

# Manly Dragons

July 2007

## Expedition to Tin Can Bay

22 members from the Manly Dragon Boat Club plus partners and family members trekked north for the weekend in July to participate in our inaugural regatta. The destination was Tin Can Bay for the Cooloola Dragon Boat regatta held on Sunday 15 July in the tidal waters of Snapper Creek.

Everyone had arrived by late Saturday afternoon and accommodation was magnificently organised by Maggie Boyce with two houses rented on the Esplanade a short distance from the regatta location. The Big Anchor with its wonderful display of kitsch dolphin and seaside knick knacks and the Captains Rest complete with spa and pool table (we just have to remember to BYO pool cues!). Saturday night

we all met for dinner at a local restaurant, the Black Cockatoo, to enjoy some wonderful food.

Formalities for the evening included the presentation of team singlets. These had been kindly sponsored by Manly Village Pizzeria & Pasta and will be used as the interim team shirt until the club shirt design, colour and manufacturer can be finalised.

Following dinner some paddlers retired to their digs to enjoy a good nights sleep in preparation for the big day whilst others moved onto the pub to check out the competition and imbibe in a few more liquid refreshments. The pub was rocking with dragon boat paddlers from a number of clubs trying to out do one another on the karaoke



*Alan being presented with his team shirt by Sweep Joe.*

stage. It was a pity that we arrived late as our sweep "Elvis" formerly known as Joe, managed to do a rocking rendition of two Elvis songs and would have been a shoe in for a prize based on the performance of some of the other singers—if they paddled like they sang it was going to be an easy race.

## The Big Day !

As this was our inaugural regatta we were very proud to tell everyone that listened that we were unbeaten!!

Our first heat was against Redcliffe B Team and Sunshine Coast.

There were quite a few nerves as we boarded the boat and headed to the start line. The boat was provided by the Redcliffe Club and was a relatively new Champion boat – very stable and with foot

rests for extra support. The distance was 220 metres to the finish. Our start was not as quick as the other boats but we managed to keep up the pace and crossed the

finish line just behind the other two boats. 1<sup>st</sup> Redcliffe 1.13.28 sec, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunny Coast 1.15.12 sec and 3<sup>rd</sup> Manly 1.15.75 sec. It was an amazing result and all 21 team members on board were feeling very proud of their achievement.

For the second race we decided to go back to the original plan that we had been training for to help boost our start. 10 strokes followed by 10 "short and snappies" followed by long and hard strokes to the finish, always remembering to reach forward for the grab. Our second heat had us lined up against Lakers and Tweed Heads. Again we were fortunate to draw



*Dressed in our matching singlets we looked pretty cool!*

## The Big Day (Cont'd)

the Champion Boat. The start was quick and our burst of speed put us ahead of the other teams which we just managed to hold until the finish. This race was much faster, assisted by an outrunning tide, Manly 1<sup>st</sup> in 57.75 sec, followed by Lakers 2<sup>nd</sup> 58.12 sec and Tweed 3<sup>rd</sup> 1.01.66 sec. Our excitement got the better of us as we all cheered and hooted once we were across the line not even knowing at that stage if we had won. Our Sweep Joe, who completed a perfect race down the line, tried to calm us down but to no avail. We arrived back at shore all wearing Cheshire grins and delighted with our performance regardless of place. It was an added bonus to have scored a first!!!

By this stage the other Clubs were starting to take notice!! Who is this young fit crowd from Manly? Did you guys come from NSW? was one of the questions that was

*Photo: Manly paddlers getting ready for race one*



repeatedly asked.

Having won the second heat we made the cut for the minor final against Lakers and Brisbane River (BRD) B team. Our boat for this race was an older style similar to our current training boat with high sides and no foot rests. By this stage in the afternoon it was low tide and the channel was narrow. We started in the middle lane with the competing boats only 5 metres each side of us. When the starting hooter went off there were paddles splashing everywhere. It was rather intimidating but we kept up

with the pace all the way to the finish. Joe did a fantastic job keeping us on track sandwiched between the other two boats. The results were BRD B 1<sup>st</sup> 55.45 sec, Lakers 2<sup>nd</sup> 56.0 sec and Manly 3<sup>rd</sup> 58.63 sec. Overall we came sixth out of the nine teams entered in B division—an excellent result for our first foray into the regatta scene. It is especially encouraging when you consider the fact that members of some B teams are participants in the upcoming World titles.

So the final outcome was 22 very happy and exhausted Manly Dragon Boat Club members. Our months of training had paid off and full credit must go to Bruce, Helen, Peter and Joe for their leadership, instruction and assistance over the past many months. We all look forward to the next opportunity to show off our new skills and improve on our performance.

## Regatta Calendar of Events

Sunday 19 August 07	Te Waka Taniwha	Varsity Lakes
Saturday 15 September 07	Currumbin Dragons	Currumbin Creek
Sunday 14 October 07	Gold coast Chinese Club	Pacific Waterways
Sunday 28 October 07	Burleigh Fire Dragons	Varsity Lakes
Sunday 18 November 07	Gold Coast	Varsity Lakes
Sunday 2 December 07	Red Dragons Redcliffe	Lake Kurwongbah
Sunday 10 February 08	Sunshine Coast Dragons	Lake Kawana

**The Manly Dragon Boat Club is hoping to enter one or two teams in all regatta events, including a Ladies team. If you wish to participate in any regattas please give your name to the new Club Captain Greg Chinn.**

**If you would like to try dragon boating or are interested to join the Manly Dragon Boat Club please contact Kelly ph: 3393 5058, 0405 567 943 or [manlydragonboatclub@yahoo.com.au](mailto:manlydragonboatclub@yahoo.com.au)**