

A Letter from 2030 – by Rob Llewellyn-Jones

2020 was a watershed year for LCRK. The old timers amongst us will recall the Big Rain that derailed the old pontoon which to new paddlers will seem pretty rudimentary compared to our New Eco Friendly Clubhouse/Sauna/Spa and Elle Presidente Dining Room & Bar and our fully automated robotic kayak launching ramp and marina installed in 2028!



By comparison they did it tough in 2020! A lot of water (and other things) have passed under Fullers Road Bridge since 2020 and the years since may seem a distant memory so this letter is to make sure that the achievements of the last decade aren't forgotten.

2020 isn't only remembered for the BIG RAIN it's also not so fondly recalled because of the BIG VIRUS. Of course we now take for granted the innovations that arose from the BIG V. It's barely imaginable that in those far off days paddlers navigated the river during night Time Trials without the benefit of Zoom Track GPS™ which now conveniently runs on our personalised BIG V compulsory government installed butt cheek microchip. Sure having a microchip installed in your butt was an invasion of privacy back in 2021. Who then wanted the government to know what their butt cheek was doing in the privacy of its own bedroom. But over the years we've had to accept that there's versatility in having a microchip in your butt. Let's face it, with today's 8G mobile phone technology most people are literally talking out of their butt!!

And can any of you imagine doing a Time Trial without the benefit of real time butt data about the river current, wind direction/speed, sonar depth detection, stroke rate and power wattage, back eddy detection, boat speed, heart rate, VO2Max and butt rotation angle? Time Trials in 2020 were absolutely primitive in comparison!

Of course back in 2020 people didn't expect that personal surveillance drones would become such a trend but after initial reservations paddlers could see the benefits of transmitting drone video taken from all angles of one's forward stroke and having this data analysed in real time by the coach of your choice with helpful feedback transmitted into your butt [microchip] and on to your ear.

*Despite these rapid technological advances some old timers kept to the old ways. For instance can you believe that **Richard Barnes' 2021 non-stop Tasman crossing to New Zealand** was achieved without the benefit of long distance Gourmet Uber Eats?! Or the fact that the Hawkesbury Classic was run without the benefit of the flood lights that now picturesquely line the route from Windsor to Brooklyn. Not to mention the absence up until 2029 of real time Marathon Competitor continual blood analysis - now such a fad among elite paddlers. Back in 2020 no one could imagine that their butt could calculate fluid, glucose and electrolyte requirements to the nearest micromole and transmit this data to a Vaikobi Elite Microlight 3D Gel Printer™ which now provides the best sports nutrition EVER!*

Of course we all now know of the social changes heralded by the BIG V. Can you imagine all the kissing and hugging that went on until butt cheek surveillance ended it all? Can you imagine holding a Kenji inspired LCRK BBQ burger with your hands rather than using an Aldi Drone Feeder™ without fuss or mess? Can you imagine actually sending your kids to school to mix with other little humans? Some say that was barbaric compared to educating the little angels in the

privacy and safety of their own bedrooms.

They say that the world has changed for the better since the BIG V but most old timers yearn for the good old days when Time Trials were rugged affairs, people shook hands in greeting, gave their loved ones a hug and mixing in groups was considered normal.

We're just thankful for the hard yards put in during the 2020 lockdown, and the patience in adjusting to new social distancing requirements – it's made the last ten years a lot easier. Thank goodness for paddling to help us through.