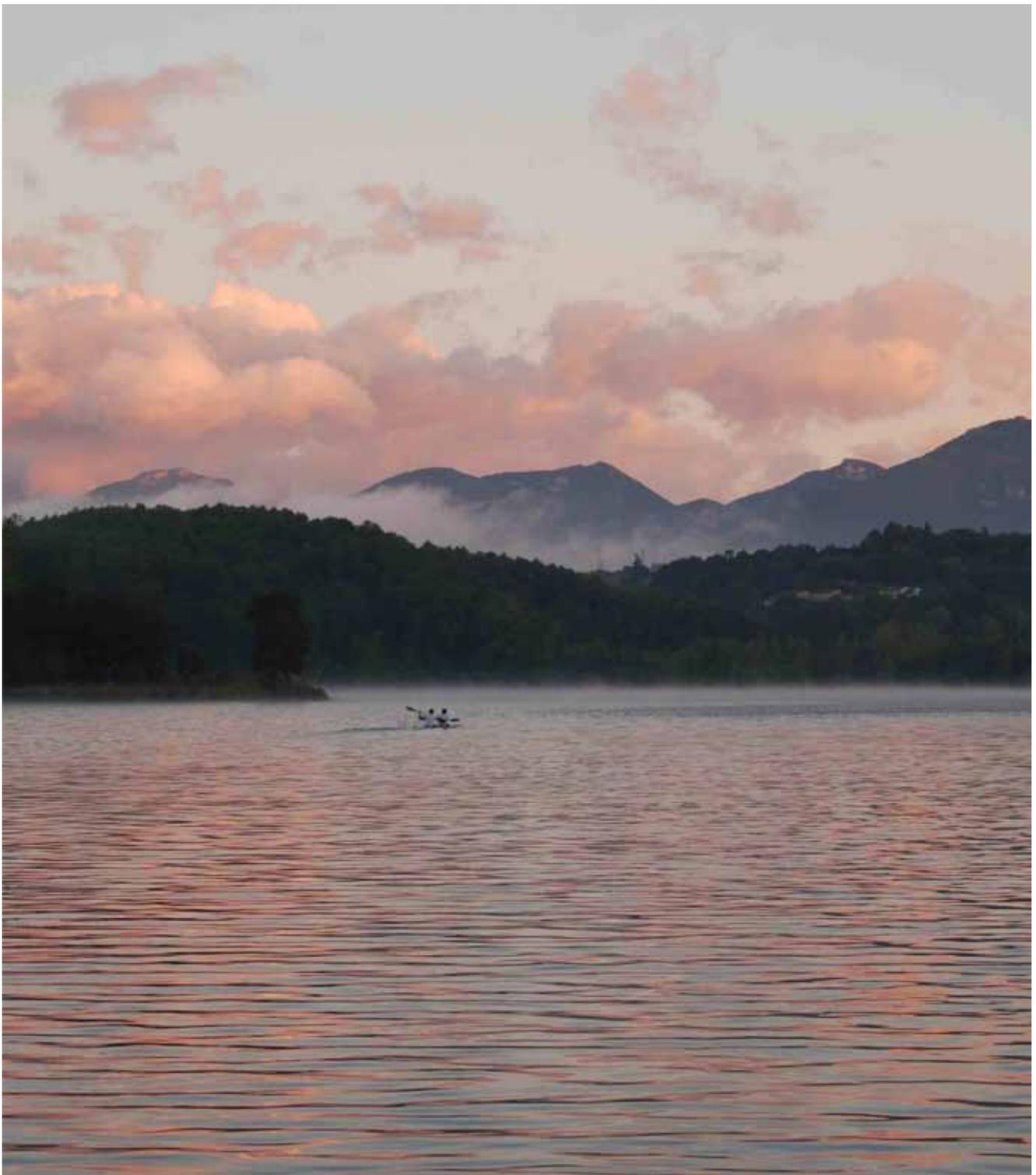


**FAIRFIELD CANOE CLUB**

*Celebrating 90 years  
1919 – 2010*

# Newsletter

**NOVEMBER 2010**



# FAIRFIELD CANOE CLUB COOPERATIVE LTD

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### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



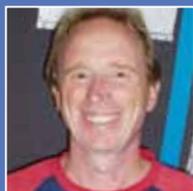
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**How to contribute**

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**

Email [newsletter@fairfieldcanoecub.org.au](mailto:newsletter@fairfieldcanoecub.org.au)

Postal address PO Box 253, Fairfield 3078

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 editorial and layout changes to any submission while doing its best to preserve the intention of the original submission.

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# AGM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

# UPCOMING EVENTS

I think 2009/10 has been a successful year for the Club.

Our membership numbers are high, the Club is financially sound. The Club has been successful in competition and we continue to see good number of members using our facilities on a regular basis, both for competitive training and recreational paddling.

There have been some notable events this year.

We celebrated our 90th year in November 2009. The event was marked by a luncheon which was well attended by both current and past members.

The landing was finally rebuilt! Led by our very capable project engineer, Alex James, a team of 26 volunteers, working over 14 days contributed a total of 85 person days to complete the job. It was a fine effort, and one which I'm sure is appreciated by all.

The boat fleet was reviewed late in the previous year, and the first stage of implementation has occurred. The Intermediate fleet now has a range of K1s to suit a variety of sizes, weights and skill levels of paddlers. This will enable members to work through improving their skills and finding the level with which they are comfortable before committing to the purchase of their own boat. Three new K2s have also been purchased and, after some initial teething problems, these have also been added to the fleet. The intention is to continue to monitor the fleet and further upgrade it as appropriate in the coming year.

The Club has again been very successful in competition. A number of teams and individuals from Fairfield competed in the Murray Marathon in December. We again had great success in the Winter Series, and once more saw Fairfield members achieve selection for International competition.

The Beginners' Courses remain very popular. They are always full (and there is always a waiting list) and we continue to gain members through these courses.

It was good to see some more canoeing happening this year. A Canoeing course was run earlier in the year, and a number of members were inspired to compete in Winter Series races as a consequence.

Membership numbers are high and seem to be still growing. There is always pressure for boat racks, and while we have introduced some measures to help alleviate the shortages, this still remains an important issue to be dealt with. There have been suggestions on further ways to improve the situation, and I hope we can present some suggestions to the membership in the coming year to both deal with this and at the same time improve the facilities within the Club.

I would like to thank the Board Members for their continued support throughout the year. I should also like to thank all Committee members for their efforts, and also to thank those many members who continue to undertake so many tasks which enable the club to run so successfully.

David Bevan  
Chairman

## EVENTS FOR 2010 / 2011

### November

20	Sprint Regatta 1	Nagambie
28	FCC Awards and Christmas Party	FCC

### December

4	Ben Ward 40 Miler	Yarrowonga
12	Footscray Dress Rehearsal	Footscray
26	Murray Marathon	Yarrowonga

### April

22	Marathon National Championships	Geelong
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## COMBINED FCC AWARDS AND CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

*This year we have a joint event for our Christmas party and the annual Award celebrations:*

- *12 noon at the club Sunday November 28th*
- *Spit Roast Catering, \$10 per person, kids under 10 are free, soft drinks included*
- *Bring presents for the kids or other folks, Santa will come!*
- *Please pay beforehand and drop envelope in red suggestion box (please mention if kids under 10 are coming)*
- *RSVP by November 20th, as we have to plan for food and drinks*

*Further info: Marg Buck 9489 0556,  
Carsten Ahrens 0417 032 604*

*Don't forget to put your nomination in for the 'Under Yarra Award' – place in red box at clubhouse. Check website for all details:  
<http://fairfieldcanoecub.org.au>*

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# MARATHON KAYAK WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BANYOLES, SPAIN

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Our overseas adventure began on the 13th of September, flying in the A380 to Singapore and London, then another flight to Barcelona. The initial excitement of meeting up with the rest of the Australian team in Melbourne disappeared as the hours went by. Several movies later it was fantastic to finally arrive!

Ten days of training on canals in the Costa Brava with waves from power boats smashing off the walls at the side of the canals, as fun as it was, it became a welcome relief to paddle in some flat water at Lake Banyoles. In a few days this became the battle ground for our races. I spent much of my time in the Costa Brava paddling and finding internet cafes to talk to all my friends and coaches at home. One afternoon we went on a sailing boat on the Mediterranean Sea to the French border which was a fun and relaxing thing to do.

The hotel rooms we stayed in were not too bad but certainly a world away from the Villa we'd been in at the Costa Brava. Everyone had either set up clothes lines in their hotel rooms or were using the hair driers to dry their clothes.

Now for the races... FCC paddlers James Campbell, Peta Wait, Marlana Ahrens and I represented Australia well. James competed in the U18 Men's K2 category with David Ceddia from Patterson Lakes and came 16th. Peta, with her partner Tegan Fraser, raced the Open Women's K2 and came 13th, and in the same race, my NSW partner, Larissa Horsnell and I came 15th. Marlana and I both raced in the U23 Women's K1 event and came 18th and 19th respectively.

It was a fantastic experience to be able to race against so many boats and to feel the speed of the pace at the start. Larissa and I encountered two Spanish canoeing crews trying to use us as an object with which to collide and shake off the other crew. Their plan didn't work, we held our line around that turn and craftily managed to sneak around the buoy without being pushed to the other side.

Earlier we had a US crew try to do the same thing to us but we just kept our heads low, kept moving our paddles even if the other crew were almost trying to get IN our boat! With some clean water we promptly passed and had left them well behind by the next turn. After the dilemma of running the boat away from Larissa at the pontoon, we ran EVERY portage like there was a bear chasing us. It felt good to run, not so good to slip in the mud covering the portage after all the rain Banyoles had in the week leading up to the races.

Following the races I spent a short time visiting family in Scotland and then travelled to London to see the sights and have some fun being a tourist for a few days. I really enjoyed my first trip overseas and I'm looking forward to doing some more travelling in the near future.

I would like to send out a warm, heartfelt thank you to all the club members, coaches, friends and family who supported me in the lead up to the World Champs. A BIG thank you to those that let me tag along with their training sessions. The encouragement meant alot to me and I won't forget it. Fairfield Canoe Club has been a huge

support in many ways but especially with the funds raised at the club trivia night. Thank you to all members that helped fund the athletes travelling from our club, it was a big help to all of us.

See you all on the river soon.

*Jennifer (Jen) Stevens*



*Lisa Newton and Don Campbell paddling the recently flooded Yarra River. Photo courtesy Tony Payne.*

## WORLD MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS – FROM THE SIDELINE

The World Marathon Canoe Championships were held this year in Banyoles, Spain, from 23 to 26th September. The Masters World Marathon Cup was held two days prior to this at the same venue.

This was the same venue for the rowing events at the 1992 Olympics. For kayak marathon events it was an outstanding venue characterised by beautiful clear water with excellent spectator facilities in a small town, used to hosting and supporting such events as an important part of the local economy. Geographically it is located 100km outside Barcelona just inland from the Costa Brava.

Fairfield sent four representatives; Jen Stevens, Marlana Ahrens, Peta Wait and James Campbell. Lisa Newton paddled in the World Masters event. The Australian team also included representatives from Ivanhoe-Northcote (Cat McArthur and Eliza St Hill), Geelong (Emily Bews), Bendigo (Tegan Frazer), Sherbrooke Knox (Travis Dodd) and Patterson Lakes (David Ceddia), as well as Michael Leverett from the Mitta Mitta Canoe Club. James McArthur (brother of Cat) provided an excellent highlights video online each day (<http://www.youtube.com/user/austem10>). The Australian team was well managed by Mark Coulter and Letitia Harrington.

Fairfield's representatives acquitted themselves well. They were strongly supported by accompanying family members and team supporters and officials. Special mention must be made of Michael Leverett's inspirational race in the Open K1 event, recovering from

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## WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

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a start in the middle of the field to claw his way back from the 4th wash pack to join the lead pack with one and a half laps to go, before finally finishing 6th.

### ***What were the main conclusions to draw from this event?***

The racing was thrilling to watch and the format of a 4.3km loop course with portages entirely within view provides a lot of spectator interest. This is the key to the future of this sport. International

competition is rightly very intense and Australian team members performed creditably, given the depth of the sport in this country. The Australian team members struggle to get out in front at the starts which are fast and furious with fields consisting of large numbers of very quick boats, and inevitable spills and tales of woe in the junior events. Unless Australian kayakers have practice in intense competitive events it seems unlikely that international success will be achieved consistently.

### ***What needs to happen to make it possible for Australians to get onto the podium on a regular basis in future?***

As the home of the strongest marathon competition in Australia, Victoria has the best competitive base for continuing to provide the bulk of the representatives for the marathon world championships. The loop course with portages needs to be the basis of the higher division and junior Winter series races along with quite competitive starts. At present in our Winter series races the better paddlers in each race get clear of the pack in about 30 metres and then it's a lot easier for the small wash pack to settle into a race of four.

### ***Do we need more regular interstate competitive events?***

Not unless there is a funding for such events, given the expense, distances and logistical challenges involved. Greater promotion of the sprint events will help athletes develop the turn of speed that is needed at regular intervals during the marathon events over loop courses. Locally the clubs and schools need to collaborate more openly to support the development of Victorian training squads. This will help the more committed paddlers to reach a higher level of preparedness for the rigours of international competition. Australian Canoeing has set up a high performance coaching panel which I hope will work with clubs and coaches in the future.

I felt privileged to be able to attend the World Championships and to see such intense competition, and proud of both Fairfield and Victoria for their support of our athletes in making the Australian team. Finally congratulations to all of our Australian representatives for performing so well ranking 9th of all countries overall, a ranking that includes our performance in the canoe events where we had no representatives at all!

*Don Campbell*



*Angus (second from the right) and the Australian team at the World University Championships. Photo courtesy Angus Campbell.*

During August this year, I was lucky enough to compete in the World Uni Champs in Poznan, Poland. This was my first international sprint event, so my main goal was definitely experience, and to learn as much from other athletes as I could – whilst racing hard and having a bit of fun along the way.

The Aussie team consisted of 6 athletes, with some fairly incredible names, most of whom had been racing the week prior in the ICF World Championships. The team got along like a house on fire, and we soon started having 'second dinners,' as we didn't feel we were being fed enough.

All of the athletes were staying at the local university's halls of residence, which seemed to fit the theme of 'Uni Games.' We managed to befriend some local students who told us all about life in Poland – we also got to use their internet!

Poznan has a great kayak course. I've been told it can blow up in the afternoon, but didn't understand what this meant until I saw it happen – each day. Waves on this flatwater course are a normal occurrence. Luckily the surf ski training helped.

I was entered in the K2 1000m, K4 1000m and K4 500m. The K2 1000 didn't go as well as we'd hoped, as it was hard jumping into a boat with someone and having only a few days to get it working/running properly.

Next up was the K4 1000. This was definitely the quickest I've ever been in a boat, and it was just incredible to sit in the back seat behind 3 other Open Australian paddlers. I learned a lot, particularly about race tactics. We were winning for the first 500 or so, and ended up equal 2nd with Russia in our heat, so we were quite pleased to go through to the final.

The final was a very quick race, with the Belarusian team winning in a time of 2 mins 56 seconds, and us 7+ seconds back in 8th place. This was seriously quick paddling, as the French K4 1000 men's team had won the world's one week earlier, in a 2:54.

What I now appreciate is how much I lack in strength, size and speed compared to the other athletes. I have a long way to go but as I am relatively new to the sport as long as I continue to work consistently at training, then I should start to get somewhere.

*Angus Campbell*

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## HINCHINBROOK SEA KAYAK TRIP

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In August this year my partner and I took a long awaited break from the rat race for a Sea Kayak trip around World Heritage listed Hinchinbrook Island.

Hinchinbrook lies off the coast of Tropical North Queensland between Ingham and Tully. It is part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and is the largest National Park Island in Australia at 39,000 ha. We had planned to do this trip a year prior and had contacted a group called 'Coral Sea Kayaking' about gear and boat hire so we could do the trip independently. The plans fell through last year due to a stress fracture in my foot and when the opportunity arose to try again this year we grabbed it with gusto. This time, due to preparation and time constraints, we chose to take a guided trip with Coral Sea Kayaking which was a fantastic decision. Not only was their guiding great but there was only one other customer on the trip with two guides and their approach is relaxed, fun and informative. In addition to this, the food they brought and prepared for us on the trip was sensational for camping conditions – in fact camping catering will never be the same for me again!

The Kayaks they use are designed out of NZ and Dave from Coral Sea Kayaking bought the design for manufacture in Australia. They were very nice to paddle and capacious for gear.

The trip began in Mission Beach where we were collected from our accommodation for the road trip to Lucinda, the starting point for the paddle. We were provided excellent dry bags at a pre trip briefing which, when packed well, fit perfectly into the centre hold of the double kayaks, along with heaps of other gear.



*The Southern Hemisphere's longest pier measuring 6km long.*

Day one was a short paddle out of Lucinda to the first bay on Hinchinbrook – due to tide times we could not go any further on that day so it was a relaxed start to the 7 night trip. As we paddled out we enjoyed an ever expanding view of the southern hemisphere's longest pier. At a staggering 6kms long it is used to transport sugar from the mill all the way out to the large tankers at sea.



*Clare having a brief dip at Zoe Falls.*

On Day 2 we followed the east coast of Hinchinbrook northwards into Zoe Bay. The beach here was white, sandy and gorgeous and under the backdrop of the island's Mount Bowen (1142m). Upon the advice of our guides we took a trek into the forest high above the bay to check out Zoe Falls and a bracing freshwater swimming hole teeming with little Rainbow Perch. Following a brief dip (our only freshwater bathe for the 7 days) we climbed to the top of the falls to take in the view back across to the mainland.

We encountered many sea turtles along the way – they would slowly pop their heads and shells up out of the water for a look around and encountering us would quickly dash away. The water however was so clear that we enjoyed a good view of them as they descended deep below our boats.

It was on the third day that my dream for this trip came true. I had quietly been wishing that we would spot a whale on our trip and it was whilst paddling the sweeping 8km rocky coastline of Ramsay Bay that we spied the mist from a whale blowhole in the distance. We headed out to sea in that general direction and were blessed by an encounter with a pod of 3 humpbacks, including a juvenile. We moved with them and observed them for over an hour, at times they came as close as 30–40 metres and were quite playful with lots of tail slapping. It was magnificent to watch and although I have no photos (I only carried a point-and-shoot with me for the trip so did not bother trying to photograph the whales) it is etched on my mind forever.

Days 4 and 5 continued north into the rocky and exposed northern tip of Hinchinbrook, plenty more sea turtles, lots of birdlife and a bit of swell as we rounded the northern tip of the Island to stop for a break on Orchid Beach, the location of the (currently closed for renovations) Hinchinbrook Island Resort.

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From here we took what was to be a short one hour crossing leaving Hinchinbrook for Goold Island. It in actual fact was a gruelling 2.5 hour battle with headwind and a stronger than usual tide (or so the guides told us). We did, however, time our arrival perfectly to avoid an unpleasant and long portage of the laden boats across the mud flats to the beach above the tide line for our overnight stay. We paddled through scores of small stingray in the shallows of the mud flats and investigated the old Aboriginal fish traps on the beach. The campsite vista and the sunset here were truly spectacular.

Day 6 was an open water paddle of about 4 hours from Goold Island to Wheeler Island, coming across more boats and small rocky islands dotted around us. Our arrival at Wheeler Island was full of disappointment as it was our last night and there was a group of 'weekenders' who had come out from the mainland in 3 boats with music and eskies full of booze to disturb the tranquillity of the isolation we had enjoyed for the previous 6 nights. Actually they were quite well behaved but we couldn't help feeling sad that we didn't have the campsite to ourselves.



*One of the beautiful campsites on Hinchinbrook Island.*

The last day's paddle was a leisurely 3 hours from Wheeler Island past Bedarra, Timana and Dunk Islands back to Mission Beach on the mainland. We eagerly anticipated a shower and a cold beer at the pub and were there just in time for lunch after unpacking all the gear and seeing it back to the headquarters of Coral Sea kayaks.

Each day's paddling is 3–4 hours at whatever pace you like but a gentle pace is best to enjoy the tranquillity and wildlife. The paddling is not difficult and builds nicely so that with little (or no) training or preparation an active person can easily complete the trip. Campsites are basic, some with long drop facilities, some BYO shovel. Aside from the first couple of days, the Hinchinbrook paddling campsites are independent of the hiker campsites for the Thorsburn Trail Great Walk – all are private, relaxed and picturesque.



*Paddling around Hinchinbrook Island. Photos courtesy Clare McBeath.*

I can highly recommend this trip to all keen kayakers. Either independently or on a guided trip it has lots to offer and is thoroughly enjoyable. If you consider an independent kayak trip on Hinchinbrook be sure to fully investigate the tides as the high tide line is right at the top of some of the beaches – we had to tie up the boats on more than one night and at low tide you might face some extended portage of boats and gear to camp.

For more information check out [www.coralseakayaking.com.au](http://www.coralseakayaking.com.au) we were delighted with the quality of their service.

*Clare McBeath*

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## PADDLER PROFILE – LLEW MORGAN

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Llew joined FCC in 2005 and was recently elected onto the FCC Board.

### *When did you Join FCC?*

I first learnt about the FCC from my long standing Alphington mate, Mick Kane. Mick would talk about his discovery of kayaking and FCC when we caught up at the footy or local community gatherings. This was particularly apparent at Mick's 50th Birthday at the Alphington Bowling Club when there was a significant contingent of FCC members and he spoke so glowingly about the club. It was later that year (2005) that I decided I would give it a go, along with our mutual friend Ed Walta.

### *What kind of paddling do you do at FCC?*

I consider myself a social/recreational paddler. I would have to say that I am also a bit of "fair weather" paddler and tend to go into hibernation during the winter months. During the warmer months I try to paddle at least twice a week, once on the weekend and a midweek paddle. While I love paddling, it has not come easily, probably because I have taken it up a little later in life. I have found that any problems with my technique or the boat tend to translate into injuries of some sort. I owe a lot to the patience of many people at the club who have helped me along the way including Margaret, Mick, Joe and Connie. I also owe a lot to my good mate and paddling partner, Ed, particularly during the early days. I am strictly a TK1 or two man, which I find gives me enough challenge. I have gained a great benefit from using the club boats over the years, which also helped me to choose my own boat, a Vector.

### *Any funny experiences while paddling?*

For those who were around the club five years ago, you will probably have heard about the "run-away" kayak at the Albury-Wodonga race in March 2006. Ed and I teamed up in a TK2 lent to us by Liz Jenkins. It was our inaugural race where we managed to stress test the race procedures. It is amazing what a few false assumptions from two beginners can create. We misinterpreted that there would be a bridge half way along the course when we looked at the map prior to the race. The course we were looking at was the 26km race not our 16km race. So, when we saw a bridge we kept going, as it happened, for another 16km. As the presentations were being conducted we were still paddling. Anyhow, with a lot of effort from the Mitta Mitta club, not to mention the angst it caused everyone, we were safely retrieved by the locals. Lesson number one, don't make assumptions.

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

I am a bit of a home body and love spending time with the family. My wife Anna and I moved to Alphington 24 years ago and we have two boys, Daniel and Patrick, who are in their early twenties. We have always enjoyed the local area and spending time with the local community, right from the early days of food co-ops and baby-sitting clubs to recent times having dinner together at the Grand View Hotel. My professional life has been in Banking and Finance in a wide range of roles with most recent focus being in project management. With the boys growing up, Anna and I have set our sights on overseas travel and have had a couple of trips to Europe over the last two years.

### *You were recently elected onto the FCC Board. What are your expectations? What will your role be?*

I have always been very impressed by the way the club has been managed and the fantastic enthusiasm, friendliness and energy around the club, which is a real credit to all those that have been involved in the club over the years. I decided I would like to contribute more and I threw my hat in the ring when the Board opportunity came up. My main aims will be to listen, learn and help out wherever I can. Hopefully, as I learn more about the club I can contribute some ideas along the way. Initially my main areas of involvement lighten the load of others on the administrative side of things. First up, I am helping Mick with the Membership responsibilities and Don with cleaning up some of the club documentation. From my profile you will have guessed I will be keeping a wide berth from the technical aspects of kayaking.

### *Do you play any other sports?*

Another sport which I enjoy and has come in mighty handy for paddling is swimming. When my exercise regime is going well I go 20km per week on top of the water and 2km in the water. Occasionally I mix up the two sports when I end up in the drink. I also enjoy bushwalking, golf and used to do a bit of cross country skiing. There is a common thread between paddling, bushwalking and cross country skiing in the sense that it gives you a connection with nature.

### *MFC Supporters' Group*

One of the first social activities that I was introduced to at FCC was the Melbourne Football Club Supporters Group. As I quickly learnt, this is an exclusive group which is made up of members with a common passion for the MFC. I was lucky enough to be invited as a guest to one of their tri-monthly pizza nights where there are deep discussions about everything red and blue. Tony Payne runs a very sophisticated tipping competition about all aspects of MFC's forthcoming performance. After thorough scrutinising at a couple of pizza nights, I was inducted as full member. I always look forward to getting together with the other exulted members to plot MFC's future, which is looking a tad brighter at the moment.

### *The club and its future*

There is no doubt FCC ticks all the boxes. The club promotes fitness and well-being for a wide variety of ages and paddling standards, community connection, and the environment. With the strong membership, great club facilities and the wonderful Yarra River, the FCC has a very bright future.

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## YARRA RIVER 1 – CANOE 0

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The Yarra has many moods – from fast-flowing to slow and languid. Some sections of the river, however, have a mood and character of their own, no matter what is happening elsewhere on the river. The stretch upstream from the club to the Chandler Highway Bridge is always a malevolent stretch – even when flowing slowly. As a beginner, whether from over-confidence or incompetence, going for a swim was standard.

### **I AM NOT PARANOID, BUT THE RIVER WAS OUT TO GET ME!**

So it was during the recent high water flow on Sunday 17 October (when the river reached 2.4m at the Fairfield gauge – normal is about 0.5m), as I headed upstream for the Club training session this same section of the river showed who was boss. I purposefully took a canoe thinking, “I can’t fall out of this!” Wrong! The flow was strong and difficult to handle and without a rudder challenging.

### **DISASTER STRIKES**

Edging along the bank I made it passed the first corner, passed the concrete culvert and headed towards the Bridge edging around the trees. It was then that I came to grief. Half way to the Bridge the current pushed me out from the bank into the centre of the river. I thought, “This is OK, I’ll just spin around and have another go.” What I didn’t notice was the waves in the centre of the river. It seemed to happen in slow motion, but I before I knew it, I was out and in the water.

### **AM I OK? NO!**

At this point you go through the checklist: up-right the boat, put the paddle into the boat, turn it downstream and swim for the bank. This all started off well. I was being carried down stream quite quickly, but choosing which part of the bank to head to wasn’t an option. At first you wonder how this all might end, then you make progress and gain confidence. But the river took over and decided my fate. I thought I was making good progress towards the bank when I was swept into three saplings that are not normally in the river. This is when things did go wrong. On hitting the trees the boat tilted and filled with water and struck fast against the trees. I tried to pull it off, but I couldn’t get the leverage. Fortunately, it wasn’t far to the shore and I was able to haul myself out. I then made a rather defeated walk back to the Club for help.

### **RESCUE IS AT HAND**

With rope and Rowan’s assistance, we made an attempt from the shore to drag the canoe off the trees, but without luck. It was then that the fearless trio of David, Rowan and Joe took a finnie and see if they could rescue the canoe. And so it was, through daring manoeuvres they were able to edge the canoe off the trees and bring it back bent and battered, but in one piece, to the Club.

### **A SERVICE TO THE CLUB!**

All this took place whilst the club training session was taking place upstream. The canoe was on dry land and I had already showered by the time everyone returned. I was then asked, “Where did you get to?” It was then that I realised a disastrous morning can still be of some use as although they didn’t enjoy the conditions much at the training session, it made everyone feel better to hear that someone else was worse off!

*Andrew Buzacott*

*Editor’s note: Despite Andrew’s self-deprecatory story it is worth noting that after completing the club canoe course he has gone from strength to strength in the canoe – even picking up a bronze and silver medal at the recent Victorian Championships.*



*Llew, Mick and Stephen at the edge of the flooded Yarra River.  
Photo courtesy Tony Payne.*

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## OUR CANOEING ADVENTURES

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Stephen and I have had a few canoeing adventures this year; in February we rafted the Franklin River, in March we paddled the Glenelg River and in July we paddled the Cooper Creek.

### FRANKLIN RIVER

Franklin River is synonymous with wilderness conservation and our eleven day rafting expedition was one of the best ways to explore its beauty. We rafted through Tasmania's most beautiful, rugged and inaccessible country, now listed as a World Heritage Area.

We paddled the full navigable length of the river starting from the Collingwood River to St Johns Falls on the Gordon River, where we were picked up by a yacht and transferred to Strahan. We also had a day walk to the imposing Frenchman's Cap on day three..

Our expedition had two all-knowing guides and two rafts, crewed by eight people, some inexperienced paddlers. We were entirely self-sufficient, carrying everything we needed, and carrying all our waste out, in watertight barrels and dry bags. Thankfully the weather was fine as we slept under tarps, on rock ledges and in caves at night.

The Franklin was a physically demanding journey particularly as the river was low. It was certainly challenging hauling the heavy rafts over blockages and at times patience was required. The Great Ravine, a 5km long gorge and rapids such as the Cauldron, Thunderush and the Churn would have been more spectacular and thrilling if the river was higher.

There is no doubt that this was an unforgettable experience, one that I will remember for the rest of my life.



Julie and Stephen rafting The Franklin. Photo courtesy Stephen Beitz.



Stephen and Julie paddling the Glenelg River. Photo courtesy Greg Jacobs.

### GLENELG RIVER

The Glenelg is Victoria's longest estuarine river, starting in the mountainous Grampians and travelling 400km to the sea near Nelson. A great way to experience this river is in a canoe. We borrowed Kevin's canoe and spent three days paddling the lower reaches of the Glenelg with a friend Greg and his 5 year old daughter, Charlotte.

We launched our fully loaded crafts at Pritchards and set off paddling downstream along the deep and slow Glenelg. The best campsites for canoeists are the eight special canoe-only campsites along the river, all with water, fireplaces and pit toilets. Permits are required to camp.

We spent a wonderful afternoon fishing for bream at one campsite. Although the fish life was abundant none were large enough to eat for dinner.

The river winds through bushland and spectacular limestone gorges with cliffs up to 50 metres high. There are many caves in the area and best known are the Princes Margaret Caves.

The river can be affected by incoming tides and winds, which we experienced on our last day paddling to Dry Creek.

Being driven to a spot and paddling back in a canoe, camping along the way and collected at the other end is a great way of canoeing the Glenelg River.

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## COOPER CREEK

Lake Eyre is Australia's largest lake and on rare occasions it fills. The high rainfall in summer Queensland has sent flood water into the Lake Eyre basin. Stephen and I thought this was a rare opportunity to see the lake full and once again borrow Kevin's canoe for another adventure.

Our first glimpse of Lake Eyre's edge was from Muloorina Station where we walked on a beach of salt which was a unique experience. But the best way to see Lake Eyre is from the air. Flying over the lake was amazing, the colours and patterns were stunning and the lake was teeming with birdlife.

It is 20 years since the Cooper Creek flowed into Lake and has cut off the Birdsville Track. A punt is now being used as a vehicular ferry across the Creek, but it can only take one vehicle at a time and a maximum of around 40 vehicles per day.



*Camped by the flooded Cooper Creek. Photo courtesy Stephen Beitz.*

We set up camp beside the Birdsville Track and spent two days paddling the Cooper Creek. We paddled into Lake Killamperpunna, a freshwater lake, on our way to the punt crossing, but didn't make the distance as it was about a 15km paddle each way. The flooding has attracted many water birds such as pelicans, silver gulls, red-necked avocets, banded stilts and gull-billed terns.

Unfortunately, we were unable to stay for the Lake Eyre Yacht Club which for the first time since 1990 held its first regatta. It would have been a wonderful sight to see around 50 boats sailing on Lake Killamperpunna.

It was a totally breathtaking experience visiting Lake Eyre and another great canoeing adventure!

*Julie Perriam*



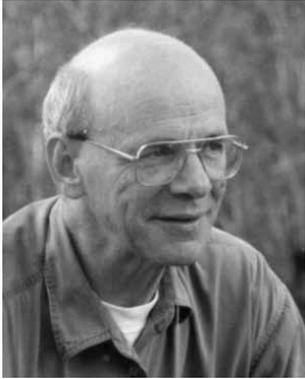
*The flooded Cooper Creek crossing the Birdsville Track. Photo courtesy Stephen Beitz.*

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## VALE ANTONY CLARK FCC MEMBER 1999–2002

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

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Older members who were in the club in the first years of this century will remember my good friend and paddling partner Antony Clark. Antony died at the age of 70 in Melbourne in September.

I met Antony when he joined me in the corporate planning department at Comalco in 1974. He had arrived from England where he had gone to school and Oxford University. As a 17 year old, he and his 18 year old

brother had paddled a folding canvas canoe around the Isle of Skye off the west coast of Scotland. This trip took weeks with layups for bad weather. How was it that their parents permitted this dangerous journey? Their father, Colin Clark, an Oxford professor and the Vatican's favourite economist said, "God will protect them."

From 1974 to around 2002, Antony and I went on canoeing trips on many Victorian rivers. The Goulburn in summer was a favourite and we did many sections from Eildon to Nagambie but mostly from Alexandra to Ghin Ghin bridge. We also travelled many sections of the Yarra and Maribyrnong not normally paddled by flat water paddlers. We used my Rapidrider canoe to tour the Thompson, Big and Mitchell rivers with Antony in the back and I upfront. We had a Masonite board screwed into the mid section cowling to keep the standing waves out. We tackled the Mitchell at a level of 1.5 metres and capsized at the Amphitheatre rapid. The canoe was damaged and I lit a fire to dry the boat and hasten the setting of the fibreglass repairs. Antony was desperately trying to dry his cigarettes. "If I can't smoke them I will eat them," he said. On some of these trips we camped and enjoyed our wine beside a campfire.

We competed in the 1999 Murray Marathon in a TK1 relay team of four. It was a four day event that year because of millennium concerns and celebrations. Antony did well. We later paddled my TK2 on the Murray from Lake Hume to Albury.

We went in only one winter series race (for TK2s) which was on the Barwon. We did a remarkable time and were in danger of going up two grades when it was realised that we had done one lap too few! We liked the Barwon and used the TK2 to paddle both the stretches upstream and downstream of the winter series race section. We always took a small Shellite burner and enjoyed a billy of tea on the river bank.

After Comalco, he wrote a report writing program for market surveys and he did reports for Ford and Telstra remotely for many years. Antony separated from his wife of 35 years in 2002 and went on extended international tours. He lived in China for most of the last eight years and leaves three children and a wife from his first marriage, his Chinese wife and their son and seven brothers and a sister.

Geoff Hindle

Hopefully you will have noticed a few changes this year with club communications. The biggest change is the club website [www.fairfieldcanoecub.org.au](http://www.fairfieldcanoecub.org.au) which has moved from an occasionally visited static site to a new dynamic, frequently updated, centre for club information. This change has largely been due to the hard work of Michael Loftus-Hills who has spent many hours designing, testing and modifying different parts of the website. Any member of the public can access the website and get information on club history, joining, beginner's course and the hot news of the week. Club members, once registered, can post comments to articles and access other club information not readily available to the public. Occasionally we run a poll on a topical issue at the club and we are developing the club shop for uniform and other purchases. With the assistance of Peter Goldsworthy, Michael is continuing to examine ways of improving information for members – so if you have any good ideas please let us know.

The second significant change has been the distribution of the weekly FCC eNews to all members with an email address. We felt this was another way of keeping members in the loop with what is happening through the year; hopefully members appreciate this wider distribution. Of course it is easy to unsubscribe if you are not interested in receiving this email news bulletin.

The current committee has renewed its efforts to get the Honours Boards up at the club. We have found it very difficult to obtain historical information about past presidents/chairman and national representatives. Following this article you will see a listing of the current names we have under various headings. If you have additional names or can clarify representation we would love to hear from you. It is hoped that the honour boards will be taken down at the end of the year and sent off to the printer with the final listings.

In conjunction with the honour boards we are considering the construction of a trophy cabinet that can safely contain trophies and awards the club has won. Keep your eyes open for something happening in 2011.

Finally I would like to thank all those members who have contributed to the printed newsletters over the last year (November 2009, April 2010 and this current one). We strongly encourage members to submit an article and photos for publication. This will enhance our communications to all members – particularly those who don't have access to the website or email. For those doing the Murray Marathon this year why not pen a few words on your experiences – they might end up in the April 2011 newsletter or go straight on to the website.

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# HONOUR BOARD

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## LIFE MEMBERS

Tom Ohman, Zoltan Szigeti

## PRESIDENTS/CHAIRMAN

1920s J. Cain

1930s H.H.Olney

H. De La Rue

1940s

1950s Frank Etwell

Arthur Howard

1960s Roy Mayne

Jim Smith

Tom Ohman

1970s Tom Ohman

John Ohman

Andrew Kerekes

Jonathan Mayne

1980s Maurice Mills

Herman Hitzler

Ken Chandler

Foster Rossetto

1990s Margaret Buck

2000s Tony Payne

Annette Kendall

Michael Kane

Kevin Hannington

David Bevan

2010s David Bevan

## OLYMPIC SELECTIONS

Tom Ohman 1956

Zoltan Szigeti 1956 (Hungary)

Ivan Gaal 1960

Heidi Sager 1960

Adrian Powell 1960, 64, 68, 72, 76

Vid Juricskay 1964

Fred Wasmer 1964

Margaret Buck 1964

John Doak 1984

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SELECTIONS

Robert Stratskovich (Spelling?) 1982 Jnr

Andrew Kerekes 1982 Jnr

Dianne Szigeti 1982

Frank Lambert 1983

Andrew Marshall 1985

Bassam Wakim 1982, 1983, 1985

Melissa Mayne 1982 Jnr Snr 1983

Julie Perriam 1996 (World Cup)

Robin Curwen-Walker 1996 (World Cup)

George Wakim 1999

Nick Richards 1999

Angus Campbell 2008 Jnr

James Campbell 2009, 2010 Jnr

Peta Wait 2009, 2010

Marlena Ahrens 2009 Jnr, 2010

Jennifer Stevens 2010

## OTHER POSSIBLE CATEGORIES

Keith Jackson 1956 Reserve

Ruebin Collins 1956 Reserve

Zoltan Szigeti 1980 Coach

Adrian Powell 1984 Coach

Jonathan Mayne 1984 Commentator

Peter Ohman (FCC ?)

Others??

*If you know any other names or details about the names above please contact Tony Payne urgently as we are going to finalise the names before the end of this year.*

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# TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

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The Technical Committee have had a very successful year in achieving our goals. We have won the Winter Series Club Trophy for the 4th year in succession, second in the Juniors' Trophy and won the schools' Trophy!! Congratulations to all our paddlers. This was a wonderful achievement considering the number of competitors were less than previous years.

Four of our members made the Australian Marathon Team and competed in Spain in September. Marlena Ahrens, James Campbell, Jen Stevens and Peta Wait were presented with a club singlet and a share of the proceeds of the fundraising trivia night held before the trip.

The Beginners Program continues to be a busy and regular activity at our club. Julie Perriam is the Co-ordinator of this Program and she is supported by the other coaches at FCC, Marg Buck, Neil Grierson, Tony Payne, Joe Alia and Alex James. They have completed 10 courses so far in 2010 instructing 66 participants. Participants pay \$100 for the four week course and by all accounts is the best beginners kayaking program run by a club. It requires a considerable amount of voluntary time and effort by our coaches and resources from our club to cater for this need.

A Beginners Course for Canoeing has been run by Alex James with assistance from Trevor Archibald and Kevin Hannington. Participants have been competing in Winter Series races this year, achieving wonderful results for our club. By making up a class to compete in the races we have all gained by their efforts. Tony Payne and Trevor Archibald were Victorian Marathon TC2 Champions. Congratulations Alex and Trevor for achieving such wonderful results from their first course of Canoeing.

The traditional Sunday Squad Training (Zoli's Sessions) is co-ordinated by Stephen Beitz with a variety of coaches and experienced paddlers acting as leaders for the sessions. Stephen also conducts 5 and 10km time trials for club members to measure how they are performing.

Sprint Certified Training Centre Accreditation 2010/2011 has been achieved with Canoe Victoria. It is a formal process to recognize a standard of excellence in the areas of administration, infrastructure, resources, safety and reporting procedures. It creates a standard for our club to source coaching in the discipline of sprint racing. We have a commitment to attend, as a club and provide qualified officials at 50% of Sprint Regattas. The dates of regattas will be posted to the FCC website.

Private sprint coaching sessions will be starting in November by Dasha Kopecek and Joe Alia with Board support in allowing the use of our motor boats for training. We will have more information on these sessions when Dasha returns from World Championships later this month.

A Coaches Forum was conducted in March where the club coaches have an opportunity to network with each other and share ideas and hear of issues relating to club activities.

We successfully hosted the Winter Series Race 4 at Nagambie for the first time, and with the resolution of some organizational issues with the venue, we feel the location was perfect for a winter series race and look forward to holding a race there again next year.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the committee for their continued commitment to FCC and Technical committee's projects: Julie Perriam – Co-ordinator of Beginners Program, Joe Alia – Juniors Co-ordinator, Gary Flanigan – Canoe Polo Co-ordinator, Peter Goldsworthy – Co Race Director.

*Liz Jenkins*  
*Chairperson and Race Director*

*Editors note: Thanks to Liz for a great contribution over a number of years. With Liz's retirement from the Board in October the new Board member to Chair the Technical Committee is Chris Runting.*

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## THE UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop is still up and running but difficulties with PayPal and low stocks of shorts and singlets has resulted in some problems filling orders. I am currently awaiting delivery of these items, and then it will be fully stocked. However, I am not intending to order any more rugby jumpers, unless I can fill a minimum order; but am happy to do so if there is a clear demand for them.

The on-line shop is ready to go and as soon as these problems are resolved, online orders and payments can recommence – this could take another 4–6 weeks. In the meantime, I am happy to fill any orders if you email me on [imaquig@alphalink.com.au](mailto:imaquig@alphalink.com.au). Prices are available through the FCC website via the Uniform Shop link.

Once the PayPal issue is resolved, FCC members will be able to order and pay for their uniforms online, with delivery by arrangement at the Club. Thank you for your patience over the past few months, as I know a few of you have ordered uniforms but not been able to get them.

*Julietta Maquignaz*  
*Uniform Shop Co-ordinator*

## BOAT MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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The budget set for boat maintenance in the 2009/2010 year was \$10,000. In the first three months after the 2009 AGM professional repairs to the FCC boat fleet were done to the value of almost \$2000. An even larger amount of voluntary repairs were also undertaken during the same period.

Most of the damage that happened in this period was avoidable. Typically this included:

- Broken cockpits from people trying to empty boats full of water or by lifting them by the cockpit, or people sitting on the cockpit when getting into the boat.
- Collision damage from objects such as the landing or snags.
- Foot bars lost through a failure to put back pins or bolts after adjusting foot bars.

The good news is that since December, although there have been some fair wear and tear repairs, we have had virtually no damage due to these causes. As a result there have been no professional repairs required between January and July 2010 and volunteer time has been minimal.

We believe there are a number of reasons for this turnaround. The main one is that the Board has embarked on a programme in which users of the intermediate fleet are assessed for basic boat handling skills. New members must be certified by a coach prior to receiving the standard club key which allows access to the intermediate fleet.

We strongly encourage all members to help each other to use the club boats with care as the less we spend on repairs the more we have available for boat purchases and other club requirements. Many thanks to all those club members who take good care of our fleet, fill in usage sheets, and report any damage as and when it occurs.

### **HINTS FOR ADJUSTING RUDDER WIRES**

Recently a number of beginners' boats have had their rudder cables over-tightened. This has resulted in failure of the t-bar mounting or damage to the rudder posts. If you are tightening cables make sure there is some slack in the wire. After replacing the foot bar there should still be some slack. Often fitting the foot bar lifts the t-bar, further tightening the wires. Wires should be tight enough that a small movement of the t-bar moves the rudder, but not tight enough to be able to play a tune by plucking the wire. If you would like advice on this or any other repair please talk to Neil Grierson. Better still why not join the Boat Maintenance Committee – call Neil on 0418 556 326.

*Neil Grierson*  
*Chairman*