

**Board of Directors Meeting
Madrid, Spain
11-13 March, 2016**

Oceania Canoe Association

Name of the BOD Member: Helen Brownlee / Maree Burnett

Function: President, Secretary-General OCA

1. Meetings since last Board Meeting

- The **5th OCA Congress** held in Adelaide, Australia, on 13 February, 2016, in conjunction with the Oceania Sprint Championships & Olympic Qualification event. Federations in attendance included AUS, NZL, COK, SAM, PLW and GUM.
- Due to distance, all other meetings have been by teleconference, as required.

2. Tasks undertaken for this period

- The **Oceania Canoe Sprint Championships and Olympic Qualification** events were held on the West Lakes Regatta Course, Adelaide on 12 - 14 February, 2016 with record numbers of paddlers participating.
Provisional Olympic Qualification places were obtained by:
AUS (WK1 200m; MK1 200m; WK2 500m)
NZL (MK1 1000m)
SAM (WK1 200m)
COK (MC1 200m)
- A **Sprint Training Camp** was run in conjunction with the Oceania Sprint Championships at Westlakes. Coaching was provided by Australian Canoeing for athletes from Cook Islands, Guam, Palau and Samoa.
- The **Oceania Canoe Slalom Championships and Olympic Qualification** events were held at Penrith, Australia, on 19 – 21 February, 2016 with over 200 competitors from 24 countries and four continents. Australia qualified the Oceania Olympic C1 boat place.

3. Issues and Main Points of Report

- OCA received disappointing news from the Pacific Games Council that the Tongan Organising Committee of the **2019 Pacific Games** has declined to include Canoe Sprint events within the Va'a program. The decision to include sprint was taken after Tonga was awarded the Games and therefore not mandatory. However, from 2023 onwards, the host nation is required to include Sprint Kayak in the Va'a Program.
- There is a groundswell of interest in **C1 paddling** among the island nations which we are keen to encourage as the transition from Va'a paddling is relatively easy. The issue of providing C1 boats and paddles is a high priority, and assistance from ICF would be welcome.
- The **issue of equipment and cost of freight** to the islands continues to present a challenge to development of canoeing in the Pacific, particularly those with a very minimum economy. Kiribati are eager to commence some activity, and the Solomon Islands have made contact with the ICF for potential membership.

4. Future Initiatives and Tasks

- Appropriate support for the island athletes from Samoa and Cook Islands who have qualified for the Rio Olympic Games.
- Ongoing liaison and support with/for our developing national federations and their NOC's.
- Provision of C1 boats and paddles to Cook Islands and Guam.
- Organisation of a Coaches Workshop for our island members to assist current and prospective coaches.
- New Zealand will welcome their first White Water Park in the vicinity of Auckland International Airport, in April, 2016. This exciting development will be the venue for the 2017 World Masters Games (Canoe Slalom). We look forward to using this facility for training and competitions in the future.
- Tahiti will host the first Oceania Ocean Racing Championship in conjunction with the Ocean Racing World Cup from 29 September – 1 October, 2016.



Andre Tutuka-George (back) and Leon Ngatupuna Mussell (front) from Cook Islands - OCA's first C2 paddlers in action at the 2016 Oceania Championships

Always moving forward