



The Sea School P/L

www.bluepeteraustralia.com



Annual Report 2016

In this first Annual Report, we summarise our progress from inception to the current situation, as a social enterprise for the enhancement of marine adventure programs.

Background

Jono Goss, operating as a sole trader “Blue Peter” was offering sail training services for many years before a partnership with Bob Houghton and Martin Kelly was formed to commission “Brahminy”. She was the very first Sienna 19 built by Scruffie Marine – a large volume vessel under 6m LOD designed for our purposes, and based on our experience of the popular traditionally rigged Stornaway 18 – a wooden, kit-built, ballasted open boat we had used for various sail training programs.

The Sea School P/L was formed in March 2014 by which time various expedition programs and training courses had been delivered with the help of Bob Houghton, Andre Vogel, Sally McAdam and Ross Pollard. The Sea School P/L gained its own ABN in 2015 when a management structure (refer to our constitution and our duty officer statement) was implemented to organise, delegate and progress the work needed to become an effective training organisation.

All staff currently operate on a volunteer or sub-contractor basis, with insurance coverage for our nominated volunteers. We are gradually becoming financially viable and seeking to maintain existing clients and gain other contracts in order to consolidate our operation. Our primary assets (refer to our inventory) and an operating budget was initially gifted to the company by various benefactors in the hope that The Sea School P/L will become a self-sustaining social enterprise (refer to our vision statement).

Adventure training programs have been and conducted for individuals undertaking Duke of Edinburgh Award, as well as specific programs and training designed for NSW Health, Mapleton QCCC, Australian Catholic University, Mission Australia*, Boonah State High

School*, Silky Oaks Childrens Haven*, Roma House*, Noosa Pengari Steiner School*, Edmund Rice Education*, Wesley Mission*, Scenic Rim Shire Council*, Church of England Grammar School* and Paramount Adventures* and South Passage* (*repeat business).

Strengths

The Sea School is building a capacity and expertise in delivering educational and therapeutic sailing/sea kayaking expeditions, and can be seen as action research for experiential education and group work. Our five day expedition programs have been very successful and have attracted positive feedback and requests for continued service delivery.

Training delivery has met a particular niche for activity specialists to gain group work skills eg. South Passage watch leader training. Our skippers and other volunteers are very talented, and have a vast collective experience which has potential to be shared and multiplied through further mentoring and training programs.

Weaknesses

We only have a handful of key Sea School staff, operating on a volunteer basis and limited in the extent of their involvement due to other commitments.

Quality of the sailing vessels and equipment has improved thanks to the work of the skippers - particularly Ross and Kieron. The Scruffies are vulnerable to strong head winds or a lee shore, being relatively under powered and best sailed on a reach in those conditions. This represents an opportunity in training, to develop the caution, foresight and decisive action required from skippers. Our equipment is generally being improved and replaced with quality brands.

Our website was planned as a training portal as well as an evaluation and marketing tool and the full potential of this has not been realised yet. Further work is needed as well as our administrative processes. Many attempts at funding applications (Westpac Young Leaders, Dick Smith Futures Project, Churchill Fellowship scholarship, Gambling Benefit Fund and a crowd funding attempt) have been unsuccessful. Our current status as a company does not

preclude us from such grants, although in practice it appears we are better off focusing on contracts that support our work as a social enterprise.

Opportunities

Many opportunities can present themselves through maintaining our current work and creating more focus on networking and marketing, based on our solid reputation for services. In particular, gaining key organisational clients, or a significant contract may change our capacity and status as an employer.

Threats

We are working on maintaining good relationships with our insurers, local councils, marine parks and national parks and AMSA. We have become aware of additional requirements for permits and licensing that require our immediate attention and significant investment.

Current Management

The management committee has evolved and positions have changed over time. The current committee operates on a volunteer basis (refer to our constitution), and consists of:

Director – Jonathan Goss

Operations Manager – Ross Pollard

White Watch Leader – Yonna Powell

Red Watch Leader – Kieron McCartney

Yellow Watch Leader – Rob Wigginton

Blue Watch Leader – Sally McAdam

Blue Watch Report

We are finalising the structure for our training process (refer to our training pathways) and are developing leadership training that could also act to bring more Blue Peter skippers into the fold. We have delivered several Australian Canoeing training courses (Canoe Guide, Coastal Kayak Guide) and are working with other RTO's who have interest in offering sailing. That represents a significant body of work that will need assistance from all of us as skippers with the development, delivery, mentoring etc. We proposed and won the contract for NSW Health – Forensic Hospital staff training in November and are currently volunteering to

assist with the training of South Passage watch leaders, and a work experience student.

Welcome Lauren!

Yellow Watch Report

The skippers are developing our program resources; the first drafts of standard expedition program outlines, venue information etc are appearing on the website for review. Watch this space. Our program resources are improving and new ideas being implemented with each expedition - we aim to have several standard program options available for review and planning purposes by the end of this year. Group bookings remain patchy but are steadily growing.

Red Watch Report

Our vessels have undergone general improvements and a transition from electric to petrol motors due to issues of reliability. Trailers are currently having wheel bearing services in preparation for the summer sailing season. Safety gear bags have been improved and now include laminated procedure cards, signal flags and EPIRBS along with regulation safety and navigation equipment. All our sailing vessels are subject to and application to MSQ as registered commercial domestic vessels.

“Brahminy” – Sienna 19 was commissioned in 2012, had hull repairs and several electric motor replacements and is still available for booking from Martin Kelly when needed.

“Osprey” – Sienna 19 was purchased and transported from Perth in 2014, had motor upgrades in 2014, hull repairs done by Martin in 2015 and her electric motor changed to petrol in 2015.

“Sandpiper” – Stornaway 18 was purchased and transported from Ballina in 2013 with significant work done to improve positive flotation and on her trailer.

“Curlew” – Stornaway 18 was purchased and transported from Stradbroke Island late in 2015, has had significant work to improve positive flotation and also had rigging improvements in 2016, being converted from a gaff rigged sloop to a lug rigged yawl.

Catamaran – donated by Terry Gillet being gifted to the Boonah Adventure Club.

Two more Stornaway 18’s have been donated to us and are being transported from Fairburn Dam OEC near Emerald. Thanks to David Murchie for organising this.

Our fleet of sit on top surf kayaks include 2 double and 3 single kayaks on a trailer, and is about to be rented to Darling Point Special School.

White Watch Report

Our management, administration and filing system is improving steadily.

The financial accounting for the past two years is being prepared for audit by the accountants next week. A summary financial statement follows.

We are currently focussed on updating our insurance policy to meet new permit requirements (\$20 Million coverage) and renewing to cover all activities and volunteer staff.

We have welcomed a work experience student (Lauren Patrick) to the team – she will be helping to organise and conduct the Churchie sailing expedition this year.

Future Goals

We will continue with our range of service delivery, and build on our many successes of 2015, when we were able to demonstrate our skills and resources can consistently exceed the expectations and aims of many small groups in training (average 15 people). We also had success in combining our fleet with sea kayaks and a mothership for several larger groups, and plan to deliver our awesome program options along the East Coast of Australia. Our main goal is to expand our work to include formalised training and mentoring of adult leaders, and to create paid positions for our volunteers. Our team of supporters are working hard towards these ends, seeing it as an exciting action learning project.

Our scholarships (Andre Vogel – adult traineeship and Helen Houghton – student traineeship) have been created, and are at the leading edge of our community service, providing a way to engage with our future leaders. We aim to enhance the role these play in our service delivery in the coming year.

Financial Statement

We aim to maintain \$20k in the bank and use all income and donations for operational expenses such as insurance, maintenance, transport, equipment upgrades, licencing, staff training, and volunteer expenses - as well as providing scholarships and gradually improving/expanding the fleet. All income and expenditure is accounted for through a single bank account, and records of all transactions can be viewed in the Sea School book of accounts (tabled). Direct payments of \$35 000 (not included here) have been made by Jono and Yonna to top up the account.

Financial statement prior to 2015 financial year (30 April 2014 – 31 June 2015)

Income	+ 12 400
Expenditure	- 13 704
Closing Balance	+ 994

Financial statement for 2016 financial year (1 July 2015 – 31 June 2016)

Income	+ 62 111
Expenditure	- 78 970
Closing Balance	+ 9137

Year to date transactions for 2017 Financial Year

Income	+ 9 000
Expenditure	- 6 131
2 Sept Balance	+12 905

Our income is largely represented by significant one-off payments for expeditions delivered for schools and other organisations including Noosa Pengari Steiner School, Wesley Mission and the Church of England Grammar School. Other training services are conducted for NSW Health, Edmund Rice Education and Paramount Adventures. Volunteer services are conducted for South Passage, Boonah State High School and for many of our trainees.

Our expenditure is being analysed in separate categories, in preparation for our accountants to submit our company tax return for 2015-16. The majority of expenses were for insurance, equipment upgrades and maintenance, volunteer training, fuel and vehicle costs. The Toyota Prado was purchased as a company car which unfortunately was not insured when involved in a multi vehicle accident in Sydney. We have expanded the fleet significantly, although we lost "Brahminy" when it transpired that Martin's objectives were different to that of The Sea School. Our current assets are valued at \$85 000.

In summary, The Sea School has made significant progress in the past year - however it is still in its early stages of establishment and relies heavily on the generosity of many volunteers and benefactors who are helping us in our work as a social enterprise.

As volunteers, we need to consider our life balance, as we all have other commitments that can be pressing. By working together to create fun and interesting events, as well as focus on improving our staff competencies, equipment and resources, we can further our own commitment and effectiveness in what I believe is a very important cause.

In particular we would like to recognise:

- Paul and Barbara Goss
- Yonna Powell
- Martin Kelly and Lorraine Browne
- Bob Houghton and Alexina Johnson
- Terry and Margaret Gillett
- Janet Hosking
- Ross Pollard
- Sally McAdam
- Rob Wigginton
- Kieron McCartney
- David Murchie
- Ben Dyer and Kate Manning



In summary, we will continue to work hard on developing and delivering what we see as cutting edge, best practice adventure/expedition based training - and focus on maintaining positive relationships with all our students and stakeholders. We will also focus on financial and operational sustainability. In future years we hope to be able to attract significant training contracts, and employ staff to operate from this solid foundation.

Jonathan Goss

Director

Blue Peter - The Sea School

www.bluepeteraustralia.com