North East Canoe Club

2020 AGM

President’s Report

Welcome to the NECC AGM for 2020.

We acknowledge the Yaitmathang as the first people of this land around Myrtleford where we met today. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Although the year past has been dominated by the COVID pandemic (and perhaps the year ahead), our time in regional Victoria and NSW has been relatively comfortable.

It now seems ages ago that isolation exercise rules kept us away from our preferred recreational pursuits. Never-the –less the club and its enthusiastic members were able to make the most of the prevailing circumstances when allowed. Although our website calendar suggested all activities were cancelled, Telegram told another story!

The last twelve months has seen the club’s active membership grow, individual skill development grow to new levels and a new group of much younger members get a taste of what their parents have been enjoying for years – the joy, excitement, friendships, exploration and adventure that trips in the outdoors can offer.

Highlights have been King River trips at various levels, Mitta Mitta weekends for families, Swift water Rescue workshops, Female Leadership opportunities, Rocky Point Sessions, sea-kayaking in the Bateman’s Bay area, Colac Colac camping and interstate paddling at Knancoban, and Snowy Creek adventures to name a few.

This year the creation of Ovens River Canoe Trails has began with the support of North East Catchment Management Authority. The Wangaratta Urban Trail will open early next year followed by the Lower Ovens section created by Parks Victoria.

The year ahead will see many of the above consolidated. In addition more Ovens River Canoe Trail sections will be added highlighting the pleasures of canoe touring in our region.

Plans will hopefully revisit several planned trips – a Whitsundays tour in winter, perhaps a white water week in Tasmania in Spring.

Perhaps more dreaming about a France trip when the world is in a safer state.

I would like to thank Allision for her continuing luck in attracting grants to NECC. The Women on White Water Leadership program was an outstanding success and the new home to NECC on the road – this wonderful all weather shelter are testament to her passion for club volunteerism. Again, congratulations for your Paddle Victoria award. Well done.

Special thanks also goes to several other club members – to Matt and Daisy for trip organisation and skill development. And to Richard and Fab who have managed club affairs behind the scenes. Thank-you.

Finally, the orginal club vision was to unite river lovers of North East Victoria. Since 2013 the club has achieved much more.

One of our Code of Conduct objectives is to create a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment. I believe we do this really well and I thank you all for your on-going contribution to heart of our club’s activities.