

St Ayles Skiff Regatta – February 2015

Final committee meeting, held at the Harrison residence on Thursday 26th March.

These notes are intended to be used as a reference for planning of similar events.

Attended by: Lorrie Harrison, Jane Johnson, Shane Johnson, Tim Brown, Marcia Waller, Carolyn Booker, Barbara Dawson, Marguerite Porte, Liz Smith.

All agreed that the regatta went of very well indeed, with the assistance of a willing and reliable group of volunteers.

Financial report – still a work in progress, not all invoices are in and some sponsor contributions have not been paid. Income from the regatta after all expenses have been paid is approximately \$13,000.00, and it is hoped that some of this money can be applied towards the acquisition of a boat trailer.

Shane reported that the sponsors were very pleased with the outcome of the regatta and contributed approximately \$5,000.00 value towards the running costs. There are still three sponsors that have not yet made the promised contribution.

Equipment – starting buoys, turning buoys and other racing infrastructure is now the property of the Living Boat Trust. It is in storage at Lorrie and Warren Harrison's residence together with a large quantity of shopping bags. If other rowing groups wish to use the racing equipment for regattas, then we should consider lending it on payment of a realistic deposit.

Everyone agreed that the equipment worked very well, and Tim Brown acknowledged the hard work and commitment of Warren Harrison and Tony Vanson in constructing the gear.

Statement of benefit. Shane prepared this document (attached). Benefits were spread across the community – for example restaurants were well attended during the conduct of the regatta, the sailing club ran a successful event at Shipwrights Point on the day of the long row, the Franklin Primary School benefitted financially from running the rowing shed cafe, and there was even a comment from the Cats Tongue in Huonville that numbers were well up on normal weekends.

Merchandise Report:

There were items left over from the regatta, as follows:

Badges – a large quantity

Caps – 41

T-shirts – 10

Medallions and lanyards – 30

Posters

It was felt that merchandising could have been done better – maybe a spruiker would have been able to shift more merchandise.

Some T-shirts and hats were given away to volunteers and the Iranians.

Rather than the yellow lanyards for the volunteers, which got in the way and didn't get used, a special coloured T-shirt and hat would have been better.

The events:

- (a) Wooden Boat Festival. Overall it went well, but there were problems in getting people into the boats and in future only people who have rowed before should be allowed to enter as conditions on the water can get quite choppy, and one inexperienced person found it difficult. Planning on land could be improved, on the water was OK. Come and try should be kept separate from racing. The presentation by the Governor went well.
- (b) The Royal Hobart Regatta – this event worked better than the event at the Wooden Boat Festival and we should do it again. Because of the pontoons it was easier getting crews in and out of boats. Instructions to crews could be improved.
- (c) Long Row – worked well
- (d) Corporate event – good outcome and this sort of event should be done again
- (e) St Ayles Skiff Regatta – overall this event was run very well, thanks to the great volunteer squad, the weather and everyone who participated was willing (with a few grumbles) to fit in with using boats that were not familiar with.
 - The opening ceremony was a triumph.
 - Feedback from the closing ceremony is that it needed a bit more oomph, as it was low-key. (A response from the presentation ceremony at Ullapool that went on for ever and ended up being only of interest to those who were receiving an award).
 - Maybe there were too many volunteers.
 - Sponsors were happy
 - Community groups selling food did well
 - Registration process a little patchy as not everyone who rowed paid the registration fee – in future participants should wear something like a plastic band and not be allowed into boats unless they are wearing the band.
 - Site infrastructure – it worked well but set-up was very labour intensive and in future needs more planning and more volunteers to help. The starters tent needs to be fenced off so there is a clear view either side of the starting and finishing line.
 - St John Ambulance – good presence
 - Water truck – got good use
 - Coffee – a must for future events is the provision of good quality coffee
 - In future scale down to a two day event and include a sponsor event.
 - Task lists to be produced
 - The fortnight or more of activities one after another: the Tawe Nunnagah, Australian Wooden Boat Festival, Royal Hobart Regatta, Homecoming Cruise, Long Row and the St Ayles Skiff Regatta was very hard to sustain and a testament to the planning, good-will of participants and hard work of volunteers that things went as well as they did.

- The “thank you” BBQ for volunteers was successful, but not enough notice was given to volunteers that the event was to be held. In future it should be held on a pre-arranged date.

Jane reported that Events Tasmania made a grant for the production of fliers. These were handed out at the Australian Wooden Boat Festival and people invited to leave contact details. 77 people completed the form and of these 53 wanted more information.

One of the winners of a raffle prize is not able to take up the cruise on the Nancy as they live interstate. In lieu of the prize Marguerite is to obtain a \$100.00 gift voucher and Jane will send it off.

Left over merchandise to be advertised for sale in the newsletter

T-shirts	\$10 – medium size only
Caps	\$5
Badges	\$5
Posters	\$5