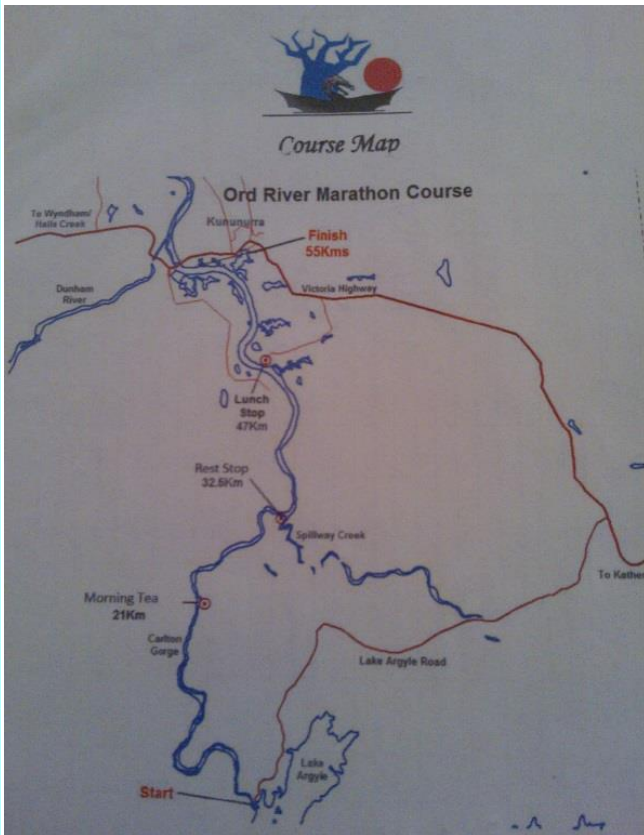




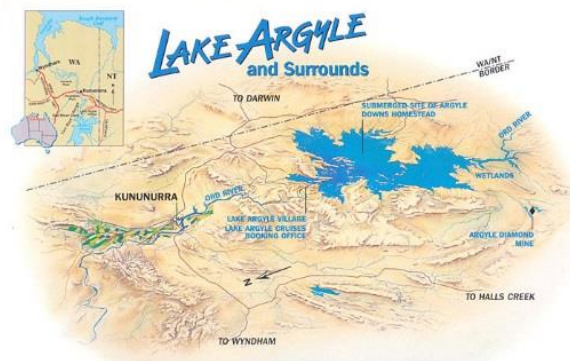
REDCLIFFE RED DRAGONS DRAGON BOAT RACING CLUB
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REDCLIFFE RED DRAGONS NEWSLETTER JUNE

ORD RIVER MARATHON TRIP JUNE 2015



On Sunday June 7th the Western Australia Kununurra Dragon Boat Club hosted the 55km paddle down the mighty ORD RIVER from Lake Argyle to Kununurra.



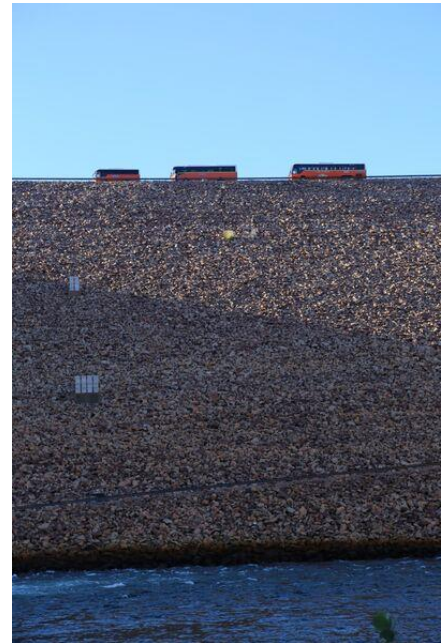
Some of the Redcliffe members took it upon ourselves to enter the challenge. Although we entered as individuals and not as a club event, we paddled together as a team. Some were there to either to tick it off their bucket list, celebrate a milestone birthday or just be support for each other. We certainly did this and I feel we represented our club **REDCLIFFE RED DRAGONS** proudly and have many great memories to share.

Most of the members met at the Brisbane Airport on the morning of Wednesday 3rd June to head out to Darwin. We were met with a pleasant surprise while checking in with the appearance of our coach, Iciar who had driven out to see us off (or was she there to make sure she was rid of us for the week). Nonetheless we appreciated the send off.



On Saturday night before the Challenge in Kununurra we all got together with the other participants for the welcome dinner/briefing at the Hotel Ibis and were given a towel as a memento. We all enjoyed lots of great food, drinks and laughs and catching up with people from other clubs around Australia.

On Sunday morning we were collected at 4.45am from our accommodation, to be taken by bus to the Lake Argyle Resort & Caravan Park for breakfast. After breakfast we then headed down to the dam wall around 7am to prepare for the start of the event.



We carried our boats from land down to the water and each boat was given a small cutting of native bush and incense and off we started. Yippee!



There were 6 boats (14 paddlers, 1 sweep) participating in the marathon and the boats were aluminium (crocodile proof!), with nice wide seats.

*The teams taking part in the challenge were:-
ILLAWARRA, REDCLIFFE RED DRAGONS, DRAGON THREADS, DRAGONS ABREAST BRISBANE, NEWCASTLE HUNTERS DA, and ORD RIVER DRAGONS, the local team from KUNUNURRA*

REDCLIFFE RED DRAGONS



KUNUNURRA DRAGONS



DRAGONS ABREAST BRISBANE



ILLAWARA



DRAGON THREADS



NEWSCASTLE HUNTERS DA



The first leg of the paddle was 22k's. The lake had a slight descent and the dam water release helps the river flow and create some little rapids, which was a bit like white water rafting on a small scale, except in a dragon boat!



After the first leg we pulled in to shore for a break and a snack.

The next leg was a 13k's stretch. The scenery was stunning and we managed a few photo shots on the way. Changing sides every few kilometres allows you to have a break and take in the surrounds, before we stopped for morning tea. Yes! They did provide a lot of food.

Then off we headed again, this time for 12 k's. Now the steep rock walls have transformed into more flatter, grassy hills and still not a single crocodile in sight! (Not that we really wanted to encounter them anyway and we weren't standing still long enough to look for them!)



Our next stop was the lunch break and a beautiful cold meat and salad spread was awaiting us. The Supporters boats were beside us all the way and provided great support and encouragement as we passed or caught up with them.



Heading to the end of the marathon we waited a short distance away, so that all 6 boats could paddle to the finish line together. We were cheered on by well-wishing locals and tourists as we passed the local caravan park on our way to the finish line. What a relief it was to finally cross the line and get off the boat! We were all proud of ourselves and experienced a sense of achievement at having started and finished the epic 55k marathon.

Once again we were taken care of with a beautiful feast for dinner and dessert. There was also lots of champagne, wine and beer and the presentation was entertaining. Each paddler received a participatory medal to remember their achievement.



You can do this trip and just paddle at 50% or if you're like us, a sports team, and given the local coach as your sweep, you will need to be a little fitter as he pushed us and we were up the front of the pack on all the legs (not that it's a race!) but some of us just like challenges!

The local Kununurra Club are a great friendly bunch of people and the whole event was very well organised. We would highly recommend it, but next time we would allow longer than the week we had, as there are so many beautiful sights to see and enjoy. Luckily for some of us we were able to have a quick stop at the thermal springs at Mataranka on the way back to Darwin, which helped to soothe our tired muscles. What a beautiful oasis the springs are!



THANK YOU KUNUNURRA

(Courtesy of Cheryl R and Karen B)

INAUGURAL AWARDS NIGHT

The club held its Inaugural Award's Night on Saturday 20th June at the **MON KOMO** Redcliffe.

On the night a total of 55 members attended not only for the award's night but to give a **BIG THANKS** to Arthur and Lyn for their many years of service with the club.



In future years, it is planned that the award's night will be held when it is not so cold. The committee decided to join it with Arthur's retirement as Head Coach. It also happened that Arthur turned a marvellous 70 years young the Monday before, therefore everyone wished him a Happy Birthday

The following awards were presented on the night:

REDCLIFFE RED DRAGONS' PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD

Cheryl Rigby

PINK SNAPDRAGON'S PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Eva Anne-Maree

COACH'S AWARD

Michelle Swift

PADDLERS' PADDLER

Rita Beadsmoore

ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

Kaye Parfitt



CHERYL RIGBY

EVA ANNA-MAREE



MICHELLE SWIFT

RITA BEADSMOORE

KAYE PARFITT





Thank You
Thank You
Thank You!!!!

ARTHUR
&
LYN



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At the club's AGM, held at **DOLPHIN LEAGUES CLUB** on Saturday 27th June, the outgoing committee was congratulated on their excellent job they had done in bringing the club up to date with all the necessary matters in order to continue operating as a club.

The following committee members were elected for **2015/2016** season.

PRESIDENT



Cheryl

VICE PRESIDENT



Tina

TREASURER



Rita

SECRETARY



Susan

FUNDRAISING OFFICER



Michelle

FUNDRAISING/ GRANTS OFFICER



Karen

UNIFORM



Jane

OFFICERS



Donna

MAINTENANCE/ EQUIPMENT OFFICERS



Tom

WEB MANAGER/ TEAM REGISTRA



Jason

LIASON OFFICER



Iciar



Kay

COACHING STAFF

Due to the retirement of Arthur as Head Coach at this year's AGM and no success in appointing a successor, the Club's committee decided to appoint a Coaching Committee which would consist of Iciar Argus (Level 1 accredited) as the senior coach and Michelle Swift, Rita Beadsmoore, and Kay Roper as assistant coaches.



Iciar (Shar)



Michelle



Rita



Kay

THANK YOU to everyone for showing their support to all the Coaching Staff during this period and hope it continues. It certainly makes the job of all us coaches a lot easier when everyone pitches in and co-operates.

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK.

*(To view further photos of any events covered in the Club's newsletters please check **CALLING REDCLIFFE RED DRAGONS** Facebook page.)*