



Paddle VIC



**Annual Report
2019-2020**



Photos:

1. Slalom - Brad McLaughlan (Front) Daniel Shamieh
2. Wildwater : Dita Pahl
3. 2019 Vic Schools Marathon Champs
4. Kayak PaddleBall Geelong
5. Canoe Polo: Ian Beasley - Receiving Award of Excellence at the 2018-2019 Paddle Australia Awards. (Roz Manester)
6. Sprint - Noah Cameron - taken by Westlakes canoe club

Contents

Acknowledgments.....	2
Membership.....	3
Affiliated Clubs.....	3
Office Bearers	4
Vale – Dave Renton.....	6
President’s Report.....	7
Executive Officer’s Report	9
Finance Report.....	13
Membership Report.....	15
Education	17
Special Projects	19
Discipline Reports	21
Paddle Victoria Volunteer of the Year Award – 2019.....	39
Clubs Memorable Moments and Contributions	44

Acknowledgments

Paddle Victoria acknowledges and thanks the following organisations for their support during 2019-2020:

Major Supporters

- Victorian Government, Sport and Recreation Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services
- VicHealth
- Australian Federal Government
- Life Saving Victoria
- Melbourne Water

Supporters

- Paddle Australia
- Australian Sports Commission
- Outdoor Education Group
- Parks Victoria
- Murrindindi Shire Council
- Shire of Strathbogie
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Vicsport
- Victorian Institute of Sport

Membership

	2019-20		2018-19
Introduction of Go Membership			
New Membership Categories			
		Full Adult	555
Seniors (Adult over 18)	1263	Recreational Adult	785
Life (Included in Senior Adult Count)	8	Life	7
		Full Student 18- 24	71
Juniors (Under 18)	225	Full Junior U18	222
Direct Members – PA/PVic	10	Limited Youth	195
Volunteers (Non Paddlers)	40	Social/Non Paddling	31
Total	1538		1866

Affiliated Clubs

Ballarat Canoe Club	Melbourne University Mountaineering Club
Barwon Heads Canoe Club	Mercantile Kayak Club
Bellarine Paddlers Inc	Mildura Canoe Club
Bendigo Canoe Club	Mitta Mitta Canoe Club
Canoes Plus Racing Team	North East Canoe Club
Cobram-Barooga Canoe Club	Patterson Lakes Canoe Club
Echuca-Moama Canoe Club	River Racing Australia
Eltham College Canoe Club	RMIT Outdoors Club
Essendon Canoe Club	Shepparton Canoe Club
Fairfield Canoe Club	Swan Hill Canoe Club
Float Inc	Victorian Canoe Club
Footscray Amateur Canoe Club	Victorian Sprint Paddlers Inc
Geelong Canoe Club	Warrnambool Kayak Club
Goldfields Paddlers	Whitehorse Canoe Club
INCC Yarra Paddlers (Formerly INCC)	Yarra Valley Kayaking
Kananook Creek Canoe Club	Yarrawonga Mulwala Canoe Club
Kirinari Kayak Club	
Melbourne Canoe Club	

We would like to acknowledge the support of the hundreds of volunteers across our paddling community.

Office Bearers

Board

President, Chair and Interested Director
Interested Director
Interested Director

Paul Grant (2016, 2018)
Kate Leverett (2018 – 2020)
William Silcox (2019 – 2021)

Independent Director
Independent Director
Independent Director
Independent Director

Lawrie Chenoweth
Paul Loughran (changed to Interested Director 2019)
Georgina Wakim (2017)
Victoria Langley (2019- 2021)

Paddle Victoria Office Staff

Executive Officer
Finance Officer
Project Manager
Education Business Manager
Membership and Club Support
Education Administration
Equipment Maintenance
Communication and Website

Mark Heggie (2016)
Sandra Reaburn (2001)
Sharon Swoboda (2002)
John Moore (2007)
Roz Manester (2011)
Roz Manester (2011)
John Shields (2009)
Steph Langley (2018)

Discipline Technical Committees

Marathon:

Chair / Treasurer
Vice Chair:
Secretary:
Equipment:
Marathon Diary:
Communications:
Sport Development:

John Young
Joe Alia
Sue O'Rourke
Geoff Baird
Sally Miller
Arabella Eyre
Debbie Bennett

Polo:

Chair
Equipment Control
Development Coordinator
Communications Coordinator
Pool Coordinator
Nationals Coordinator
General Committee

Dale Tomlinson
Larry Robb
Jade Kerber
Ben Watts
Jade Kerber
Dale Tomlinson
Frank Magee,
Michael Jarman, Ken Brownlee

Slalom:

Chair	Chris Runting
Secretary	Sue Moorhen
Treasurer	Lynne Strmecki
Athlete's Representative	Warwick Draper
General Committee	Russell Bassett, Laura Montalto, Chris Galea

Sprint:

Chair	Aaron Coutts (resigned March 2020)
Secretary	Georgina Wakim
Treasurer	Rowan Doyle
Event Manager	Reka Abraham
Logistics	Lawrie Chenoweth
General Committee	Jon Ford, Noah Cameron, Hannah Scott, Adam Holovics, Chau Nguyen, Tony Mission

Wildwater:

Chair	Chris Wharton
Vice Chair	Mathew French
Secretary	Lynne Strmecki
General Committee	Wes Hurrey, Tony Misson and Leanne Nichols

Vale – Dave Renton

15/07/1949 – 09/08/2020

Bellarine Paddlers Inc

The Bellarine Paddlers are deeply saddened at the passing of our Vice President, coach, mentor, guide, croc wrangler, inspiration and friend Dave Renton.

Dave was a founding member of the Bellarine Paddlers, and it is fair to say that the club would not exist at all if not for his incredible generosity. He donated a huge amount of boats and equipment to help establish the club, and volunteered every Sunday morning for numerous years to help newcomers take their first tentative strokes on the water as well as being instrumental in organising club activities and social gatherings. He was always first to offer to help, and never went looking for credit or recognition for the enormous amount of work he did for the community.

Dave's reputation in the Ocean Grove community is without peer. He served on patrol for 54 consecutive years for the Ocean Grove Surf Lifesaving Club and their new patrol tower was recently named in his honour. He was also vice president of the local Disabled Surfers Association which he helped establish. He was the first port of call for locals in need of help fixing equipment or solving problems, and his reputation as an innovator, inventor and handyman was well earned.

As a paddler, Dave was highly successful in ski paddling for the Ocean Grove surf club at state and national level, won Australian marathon championships on flat water and still holds the Men's Veteran 40 record for the Massive Murray Paddle which he set in 1992 with Ray Johnson. He frequently organised recreational paddling trips for his circle of friends and was as much at home patiently teaching learners or juniors to balance as he was surfing the waves at Ocean Grove beach on a ski that he had built for himself.

We'll all miss his humility, kindness and generosity as well as his good humour on and off the water. A life well lived and an example to all of us.
Rest in peace Dave, and sincere condolences to Lorraine and all of his family and friends.



President's Report



**President
Paul Loughran**

2020 - we have never experienced a year like it!

This year has been overshadowed by the devastating impact of COVID-19 on all Victorians, including our paddling community. The challenges have been far reaching. Cancellation of training sessions and competitions. Clubs having to 'close their doors'. Financial stress and uncertainty experienced by clubs and the Paddle Victoria (PV) office.

Then there are the personal hardships.

Yet despite these and many, many more challenges that COVID has presented, the resilience and commitment of paddlers, clubs, volunteers, Paddle Victoria (PV) office staff and Board has been nothing less than remarkable.

Having secured *Job Keeper*, which was not a certainty, the PV office staff have been able to continue their work to support our members and maintain focus on delivering our four strategic priorities:

1. Increase awareness of paddling opportunities and the organization
2. Connect with participants
3. Improve participation experience
4. Support our exiting community

And the list of work activities undertaken by PV staff, clubs and disciplines during this period has been extensive and impressive, with some of the more notable activities including:

- Completing rectification work on the **Goulburn River Slalom Rapid** to enhance the main wave and improve safety features. The works were undertaken in mid-August as part of the preparation for the 2021 Paddle Australia All Ages Canoe Slalom Championships (provisionally scheduled for 15th-17th January 2021, subject to COVID-19 constraints).

The work was dependent on securing external funding from Murrindindi Shire Council; negotiating with Pacific Hydro, AGL, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority; obtaining travel permits; supervising the contractor and gaining the support from the local community.

A special '**Thank You**' to the Victorian Slalom Technical Committee, especially Chris Runting, Warwick Draper and Lewis Sutcliff who put in countless hours to get the project completed under heavy restrictions, limited budget and to a very tight timeframe.

- Participating in the review of the plans to upgrade of **Nagambie Regatta Course** to meet the national standard for Sprint Racing.
- Securing '*in principle*' agreement from Melbourne Water to fund works to improve **Yarra River access at Westerfolds Park** and maximise usage of this important local natural resource that will benefit:
 - young and elderly paddlers who will be able to safely enter and exit the river
 - parents of paddlers at the 'grass roots' community sport level
 - competition officials, volunteers and spectators
 - novice recreational paddlers travelling down-stream from Warrandyte and Eltham, to safely exit or portage before the rapids
 - local community groups (including Eltham Girl Guides and 1st Lower Templestowe Scouts) and schools (eg Eltham College) who use the Yarra River for water-based activities

A special '**Thank You**' to Ian Beasley for the work in preparing the plans and driving the project.

- Getting paddling approved within the scope of exercise for Stage 3 and 4 Restrictions – this involved countless phone calls and emails to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services; Chief Health Officer (Department of Health and Human Services); Minister for Community Sport; and the Office of Premier and Cabinet

And the list doesn't finish there, with work on:

- bringing PV and other State Paddling Members to agree on key elements of the United Paddling Management model – a Sports Australia funded initiative to develop a unified, national approach in the areas of database management; financial reporting; strategic priorities and workforce
- preparing and submitting a funding proposal for a High-Performance Centre for Water Sport Excellence in Nagambie
- identifying suitable water storage facilities and reservoirs in and around metropolitan Melbourne managed by Parks Victoria for recreational use
- participating in the Lilydale Lake Masterplan
- preparing the Wildwater Championships (provisionally scheduled for January 2021)
- ... and much more

These works often go unnoticed and unrewarded but is critical in growing our footprint and profile; strengthening our reputation; presenting a unified voice when approaching and working with government, councils, local community groups and government departments such as Melbourne Water and Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority; creating and delivering better outcomes for our paddling community.

More importantly, given the impact that COVID has had on our collective revenue generating capacity, these works were achieved by a handful of PV staff, clubs, their members and the cast of volunteers all of whom are passionate and committed to paddling and their paddling community.

COVID is still with us ... and there will be more uncertain and challenging times ahead. However, the resilience and resolve of our community will play an important role in our ensuring our sport is well-placed to emerge stronger in 2021.

Thank You.

Paul Loughran

Chair and President, Paddle Victoria



Executive Officer's Report

Mark Heggie

In last year's report I used the saying: "nothing seems constant except for change". That was prophetic.

Even before COVID, Victoria and other states were coping with extreme weather conditions and rewriting risk assessment for air quality due to bushfires. The State Sprint Championships held at Nagambie on the 19th of January was a case in point. Weather forecasts and air quality [bushfire smoke] predictions were monitored and interpreted constantly in the preceding weeks.

A decision was made to run the event and to closely monitor conditions on the day. The competition commenced with cool conditions and gusty winds. As the day progressed the weather became warmer and the wind dropped. The air quality was fine, officials and competitors worked to run on schedule as there was the possibility of thunder storms later in the day.

Live monitoring of thunderstorm progression indicated the area would be impacted, events finished, and paddlers were urged to secure all boats and equipment from high wind and take shelter with the approach of lightning. Officials, paddlers and supporters worked cooperatively to secure the site.

To finish off the day the trip back to Melbourne was impacted by large hail and torrential rain. The point of this story is to demonstrate the flexibility and skills we have within our volunteers and paddlers and how reactive they can be to extreme challenges and conditions.

COVID bought another level of challenges to paddling in Victoria.

The 2019- 2020 year commenced full of hope and positivity.

Marathon consolidated on their active committee under the guidance of John Young and was working towards hosting the National Championships in Geelong in March 2020. Hard sought permits for exclusive use of the river and facilities were attained and exemptions for Victoria's PFD laws were achieved.

The Victorian Marathon Champs were conducted as a dry run at the site for the National event on 26th February. The event was well attended with interstate and NZ entries keen to preview the course before the national event. The atmosphere was good and everyone was looking forward to Nationals.

Planning was enacted to run a COVID safe event, however as the landscape was changing the required standards became more and more demanding. John Young was rewriting risk plans until the decision to postpone was taken out of our hands by the local and state governments.

The following weeks saw Victoria go in to a staged form of lockdown, each stage presented different challenges and actions. Clubs were often subject to varied interpretations of allowed activity from their landholders or local council.

Whilst Paddle Australia and Paddle Victoria developed COVID plans these had to be adapted both for varied regulatory interpretations and unique characteristics. The Paddle Vic staff assisted clubs formulating plans and endorsing the clubs plans with councils and local authorities. PV have been hosting Zoom meetings for clubs enabling them to meet and plan. The Zoom meetings have also facilitated a closer and more active relationship with club committees and PV. We have progressed now to hosting Zoom AGMs for clubs and the PV AGM in October will be completely online. Fortunately, we have forayed into online AGM participation for the last two years and have the confidence and skills to engage more clubs in the AGM process.

Since March I have had weekly meetings with Vic Sport. The meetings provide interpretation of the impact of COVID restrictions and has given me a chance to be able to raise queries and be able to put the case of paddling forward as a relatively safe activity .

Club committees, Discipline committees and paddlers have risen and taken on enormous responsibility in areas they probably thought they would never have to administer.

Working with Paddle Australia

Paddle Australia has been working with states to complete the roll out of the new membership system and progressing well with preparing numerous policies and governance tools that are available to all states. I think the simplest way to sum up Paddle Australia's goals is *"do it once, do it well and make it available for all"* to paraphrase Phil Jones.

Paddle Victoria now has access to numerous updated policies such as strategic planning, child protection, member protection and many more. This places us in a lot safer position with regards to up to date governance of our State organization.

Communication between PA and the member states has been consolidated with regular online meetings and series of forums we attended in person.

Victorian Disciplines

Slalom has continued with an active committee now chaired by Chris Runting and supported by numerous experienced members. Vic Slalom is scheduled to host the Age Nationals in January 2021 and has been working towards the event.

Sprint has continued to run, improving events with a well established committee and better attended events. Victorian representation at Grand Prix events has increased.

Polo has been making efforts to seek out and try new venues and has taken the enforced shut down as an opportunity to plan new strategies and approaches.

Marathon has gone on introducing new race technology and attracting a strong and varied committee. Events are well run and have great support from the existing paddlers. As with most disciplines they recognize little or no growth in numbers and are continually working to attract more participants.

Wild Water has a new chair following the retirement of the long serving and respected Chris Wharton. Roy Farrance has taken on the role and Victoria is scheduled to host the national Championships in January 2021.

Facility and Access

Melbourne Water has commenced work on upgrading the water access at Westerfolds Park Templestowe. Terracing and landscaping will allow everyone to connect with the water including paddlers using the slalom site. The site was identified as a priority in the Imagine the Yarra Strategic plan. The improvement will be a great asset for Park visitors and paddlers.

Paddle Victoria Board and Staff

Chair and President Paul Grant stepped down during the year and Paul Loughran assumed the role of Chair. Paul Grant chaired Paddle Vic through many changes and challenges. He was an integral part of forming active relationships with the then new PA EO Phil Jones and PA Chair Andrea McQuitty.

Paul navigated PV through challenging issues such as vandalism of slalom facilities and communicating with animal activism.

Since then, Paul Loughran has continued to engage and guide the Board, rising to the challenge of all meetings online. Paul has shown great skill working with this sometimes awkward medium.

The Board has also had to deal with complex new issues that create varied opinions. I am proud to see robust and respectful discussion taking place.

Like discipline committees and club committees the PV Board members have had to make decisions and develop strategies regarding contagious disease risk management and compliance with State of Emergency declarations.

In addition to the Board, I am lucky to have such long term staff who all show adaptability and support each other's roles. The office staff works closely with our numerous instructors and leaders. I commend the staff for maintaining their enthusiasm and positive efforts through this period of isolation.

More than ever it has been wonderful to see the support and respect in our community from member level through to the National and state associations.

The Future and Finances

As the initial shutting down of activities commenced in March my biggest concern was losing people and assets. I feared the economic impact may close clubs and the numerous stresses would force people out of volunteer positions. I was concerned the multiple stresses would impact our community emotionally and financially.

Paddle Victoria and Paddle Australia reacted quickly with considerable discounted membership fees and the Paddle On Foundation where members could donate into a fund that could assist case by case members suffering financial stress to renew their membership. I am particularly proud of the contributions from Victorians. Paddle Australia have discreetly managed the funds and the distributions to members in need. Paddle Victoria has ceased all Education and participation events and all competitions run by disciplines have stopped. Whilst all income from those events have stopped the cost associated with running events has also ceased. We are fortunate to not have ongoing fixed costs associated with venues and facilities like a lot of sports do.

Paddle Victoria qualified for Jobkeeper and the State and Federal business support grants. This has enabled us to maintain our financial position and keep the office open to service and support the members, clubs and disciplines.

Paddling is in a good position to emerge as a safe form of exercise and competition as restrictions are eased. Indoor sports and team sports will take longer to activate creating an opportunity for local paddling activities to thrive.

All our training and recreational activities can occur in uncrowded outdoor spaces. People who are restricted from interstate and international travel are exploring their home territory and looking for local activities.

States that have been less restricted than Victoria are seeing increased demands for community activity and local events, which is something for us to look forward to as restrictions ease.

Whilst there are opportunities created by the COVID crisis, we must all be conscious of the numerous ongoing impacts on health, financially and emotionally that will be impacting individuals in our community. We as an organization and all of us as members must look out for each other, step up and support each other.

Paddle Victoria staff will continue to support our clubs and members. I have received many approaches from individual members, and non-members regarding numerous issues around paddling and COVID impact and restrictions.

I hope these approaches to Paddle Vic continue as they inform our staff and Board and enable us to develop ongoing strategies. It gives me information to pass on to our government partners to ensure paddling challenges and advantages are represented at the highest levels of governance.

Mark Heggie



Finance Report



**Finance Officer
Sandra Reaburn**

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions the Finances have not been audited and it is unclear when we will be able to have them audited. The accounts are therefore presented as a **draft** to the AGM for discussion. We will need to schedule an extraordinary meeting to pass the Financial Statement once they have been audited.

This year the association posted an operating profit of \$5,260.00 for the financial year 2019-2020. This was an increase of \$1,764.00 from the previous year profit of \$3,496.00. We only had a loss from Polo, and a small one from Wildwater, with the rest of the association making a profit.

The office would like to acknowledge and thank the Victorian Government through Sport and Recreation and VicHealth for their continued strong financial support.

During the Covid-19 pandemic we have received enormous support from the Federal Government through the Jobkeepers scheme, grants and the Cash Boost through the Tax Office. We also received a grant from the State Government to help Paddle Victoria through the pandemic. Paddle Victoria is very grateful to Parks Victoria who have waived the Westerfolds Shed rent for the 12 months of 2020. We would also like to thank Outdoors Victoria for reducing the office rent through this period. Without the support of all the organisations mentioned it would not have been possible to keep the office and association running through this extremely difficult period.

Administration

The office had a forecast budget projection of a loss of \$3,672.00 but due to the support from the Federal and State Government the office made a profit \$11,699.00. During the financial year 19/20 Paddle Victoria received \$40,259.00 in total from the Federal Government and \$10,000.00 from the State Government. Without this support through the pandemic we were forecasting a loss of approx \$30,000.00 to keep the office running.

Our retained surplus is now \$131,532.38 which will help the association navigate the rocky road ahead of coming out of the pandemic.

Education recorded a loss of \$4,096.00 due to having to cancel all the programs planned in March to May. This is normally their most profitable period.

There was an increase in membership of \$8,090.00 from last year with the current year total being \$104,875.00 in income.

Marathon

This year Marathon made a profit of \$2,994.00. This is a very good result considering Marathon had \$2,236.00 in expenses for the Nationals to be held April 2021. Marathon held five well attended events through the financial year all making a substantial profit. In particular the Victorian Championships and the Victorian Schools Championships did extremely well. John Young and his team of volunteers have done an incredible job of organising the Marathon events. Currently the retained surplus for Marathon is \$65,600.00.

Polo

Polo has posted a loss of \$12,909.00 which was mainly due to the Brunswick competition income which was placed in the 2018/2019 financial year instead of 2019/2020. This was documented in the Annual report last year. If the income for this event was not included in the 2018/2019 financial year, then Polo would have had a loss of \$6,347.00 in 2018/19 instead of the loss of \$201.00 which was audited.

There are now processes in place, so this does not happen in the future. Overall, the Brunswick competition held over the two financial years recorded a loss of \$1,963.80 but in the current financial year it is a loss of \$8,110.00.

Polo also purchased some minor equipment totalling \$3,600.00 which also contributed towards the overall loss.

The Summer Series was very successful and extremely profitable but unfortunately not enough to get Polo into the positive. Polo's overall surplus is now \$74,204.00

Slalom

This year Slalom made a profit of \$2,082.00. There were two events that stood out from the others when it came to making this profit. The Yarra Series Race 4 in August 2019 and Victorian Junior Championships held in September 2019 were both very profitable.

Equipment expenses/purchases were high which totalled \$3,446.00.

The Department of Social Service's grant of \$4,594.00 which was received in May 2019 for Volunteers came in very handy this financial year. With this money Slalom purchased new radios, gazebos, chairs, tables, stools and a new laptop which will make life a bit easier for our wonderful volunteers.

Currently Slaloms overall surplus is \$30,845.00

Sprint

Sprint has posted a profit of \$1,424.00. The Sprint committee is getting the sport up and running again.

Sprint had three main competitions that were profitable. In particular the Victorian Championship and the Victorian Schools Championships which are organised with Marathon. There was a substantial petrol expense due to travel to and from Sydney with equipment.

Back in July 2019 the Sprint committee organised a Bunning's BBQ to help raise some much needed funds. Their day was very profitable bringing in \$1,424.00 which has helped with the overall profit.

Sprints surplus is \$9,799.00.

Wildwater

Wildwater had a slight loss this year of \$30.10. All four events made a profit with the Victorian Junior Championships in September being the most profitable. Wildwater is lucky as they don't incur many expenses while they are running their events as their expenses are mainly of a general nature.

Wildwater now has a surplus of \$6,689.00

Sandra

Finance Officer



Membership Report

Roz Manester

2019/20 certainly saw a shake up to the Paddle Victoria Membership Model.

Paddle Australia introduced a new membership portal to replace the existing SDNA model as well as introducing new Membership categories.

GoMembership was introduced to Club Administrators and members in the second half of 2019 with a go live date in September 2019.

In addition to all these changes, Paddle Victoria saw the need to increase our Membership prices as we had been running at a loss since 2015-16 as our expenses had been increasing annually with no increase in fees since 2013-14. Up until 2019, Paddle Victoria had been subsidizing the very cheap Youth Category price of \$20 and unfortunately could no longer sustain this.

Many of our Club Administrators welcomed the flat membership structure which had been imposed on Paddle Victoria by the new Go Membership Digital Platform being introduced by Paddle Australia. I hope that this structure has eased the complication of membership categories for the Secretary and Treasurer.

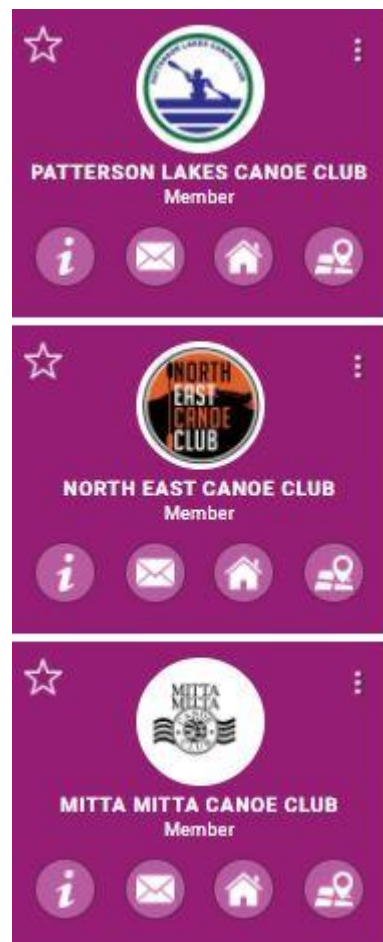
Paddle Australia have been available to help Clubs with the transition to GoMembership by offering many Webinars, being available to talk through issues and making available Support Documents on the GoMembership portal.

A year later and we are still experiencing a few teething problems with GoMembership but all in all it has made the life of the Club Membership officer an easier one with members being able to login to GoMembership to register or renew their Membership and pay online via Stripe.

Change however is never a smooth process and with all the changes to the Membership model we did lose one of our Affiliated Clubs and we did lose a few members who saw the new fee structure as being too expensive and not accommodating families as well as it had in the past.

Paddle Victoria were very sorry that we lost some members and one of our Clubs but unfortunately with the system and categories being implemented by Paddle Australia we had to adopt the new Membership model.

With the increase in membership prices as well as an overall trend away from Club sport, Paddle Victoria saw a decrease in our annual Club Memberships. Along with the current COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, Paddle Victoria in conjunction with our clubs will need to work hard at member retention and offering a package that will keep our existing members and attract new members to the sport of paddling. Perhaps the



inherent social distancing of paddling may be something that may play out in our favour in the coming months and years.

As always, I would like to thank all those hard working Volunteers on the Club committees who keep in touch with me and Paddle Victoria. You let us know how things are going in club land and without your enthusiasm and hard work our clubs would not be as strong as they are!

Roz

Membership and Club Support



Discover, Explore, Learn and Have Fun!



Education

Roz Manester

Like for so many 2020 turned out to be a really disappointing year for the Education Department at Paddle Victoria.

The summer months start off really slowly for Education programs in October and November and we only really start to get busy in Term 1 and Term 2 of the year.

We started 2020 with lots of enthusiastic Paddlepower paddlers during our January school holidays at Shepparton, Yarrawonga, Geelong, Westerfolds Park Templestowe, Lilydale Lake, Essendon and Fairfield. More and more clubs are getting involved with running Paddlepower at their clubs in order to encourage young paddlers into their clubs as well as utilising enthusiastic coaches to help run these programs.

Don't forget our fleet of canoes, sit on tops and kayaks are always available to be hired for club paddles or club come and try days. Either bring your trailer down to the shed or borrow ours for the weekend if it's not already booked up!

Once the year got going, we ran our very popular Basic Skills and Flatwater Guide Training and Assessment programs as more and more people realize the value of being Paddle Australia qualified. We are happy to offer these courses to our club members at a 20% discount if your club needs a qualified guide to take your members on river trips!

Our fleet of canoes, kayaks and very popular sit on tops were in demand as Term 1 got going.

We travelled far and wide down to Geelong, the Bellarine Peninsula, Shepparton, Wilsons Prom, Lillydale Lake and to local metro areas to deliver fun, safe and engaging paddling programs to both Primary and Secondary aged students. Our programs are very popular amongst schools and community groups as they are delivered by a pool of wonderful Instructors, Guides and Coaches to the highest safety levels all the while introducing students to the amazing sport of paddling!



Then COVID-19 struck, and our boats were parked!!
Many programs were initially put on hold and then ultimately cancelled when we realized the true impact of the pandemic. From being on track to record a profit for 2019/20, Education then posted a loss of \$4,096.01.

Planning has started in earnest for 2020/21 so that we can start getting students and participants back on the water as soon as we can. I think paddling will be seen to be a great safe form of exercise in today's climate and it will be our challenge for the coming months to introduce as many people to paddling as we can.



John Moore, our Education Manager and I work very closely together. John is my technical paddling guru offering me advice and information on best practice paddling techniques, great paddling venues and specific risk management issues. He also has a wonderful calming influence on me when we are overwhelmed and battling to find instructors to run our many programs! Thanks John for all your help and support in setting up our great education programs!

And to the hard working pool of Instructors, Guides and Coaches who make my job so much easier thanks to their enthusiasm, adaptability and fantastic ability to put together programs that are always fun and always safe. The amount of returning schools and clients we have is testament to what a great job you all do.

My thanks to:

John Shields, Ian Wallbridge, Bernard Boulton, Laurie Atkins, Ian Neville, Tim Roadley, Jamie Hughes-Gage, Tim Howells, Barry Bell, Tristan Speed, Steph Langley, Josh Montalto, Will Silcox, Steve Rayner, Brianna Jones and Megan Macko. There are many others as well who have helped me out at the last minutes and for your willingness to help out, I'm really grateful.

Roz Manester
Education Administration



Special Projects



Project Manager Sharon Swoboda

2019-2020 saw the completion of the VicHealth innovation grant that was focused on Kayak PaddleBall, the new game targeting teenagers paddling participation. The program ran for 18 months and saw the development and implementation of the new game based on a modified version of Canoe Polo.

The focus was on fun and participation rather than competition and structure. The VicHealth Innovation grant is a different structured grant with a great deal of support and guidelines that position new programs to grow after the initial implementation. There were many learnings taken from the grant and we thank VicHealth for their ongoing support.

As the project finished in December 2019, the final 6 months was used to consolidate the learnings from the first 12 months and gain more data for analysis moving forward.

One of the aspects of the program that was redeveloped during the program was the formal rules/structure of the game. As a result, we removed boundaries, always made the ball in play, focused on the “safety” components and evaluated which boats worked best. Even down to the goals or targets for the game. While the blow up green and blue goals were great, they are expensive and for all intents and purposes, a target is all that is required. These were valuable insights that could only come with support to run the program, receive the feedback, review and have another go.

It was very evident during the implementation that this activity is not going to be limited to the teenage cohort. All parts of the paddling community will and have already utilised this game as both a social activity and provide a variety to other programs such as the female participation programs, junior paddle power programs, club social activities and simply social fun.

Resources are now available for anyone who wishes to play to game. It has been designed to be promoted to anyone and everyone to play and implement – the point is participation and accessibility. It is also encouraged to be changed up to be appropriate to the audience and engagement, if players are hogging the ball or it is too easy, change it up and create a greater challenge. We only wish that it is called Kayak PaddleBall so when we run Kayak PaddleBall Challenge days, it is a term that is recognisable by all participants.

Kayak PaddleBall will now take its place as one of the activities that can be delivered on sit on tops by any group and also provides a specific engaging activity for the teenage age group that are so challenging to attract and retain in any activity. A club to offer this as an activity to keep the social connection strong with their friends and junior paddlers while keeping them on the water will benefit with strong membership and long term engagement.



Move It Aus Funding through Sports Australia Roz Manester

As a part of their commitment to increasing participation in the sport of paddling, Paddle Australia received funding under the **Move it AUS** program and partnered with Sport Australia to deliver free introductory paddling experiences to high school aged students based in rural and remote areas throughout Australia.

This funding was offered to the Paddle Australia State bodies as well as to some commercial operators. With this funding Paddle Victoria were fortunate to deliver paddling programs to secondary aged students in remote areas of Victoria.

We loaded up our trailers and travelled to Shepparton, Benalla and Yarrawonga. The program aimed to give inactive students an introduction to paddling through some basic paddling techniques, fun and games on the water and playing the very popular Kayak Paddleball.

All the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive thanks again to the incredible pool of coaches and guides who worked on the program.

Photo : Kayak Paddleball – Sharon Swoboda

It wasn't an easy project as we had to leave early in the morning to travel long distances, deliver programs all day, load up all the boats and equipment and travel home again. As with many funded programs we experienced the issues of students not bothering to attend and schools cancelling at the last minute which is always disappointing considering the amount of work these programs take to organize. We also had the great Victorian summer to deal with which delivered extreme heat and a flooding river!

Despite these problems we were really grateful for the opportunity to introduce paddling to some schools and students who had never had this opportunity before. The onset of COVID-19 derailed the project unfortunately and we were unable to get to more remote areas and deliver to more students.



Photos – Cam Sudholz - Sacred Heart Yarrawonga

Discipline Reports



Canoe Polo

Dale Tomlinson - Canoe Polo Chair

OVERVIEW

Canoe Polo in Victoria saw an excellent year and marked significant growth over many aspects of the sport. 2019 and the start of 2020 saw a number of successful competitions, paired with increased participation numbers over all competitions, particular in the areas of university and younger players.

The year also saw growth within the sport at a club level, with Fairfield Canoe Club investing in infrastructure including a shed specifically for polo equipment, and a new field to host events at their club.



Melbourne University Mountaineering Club participated in competitions throughout the year and was joined by the RMIT Outdoors Club who have become involved with many of our competitions.

This year also saw the introduction of the Victorian Youth Polo Academy (VYPA), as they began to assist in the running of many events and competitions. VYPA's focus is on providing development opportunities and pathways to high performance within the sport for any youth, U21, or university players throughout Melbourne and Victoria. Additionally, Essendon Canoe Club and Victorian Canoe Club continued to represent throughout all competitions.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in competitions being put on hold. While it is disappointing that events and competitions cannot be held, this has given the state technical committee the opportunity to evaluate their competitions and programs and look to improve into the future once events can resume. As with any challenging circumstance, COVID-19 represents an opportunity for the sport to grow and develop in the face of adversity, and perhaps provides an opening for reflection that may not have been possible in a more normal schedule.

MELBOURNE CANOE POLO LEAGUE - 2019 SEASON

Last winter saw the conclusion of our first season of the Melbourne Canoe Polo League at its new home in the Brunswick Baths. The transition from the Richmond Recreation centre proved to be a success, with 14 teams competing over 4 divisions, an increase from 12 in the previous season. Within those teams it was fantastic to see an increase in participation numbers from our younger players, with a Fairfield CC junior team entering into C Grade, 4 university teams over C and Novice grade, and a number of younger and developing players taking on the challenge of moving up a grade. The Brunswick Baths team were incredibly supportive of canoe polo and our competition and we extend our heartfelt thanks for everything they did and continue to do to make us feel at home in their facility, and help promote the sport in the local community. We ran a number of sessions for their staff and lifeguards to give polo a try and they loved the opportunity to jump in a boat, even if many of them fell out almost immediately!

Congratulations to the winning teams:

A Grade – Imports

B Grade – Dolphins

C Grade – Without A Paddle

Novice Grade – Aquaholics (RMIT Outdoors Club)



Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the 2020 season of the Melbourne Canoe Polo League has been cancelled. We eagerly look forward to starting back up again in 2021 and carrying on the development from the 2019 season into the future.

VICTORIAN INTER-CLUB SERIES 2019/2020

Our 2019/2020 Victorian Interclubs Series saw clubs from around Melbourne compete over a series of monthly events between November 2019 and March 2020. The series was deemed a huge success and involved a total of nine teams from various clubs and universities over the four rounds. This was a large increase from the 5 teams that competed in the previous series. This year also saw clubs take a more hands-on approach with the series, with Fairfield Canoe Club hosting a round, the first polo event to be held at the club in a long time. The Victorian Youth Polo Academy also hosted their first event when they oversaw the final round at Karkarook Lake.



The placings for the 2019/2020 Victorian Interclub's Series were:

- 1st - Fairfield White - 68 points
- 2nd - Fairfield Blue - 56 points
- 3rd - Essendon Canoe Club - 52 points
- 4th - Fairfield Black - 19 points
- 5th - RMIT Outdoors Club Red - 17 points
- 6th - Victorian Canoe Club - 16 points
- 7th - Melbourne University Mountaineering Club - 14 points
- 8th - RMIT Outdoors Club Black - 8 points
- 9th - Mixed Uni - 4 points

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE 2019/2020

In February 2020, Victoria hosted the fourth and final round of the Australian National League at the Nagambie Regatta Centre. This event turned out to be the biggest event of the national calendar after the Australian National Championships, planned for April 2020, were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An enormous response of 22 teams signed up for the event, an increase from 18 the previous year. In order to accommodate the increase in entries, a third division was created and the regatta centre had three fields set up for the increased schedule for the weekend. Of the 22 teams entered, 11 were Victorian-based, a hugely positive step in seeing more state-based teams represented on the national stage.

The winners for each division in round 4 were:

- Division 1 – Lakers
- Division 2 – ANZ
- Division 3 – South
- Aus Juniors

In addition to Victoria's event, two Victorian teams attended the other rounds of the National League held in various states. Fairfield Canoe Club had a number of successful results including a 2nd Place in the first round in Canberra, 3rd place in the



second round in Sydney, and 2nd place at Nagambie, resulting in a total of 48 points to take out the overall first place for the league, narrowly beating the Sydney-based Lakers with 44 points. Cheeky Rascals competed in every round and notched up a 4th place finish in Sydney, and 3rd place at Nagambie.

INTERVARSITY COMPETITION

In October 2019, the state held its first Intervarsity competition where over 30 athletes from various universities across Victoria competed at Nagambie. The event ran over two days, with the first day including a development training session and the start of the round-robin tournament, while the second day

culminated in finals. The event was a great opportunity to develop university-based polo and saw many of the players and teams continue their development over the inter-clubs series and other summer events.

OTHER PROGRAMS

In addition to the various competitions and events, there were also a number of other great initiatives that occurred throughout the year. The Victorian Youth Polo Academy ran a series of development sessions over Summer and Autumn aimed at developing the skills of youth and university-based athletes in the lead up to the Melbourne Canoe Polo League. Our referee coordinator Leon Ng and junior development officer Brigit Doyle ran a series of referee and rules sessions for university players to help improve their understanding of the rules, in particular for players new to the sport. Our Competitions Director and Development Officer Jade Kerber attended the 2019 Canoe Polo Super League held in China as a team manager, managing both the Jinjori Bulls and the eventual tournament champions: the Yohan Blue Helmets.

Over winter 2020 paddling in Melbourne, hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, was no longer an option. The hard work, however, didn't stop there. Brigit Doyle continued her junior development sessions in an online format, working with her athletes on a weekly basis focusing on a variety of topics. Many teams from competitions continued to meet virtually to socialise and work on tactics, and the State Technical Committee met regularly to look at ways to improve and restart canoe polo once restrictions ease into the New Year and competitions can resume.

Despite the large break over 2020, the State Technical Committee is very happy with the development and growth within the sport over the various competitions and is confident that this will continue when competitions recommence. The Committee will continue to plan for and adapt to the ever changing circumstances to make sure that Canoe Polo in Victoria continues to not only develop and grow, but thrive and flourish.

Jade Kerber

Competitions Director and Development Officer



Canoe Polo - Brunswick Baths Come and Try Session



Special Events – Canoe Polo Ian Beasley Excellence Award

Congratulations to Ian Beasley on receiving Award of Excellence at the 2018-2019 Paddle Australia Award ceremony.

Ian's award recognises the outstanding contribution he has made to Canoe Polo through various State and National committee roles, development of resources and books that are used globally and for significant work in event delivery plus so much more!



Congratulations Ian, a true credit to you! Enjoy the accolades!

Awarded by Connie Todaro (PA Board Member) and John Moore (National Canoe Polo Committee)



Marathon

Marathon Chair – John Young

As for most organizations FY20 consisted of two distinct parts. “Pre-COVID” activities before mid-March 2020 were normal, with Marathon running 17 races and preparing to host the 2020 Paddle Australia Canoe Marathon Championships in April. “Post-COVID” paddling was far from normal, with competition ceasing and staged restrictions interrupting on-water activity. The primary focus of the committee shifted from organizing races and promoting junior paddling to working out how events might be staged as restrictions were eased and how paddlers could be encouraged to re-engage when circumstances permit.

Race attendance

Twenty-four marathon races were scheduled and 17 held, with some marathon paddlers also participating in additional sprint, river/wildwater, multi-sport and ocean racing events. Race attendance continued to vary markedly, depending upon race location and school involvement, ranging from as few as 16 up to over 130 paddlers, with an average of 79. Average race participation decreased by 2% from the prior year, based on like-for-like events.

Table 1 FY20 Marathon race program and race participation

Date	Race	Location	Format	Distance	Host Club	Attendance	FY19
21-Jul-19	Winter Series 4 (D)	Patterson Lakes	Circuit, portage	8-20	PV/PLCC	105	29
04-Aug-19	Salty Single Blader	Maribrynnong River, Footscray	Circuit, singles/doubles/mixed	3*6	Footscray	31	39
18-Aug-19	Winter Series 5 (S)	Nagambie Lakes (Geelong cancelled)	Circuit, portage	8-20	PV	74	
07-Sep-19	Winter Series 6 (D, S, pairs)	Gateway Lakes, Wodonga	2 days: Circuit, portage	3*6	PV/MMCC	21	47
12-Oct-19	Echuca Mini	Murray River, Barmah to Echuca	Point-to-point, full dist/relay	50, 20	PV/EMCC	79	74
19-Oct-19	Bendigo Cup	Loddon River, Bridgewater	Circuit	10-20	Bendigo	76	102
30-Nov-19	Murray Quad Peaches & Cream	Murray River, Cobram to Tocumwal	Point-to-point, full dist/teams	25	Murray Quad	24	26
08-Dec-19	Salty TK and Rec Challenge	Maribrynnong River, Footscray	Circuit, singles/doubles/mixed	3*6	Footscray	16	
14-Dec-19	Ben Ward	Murray River, Yarrawonga to Cobram	Point-to-point, full dist/relay	65	CBCC	134	136
15-Dec-19	Ben Ward	Murray River, Cobram	Circuit, relay	8	CBCC	62	124
19-Jan-20	GP1: Murray River Classic	Murray River, Yarrawonga	Circuit, portage	10-20	YMCC	44	37
02-Feb-20	GP2: Saltwater Classic	Maribrynnong River, Footscray	Circuit	3-24	Footscray	64	57
22-Feb-20	GP3: Frank Harrison Memorial (S)	Murray River, Albury	Singles, Point-to-point	16-26	MMCC	121	131
23-Feb-20	GP4: Frank Harrison Memorial (D)	Murray River, Albury	Doubles, Point-to-point	16-26	MMCC	100	103
29-Feb-20	Victorian Marathon Championships	Barwon River, Geelong Rowing Mile	Singles, circuit, portage	12-27	PV/Geelong	127	109
01-Mar-20	Victorian Marathon Championships	Barwon River, Geelong Rowing Mile	Doubles, circuit, portage	12-27	PV/Geelong	135	78
15-Mar-20	Vic Schools Marathon Championships	Nagambie Lakes	Short course, portage	2*3-4	PV	137	130
22-Mar-20	Vic Short Course Marathon Champion	Lake Weeroona, Bendigo	Short course, portage	2*3-4	PV		
17-Apr-20	Australian Marathon Championships	Barwon River, Geelong Rowing Mile	Short singles, circuit, portage	3*3	PA/PV		
18-Apr-20	Australian Marathon Championships	Barwon River, Geelong Rowing Mile	Singles, circuit, portage	7-30	PA/PV		37
19-Apr-20	Australian Marathon Championships	Barwon River, Geelong Rowing Mile	Doubles, circuit, portage	7-30	PA/PV		30
03-May-20	Marathon Winter Series Race 1 (D)	Yarra River, Tay Creggan, Hawthorn	Doubles, circuit	3-22	PV/Fairfield		118
31-May-20	Marathon Winter Series Race 2 (S)	Nagambie Lakes	Singles, circuit, portage	2-23	PV		108
21-Jun-20	Marathon Winter Series Race 3 (D)	Yarra River, Fairfield	Mixed doubles, circuit	4-18	PV/INCC		141
Total		Number of races scheduled = 24	Number of races held = 17	Average =>		79	97
Winter Series						67	38
Club hosted races						57	85
Summer Grand Prix series / Echuca Mini						82	80
Championship events						133	77

Notes: FY19: WS4 held at Gateway Lakes, WS6 held at Nagambie, Aus Champs held in Perth

Championships events

The Victorian Marathon Championships, held at the Geelong Rowing Mile on 29th February/1st March, attracted over 130 paddlers. Attendance was higher than in prior years, with many preparing for the Australian championships planned to be held at the same venue in April. However, national COVID-19 restrictions enacted in mid-March resulted in postponement and then cancellation of the 2020 Australian championships, with Victoria to host the 2021 Australian championships from 25th-28th March next year. The Victorian Schools Marathon and Sprint Championships were held at Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre in mid-March, with over 130 students attending the last FY20 paddling event prior to competition ceasing due to COVID-19. Unfortunately the inaugural Victorian Marathon Short Course Championships, planned to be run at Lake Weeroona in Bendigo in late March, were cancelled, along with all 2020 Winter Series races. The 2020 Marathon World Championships, planned to be held in Baerum (Oslo), Norway, in August, were also cancelled.

Mick Leverett (Barwon Heads Canoe Club), Emily O'Rourke (INCC Yarra Paddlers) and Joseph Burton (Mitta Mitta Canoe Club) won the Australian 2019 Canoe Marathon Paddler of the Year awards, for the Masters Male, Junior Female and Junior Male categories respectively.

Junior development

Increasing junior participation at a club level and encouraging additional schools to offer paddling programs remains a key focus of the Marathon committee. The "Ready to Race" clinic planned to be held in conjunction with the Victorian Short Course Championships was cancelled and the committee plans to run further clinics when restrictions ease. The Marathon committee purchased a light trailer to transport the boats acquired last year to seed introductory secondary school paddling programs in the future. The Marathon committee continues to work to support the existing school paddling programs and recognizes the challenges faced by some of these programs with changing school priorities, which existing prior to COVID-19, and constraints exacerbated by COVID-19.

Financial performance

Despite the cancellation of multiple events the Marathon discipline was fortunate to make an operating profit of ~\$3,000, due primarily to good cost control and increased race participation at the Victorian Championships. The result was down from the ~\$4,500 operating profit in FY19 due to the lower number of events (which itself was down on the ~\$8,000 operating profit in FY18 due to the cancellation of one race (2018 WS5) due to bad weather). Marathon finished the financial year with net assets of ~\$65,600 (FY19 ~\$62,600), comprising cash of ~\$48,500, equipment of ~\$15,100 and prepayments of ~\$2,100. During the year Marathon invested ~\$2,000 in a new light trailer, plus various minor purchases to support the hosting of the Australian Championships.

Achievements/initiatives in FY20

- Continued to promote marathon racing through regular pre-race marketing on social media and new event initiatives such as the Victorian Short Course Championships, modelled on the ICF Short Course Championships, but with various age categories and extended to doubles events, and the novice teams relay event planned to run as an inclusion event at the Australian Championships.
- Introduced a range of paddling related merchandise for the Australian Championships, including a hoodie with the names of all participants.
- Shifted the 2019 WS5 event at short notice from Geelong to Nagambie, after the Barwon River was closed to paddling due to a local flooding event.

Initiatives for 2019/2020

- Continue working with clubs to establish and energize junior programs at all clubs.
- Continue working with clubs to establish race coordinators to drive increased club participation at races.
- Hosting the Australian Marathon Championships at the Geelong Rowing Mile in March 2021.
- Seek grant funding for paddles and PFDs to support the secondary school paddling program.

Safety

The safety and wellbeing of all participants is the most important priority at our events. Through preparation and training we were fortunate that we had no medical treatment or loss time injuries and our events during the past year. The committee developed procedures to manage new risks, such as air quality in early 2020 associated with extensive bush fires, blue green algae in late summer and COVID-19.

Acknowledgements

FY20 was a demanding year with planning and organizing for the 2020 Paddle Australia Canoe Marathon Championships. I would like to thank the members of the Organizing Committee, Joe Alia (Vice Chair & PA Liaison), Sue O'Rourke (Secretary, Visitor Information & Club Liaison), Mike Neilson (Agreements), Arabella Eyre (Event Marketing & Communication), Debbie Bennet (Sponsorship & Merchandise), Foster Rosetto (Safety), Peter Currie (Regulatory Approvals), Alex Brunacci (Volunteer & Site Management), Sally Miller (Catering & Equipment Vendors and Stakeholder liaison), Geoff Baird (Equipment & Support Boat Management). Many of these volunteers managed this workload in addition to their normal PV Marathon responsibilities. I also thank the many volunteers who willingly gave their time to support our events, and without whom the discipline could not operate. Finally, I would like to thank all the paddlers that participated in our events and I look forward to their continued support in 2021.

John Young
Chair, Marathon Committee

PV Marathon Committee

Chair / Treasurer:	John Young
Vice Chair:	Joe Alia
Secretary:	Sue O'Rourke
Equipment:	Geoff Baird
Marathon Diary:	Sally Miller
Communications:	Arabella Eyre
Sport Development:	Debbie Bennett





Slalom

Slalom Chair – Chris Runting

2020 Canoe Slalom Annual Report – Victoria

The Victorian Canoe Kayak Slalom discipline was active up until March 2020 when events were suspended due to Covid-19 constraints.

There have been no changes to the members of the Victorian Slalom Technical Committee (VSTC) over the past 12 months.

Yarra Series Races

The 2019 series (2019 calendar year) was successfully completed with all 5 events being held. Races were held at the Warrandyte Bridge, Fitzsimmons Lane Bridge (3 times) and Dights Falls.

Unfortunately, none of the 2020 events have been able to be held so far.

Country Series Races

All of the 3 scheduled 2019 races were held. Race 1 in July was relocated from the Big River to the Goulburn River slalom rapid to take advantage of the environmental flow that was running at the time. Race 2 was held at the King River as a training event with continuous runs. Race 3 was run in conjunction with the NTS training camp on the Goulburn River in November. There were no Country Series Races scheduled for the first half of 2020.



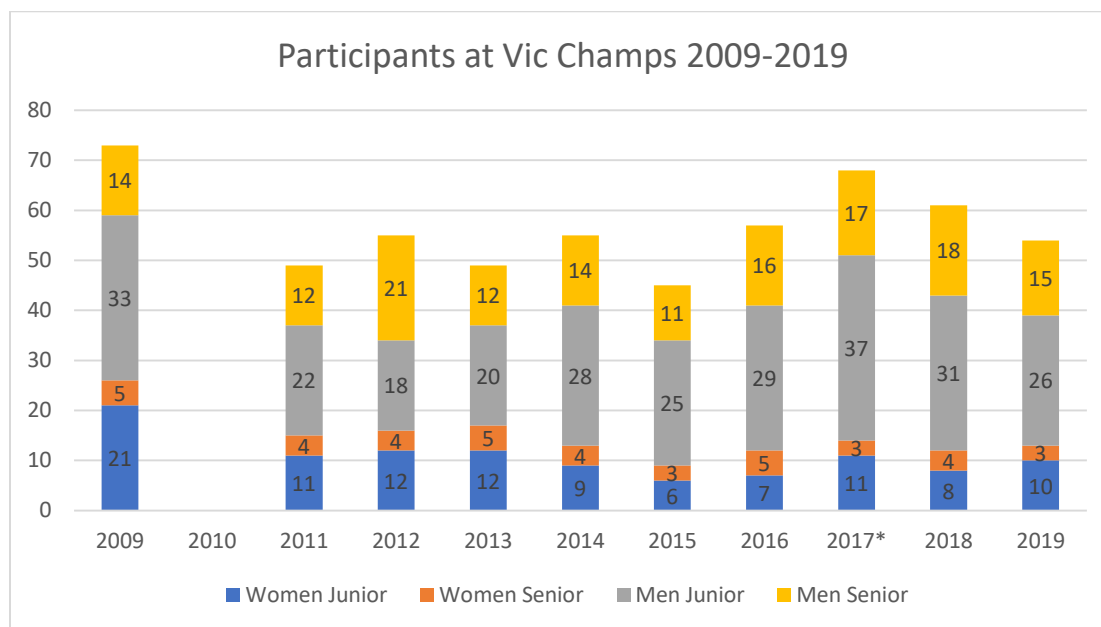
Mark Crosbee

Victorian Championships

The Victorian Slalom Championships were held on the Goulburn River on the 30th November and 1st December 2019. There were 54 competitors, 41 male and 13 females. To give an indication of the level of participation in relation to past years the number of participants at Vic Champs over the 2009-2019 period was charted.



Kate Moorhen (Front) Archie Taylor



Participants are only counted once, irrespective of how many classes they enter

Includes interstate competitors, only a few each year

Senior is U23+, Junior is U18-

2017 is based on Start Lists, the event was washed out

Data for 2010 could not be found

Victorian Junior Canoe Slalom (Incorporating Schools) “Victorian Schools Championships”

The Victorian Schools Championships were held on the Yarra River at Warrandyte Bridge on Sunday the 8th of September 2019. There were 54 competitors, 35 males and 19 females. 18 different schools were represented. The school with the most competitors was Ivanhoe Grammar School with 23 participants, followed by Upper Yarra Secondary Collage with 5 participants.

Schools with a canoe slalom program have been a significant source of new participants to the sport in Victoria. Many of the elite slalom paddlers from Victoria started their career through a school program. For the years 2017 to 2020 there have been 14 individual paddlers from Victoria selected for Australian Teams (Junior, U23 and Open), 10 of them (71%) were introduced to paddling through a school program.

Over the past decade there has been a decline in the number of schools with slalom canoeing programs. Work is in progress to reactivate the involvement of a number of schools.

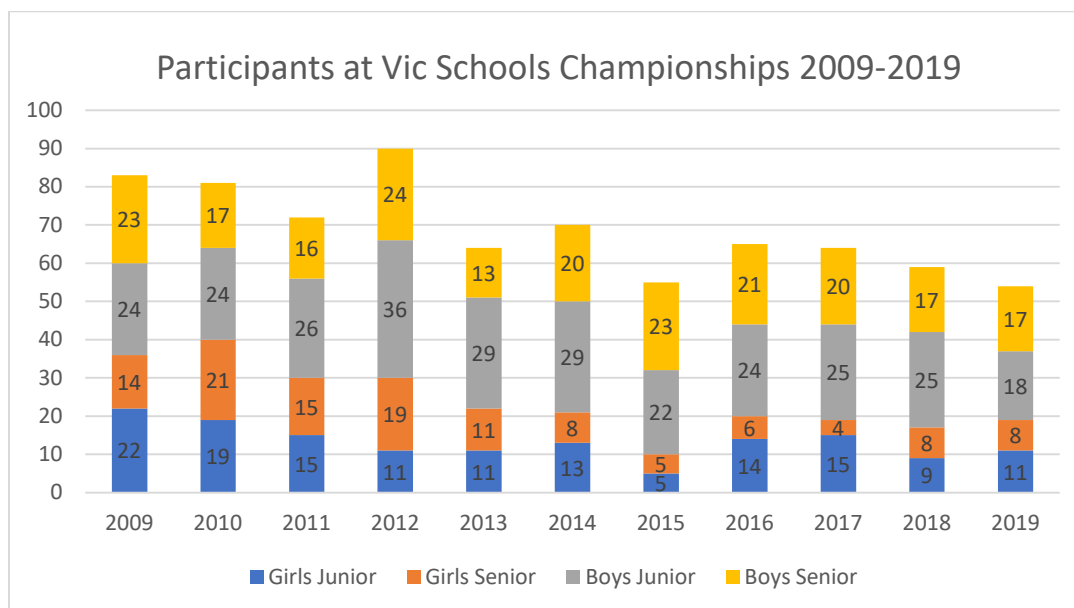
To give an indication of the level of participation in relation to past years the number of slalom participants at the Victorian Schools Championships over the 2009-2019 period was charted.



Sarah Crosbee



James Stamp



*Participants are only counted once, irrespective of how many classes they enter
 Senior is U16+, Junior is U14-*

Victorian Team for 2020

A Victorian Team was selected to compete for the State Trophies at the 2020 Australian Canoe Slalom Championships (**January Penrith NSW**) and the 2020 Australian Canoe Slalom Age Championships (**January Mersey River TAS**). They were selected using the results at the Victorian Championships and the Country Series Race 3.

The team was:

Senior Team (Compete at Penrith, NSW)

K1M: Tristan Carter, Warwick Draper, Aiden O'Callaghan

K1W: Zoe Lau

C1M: Rob Janiszewski, Tristan Speed

C1W: Madi Wilson



Rob Janiszewski

Junior Team (Compete at the Mersey River, Tas)

K1M: Mark Crosbee, Ben Little, Riley Galea

K1W: Georgie O'Callaghan, Sarah Crosbee, Ali Berryman

C1M: Ben Ross, Alex Taylor, Archie Nelson

C1W: Kate Moorhen



Georgie O'Callaghan

Cadet Team (Compete at the Mersey, Tas)

K1M: James Stamp, Lucas Del Brocco, James McLaughlan

K1W: Jasmin Muir

Team Manager for Australian Canoe Slalom Age Championships Tasmania: David Gibbs and Phil Ross

Team Manager for Senior Team Australian Championships at Penrith: Leanne McLaughlan

Victorians at the Junior/Under 23 World Championships, Krakow, Poland, July 2019

The following Victorian athletes were selected to the Australian Junior Team in January 2019 and participated at the Junior/Under 23 World Championships in Krakow, Poland July 2019:

U23 C1M: Tristan Carter (Heats 3rd/47)

Jnr C1M: Mark Crosbee (33rd/49), Daniel Shamieh (29th/49)

Jnr K1M: Brad McLaughlan (41st/77), Josh Montalto (39th/77)

Victorians Selected for the Junior/Under 23 World Championships in Tacen, Slovenia 7 – 12 July 2020

U23 C1M: Tristan Carter, Kaylen Bassett, Lachlan Bassett

U23 K1M: Tristan Carter

Jnr K1W: Georgia O'Callaghan

Jnr C1M: Mark Crosbee, Ben Ross

Jnr K1M: Sebastian Montalto, Mark Crosbee

This event was cancelled due to Covid-19

Victorians Selected for the World Cup Squad 2020

C1M: Tristan Carter, Kaylen Bassett

The 2020 World Cup events were cancelled due to Covid-19



Seb Montalto

2020 Canoe Slalom National Development Squad (NDS)

The National Development Squad is open to athletes between the ages of 14-18 and is run by Paddle Australia. Selection to the NDS was based on the results at the 2020 Paddle Australia Canoe Slalom Age Championships, January, Mersey, Tasmania: and/or, Paddle Australia Canoe Slalom Championships, January, Penrith NSW and the 2020 NDS assessment training Camp.

The NDS athletes get the opportunity to take part in training camps around Australia with national coaches and the opportunity to participate in a tour to New Zealand. These activities have been severely limited due to Covid-19

The Victorians selected to the squad in early 2020 are:

Mark Crosbee

Sarah Crosbee

Ryan Hughes

Ben Little

Sebastian Montalto

Kate Moorhen

Georgie O'Callaghan

Ben Ross



Ryan Hughes

Australian Open, Penrith, February 2020

A number of Victorian Race Officials helped run this event in senior organisational roles and by taking responsibility to run the "SiWi Data" timing, scoring and compilation system. SiWi Data is the timing and scoring system used to time and score canoe slalom races at Olympic and International Level (ICF World Cup and ECA Events) and its use is a pre-requisite to host an ICF event such as this.

The VSTC continues to improve the expertise around using SiWi, increase its use where practical and train as many race officials within Victoria and around the country as possible to be able to operate it.

2021 Paddle Australia Canoe Slalom Age Championships, Goulburn River, January 2021

Victoria has been selected to host this event, subject to Covid-19 restriction impacts. Planning for the event is underway. Paddle Australia will decide if it runs as a national championship later in the year. If it can't be run as a national event, the VSTC propose to run it as a state level event, if possible.

Digital Honour Board and Historic Records

Together with Paddle Victoria the VSTC has started a project to create an online Honour Board to record the winners and results of significant slalom events within Victoria, both from the past and going forward. It is also intended to capture historic memorabilia as well. Tony Ladson has kindly accepted the challenge of making this happen. His help and expertise are greatly appreciated.

Works at Fitzsimmons Lane Slalom Rapid

In April 2020 Melbourne Water announced they would be constructing mudstone steps down the bank into the river beneath Fitzsimmons Lane bridge and create formalised judging and spectator seating areas adjacent to the bridge. Link for further details: <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/building-and-works/all-projects/improving-access-yarra-river-westerfolds-park>. The works have been delayed until later in the year due to the high river level.

This work is a component of the Westerfolds Paddle Sports Plan, which is the result of the extensive work over many years by Paddle Victoria and Melbourne Canoe Club.

What's Ahead?

While the ongoing impact of Covid-19 remains unclear, the VSTC will be resuming slalom activities as soon as practical and it is safe to do so. It is hoped that Country Series Race 3 at the Goulburn and the Victorian Championships will be able to run in late November 2020.

The VSTC will continue to keep running the Yarra Series, Country Series and Victoria Championships; work to increase the participation of new paddlers and retain existing paddlers; encourage the involvement of volunteers; support and encourage clubs to participate in slalom; help to provide training and coaching opportunities; work at and support efforts to improve venues for the sport; advocate for an international standard white-water facility in Victoria.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the members of the VSTC who all make such huge contribution. Thanks are also due to those volunteers who step up whenever required, be it setting up courses, pulling them down, judging and officiating at races, rescue or coaching, often in challenging conditions. Their efforts are often unacknowledged and unseen but are essential to being able to run slalom races in Victoria. The participation and support of paddlers at events is greatly appreciated. Paddle Victoria, at all levels, has continued to provide great support and help.

Chris Runting

Slalom Chair



Sprint

Sprint Chair – Aaron Coutts

(June 2019 – March 2020)

Sprint Chair – Reka Abraham

(April 2020 – June 2020)

We had a challenging 19/20 Sprint season in Victoria. As we continued building and providing support for our athletes to participate in the National Sprint series, new challenges arose along the way.

We had planned a winter series of events and even though we had great interest from our members, unfortunately, the numbers weren't sufficient enough to continue with our plans. Possible reason for the lack of participants was a combined event overload with the other disciplines resulting in event dates clashing and website change-over disruptions and issues to publish the Sprint calendar officially.

After a reset, we started the summer season off with a great event in Bendigo. It was a more informal affair with about 60+ participants. It was a combined effort by CPRT, FCC, INCC and the sprint committee, delivered by BCC.

Some highlights from the day were: a number of paddlers trying out racing C1, a Wildwater 200m race, especially as there were a number of aspiring Wildwater paddlers fresh from a National camp.

As part of the athlete development program, another great success was our Sprint camp, supported by Paddle Australia and with guest coach Kenny Wallace. We had more than 30 participants over the 2 days. The topics during the camp included: introduction, basic paddling tips and techniques, set up of equipment (boat and paddle), technique feedback with video analysis, goal setting tips, visualisation, race day preparation and strategy tips. On the second day, Steve Vegh joined the camp as a canoe coach and gave specific tips for the canoe athletes. There were a range of canoe athletes from beginners to competitive.

A follow-up regatta after the camp had less participation than expected, however it was a smoothly delivered regatta. Our volunteers did a great job as we tested a different timing system and the competitors pushed themselves despite challenging weather conditions. The possible reasons for the low number of participants continued from the beginning of the year. Event overload, clashes with other disciplines, plus the website was still not able to provide a single clear source of information on the event calendar.

In preparation for the Victorian state championship and National championships, we organised a 2nd sprint



camp, working with Victorian coaches Pete Gargiulo and Serghei Cucsă. This appealed to a good number of canoe athletes in various levels from beginners to competitive. Also, under Alex Boyd's leadership and coaching, a handful of junior kayakers picked up some new skills and tips.

Sebastian Wakim

The Victorian State championship was a well-prepared event, with an efficient number of volunteers and officials. We had quite good competitor numbers despite another clash with a State discipline event. Unfortunately, compared to the previous year we had dropped in numbers in the women's competition. On the other hand, there was furious competition in Open and U23 men category. A positive was the review and update of our risk management plan as a result of the bushfire and smoke hazard, which was communicated clearly to our members in advance prior to the event.

Finishing off the 19/20 season in Victoria was a very successful Schools championship which was held in Nagambie. It was a combined event organised together with Paddle Victoria's Marathon committee. This event was run at the same time as the Australian Sprint National Championships and the event was mainly delivered by Paddle Victoria Marathon committee's enthusiastic volunteers together with the available Sprint committee members.

Paddle Victoria's Sprint Committee enjoys the support of 12 passionate volunteers who run the Sprint events in Victoria. They help at various events with a combined knowledge of the sport and management of events. We would like to educate our volunteers further and we are seeking an opportunity to enrol them in an ICF entry-level or basic official course to run events with a higher standard.



Noah Cameron

National Sprint series:

Paddle Victoria's 2019-20 Sprint season - regarding performance and competition numbers at all GP events including Nationals - was definitely a season that we will remember for some time for obvious reasons. The results below show a vast improvement across the board with multiple podium medals of all colours. This is a definite improvement from the last few seasons where Victoria were not able to place top three or have numbers of competitors reach a finals consistently apart from Amanda Reynolds. Clearly there are obvious positive signs of improvement with these results. With hard work by our athletes and sprint committee as well as support from Paddle Australia assisting with well attended training camps through the year has proved successful.

Results from GP's and Nationals 2019/2020:

National event attendance / results - PV sprint							
Event	Participation Number	Gold	Silver	Bronze	A Final	B Final	C Final
GP1	10	4	1	1	5	4	N/A
GP2	15	2	2	1	9	3	1
Nationals	10	5	3	6	12	8	N/A

Improvement is obvious and to see our Juniors and open athletes performing well is very encouraging to see.

Sprint financial report:

The sprint finances are in good shape. We have run at a small surplus again this year (\$1,423). Both income and expenses were up on prior years: income included funding from Paddle Australia and some fundraising (Bunnings BBQ last year) as well as competition fees. Major expenses included purchasing a good quantity of new medals/ribbons in the new PA/PV design, venue hire for competition and athlete support for attending national competitions – particularly towards boat transport for athletes. Sprint has in excess of \$11,500 in the bank which sets us up well for running great events next year.

Sprint's equipment is a boat trailer and a number of sprint K1s, K2s and K4s, which are currently distributed around member club locations.

We would like to thank the 2019/2020 committee for their outstanding and continued support towards the sport! Georgina Wakim, Rowan Doyle, Lawrie Chenoweth, Noah Cameron, Hannah Scott, Adam Holovics, Chau Nguyen, Tony Misson, John Ford and Aaron Coutts.

Reka Abraham

Chairperson

PV Sprint Committee 2020-21



Sprint Vic Paddlers at GP1 Sprint Vic Paddlers at GP1



Wildwater

Wildwater Chair – Chris Wharton

(June 2019 – January 2020)

Wildwater Chair – Roy Farrance

(January 2020 – June 2020)

2019

The last portion of 2019 saw quite a few championships events take place. The School Down River Championships was held on the Yarra at Warrandyte in September 2019 and attracted a good field of young paddlers with 52 Entries competing in both classic and sprint events.

Later in September, the Victorian Wildwater events were held on the Yarra, with the Classic held from Homestead Rd. to Wittons reserve. The Sprint event was held on a new course on the S bend rapid just up from Wittons reserve.



Dita Pahl

Victorian WildWater Classic winners in each age group for 2019 were:

Ruby Elms	15 yrs . Womens K1	22.36
Baelea Collins	17 yrs. Womens K1.	22.34
Dita Pahl	Open Womens K1.	20.23
CJ Flowers/Thomas Elms	Open Mens C2.	21.49
Riley Galea	14yrs. Mens K1	21.14
CJ Flowers	15 yrs.Mens K1	20.03
Ryan Hughes	16 yrs. Mens K1	18.24
Thomas Elms	17yrs. Mens K1	17.59
James Humphrey	18yrs. Mens K1	18.33
Glen Singleton	Open Mens K1	17.20
Warren Elms	Vint. Mens K1.	18.15

Sprint Results unavailable at this time.

The Australian Championships were held on the Mitta Mitta River in early December 2019, followed by a well-attended Mitta Mitta Downriver Race organized by River Racing Australia. The Australian Wildwater team to compete at the 2020 World Championships and World Cups in the USA were selected from events held over the course of the Australian Championships Carnival. Victorian Paddlers selected to the team were: Dita Pahl, Ryan Hughes, Thomas Elms and Robert Janiszewski.

2020

2020 has been a difficult year, with bushfires and the pandemic creating a climate where training and competition were not possible, and the health and wellbeing of our paddling community has been of paramount importance.

Considering the current Covid 19 restrictions in Victoria there have been no Downriver or Wildwater events run in Victoria since the Goulburn event in February run by Bendigo Canoe Club.

The World Championships, and all other Overseas events were cancelled due to Covid 19, so no Australian paddlers competed in any International WildWater events in 2020.

The Victorian Junior Wildwater Event in September, and the Victorian Classic Wildwater Championships were cancelled due to current stage 3-4 restrictions.

Victoria are planning to run the National Wildwater and Selection events in early January on the Mitta Mitta River at Dartmouth, however, these events may be cancelled due to interstate travel restrictions, and the final decision regarding the event will be made by Paddle Australia before the end of October. Other events, including the 2020 All Schools and open Age Down River events, planned for mid January on the Goulburn at Blue Gums, may also be cancelled with respect to the PA decision.

Dita Pahl

Committee

The Wildwater Technical Committee saw Chris Wharton step down from the position of chairperson after many many years of fostering Wildwater and Down River racing in the State. We all say a very big “Thank You” to Chris for all the work he has done promoting the sport over the years.

The Current Wildwater Technical Committee members:

Warren Elms

Tim Flowers

Wes Hurrey

Dita Pahl

Lyne Stremecki

Secretary- Tony Misson

Treasurer - Neville Humphry

Vice Chairperson - Damien Guthrie

Chairperson - Roy Farrance



Ryan Hughes

Chairpersons comments:

The Committee had a big range of both Down River and Wildwater events planned for the year, but unfortunately everything has been put on hold. So, the new committee, although very keen and enthusiastic, has had to sit tight and hope that 2021 brings a new start and life to Down River and Wildwater racing in Victoria. The committee are starting to plan next year starting with a number of Come N Try Days and easy sprint or classic events, to get new paddlers into the sport of Down River Racing and Wildwater Racing.

Roy Farrance.

Paddle Victoria Volunteer of the Year Award – 2019



“Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.”

Despite the craziness of 2020 and the global pandemic, Paddle Victoria Volunteers have still been hard at work behind the scenes from clearing out club rooms, planning new paddling programs, organizing to meet the members over zoom, creating online exercise and training programs and being ready to welcome new members into their club once we all open up again.

The Paddle Victoria Volunteer Awards recognize and celebrate Paddle Victoria’s volunteers who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution within our paddling community.

This year Paddle Victoria has introduced 2 new categories to our Volunteer Awards.
This year we have the:

1. Club/ Discipline Volunteer of the Year Award
2. Club Coach of the Year Award
3. Club Guide of the Year Award

The nominees for the 2020 Paddle Victoria Club/ Discipline Volunteer of the Year Award are:

This info below is a very small snapshot of what each of these worthy volunteers do at their club or discipline event. For more information on all the wonderful work they do, please head to the Paddle Victoria Website/ About Us/ Volunteers (<https://vic.paddle.org.au/1057057-2/>)

Club/ Discipline Volunteer of the Year Award

Alison Parkinson, North East Canoe Club

Welcoming, enthusiastic and a passionate whitewater paddler. Always considering the ability of her group and how best to get them safely down the river.

Andrew Merrifield, Fairfield Canoe Club

Instrumental in developing canoe polo at Fairfield canoe club and in the greater canoe polo community.

Anna Taylor, Ballarat Canoe Club

Club President, engaging and transformed the Ballarat Canoe Club into an organised, welcoming and thriving environment.

Anthony Illott – Sprint Discipline – Bendigo Canoe Club

Victorian Sprint Team manager during the National sprint series events and makes sure all athletes are informed and knowledgeable about the event updates

Candice Charles – INCC Yarra Paddlers

10 or more years on the Committee, knowledgeable, efficient, excellent experience in not for profit governance and has worked on many major projects.

Dave Renton – Bellarine Paddlers Inc

Posthumous recognition - Dave passed away earlier this year

A founding member of Bellarine Paddlers Inc, and it is fair to say that the club would not exist at all if not for his incredible generosity. He provided most of the club boats from his own personal collection. He was an incredible man to have in our club and without his support, commitment, expert knowledge and kindness we wouldn't have the club we do. An absolute gem!

Edwin Han – Sprint Discipline -Fairfield Canoe Club

A great support of Paddle Victoria Sprint.

His contributions towards Sprint events are enormous and without his help the events would not run as smoothly as they do.

Greg Cowling – Bendigo Canoe Club

An excellent instructor for rolling, basic skills and whitewater. He has been a key member in the development of BCC's junior paddlers in whitewater with 4 of them making the Australian Wildwater Team.

Jill Bassett – Melbourne Canoe Club

Jill was a major contributor to the process to create a Regional Paddle Sports Center at Westerfolds Park. Her work has enabled the rapid under the bridge to be developed as an approved training site with permanent slalom gate infrastructure.

Julie Keillor – Shepparton Canoe Club

She makes food for fundraising; she organises and is a driving force for getting people to engage in PaddleHub and family days. She is happy to train anyone and willing to learn everything about the sport.

Lyndell Willcocks – Bendigo Canoe Club

She attends the majority of Saturday sessions to set up and get everyone organized. She brings stability to the event and is always there to provide good advice and help to new members. She has been doing this for around 30 years now.

Robert Schram – Cobram Barooga Canoe Club

To acknowledge his contribution to the club, and to celebrate reaching a milestone 30-year membership with the Cobram Barooga Canoe Club this year!

He assists with running the CBCC Ben Ward 40 Miler race each year. He has recently hand crafted over 60 wooden kayak trophies in his spare time for use by the CBCC at future events.

His passion for the sport is obvious and his enthusiasm is infectious.

Rowan Doyle – Fairfield Canoe Club

Rowan has gone well beyond the usual requirements of the chairman of the FCC Board. He has developed an excellent junior program at FCC, devoting much volunteer time to coordinating the program and liaising with parents of the juniors.

Tony Misson – Bendigo Canoe Club

Tony is a long term member of BCC (+/- 40 years) and has been involved in a range of disciplines.

As well as being the Bendigo Academy of Sport (BAS), head coach and BCC secretary Tony has been heavily involved in organising the come & trys, 2020 active girls & women and recreational programs.

The BAS program has brought many new families into the club, and the trips and skills combined with the purchase of a small fleet of sea kayaks has introduced and supported many adults into kayaking.

Tracee Illott – Sprint Discipline – Bendigo Canoe Club

Tracee has volunteered at most Sprint Events and took on the team manager role several times during National series events.

She has been a great helping out with the trailer, recruiting athletes to participate in state competitions and managing the Victorian State team.

The nominees for the 2020 Paddle Victoria Club Coach of the Year Award are:

This info below is a very small snapshot of what each of these worthy volunteers do at their club or discipline event. For more information on all the wonderful work they do, please head to the Paddle Victoria Website/ About Us/ Volunteers (<https://vic.paddle.org.au/1057057-2/>)

Club Coach of the Year Award

Alex Boyd – Fairfield Canoe Club

Alex's contributions have positively influenced junior participation and enhanced paddler performance in competition at School, Club, State and National age-group level - in both sprint and marathon. He consistently demonstrates enthusiasm, commitment and possesses an engaging multi-faceted coaching ability way beyond his (young) years

Baelea Collins – Bendigo Canoe Club

Whilst studying her year 12 VCE, Baelea has been captain of and coaching the Girton Grammar canoeing program. This has helped the club gain new, junior members as well as helping get more females interested in the sport. Baelea makes sure to involve students from a range of age groups and abilities, and ensure they feel safe and comfortable in everything they do both on and off the water.

Brigit Doyle – Fairfield Canoe Club

Brigit is the backbone of the canoe polo junior paddling program at Fairfield and has put a lot of work in to keep junior canoe polo going for the last 4 months from home, using Zoom lessons with participants every Sunday.

She has made a substantial contribution to developing kids from raw beginners to competent paddlers and canoe polo players. This has all been done while she is studying at University.

Cynthia Coakley – Bendigo Canoe Club

Cynthia is involved in Club junior development has delivered the K4K junior program for the past 3 years. The program is advertised with the Bendigo Academy of sport as a starter program. Cynthia runs a very professional program and liaises with the parents and club equally well.

Dita Pahl – Canoes Plus Racing Team

Dita is an excellent coach who works hard to assist paddlers of all levels across a wide spectrum of whitewater disciplines.

Dita is an inspiring and hardworking coach who goes above and beyond to instill in her trainees (all ages and abilities) an aptitude and a love of the sport.

From organising events to consulting on committees, she had dedicated much of her life to making the sport better for everyone who takes part.

Paddling has been a revelation to me in terms of the exciting opportunities for a whole family to take part in the sport in a whole range of different ways and I thank Dita for this positive experience.

Tim Roadley – Yarrawonga Mulwala Canoe Club

Tim is a major contributor to the Yarrawonga Mulwala Canoe Club and a magnificent mentor as he teaches all the new paddlers new paddling skills and reminds them to support each other during training and on race day. He brought a whole group of kids together to form a team for the 2020 Vic Schools Championships.

The nominees for the 2020 Paddle Victoria Club Guide of the Year Award are:

This info below is a very small snapshot of what each of these worthy volunteers do at their club or discipline event. For more information on all the wonderful work they do, please head to the Paddle Victoria Website/ About Us/ Volunteers (<https://vic.paddle.org.au/1057057-2/>)

Club Guide of the Year Award

Garry Brannan – Bendigo Canoe Club

Garry is a very active member of the Club and is friendly and welcoming. He is one of the first contacts new members have with our club. His guidance and experience helps members feel comfortable and confident on the water. His knowledge of members paddling abilities helps him coordinate appropriate trips for their enjoyment.

Garry organizes and runs river trips, providing activities for those members not involved with racing, and also involving paddlers from the Bendigo Bushwalking and Outdoor Club.

Clubs – Grant Recipients

I just wanted to thank you again for the letter of support you provided our club in March for a grant application. We have just been notified that the application was successful, and we will be receiving \$5,000 for some much needed equipment. 😊
The grant funds, along with funds from our club, will be going towards a boat/s, paddles suitable for juniors, PFDs and lockers for our clubroom. I'll certainly send you through photos when we can!
Thanks again!
Louise Greenwood - Cobram Barooga

**Wanted to let you and the team know we were successful in our recovery grant. We got the \$1000 which is fabulous!!
Our plan is to use the money saved on bills to fix boats.
Sally McAlpin – Ballarat Canoe Club**

**Yes we did get the grant and with other fundraising we were able to purchase a professional quality Marquee with a new logo. We were lucky enough to use it at the school championship.
We got \$700 from the grant and used money from Bunnings BBQ and hire of equipment. We have also got the \$1000 start up grant plus support from Bunnings so we have now have a portable shower that we are going to attach to our trailer so once we are allowed back we should have a great set up.
Tim Roadley – Yarrawonga Mulwala CC**

**Tracey Kamens from Whitehorse Canoe club was successful in applying for the *Change Our Game Scholarship Grant Outcome* to attend the Paddle Victoria Whitewater Guide Training course that was due to be run in October.
Tracey is passionate about opening up Whitewater paddling to women by including them in river trips and teaching them skills to be able to paddle whitewater!
Congratulations Tracey!**

Clubs who received the \$1000 Community Sport Sector Short-term Survival Package:

**Geelong – Purchased Cleaning Products
Warrnambool Kayak Club
Whitehorse Canoe Club
North East Canoe Club**

Clubs Memorable Moments and Contributions



Life Membership Awarded to Brian Cooper and Bernard Boulton – Kirinari Kayak Club

For their ongoing contribution to paddling over many years!
2019 AGM



Stage 4 Paddling Restrictions

I have an unheated pool in my backyard, and I tether one end of kayak to the pool fence and paddle against the rope in the middle of the pool. The kayak cannot go forward, so it sways from side to side a fair bit, and out on the water your wash is behind you but in the pool, it reflects and gets choppy real quick. Also, you get wet just like normal kayaking from water spray. I am fortunate to be such a bad paddler that it will not harm my technique. 😊

Regards Trevor Ackerly – INCC Yarra Paddlers



Geelong Canoe Club Masks up for COVID

Arnie Shannahan, Blake Schulz and Michael Shannahan



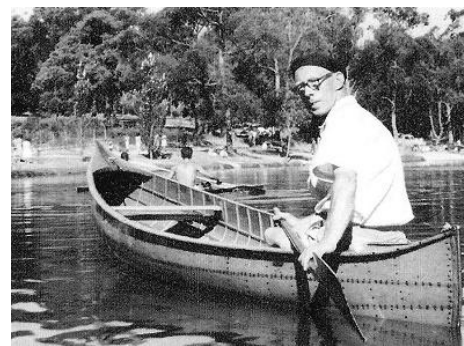
Arnie Shannahan



Canoeing has been good to me

Jonathan Mayne – Fairfield Canoe Club

I thought you would be interested to see old Lazy Days almost resurrected. My father Roy acquired this canoe in the early 50s. Lazy Days was built by the Peterborough Canoe Company in Ontario, Canada in around 1900 and constructed with 4 steam bent planks and square ribbed interior. It fell into disrepair over the decades. Roy used to fall out of it on a regular basis and I just recently figured out why. The seat in the stern is too far back and when he would lean back and turn around, the prow would lift up and out he would go.



I have put a 5 coats of marine varnish on her and she is now ready to be launched

I contacted Bruce Phillip and his brother Grant who were canoeists and signwriters and put the name "Lazy Days" on the boat. Bruce who is in his early 90s is looking forward to putting the name back again. I have the style on Roy's old paddles.

I made a new centre thwart and the support pieces to hold it and I have 3 of the four Peterborough brass name plates. I have also been making some paddles.



I was telling Steve Vegh from Canoe Innovations that I had almost finished restoring the old Peterborough, "Lazy Days." Steve said. "I have a project, restoring that old racing canoe in the loft". He believed it had been used in the Melbourne Olympics.

I had a look and said. "It was never used in the Olympics but that's the boat in which I won my first of 38 Australian Championship.

Where this canoe came from is a mystery, but I paddled it to win the C1 10,000 in the 1957 Australian Championships on the Goulburn at Nagambie in 57min, 23 sec.

Bryan Harper won the 500m and the 1,000m. I took silver and beat Adrian Powell and Fritz Wasmer.

They both went on to compete in the Olympics.

I had the choice of using the club Struer which was used as a C2 in the Melbourne

Olympics by Tom Ohman, FCC and Bill Jones, ECC.

There is a picture of them in the official Olympic book but incorrectly captioned Dennis Green and Walter Brown who won the bronze medal in the K2 10,000



Canoeing has been good to me. You gotta believe it!

Ballarat CC and Kirinari Kayak Club join forces and go on a Whitewater river trip together - Boats loaned by Paddle Victoria



Ballarat Canoe Club Induction Session



Ballarat Canoe Club Coffee run

Acknowledgments

- We acknowledge the support of our major sponsors the Victorian Government through Sport and Recreation Victoria and VicHealth, Life Saving Victoria and Melbourne Water. The local governments that support our clubs (Greater Shepparton City Council, Murrindindi Shire Council and Shire of Strathbogie) at the grassroots level, thank you for your financial support of our vision and our passion.



GREATER
SHEPPARTON



Draft Financial Statements