NECC MINUTES 9th June 2020

Committee members Present: Richard MacLean, Ian Minns, Fabrice Pierre, Allison Parkinson, Matt Flannigan, Juliet Plowman, Jackie Zwanenburg, Marcel Muller, Kjirsten Robb, Scott Arnold, Bea Yates & Jamie Kaye

Apologies: Dylan Hansen is resting after his operation.

Minutes from previous meeting: 18th Nov 2019, they were supported

Correspondence: We discussed the emails that we had received from Paddle Victoria, most relating to Covid-19 and restrictions. Ian said that we are to keep a log of each organised trip and members that participated. He said that he was happy to continue to do this, which he has done for the last three trips. Other correspondence related to Paddle Victoria’s notice of 25% reduction in fees and their notice that it was time to send out renewal of membership. Finally, there was correspondence relating to grants which Allison had applied for.

Finance report: currently in NECC bank account $3089.57

Fabrice brought forward to the agenda boat hire. Firstly, he said that it is difficult reconciling fees as he doesn’t get advised whom has hired what. He would like to be informed this information so he can match up against payment. Secondly, hire fees are to be revised after discussion by committee. Fees are now to be $10 hire cost when using at pool or Rocky Point. $20 on a day trip basis. These fees are for non-members. Members have free access to boats and equipment.

Update on Covid-19: Ian said that he is happy to continue to send updates on telegram as they arise. He is guided mainly from Paddle Vic and their emails.

Calendar: Jackie put forward a proforma calendar. Committee had some good discussions and suggestions. Jackie is going to send out revised calendar for the next six months.

Up-date on Ovens River Trail: Jamie Kay attended the meeting to provide a combined up-date with Ian. Jamie works for Water Tech and NECMA has contracted him to work on mapping and assessing all locations along the Ovens River. He is using a method which he calls “Traffic Light Suitability” to access suitability for users, which he applies to each location. Ian mentioned that they had obtained approx. $15000 to create a canoe trail. The first trail is through Wangaratta which is 3600meters long. They plan to create maps and signage to engage users as interactive as possible. Some of the funds will be put towards this. Ian advised that they want to also combine indigenous and early European history in their signage and maps. Such as canoe trees. Significant area is the portage of the weir. There is an opportunity to work with Jamie and have some other key areas accessed, such as Myrtleford to Rocky point.

Up-coming courses: Allison and Matt have been looking into these and putting up suggestions. Matt has been busy trying to make the use of a qualified Instructor (Dan) whom will be in Melbourne early July. It looks like we cannot generate enough interest to run a weekend trip with Dan, probably as too short of notice. Allison would like to make use of the Paddle Vic run coarse in October. Her point is that we have pushed for them to be more active with recreational paddlers. Marcel said that in some future point of time he would be happy to run a course to up the skills of club members. His course would not be to a certified skill level, but would help paddlers progress. We all agreed that would be helpful and wait for his word on when.

Leading Women in Kayaks: Allison and Bea provided a good explanation as to what they were running for women and it sounded professional and well organised. They have launched a crowd-fund-me page and to date they have raised $1235. Their initial course to be held on the Mitta river at Anglers Rest in July is for eight places. They have one place left to fill. This is to elevate grade 2-3 paddlers to instructor level. They then plan to hold a beginner level course on the Ovens in Bright in September. The idea is for the new instructor level women to help run this beginner level course. Ian forwarded a motion that the club should put in $100 each member who does the instructor course, Fabrice seconded the motion and everyone else supported developing leadership within our club.

Sea Kayaking in the Whitsundays: Ian and Eric plan to paddle Whitsundays in August on a seven- day trip including travel. Proposed is five days of camping paddling and snorkelling. Ian opened it up to anyone else interested and Juliet Matt and Allison said they could do it if first week of school holidays. So now were looking at September. Let’s hope that the borders open so this trip can take place.

International Paddling: Fabrice brought in a map of France. It was mentioned that the South East of France would be an ideal place to go. As well as good rivers there was plenty of wineries. Ian suggested that we book into a kayak school whilst there and then hire their boats to run a trip. Trip slated for April / May 2020

Club Social: AGM would be the next social event. Ian tabled that we should look at rerunning the Reel Paddling Festival in 2021

Any other business: I proposed that we approach Myrtleford Scouts regarding their proposed project of new club rooms. Considering our club has no fixed address and that it may be helpful to the scouts if there was a combined community grant in their efforts for funding. I will make contact and report back at next meeting. We ordered pizza during our meeting and it was proposed that cost of Pizza would be paid from club funds. This was unanimously accepted.

Next Meeting: King River Café 11th August for our AGM.