



OUTRIGGER CALOUNDRA

2024 President's Report

***Presented at the
AGM***

11 August 2024

Outrigger Caloundra: A Year of Achievements and Growth

Introduction

As we reflect on our journey from August 2023 to today, Outrigger Caloundra has much to celebrate. Our goals focused on administration, finance, marketing, paddler development, membership, facilities, and assets. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our members, we've made significant strides across all these areas.

Finance

- **Grants:** We were fortunate to receive two grants from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, totalling \$9,500. A big thanks to Tracey Card for her outstanding efforts in securing these funds!
- **Sponsorships:** Our club's visibility and support grew thanks to targeted sponsorship campaigns by Matt Cartright and David Lamond. These efforts brought in significant backing from local businesses, strengthening our financial position.
- **Raffle Success:** The weekly Meat Tray raffle at the Power Boat Club continues to be a reliable source of income. A special shout-out to Jan for her excellent organization and to all members who consistently contribute their time.

Administration

- **Strategic Planning:** A significant meeting took place this year involving David, Marcia, and consultants from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. The focus was on future planning for the needs of both our community and our club, particularly in terms of watersport infrastructure. This proactive approach ensures that we are well-prepared to meet the growing demands of our members and the wider community.
- **Community Engagement:** Thanks to Tracey's initiative, our club had the opportunity to participate in the production of a promotional video for the Sunshine Coast Council Community Grants Program. This involvement not only highlighted our club's presence but also showcased our commitment to supporting community-driven initiatives.

Marketing

- **Social Media Presence:** We're thrilled to have grown our community with 1,346 followers on Instagram and 1,073 on Facebook, along with our newsletter subscribers. This increased engagement is a testament to our vibrant club culture.
- **Visibility:** Every Saturday, we proudly showcase 4-5 canoes on the water, increasing our visibility and the exposure for our sponsors. This is a powerful reminder of our club's presence and impact in the community.

Paddler Development

- **Coaching Excellence:** Under the leadership of Rebecca Prasad, stepping into the Head Coach role for the first time, our training has reached new heights. With the support of qualified Coaches Marcia Forbes and Mike Dunham, as well as Jamie Simmonds, and Ken Jones—who completed their accreditation this year—we've built a strong coaching team.
- **Regatta Success:** This year, our club competed in regattas at Noosa, Shorncliffe, Redcliffe, Gold Coast, Rainbow Beach, Mooloolaba, and Lake Kawana. We achieved outstanding results, with our small but mighty club securing several podium finishes. I look forward to building on this success in the upcoming season.
- **Race Participation:** Our team's participation in the GBROC race in Cairns, especially with many first-year paddlers, was a highlight. The results reflected the excellent preparation and determination of our team.
- **Skill Development:** We've seen a number of members enhance their steering skills, ensuring that this important responsibility is shared. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up!
- **Come and Try Program:** Our "Come and Try" program was a resounding success this year, with 13 out of 20 participants deciding to join our club and continue paddling. This program, led by Bec with the invaluable assistance of many club members, has brought fresh enthusiasm and new faces to our paddling community. The success of this initiative speaks volumes about the welcoming and supportive environment we've cultivated here at Outrigger Caloundra.

Membership

- **Growing Community:** We're proud to report a 33% increase in membership this year, bringing our total to 62 AOCRA-affiliated members. Notably, the number of Open and Master Paddlers has doubled—a clear sign of our club's expanding appeal.
- **Diversity:** Our membership is diverse, with a nearly even split between men and women, and a strong representation across different age categories. This diversity enriches our club and strengthens our community.

Facilities

- **Future Improvements:** While there have been no significant upgrades this year, discussions about future enhancements, such as raising and resurfacing the floor, are ongoing. We're excited about the possibilities these improvements could bring.

Assets

- **Current Status:** We are well-equipped with three OC6 race canoes and four training canoes. We're continually on the lookout for opportunities to add a lightweight OC6 to our fleet.
- **Maintenance:** The River Buoys have done an outstanding job maintaining our canoes. However, the need for a detailed asset and maintenance register remains a priority.

Special Mention

- **Honouring Our Members:** This year, we said goodbye to two beloved members, "Uncle" Bruce Mumford and Joan "Jo" Tozer. Their spirits and contributions will forever be a part of Outrigger Caloundra. Every time we paddle, we carry a piece of them with us.

Reflections

As I reflect on the year, my heart is full of gratitude for the incredible people who make Outrigger Caloundra a special place.

- **Committee Appreciation:** A huge thank you to the Committee—David, Tracey, Suzy, and Marcia—for their dedication and hard work behind the scenes. It's been a pleasure working with such a committed team.
- **Event Organization:** Sharon Wells, our Club Captain, has done a fantastic job organizing off-water events that everyone has enjoyed. Thank you for bringing us together.
- **Coaching Team:** To Bec and all the coaches—thank you for your focus and commitment to making us the best paddlers we can be.
- **Member Gratitude:** Finally, to all our members—thank you for choosing Outrigger Caloundra as your home. Our core values of respect, transparency, fun, courage, and commitment are what set us apart. These values guide us through challenges and define who we are. I'm incredibly proud of our small but mighty club and all that we've accomplished together.

Thank you all for your support

Gary Wells

President 2024