

# Pearls of Wisdom

February 2014

## GLPD Executive Committee

President: Robyn McIntosh  
Secretary: Denise Marr  
Treasurer: Jan Brain  
Women's Club Captain: Marg Steel  
Men's Club Captain: Ken Watson  
Committee Members:  
Frank Fenech  
Wendy Orman  
Email: [dragons2428@hotmail.com](mailto:dragons2428@hotmail.com)

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

- Urunga Regatta 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> May 2014

## Coaches and Sweeps Corner

CNY 2014



CHINESE NEW YEAR TEAM 2014

What a great time we had at Chinese New Year. Our Women's Team achieved 2 x 3rds in their heats, our mixed team did great times again and our Men's Team made it into the finals!!! We were so proud of our men.



Our champion men: Graham, Ken, Harrison, Frank, Allan and Peter (Chris)



Anne

Of course we have to thank Anne, our team manager for doing all the leg work behind the big weekend, Anni and Chris for sweeping our teams, Deb for organising the accommodation and of course we will not forget fabulous Sarah, who gave up paddling to volunteer on behalf of our team.



Sarah



Our Mixed Team with Chris Sweeping

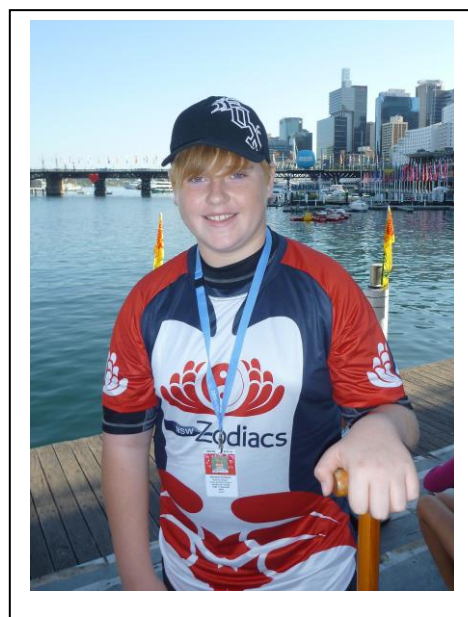
### CNY Facts

This was Chris' first CNY as a sweep. He was fantastic.

There were 67 races on Saturday in Darling Harbour and we were part of the 1567 paddlers (1401 adults and 161 juniors).

## JUNIOR CORNER

Harrison, our only junior, did us proud at CNY and paddled in the NSW Zodiacs Team which won their U18-U23 Open Final. Harrison also paddled in the NSW Zodiacs Team in the U18-U23 Mixed Final, where they finished 3rd. Congratulations Harrison.



## Lawrence Regatta



The Lawrence Regatta was held recently on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 at Lawrence Memorial Park on the Clarence River. Two of our members, Claire and Peter, who have recently completed the DBNSW Officials course, attended the Lawrence Regatta in their capacity as Officials for the Pearl Dragons.

They were accompanied by Frank, Gina, Wendy and Sally who had joined with the Grafton team and the new 'Waratahs' team to complete.

The 2km Turn Race began as races do. The Pearlers paddled furiously in the Grafton team boat. The conditions were rough and meant a paddler in the boat had to continuously bail. On the last corner as the Grafton boat was surging to a commanding lead, sitting heavy and low in the water, it began rocking as it turned into the final left turn. No amount of leaning could prevent the inevitable and 20 paddlers, the drummer and the sweep were tipped into the Clarence River. Peter, in the rescue boat, was there in a heart beat and Gina, on shore, alerted the DBNSW Officials that the boat was over.

All were safe, Wendy's shoe was recovered by Peter, all paddles, hats, stop watches etc were found and many drinks and discussions followed when all paddlers were dry and warm.

After the rescue, a lot of conversations and reflections later, it is obvious that dragon boats do capsize and we must continue to ensure all safety procedures are followed and that all our members are safe when we take our boats out.

Sunday was a glorious day, weather wise, but the river was not so accommodating. The swell was strong and sweeps found it difficult to return boats to shore. The event was cancelled after the third race (the Sport Women's Heat 1 with only experienced male sweeps allowed to take the boats out). While Claire and Peter were debriefing with DBNSW officials Frank, Gina, Wendy and Sally found the General Store to be a great place to hang out. It proved a very popular place.

# Urunga Regatta - our next regatta

The coaches are already preparing you all for our next regatta at Urunga on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May (2km Turn Race) and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May (200m sprints). We are already in our stamina section of our program.

The 2km Race is scheduled to start at 3pm (Gina is Team Manager for that team). Training for the 2km will commence Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 8am OTW at the container.

The Sunday Sprint Day is scheduled to start at 8.30am so it would be good if you could get there about 7.30-8am to help erect the gazebos, Team briefing and warm up. The Events that we will complete in on the day are Sport Mixed, Sport Women, Sport Men (10s) and perhaps a Prems 10s.

We hope to enter as many teams as possible (in each category) to give every paddler the maximum number of races. We plan to combine with Wallis Spirit to facilitate this increase in team numbers.

The Entry Fee for Paddlers, Sweeps and Drummers is \$20 (adults) and \$10 (Juniors). Please pay our Club Treasurer, Jan Brain, as soon as possible. You can place your money in the Money Box at the container in an envelope or pay online.

Please sign up on the regatta roster site on our homepage <http://www.glpd.webs.com/>. Teams will be selected and team lists distributed as soon as possible. Please think carefully about whether you are available to paddle on that weekend before you place your name on the roster. Boat building is not an easy job 😊.

Don't forget to organise your accommodation as soon as you can. There are villas and van sites at the Urunga Heads Holiday Park.

Details: (Shane and Deb Dunlop)

Urunga Heads Holiday Park

2 Morgo Street, Urunga

1800638039 or 0266556355



See you on the water.

Urunga Team Manager

Wendy O

## Come and Try Day

What a great job Leonie is doing as Recruitment Officer. Our Beginners-Moderate sessions are always filling up quickly these days. Her organisation of the "Come and Try Days" has resulted in the Pearl Dragons swelling our membership list to over 60.

The last Come and Try Day was held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February and like the previous event, was a rainy day. Never to dampen Leonie's spirit it went ahead at 8.15am with a number of coaches, sweeps and members all working together to broaden the knowledge of our great sport and get more and more of our locals involved.



## SCHOOL PADDLING



5 Forster Campus School Paddlers: Bryce, Jamie, David, Natalie and Jack (we have 9 Tuncurry Campus Paddlers as well)

## Frank's Follies (Equipment and Maintenance)

If you haven't noticed this month, Frank and the team have been at it again.

Frank has installed our very own water tank which will reduce the need to keep filling up the water bottles. How many do YOU have in your garage or car waiting to go to the container? Thanks Frank!



Frank has also put up the roof between the two containers. We now have our trailer safe and secure under cover. Thanks Frank, you are fantastic!!



Our baby 10s boat arrived this January and as you all know we have been out paddling in it already. Frank and the boys are working to get our Pearlette a new trolley so we can use her more frequently. It will be much easier to get her out of the container and back in again without borrowing the big boat's trolley.

Here are few of our members washing Pearlette on the day she arrived. Look at the glorious carpet from Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club - looked so nice for a while!

## Fundraising Update – Brenda’s Beauties

Fellow Pearlers - Just a few notes from the fabulous Brenda on behalf of the Fundraising Committee



### Clean Up Australia Day:

Talk about keen! The Fundraising Committee organised the Annual Clean Up Australia Day activity for our Pearlers for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March. What a horrible weather day it was. Still, here are the lovely Pearl Dragons doing their bit for keeping Australia beautiful. Thanks to all those who went out, despite the weather to do this wonderful act.

**Movie Night:** will be held Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Cuban Fury.

5.30 for drinks and nibbles. Movie starts 6.30 or 6.45.

Tickets will be available at the Information Centre and from Marg Steele 65547712, Robin Peterson 0466013019 or Brenda Taute 0407724268.

Raffle:

3 raffle prizes - 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$80 hamper

2<sup>nd</sup> prize Beauty voucher from Elsa

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$20 Fruit and Vegie tray

Tickets 3 for \$5.

**Bunnings BBQ:** 23<sup>rd</sup> March

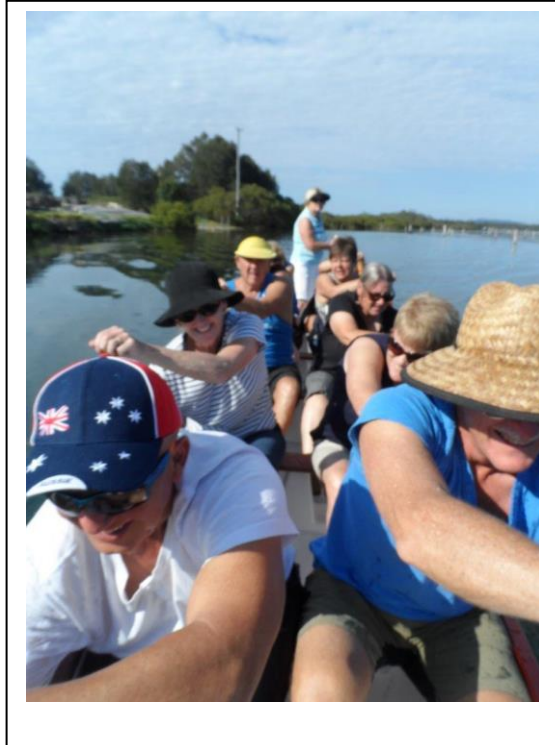
There will be 3 shifts 8-10.30, 10.30-12.30 and 12.30 - close.

Raffle Tickets \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.

Fruit and vegetable tray.



## Other Good Information



Our first paddle in Pearlette (our baby 10s boat).



Hey paddlers, the sea anchor can now be attached easily – thanks Frank?!



I agree, all we need is to get stairs up to the roof, another container and we've got a party room ....



Did you know that we have another coach on board! Welcome to our latest trainee Kim Creighton. She will be working with her mentors to get up and running over the next few weeks. Get ready to see more of her and hear more of her voice in the morning sessions ☺



Did you know we just acquired a Level 4 sweep who is also a Level 2 coach. Anni Yaringa has joined the Pearl Dragons. We are so fortunate to get Anni on board and look forward to some excellent coaching and sweeping tips to come our way.

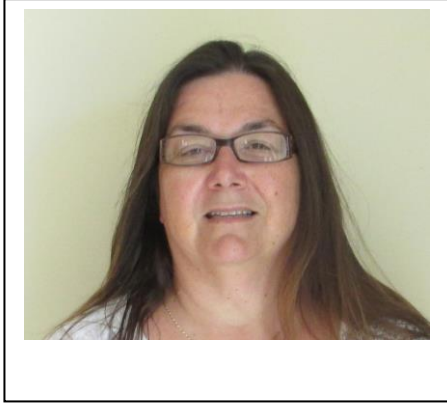


Did you know that Ray is turning 80 on the 11<sup>th</sup> March and we will be celebrating this milestone at the Forster Golf Club on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm. Please come, the whole club is invited. We are keeping it simple, dinner, pay for your own. If you wish to contribute to his gift please see Leonie.

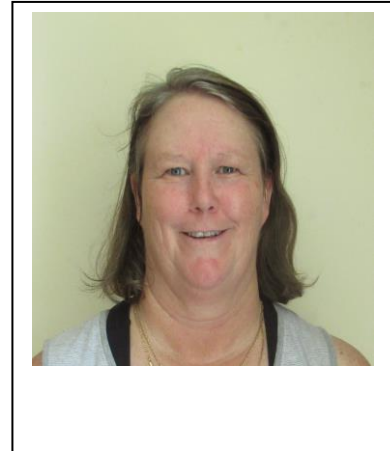


Our Newest Paddlers:

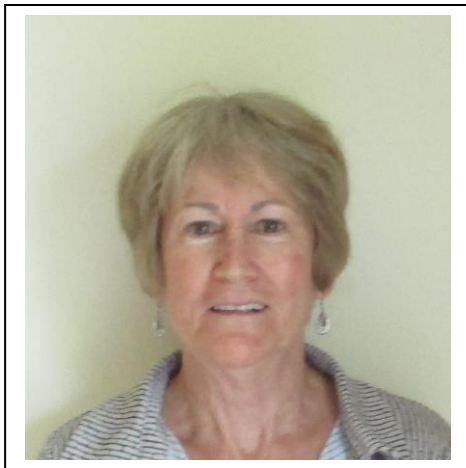
Welcome aboard to our new paddlers.



Jillian Anderson



Rachel Edwards



Grace Wasley