Wadsworth and Chris Runting          | 5 and 6  | 1st   |
| Anna Wilson and Alex James               | 5 and 6  | 3rd   |
| Michael Loftus-Hills and Roger Tralaggan | 5 and 6  | 5th   |
| Jim Buzacott and Jennifer Stevens        | 5 and 6  | 8th   |
| Nick Hill and Hamish McCoy               | 5 and 6  | 9th   |
| Raymond Ingwersen and Marc Bellette      | 5 and 6  | 12th  |
| Neil Grierson and Marek Michalewicz      | 5 and 6  | 14th  |
| Michael Kane and James Anderson          | 5 and 6  | 17th  |
| Prue Kelly and Stewart Nicol             | 5 and 6  | 18th  |
| Simon Cumming and Pam Nakabutara         | 7        | 5th   |
| Andrew Buzacott and Graeme Wiggins       | 7        | 6th   |
| Joe Alia and Tony Payne                  | 7        | 8th   |
| Nadia Spiller and Mandy Knee             | 7        | 9th   |

All photos Michael Loftus-Hills collection.



Fairfield Canoe Club members from Strathcona and Trinity schools.



Fairfield Canoe Club members at Patterson Lakes.

# MARATHON WINTER SERIES 2006

All photos Michael Loftus-Hills collection.

## RACE 3

Race 3 was held at Nagambie on Sunday 4 June.  
Fairfield results are as follows:

| Paddler              | Division  | Place |
|----------------------|-----------|-------|
| Wennie van Lint      | 3         | 5th   |
| James Anderson       | 4         | 4th   |
| Grant Clark          | 5         | 3rd   |
| Michael Loftus-Hills | 5         | 4th   |
| Roger Tralaggan      | 5         | 5th   |
| Helen Neill          | 5         | 10th  |
| Jonathan Eager       | 6         | 3rd   |
| Angus Cambell        | 6         | 4th   |
| Michael Kane         | 6         | 6th   |
| Steve Batancs        | 6         | 8th   |
| Pamela Lilburne      | 6         | 9th   |
| Jim Buzacott         | 6         | 14th  |
| Tom Ellis            | 6         | 15th  |
| Kevin Hannington     | K1 Vet 55 | 2nd   |
| Werner Boltz         | K1 Vet 55 | WD    |
| Tony Payne           | 7         | 5th   |
| Siobhan Earley       | 7         | 14th  |
| Mandy Knee           | 7         | 15th  |
| Lisa Newton          | 7         | 17th  |



Fairfield Canoe Club members at Nagambie.



Tony Payne, left, and Mick Kane.



Roger Tralaggan with his wife Rachel and son Matthew.



Werner Boltz.



Kevin Hannington.

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# COACHING UPDATE REPORT

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## **A COACHING UPDATE FROM THE FCC BOARD**

Our FCC coaching program was established by Zoli Szigeti after he joined the club in 1956. Various club members are now working together to ensure its continuity as, unfortunately, Zoli is not able to continue coaching.

Special thanks go to Julie Perriam for continuing our Level One program, along with all other members who have volunteered to assist her. Thanks also to those members who are volunteering their time and enthusiasm to conduct the Sunday 10 to 12 training sessions.

The Board and ROSD committee are currently reviewing our coaching program. In particular, the Board is promoting its position of encouraging accredited and experienced FCC members who wish to contribute to the coaching pool at the club.

## **How does the board encourage experienced FCC members to qualify as coaches?**

- The club pays for coaching course costs including first aid, and registration/application costs.
- Experienced and appropriate members and coaches accepted by the FCC insurer and the Board are covered for professional indemnity insurance at the club.
- All coaches are encouraged to volunteer their time in the club program.

## **How does the board encourage participants in FCC courses and programs to improve their skills?**

- The beginner level one course is available to the general public and FCC members for a very reasonable cost.
- The beginner level two course (replacing the intermediate course) and squad training are only open to club members, and as such are now free of charge.

## **Who will administer this program?**

- The ROSD committee has been asked by the Board to elect an administrator to oversee the Beginner Level 1 and 2 program.
- The administrator will be responsible for:
  - scheduling coaching rosters and courses;
  - designing rosters to be inclusive of all accredited coaches and experienced and appropriate members;
  - maintaining a registry of participants;
  - scheduling of participants; and
  - the receipt of money from participants.

The Board is excited by the continuing pro-active role that FCC and its members take in promoting skills, safety and enjoyment of canoeing at Fairfield. Board members take this opportunity to thank all the members whose goodwill, enthusiasm and skill continues to strengthen our FCC coaching programs.

*Marg Buck*

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE CLUB

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*Jill and Greg Blackman with baby Ashley.*

While Jill and Greg Blackman were on holidays in Queensland, their son, Ashley arrived four weeks early in Brisbane on January 7, the night before they were due to fly home!

After an unplanned nine days at the Brisbane Hospital waiting for him to get healthy enough to travel home, Qantas' youngest Frequent Flyer returned home with his parents on January 16.

All is well now, he is stacking the weight on and it shouldn't be too long before we can get a paddle in his hands.



*Bass and Jenny Wakim with their new twins, Kareema and Marcus and sister Jalili.*

Kareema and Marcus were born on May 3 to Jenny and Bass Wakim. The twins come from a strong canoeing pedigree so should make good paddlers in the future for Fairfield Canoe Club.