



OUTRIGGER CALOUNDRA

2020 President's Report ***Presented at the AGM*** ***29 November 2020***





Outrigger Caloundra's goals are focused on: administration; finance; marketing; paddler development; membership; facilities; and assets. We can be proud of a number of achievements across all of these goals.

Administration

- * Our new COVID Cop Kel Crowell and the Committee prepared and submitted a COVID-19 Safety Plan to get us back on the water after training was suspended from Saturday 21 March to Saturday 21 June.

Finance

- * Our Club Registrar Tracey Douglas submitted two successful grants through the Queensland Government's Active Clubs initiative. We received \$4000 to purchase equipment and restart the delivery of training post-COVID-19 lockdowns.

- * Uncle Bruce and Bec won \$600 for the club in the SQ Zone COVID-19 Out of the Box Training video competition.

Marketing

- * We have 1036 followers on Instagram, 547 followers on Facebook and 171 subscribers to our newsletter.

- * Our new "Meet You At The BAR" member's t-shirt have kept us looking sharp and we are all walking advertisements for the club.

Paddler Development

- * Our coach Gavin Douglas organised the inaugural Club Training Camp at Noosa in February.

- * Our Open Women were 5th over the line in a field of 27 at the Sydney Harbour Challenge.



Membership

* We have attracted star recruits including Ken Jones and Peter Murphy and welcomed back Glen Poulton! These guys are absolute champs and we are so lucky to have them on board.

* We currently have 52 members including 30 women (58%) and 22 men (42%). Senior Masters represent 44% of our membership, Golden Masters and Platinums represent 27% of our members and Opens and Masters represent 23%. We also have two new miniows and Charlotte in the U19 division. Given we didn't conduct a Come and Try program this year and training was suspended for 3 months, it's encouraging to see our membership stay above 50.

* Our members came together to celebrate Uncle Bruce turning 80 in November. This was a heart-warming and joyful event that showcased the true spirit of our paddling community.

Facilities

* We are inches away from being granted a 20 year lease on the clubhouse land. This has been one of the biggest challenges facing our club since 2013 and every Committee has taken us one step closer to getting to this point. Special thanks to Tracey Douglas and Matt McIntyre for their efforts and expertise on this front over the last 4 years.

Assets

* Our second Matahina and V3 arrived this year. We now have three OC6s for racing (including two matahinas and one ROC) and four OC6s for training including two Elites and two Mirages.

* We sold our Force Five "Golden Beach" and one of our older Mirages "Shelley". This was a difficult decision for some given the sentimental value of these crafts, however, we needed the space and money.

Reflections

When I write this report and reflect on our year, I always stop and think "why do we paddle and what makes us keep paddling"? After a three month suspension of OC6 paddling, I wondered how many people would return to training. We had no race calendar and we were anxious about the possibility of a 'second corona wave'. COVID-19 changed our habits, our routines, our sense of security and our priorities. The leadership team had no idea what to expect when we sent out Teamer for our first session back. To our delight and surprise, we had 5 canoes on the water on 20 June 2020. These comments on Facebook summed up the vibe at training that day: "Won't be able to move my arms tomorrow but lovely to see everyone"; and "It was awesome to be back...couldn't keep the smile off my face".

So what was it that made us come back to training? Pure and simple, the answer was that we just wanted to paddle. I don't think one person that day cared what boat they were in, who was their steerer, what seat they sat in or what direction we went. We just wanted to paddle with our tribe.

If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it has taught us how to be grateful and not take life and the way we live it for granted. Uncle Bruce said that as soon as he got into the canoe, he just knew it was his cup of tea. He loves the community, he loves the ocean, he loves the adventure and he loves the spirit of the sport. Our first session back demonstrated that members of Outrigger Caloundra share Uncle Bruce's philosophy. The challenge for us all, is how to approach every training session and every race with this same mentality. It's easy to be grateful when we are fit and injury-free. It's easy to be grateful when we are in the crew we want to be in. It's easy to be grateful when the sun is shining and the bar is bliss. The challenge is how to remember that feeling we had on 20 June 2020 and draw strength from gratitude.

A record number of 778 paddlers competed at the SQ Zone Scarborough Regatta on 21 November 2020. This was the biggest turnout the sport has seen for a local race. This was not an iconic event. It was a flat water race and the long course was a mere 10km. To have so many people turn up to race, tells me that paddlers—no matter how experienced—just want to paddle and we love the thrill of racing. Given that can't race in Sydney or fly to Hawaii, we are learning to make the most of what we have.

Thank you to all members of Outrigger Caloundra for making 2020 a year to remember! I will always remember this as the year a pandemic made us stop, reflect and prioritise. And after this opportunity, we all came back to the club! Thank you to Gavin for your dedication and professionalism this year. Thank you to Heeni as Secretary for hours upon hours of work behind the scenes. Thank you Craig and Steve for being the backbone of the club. Thank you Morten as VP for your work on the clubhouse and for always having your heart in the right place. Thank you Fiona for your accounting and financial oversight. Thank you Dave and Charlotte for being unofficial club photographers and all round great club members. Thank you Di as Club Captain and always be available to lend a hand. And thank you Kel for taking on the role of COVID Cop!

Signing off for another year as your insanely proud President
Rebecca Prasad



