

Presidential Address

Joshua Schollum

September 18, 2019

2019 has been another fantastic year for the Auckland University Canoe Club (AUCC), we continue to maintain a strong membership; 350 people, with a subset of 80 that are our active skilled base, coming on trips and events across the year.

A lot of fun was had at our classic events; Puhoi, Lake Training, Fulljames, Tongariro, Mohaka, and Aniwhenua. With hundreds of university students given the opportunity to try kayaking and rafting and experiencing New Zealand's beautiful outdoors. There was an impressive 11 weekends of trips over the first semester; running more events and putting on new rivers. A highlight for me this year has been the strong engagement of our beginner group, who have stuck at it throughout the year. And of course, I'm really happy to see some of those who joined last year developing experience and skills towards independence and leadership within the club.

AUCC continues to ensure that our sport, events and trips are run safely. This year our Wet Team have aimed to develop and implement processes to effectively utilise our safety equipment. While on the water they have run and facilitated both internal and external training.

Thanks to the contribution of many club members, AUCC became financially stable this year. Gaining almost twenty thousand in grants which went towards Gear, Trips, and Training. This was possible due to the engagement of core members, a key to the stability of the club, ensuring further success in the years to come.

I think the health of our club is evident in the initiatives taken to educate our members; be that Te Reo, Sign Language, river and waterway protection. It has been awesome to support our members values, championing causes like riparian planting, water quality and women on whitewater, this year. With both organisational effectiveness and membership engagement, it's fair to say that AUCC has had a positive influence on the society and whitewater community as a whole.

AUCC should continue to focus on growth of its members, fleet, outreach and impact. However, we cannot lose sight of the time and effort put in by our core membership, entrenching values of thanks, respect, and giving back.

I'm sure many of you will have noticed some solid work by our media team this year - increasing our presence across multiple channels. Media is powerful in developing community and cohesion within our membership, further development and targeting of our media is only going to be more important in years to come. Whilst the improvement this year may be difficult to match, further utilisation of social tools and outsourcing media creation to the wider club will increase the chances of this.

As the largest university whitewater club in the country, we will continue to be a leader focusing on engagement and growth. AUCC is currently working with Vector Wero as they review their community engagement – watch this space – we're expecting to see some better opportunities for us here in the future. Also, continuing to engage with Campus Life as the University Campus is redeveloped.

So, thank you to everyone and every member that has been involved with AUCC this year. I think we can be proud of a great 2019. And, lastly, a special thanks to our instructors and guides who give up their weekends time and time again.

See you out there,

Josh

AUCC President 2018/19