

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2020-2021



**Paddle  
VIC**



## Photos:

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. Wildwater | 2. Canoe Polo     |
| 3. Sprint    | 4. Slalom         |
| 5. Marathon  | 6. Sprint Doubles |

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## Acknowledgments

Paddle Victoria acknowledges and thanks the following organisations for their support during 2020-2021:

### 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
- City of Casey

## Membership

2020-21		2019-20	
		<b>Introduction of Go Membership New Membership Categories</b>	
Seniors (Adult over 18)	1472	Seniors (Adult over 18)	1263
Life (Included in Adults)	6	Life (Included in Adults)	8
Juniors (Under 18)	422	Juniors (Under 18)	225
Direct Members – PA/PVic	25	Direct Members – PA/PVic	10
Volunteers ( Non Paddlers)	43	Volunteers ( Non Paddlers)	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>1964</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1538</b>

## Affiliated Clubs

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

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 Loughran (2020 - 2022)  
William Silcox (2019 – 2021)  
Mike Flavel (2020 - 2022)

Independent Director  
Independent Director  
Independent Director  
Independent Director

Lawrie Chenoweth  
Georgina Wakim (2017)  
Victoria Langley (2019- 2021)  
Brigit Doyle (2020 – 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)  
Vacant

## Discipline Technical Committees

### ***Marathon 2020-21:***

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

John Young  
Joe Alia  
Sue O'Rourke  
Geoff Baird (retired from committee on 08/09/2020)  
Sally Miller  
Arabella Eyre  
Debbie Bennett

### ***Canoe Polo 2020-21:***

Chair  
Secretary  
Events Coordinator  
Junior Development Officer  
Development & Engagement Officer  
Equipment Officer  
Equipment Officer (Shadow)  
General Members

Dale Tomlinson  
Michael Clark  
Jade Kerber  
Brigit Doyle  
Jade Kerber  
Larry Robb  
Gareth Jones  
Frank Magee and Sharon Swoboda

***Slalom 2020-21:***

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

***Sprint Committee 2020-21:***

Chair:	Reka Abraham
Vice-Chair:	Noah Cameron
Secretary:	Alex Boyd
Treasurer:	Rowan Doyle
Logistics:	Lawrie Chenoweth
Grants & Fundraising:	Georgina Wakim,
Volunteer coordinator:	Saeid Keifari
General committee:	Hannah Scott, Chau Nguyen, Anthony Ilott, Zijing Chu

***Wildwater 2020-21:***

Chair:	Damien Guthrie
Vice Chair:	Warren Elms
Secretary:	Tony Misson
Treasurer:	Neville Humphry
General Committee:	Wes Hurrey, Tim Flowers, Lyne Strmecki, Dita Pahl, Roy Farrance



## Vale – John Doak

We would like to let the paddling fraternity know that sadly our brother John, passed away on 31st March 2021, he was aged 62.

Flat water kayakers from the late 70's and early 80's from all over Australia would have known John as one of the fastest competitors over 500 and 1000 metre sprints in both K2 and K4 events.

John began his paddling career at Rosebud beach on the Mornington Peninsula. He and the rest of our family were members of the White Water Canoe Club. John's first race was the Red Cross Murray River Canoe Marathon in 1974. The following year he paddled in the Murray marathon event again, but this time as part of a Patterson River Canoe team K4 in preparation for the upcoming sprint season.

Under the coaching of Robbie Millsom, he trained on the Patterson River, negotiating around people fishing from the banks and erratic speedboats. John found he had a natural ability to paddle fast with a distinctive smooth and efficient style. He and brother Bob achieved success at their first Australian Championships winning the junior K2 500m sprint in 1976. John went on to represent Australia at the 1977 Junior World Championships, teaming with Dennis Driscoll in the K2 500.



As a senior paddler he was selected in the Australian Team for the World Championships in 1979, a reserve for the 1980 Moscow Olympics and then World Championship teams in 1981, 1982 and 1983. John was team captain in 1981 Australian Team. His best international result was coming 5th in the K41000 at the World Kayak Championships in Tampere Finland in 1983.

The following year John and Bob were selected for the Australian Olympic team to compete in Los Angeles. Together with Ray Martin and Scott Wooden in the K4 1000 event, the team finished a commendable 7th in the final. John continued competing in sprint racing until 1988. After an unsuccessful bid for the 1988 Olympic team John turned to dragon boat racing and competed in international dragon boat regattas in Hong Kong and Beijing. John retired from competitive paddling after 1988 and took up recreational white-water paddling, moving soon after to Tasmania, where he remained for the rest of his life.



Brother Bob Doak and Sister Margaret Slater

## President's Report



### President William Silcox

Paul Loughran tendered his resignation in August 2021 and was unavailable to submit a report for his year as President.

#### *2021 – A Continued Year of Surprises!*

The past year has continued to be overshadowed by the impact of COVID-19 on the Victorian paddling community. Although we have had short reprieves throughout the previous year there has still been a large number of cancelled events and programs across the paddling disciplines. As per the previous year the closure of clubrooms and training venues has also impacted our members. Financial stress and uncertainty experienced by clubs and the Paddle Victoria (PV) office have continued in the past 12 months.

Despite these challenges the paddling community continues to be resilient with paddlers coming back to clubs and paddling disciplines as the state of Victoria edges it way out of lockdowns with gradual increases to distance permitted for travel and the continued ability to paddle as a form of exercise throughout the past year.

The commitment of the various discipline and club committees, volunteers, paddlers, Paddle Victoria and the Board to support the sport over the last year never ceased to impress.

Throughout the last year the PV office staff has 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:



- Completion of spectator viewing areas and new stairways and access to the river under the Fitzsimmons Lane bridge. These works were carried with collaboration between Paddle Victoria and Melbourne Water and are designed to provide further enrichment to the surrounding environments.

The benefits to these areas are better access to the river for the paddling community, better seating for spectators and reduced impact on the surrounding riverbanks.

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

- There has been continued work on the United Paddling Management model with the primary focus over the previous year being the integration of processes between PV and Paddle Australia alongside the other state Paddling bodies – this has continued as a Sports Australia funded initiative to develop a unified, national approach in the areas of database management; financial reporting; strategic priorities and workforce.
- Continued works preparing and submitting a funding proposal for a High-Performance Centre for Water Sport Excellence in Nagambie.
- Works with other waterway management bodies to assess and remove hazards along waterways providing a safer environment to practice our sport.

Clubs, Disciplines and Paddle Victoria have again been financially impacted throughout the past 12 months with the continuation of lockdown periods due to COVID. Paddle Victoria have been working hard throughout the year to promote available grants and also source grants internally. The promotion of the grants has seen quite a number of clubs gain additional funds to assist in training, club membership and promotion.

COVID is still with us but as we now have a clear pathway out of lockdowns and expansion to our travel distance, we will hopefully over the coming weeks see training and competition permitted and a return to a sport that many love. I look forward to seeing a brighter year in paddling.

Thank You.

William Silcox

Chair and Acting President, Paddle Victoria





## Executive Officer's Report



### Executive Officer Mark Heggie

The ongoing COVID lockdowns created even more demands on all aspects of Paddle Victoria than the previous year where we were challenged by the initial concept of a pandemic. That year the community got their minds around the situation and then made optimistic plans for emerging out of restrictions. This year required acceptance of the ongoing disappointments and lockdowns.

Disciplines, clubs, members and Paddle Victoria continually had to interpret the restricted activity directions and how they applied to our activities.

Advocacy and representation to Sport Vic and State Government became a large part of my work. Through the many meetings I saw how other sports were impacted by the restrictions. We do have advantages of not needing infrastructure access to keep up the vital exercise and psychological benefits of paddling.

We are not a sport that derives most of income through gate takings.

I believe that the Paddle Vic Office has developed more connections to clubs and members by assisting them with governance and regulative queries. The Club Forum facilitated good connections and exchange of ideas between clubs. Regulations that were often designed with large close contact sports in mind often seemed disproportionate to our outdoor low-density activities. Landholders that held leases over some clubs interpretation of the regulations also varied creating inconsistent directions.

Whilst we worked to give as much support as possible I often felt that good minded people who volunteered to be Club President and committees may have thought, *"I did not sign up for this level of responsibility"*.

What I did see however were those leaders in our community diligently working through the regulations and requirements. Members should be proud of their club committees working hard to keep their clubs as active as possible.

The Disciplines have coped with the numerous disappointments of cancelled events. They have worked in varied ways to keep their paddlers connected including online events. Disciplines used the down time to organise forums and develop strategies to improve events, coaching and retention.

The Disciplines have maintained their efforts to improve events and participation. Sprint organised and supported a mainly junior team to the National Sprint Titles in Adelaide. Great work was done to welcome new supporting parents and most importantly the young paddlers had a great experience!

Marathon managed to run a successful Vic Champs, which was to be followed by much-anticipated Nationals at Geelong. Unfortunately, COVID restrictions cancelled the national event, for the second year in a row.

#### The Paddle Vic Board

The Paddle Vic Board were a great support to the office staff and me. I appreciate their ongoing contribution. I know like everyone their lives have been affected by COVID and I deeply appreciate that they still give time to support the organisation.

### Paddle Vic Staff

The staffs have gone on being adaptive and flexible. Working from home has been challenging due to the length of ongoing lockdowns. In a small office there are numerous beneficial connections when everyone works together collectively.

Whilst they have maintained efficiency, I am conscious of the social connection and the sharing of ideas that is compromised when working exclusively online.



Using Zoom meetings has bought some positives. The staff have been attending Board Meetings and reporting on their specific fields and contributing to discussions. This has opened up a two-way understanding of the roles and contributions of the staff and the Board.

The Paddle Vic staff have continued embracing the ongoing changes in GoMembership and assisting clubs and have had to keep up with changing compliance requirements across employment and record keeping. More than ever, I am proud of the way the staff can work independently and cooperatively.

### The Future

As well as working with the strategic pillars William Silcox (PV Board President) covers in his report, Paddle Victoria will go on supporting our clubs and disciplines to re enact as many events as possible.

By connecting with each other at events and through our clubs I know it will bring some joy and connection.

Paddle Victoria has received funding from State and Federal Government that has enabled us to keep on servicing our clubs and membership during the lockdown period and into the new emergence of activity period.

Best in paddling

Mark Heggie

Executive Officer Paddle Victoria

## Finance Report



**Finance Officer  
Sandra Reaburn**

For the Financial year 2020-2021 the combined Paddle Victoria association posted an operating profit of \$70,945.02. This was an increase of \$44,658.02 from the previous year's profit of \$26,287.00. We reported only one loss from Polo, with the rest of the Association's Disciplines making a profit.

The office would like to acknowledge and thank the Victorian Government through Sport and Recreation for their continued strong financial support. We received two grants that have helped support our clubs and a new program for adaptive paddling.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we received enormous support from the Federal Government through the Jobkeeper scheme and the Cash Boost payments through the Australian Tax Office. We also received grants from the State Government.

Paddle Victoria is very grateful to Parks Victoria who waived the Westerfolds Park Shed rent from July to December 2020. We would also like to thank Outdoors Victoria for reducing the office rent through this financial year. Without the support of all the organisations mentioned it would not have been possible to keep the office and association running through these uncertain times.

### **Administration**

The Paddle Victoria office posted a profit of \$55,434.28. This is an incredible profit for Paddle Victoria, and one that we have never seen before and is due to the support from the Federal and State Governments. The office received nine months of Jobkeeper of \$114,000.00, PAYG assistance of \$11,465.00 and from the State Government Business Support grants, a sum of \$20,000.00. The total support package from the government is \$145,465.00. We hadn't realised how much money and support the government was going to handout when the pandemic started, but due to this support, we were able to give a discount on the membership fees and reduce the affiliation fees for this financial year. We also waived all fees associated with the disciplines. With this extra income we were able to purchase much-needed laptops so the staff could work from home and staff uniforms for the office and Education department. Most of all we now have savings for a rainy day which for a not-for-profit organisation comes around fairly often! Our retained surplus is now \$207,993.00. This surplus will go a long way in the future to help run the office when we don't receive the grants that Paddle Victoria rely so heavily on to survive!

Education had a turnover of \$92,337 in the period from November to May and recorded a slight loss of \$329.51. The additional surplus allowed Education the opportunity to invest in new equipment and supplies. The costs of running over 60 programs annually with hundreds of people attending these programs, makes it important to reinvest into equipment and shed maintenance.

The membership income of \$98,665.00 was down from the previous year and this was partly due to the discounted Membership fees.

### **Marathon**

This year Marathon made a profit of \$9,980.53. They had to cancel a few events due to COVID lockdowns but overall, they were able to run eleven events throughout the year. Every event made a profit and there were five Marathon events that were extremely profitable. The Victorian Championships and the Victorian Schools Championships did extremely well. A new event which was very successful and profitable was a Twilight Paddle. John Young and his team of volunteers have done an incredible job throughout the year under difficult circumstances. Currently the retained surplus for Marathon is \$75,580.19.

### **Polo**

Polo has posted a loss of \$2,840.00. Their income turnover was substantially down from previous years. They held four events within the financial year and one in particular was very profitable. This was the Nagambie Competition in February. At this stage the Polo discipline is not covering their operational costs but with new drive on the committee this will hopefully change in the future. Polo's overall surplus is now \$72,156.16.

### **Slalom**

This year Slalom made a profit of \$5,962.18. From the State Government, Slalom was able to secure \$9,375.00 in COVID relief grants and another \$5,000.00 for a Safety Training grant. Slalom held one training course and the balance of the money will be rolled over into the new financial year for another safety course.

The Slalom committee did a great job in securing so many grants.

Slalom ran 8 events in total with the All-Age Championships which was held in January and the Victorian Championships. There have been many repairs completed on the Slalom course both at Westerfolds Park and on the Goulburn River

Currently Slalom's overall surplus is \$36,807.84.

### **Sprint**

Sprint has posted a profit of \$1,468.36. Sprint received an athlete's travel support grant from the State Government. This grant supported 10 athletes travelling to the Canoe Sprint National Championships at West Lakes Regatta Centre in Adelaide.

Sprint ran four events over the year with the most profitable being the Victorian Championship and the Victorian Schools Championships which is organised with Marathon.

For the first time Sprint held an Awards night and not only was it a great success, but it was profitable as well.

Currently Sprint's surplus is \$11,266.85.

### **Wildwater**

Wildwater posted a profit of \$146.80. They ran two profitable events through the year.

Wildwater invested in medals which was there only expense for this year.

Currently Wildwater 's surplus is \$6,835.92.

Sandra Reaburn  
Finance Officer



## Membership Report



### Membership Officer Roz Manester

The Paddling Season 2020 -2021 was a tough year in Club land due to constant lockdowns and uncertainty over whether or not clubs could be opened. This uncertainty and strange existence however didn't translate back to our Club Membership numbers. During the year new members were attracted to paddling and current members decided to renew their membership with the clubs to pursue their love of paddling which was seen to be a "COVID safe" Sport.

To support our members, Paddle Victoria and Paddle Australia offered members a 25% reduction on all Memberships taken up before the end of December 2020. Many of our affiliated clubs did the same and drastically reduced their Club Fees. Thanks to those clubs who were able to do that for their members!

Paddle Australia founded the **Paddle On Foundation** to support members experiencing financial hardship as a result of job losses due to COVID. Members of Paddle Victoria were encouraged to support this fund if they felt they had the means to and this went a long way to helping some members pay their membership fees. Clubs and Members are reminded that the **Paddle On Foundation** is still helping those members who are struggling to pay their membership fees.

The effects of the pandemic have put an additional workload on our Club Volunteers as they struggle with all the government regulations and restrictions around running the clubs. Thank you for your efforts in keeping your clubs running and being a safe haven for all your members.

Thank you to all those hard working, dedicated Volunteers in the Clubs and serving on the Committees.

Thank you for encouraging and supporting the members within your clubs and keeping the clubs strong and places where people love to come to socialize and paddle together!

**Roz**  
**Membership and Club Support**





## Education



### Education Report Roz Manester

As all the reports have alluded to the 2020 paddling season got off to a very slow start with numerous COVID lockdowns and programs being cancelled. For this reason there wasn't much activity happening before November 2020.

However in November we saw the take up of the Sporting Schools funding in both regional Victoria and Metro Melbourne. This funding allows schools to get involved with paddling and expose their students to the fun of paddling on a lake, river or nearby pool. We were supported by Cobram Barooga CC, Shepparton CC and Yarrawonga Mulwala CC to deliver these programs and as always I am very grateful for the support of our Regional Clubs.

In mid November the weather warmed up, the restrictions were eased and there was no looking back. The Paddle Victoria education department was busier than we had ever been. We couldn't supply enough programs to keep the public engaged!

In the past we had run on average one Basic Skills Course per month in the summer with typically 4-5 people on each. Post COVID 2020 saw at least 2 programs a month with all of them getting between 12 and 15 participants on each and then wanting to go on and complete a Basic Skills River Trip.

Our River Rambles social fun program for ladies had always been a fixture during summer but this year saw ladies registering in very large numbers to complete fun paddles around Lilydale Lake, river trips to Yarra Bend park and along the Maribyrnong river from Essendon as well as experiencing the thrill of a moving water trip from Sweeneys Lane to Westerfolds Park. All our programs were booked out and many of the ladies returned 2 and 3 times to paddle, chat, make connections and just enjoy nature in Melbourne at its best!

Photo : Ladies River Rambles at Sweeney Lane



Once we got over Christmas and realized we shouldn't take our freedom for granted and the Melbourne community came out to try paddling! As many of the Clubs were experiencing, the public saw this as a COVID safe sport. We weren't touching anyone else and were able to keep socially distant whilst enjoying fresh air all around us.

We were lucky enough to get funding from Casey Council in the South East to run 3 PaddleHubs at Lysterfield Lake in Belgrave. Within 48 hours of advertising the PaddleHub, all 3 days consisting of 4 sessions and 20 people were completely booked out. The participants had a fabulous time learning to paddle and being encouraged by our wonderful enthusiastic coaches and instructors. We had a wide range of ages, abilities and different ethnic groups taking part and being exposed to the fun sport of paddling!



Schools programs kept us really busy with many schools booking in not just for a single program but a series of programs over 3-4 weeks and even one school ran a term long program at the beach in Williamstown! Our week long Yarra Schools Paddlepower program currently in its 8<sup>th</sup> year was completely booked out with 295 primary aged students attending over the week.



The Victorian Education department has started moving towards mandating that all teachers in Victoria need to have a Paddle Australia qualification. This has been great for Paddle Victoria as we deliver our Flatwater Guide and Paddling Supervisor qualifications to more and more school teachers and camp leaders around the whole of Victoria.

In addition to qualifying teachers, we also have the opportunity to hire out our fleet of Canoes and Kayaks to schools for them to use on their annual school paddling trips. Last year we saw some great relationships made between the schools, their teachers and our instructors. This is an area that is growing in the education department and we hope to build on this during the coming months.

Clubs and Members are encouraged to contact Paddle Victoria to provide training and upskilling of their members as well as accessing our fleets of kayaks, double canoes and sit on tops to assist them to run Come and Trys and Club activities.

As usual I would like to sincerely thank **John Moore – Paddle Victoria’s Instructor Manager** for his guidance and advice in organizing programs and helping to select Instructors. As most people have experienced, working from home has had its challenges, but that hasn’t impacted on John’s ability to support me and be available at odd times over the weekend and after hours to have a chat about upcoming programs! Thanks John – couldn’t do this without you!





The other John who is worth his weight in gold is **John Shields**. Our Equipment Manager and “Mr Fix-it” Extraordinaire! John looks after the shed, our fleet of boats and all our trailers. John has adapted all our trailers to make them purpose built for sit on tops, canoes and kayaks. There is no thing that John can’t fix or adapt to solve a problem. His workmanship is incredible and he constantly amazes all of us with what inventive ideas he comes up with! You’re a star John!



Photo Above : Jay Martin (Geelong), John Shields (PV), Ian Wallbridge (PV) and Brigit Doyle (Fairfield CC)

Photo Left : Daniel Shamieh (MCC), Abby Collins (MCC) and Jamie Huges-Gage (PV)

This year, more than ever, the hard working, incredibly enthusiastic and supportive pool of Coaches, Instructors and Guides have been fantastic to work with. By the end of summer (which rolled on into late April!) we were all exhausted! After 65 programs and 1570 participants we were all ready for a well earned break. Not to mention the fact that many of these coaches had been working hard at their local clubs as well!

I said this last year, but judging by the amount of returning schools and clients we have, it is testament to what a great job you all do!!

My huge thanks to:

John Shields, Ian Wallbridge, Bernard Boulton, Laurie Atkins, Ian Neville, Tim Roadley, Jamie Hughes-Gage, Tim Howells, Barry Bell, Les Goudie, Daniel Shamieh, Tristan Speed, Steph Langley, Brianna Jones, Rachel De Kretser, Monique Westcott , Abby Collins, Brigit Doyle, Vic Langley, Cheryl O’Neill and Jay Martin. There are many others as well who have helped me out at the last minute and for your enthusiasm and willingness to help out, I’m really grateful.

**Roz**  
**Education Administration**



Photo: Basic Skills at Westerfolds Park Templestowe

## Discipline Reports

### Canoe Polo



#### Dale Tomlinson - Canoe Polo Chair

Report submitted by Jade Kerber

The past year, like all disciplines, has been a challenging one with cancellations, irregular scheduling due to lockdowns, and multiple contingency plans for our canoe polo events that could take place. Players around the state have made the most of training and competitions in the few months of the year we were able to get on the water, with many training squads taking part in online sessions to replace regular training to stay engaged with the sport and connected with each other over lockdown. Overall it was a very quiet year, but there were a number of successes that we can acknowledge that will help the sport build and continue to grow when Victoria resumes a level of normality.

#### Melbourne Canoe Polo League

Our 2020 Melbourne Canoe Polo League was cancelled during the lockdowns, and despite a year without the competition, our 2021 season looked set to be a strong competition with an increase in teams on our 2019 season. Unfortunately, we only spent three weeks in the pool before that season was also cancelled but we were encouraged by the number of players that returned to the competition, and hope that we can offer competitions for them in the near future.

#### Victorian Interclub's Series

Our Interclub's series managed to take place over the warmer months in between lockdowns and we were able to complete all five rounds of the series, hosted by Essendon Canoe Club, Fairfield Canoe Club, Victorian Youth Polo Academy, Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, and RMIT Outdoors Club. Congratulations go to Fairfield White who claimed a whopping 98 points out of a maximum of 100.



Photo : Players pause their game to watch the full eclipse in May

### 2021 Victorian Interclubs Series - Final Placings

1 <sup>st</sup>	Fairfield White	98 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Essendon	76 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	RMIT Aquaholics / Fairfield Blue	72 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	Melbourne Uni Mountaineering Club	52 points
5 <sup>th</sup>	Fairfield Youth	48 points
6 <sup>th</sup>	Banana Buoys	30 points

### Australian National League

The 2020/2021 Australian National League was not run as it usually has in the past with multiple events in the series not taking place. The first event held was the January competition hosted by South Australia, but due to restrictions, no Victorian teams took part. Victoria hosted their annual round at the end of February at the Nagambie Regatta Centre with three division one teams and five division two teams. The Victorian Youth Polo Academy took out division one and the Fairfield Canoe Club “Parents” team took out division two. A third-round was added last minute, held in Canberra over March where two Fairfield Canoe Club teams travelled up for the competition. This event was paired with a U18 National Development Camp run by Victorian-based U18 National Coaches Jade Kerber and James DuBose.



### Off Water

Canoe polo took some major steps forward off the water as well, with the state committee making the most of the lockdown to complete some strategic development of the sport. A working group was established to investigate issues of inequality and discrimination within the sport and establish strategies to overcome these issues as sport resumes post-covid. The establishment of Victoria’s first permanent canoe polo field on Edgewater Lake in the heart of Melbourne’s Inner-West was a huge step forward for the sport, with permanent facilities long being identified as one of the challenges facing the development and growth of the sport. A national coaching course for canoe polo was run in Victoria at the start of 2021, which was the first in a long while, and has also resulted in a national working group being established to update the coaching course further for the requirements of the modern game and the demand for more focus on engaging and supporting coaching practices at a grassroots level, spearheaded by a number of Victorian-based coaches.



The canoe polo technical committee was also excited to support the establishment of canoe polo at Ballarat Canoe Club on Lake Wendouree with the long-term loan of canoe polo equipment to help them set up the sport and we look forward to supporting the club as it starts up training and social competitions in the near future. This year we also welcomed the Victorian Youth Polo Academy becoming an official affiliated club and look forward to the work they continue to do helping develop the sport in the areas of youth and university-level grassroots participation and development. We hope the next year will allow us to grow on these amazing developments with regular social competitions, training and development opportunities so that all our players can return to the water in a safe and welcoming environment around Melbourne and Regional Victoria and we can introduce new people to the sport as the state reopens."

**Jade Kerber**  
**Competitions Director and Development Officer**



Photo: Canoe Polo at Yarra Bend Park

***Canoe Polo Committee 2020-21***

Chair	Dale Tomlinson
Secretary	Michael Clark
Events Coordinator	Jade Kerber
Junior Development Officer	Brigit Doyle
Development and Engagement Officer	Jade Kerber
Equipment Officer	Larry Robb
Equipment Officer (Shadow)	Gareth Jones
General Members	Frank Magee, Sharon Swoboda

Melbourne University Mountaineering Club representatives  
 RMIT Outdoors Club representatives  
 Fairfield Canoe Club representatives  
 Essendon Canoe Club representatives  
 VYPA representatives  
 Ballarat Canoe Club representative

- Aaditya Chandramouli and Anita Tolpinrud  
 - Ellyn Hunt and Michael Clark  
 - Brigit Doyle and Gareth Jones  
 - Frank Magee and Larry Robb  
 - Jade Kerber and James DuBose  
 - Anna Taylor

## Marathon



### Marathon Chair – John Young

#### PV Marathon highlights for FY21

- The Victorian paddling community lost a valued supporter with the death of Joe Alia in July. Joe's contribution to Marathon and Dragon boat paddling was well recognized, particularly regarding encouraging juniors and new paddlers through his school and club coaching roles and his long term contribution to the Victorian and Australian Marathon committees.
- FY21 activities continued to be significantly disrupted by COVID, with interruption to competition, training and recreational activities. The Marathon committee ran traditional events when possible and virtual events to assist paddlers remain connected to the sport during restrictions. Twenty-six days of racing were scheduled and 13 days held. We look forward to a return to in-person events, hopefully recommencing prior to the end of the 2021 calendar year.
- We held the Frank Harrison Interstate Marathon Challenge in lieu of the 2021 Paddle Australia Canoe Marathon Championships, which were cancelled due to COVID. Over eighty paddlers from NSW, SA and Victoria participated in the singles event on Saturday and doubles event on Sunday, with Victoria taking home the inaugural Interstate Marathon Cup.



Photo: Portage: John Young, Reka Abraham and Dom Scarfe

- The ICF Marathon World Championships, planned to be held in Baerum, Norway in August 2020, were cancelled due to COVID-19. Paddle Australia also decided that it would not support touring teams to international competitions in 2021 and Australia did not participate in the 2021 ICF Marathon World Championships, held in Pitești, Romania in October 2021.
- We hosted three combined sprint and short course marathon events in November, December and January in conjunction with Bendigo Canoe Club, Geelong Canoe Club and PV Sprint.
- We held a junior-focused race series during 1st Term, running a handicapped time trial, a 200 m twilight sprint event and the Victorian Schools Championships, with 114 juniors attending the twilight sprints and 155 juniors attending the Schools Champs.
- Increasing junior participation remains a key focus of the Marathon committee. We worked with INCC Yarra Paddlers to initiate INCC's junior squad, providing access to paddling for secondary school age juniors and to support existing paddlers when some school programs recess in winter.



Photo : Marathon Exit : Rachel De Kretser, Emily O'Rourke, Bri Jones, Brendan Clarke, Izzie Neilson

- The Marathon discipline made an operating profit of ~\$9,980 (c.f. FY20 \$3000), due to good cost control, strong race participation at the Victorian Championships, School Championships and Winter Series 1 events and grant assistance. Net assets of \$75,580 increased ~\$10,000, with cash of ~\$62,059. The surplus will continue to be reinvested in the sport, supporting virtual events run at no cost and seeding junior training programs.
- Safety performance remained high, with no medical treatment or loss time injuries, and all events incorporated COVIDSafe plans.
- Initiatives for FY22 will focus on three main areas: (1) assisting clubs establish and energize junior programs to grow paddler numbers, (2) engaging with clubs via on-line forums to drive increased participation at races, and (3) provide mentoring support to new coaches to assist young paddlers improve their skills and paddling performance.



## Race attendance

Table 1 FY21 Marathon race program and race participation

Date	Race	Location	Format	Distance	Host Club	Attendance	FY20
19-Jul-20	Winter Series 4 (D)	Patterson Lakes	Circuit, portage	8-20	PV/PLCC		105
02-Aug-20	Salty Single Blader	Maribyrnong River, Footscray	Circuit, singles/doubles/mixed	3*6	Footscray		31
16-Aug-20	Winter Series 5 (D)	Barwon Heads	Circuit, portage	8-20	PV		74
05-Sep-20	Winter Series 6 (D, S, pairs)	Gateway Lakes, Wodonga	2 days: Circuit, portage	3*6	PV/MMCC		21
10-Oct-20	Echuca Mini	Murray River, Barmah to Echuca	Point-to-point, full dist/relay	50, 20	PV/EMCC		79
17-Oct-20	Bendigo Cup (regional Vic only)	Lake Weeroona, Bendigo	Circuit	6-12	Bendigo	26	76
21-Nov-20	Murray Quad Peaches & Cream	Murray River, Cobram to Tocumwal	Point-to-point, full dist/teams	25	Murray Quad		24
28-Nov-20	Bendigo Sprints & Short Course	Lake Weeroona, Bendigo	400m, 200m, ~3.5 km S & D	2*3.5	PV/Bendigo	26	
06-Dec-20	Salty TK and Rec Challenge	Maribyrnong River, Footscray	Circuit, singles/doubles/mixed	3*6	Footscray	26	16
13-Dec-21	Geelong Sprints & Short Course	Barwon River, Geelong Canoe Club	400m, 200m, ~3.5 km S & D	2*3.5	PV/Bendigo	49	
12-Dec-20	Ben-Ward	Murray River, Yarrawonga to Cobram	Point-to-point, full dist/relay	65	CBCC		134
13-Dec-20	Ben-Ward	Murray River, Cobram	Circuit, relay	8	CBCC		62
17-Jan-21	GP3: Murray River Classic	Murray River, Yarrawonga	Circuit, portage	10-20	YMACC		44
30-Jan-21	Vic Short Course Champs (S)	Nagambie Lakes	Circuit, portage	3.5	PVM	55	
07-Feb-21	GP2: Saltwater Classic	Maribyrnong River, Footscray	Circuit	3-24	Footscray	64	64
13-Feb-21	GP3: Frank Harrison Memorial (S)	Murray River, Albury	Singles, Point-to-point	16-26	MMCC		
14-Feb-21	GP4: Frank Harrison Memorial (D)	Murray River, Albury	Doubles, Point-to-point	16-26	MMCC		
27-Feb-21	Victorian Marathon Championships	Barwon River, Geelong Rowing Mile	Singles, circuit, portage	12-27	PV/Geelong	110	127
28-Feb-21	Victorian Marathon Championships	Barwon River, Geelong Rowing Mile	Doubles, circuit, portage	12-27	PV/Geelong	116	135
14-Mar-21	Vic Schools Marathon Championships	Nagambie Lakes	Short course, portage	2*3-4	PV	155	137
26-Mar-21	Australian Marathon Championships	Barwon River, Geelong Rowing Mile	Short singles, circuit, portage	3*3	PA/PV		
27-Mar-21	Australian Marathon Championships	Barwon River, Geelong Rowing Mile	Singles, circuit, portage	7-30	PA/PV		
28-Mar-21	Australian Marathon Championships	Barwon River, Geelong Rowing Mile	Doubles, circuit, portage	7-30	PA/PV		
27-Mar-21	Frank Harrison Interstate Cup (S)	Murray River, Albury	Singles, Point-to-point	16-26	MMCC	85	121
28-Mar-21	Frank Harrison Interstate Cup (D)	Murray River, Albury	Doubles, Point-to-point	16-26	MMCC	89	100
02-May-21	Marathon Winter Series Race 1 (D)	Yarra River, Tay Craggan, Hawthorn	Doubles, circuit	3-22	PV/Fairfield	147	
30-May-21	Marathon Winter Series Race 2 (S)	Murray River, Yarrawonga	Circuit, portage	10-20	YMACC		
20-Jun-21	Marathon Winter Series Race 3 (D)	Yarra River, Fairfield	Teams, circuit	4-18	PV/INCC	73	
Total		Number of races scheduled = 26	Number of races held = 13	Average <=>		82	79
Winter Series						110	67
Club hosted races						44	57
Summer Grand Prix series / Echuca Mini						73	82
Championship events						127	133

## Acknowledgements

FY21 was another demanding year with planning and organizing for the 2021 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), Peter Currie (Regulatory Approvals), Alex Brunacci (Volunteer & Site Management), Sally Miller (Catering, Equipment Vendors and Stakeholder liaison), Geoff Baird (Equipment & Support Boat Management) for two years of solid work. Many of these volunteers managed this workload in addition to their normal PV Marathon responsibilities. Geoff Baird retired from the Marathon Committee after many years of service managing equipment and logistics; I thank him for his extensive contribution. We were fortunate to have four new members join the committee since mid-year and I welcome Tony Payne (Fairfield), Hal Curwen-Walker (Essendon), Louise Greenwood (Cobram Barooga) and Karen Merlo (Footscray/Bendigo). 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 2022.

John Young  
Chair, Marathon Committee



***Marathon 2020-21:***

Chair / Treasurer	John Young
Vice Chair:	Joe Alia
Secretary:	Sue O'Rourke
Equipment:	Geoff Baird (retired from committee on 08/09/2020)
Marathon Diary:	Sally Miller
Communications:	Arabella Eyre
Sport/Junior Development:	Debbie Bennett



## Slalom



### Slalom Chair – Chris Runting

Like most of the world, slalom paddling in Victoria has been impacted by COVID. Despite this, events have been held when and where they can.

The Victorian Slalom Technical Committee (VSTC) has been strengthened by the addition of Tim Natoli to the committee. Tim brings a wealth of experience as a former elite paddler and professional educator. The rest of the committee remains unchanged. The work and contribution the members of the VSTC make cannot be overstated and is acknowledged.

#### Yarra Series Races

Only one of the 5 scheduled races for the 2020 series (2020 calendar year) could be completed. The series in a day was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at Fitzsimons Lane Bridge.

2021 started with great promise and the first 2 races were held in March and May. The race scheduled for June was run as a training session with unlimited timed full runs at Dights Falls. The high river flow made this a very successful and rewarding session. No other races have been able to be held so far this year.

To provide a pathway into slalom kayaking, beginner's races with a modified course were held in conjunction with the races in March and May. These provided an easy way for novice paddlers to try slalom paddling and get involved. This provided a logical progression for the many paddlers that came through the very successful Come and Try and QuickStart programs held earlier in the year.



Tristan Carter – Photo by Andrew Stamp

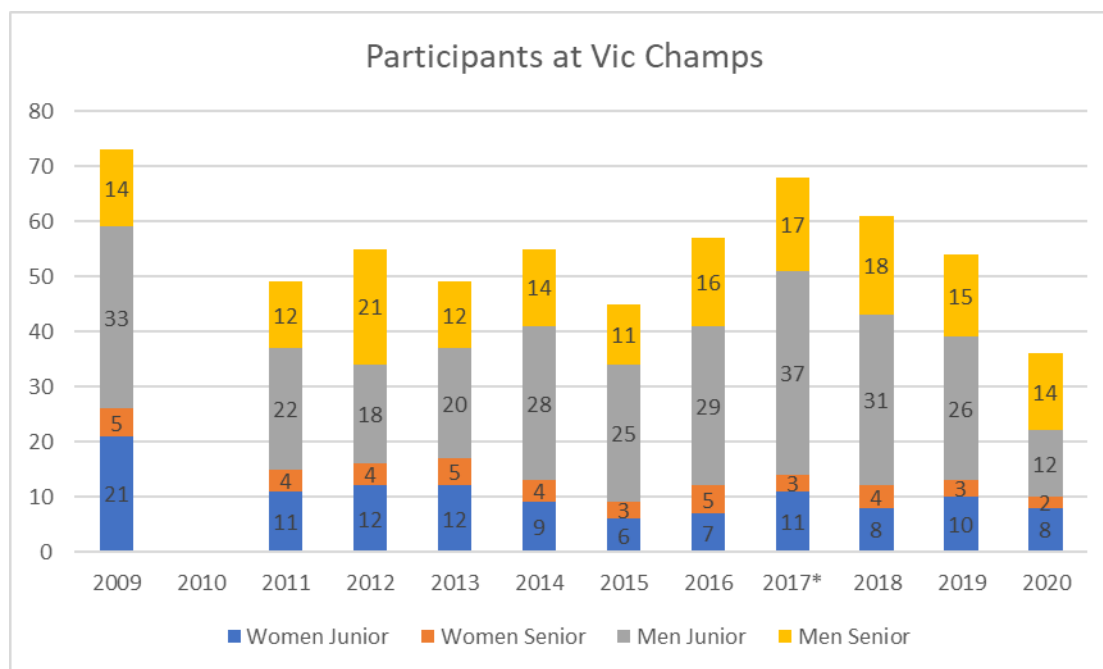
#### Country Series Races

The only Country Series Race run in the 2020/21 year was the Goulburn River Race at Eildon in November 2020 in the lead up to the Vic Champs.

Over the past 2 winters the rivers in Victoria have flowed at excellent levels, after many years of poor flows. It has been very disappointing that we could not make good use of this.

#### Victorian Championships

The Victorian Slalom Championships were held on the Goulburn River on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020. There were 36 competitors, 26 male and 10 females. To give an indication of the level of participation in relation to past years, the following graph has been prepared.



*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 Schools Championships 2020

This event could not be run in 2020 due to COVID restrictions

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

As it turned out, interstate lockdowns prevented this being a national event and it became the “2021 Victorian Canoe Slalom Age Championships”. The event was well supported by Victorian paddlers with a total of 52 competitors including 2 from Tasmania. There were 19 Senior (U23 and above) male paddlers, 1 Senior female paddler, 23 Junior (U18 and below) male paddlers and 9 Junior female paddlers.

### Victorian Team for 2021

A team was not selected for 2021 due to COVID related issues.

### Victorians Selected to the 2021 Junior and U23 Australian Team

The following Victorian athletes were selected to the Australian Junior and U23 Team for 2021. The Junior World Championships were held at Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 6 to 11 July 2021. Unfortunately, the Australian Team did not compete due to COVID travel restrictions.

Jnr Georgia O’Callaghan (C1 & K1)

Jnr Kate Moorhen (C1)

Jnr Mark Crosbee (C1 & K1),

Jnr Ben Ross (C1)

Jnr Sebastian Montalto (K1),

Jnr Ryan Hughes (Reserve)

U23 Tristan Carter (C1 & K1)

## Victorians Selected for the World Cup and World Championships Squad 2021

Tristan Carter (C1 Reserve)

### 2021 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. The NDS athletes get the opportunity to take part in training camps around Australia with national coaches. These activities have been severely limited in 2021 due to COVID-19. A lot of work was put in by the PA pathways team to provide activities to keep the NDS athletes active and engaged through the lockdowns.

The Victorians selected to the squad in early 2021 are:

Mark Crosbee  
Sarah Crosbee  
Ryan Hughes  
Ben Little  
Sebastian Montalto  
Kate Moorhen  
Georgie O'Callaghan  
Ben Ross  
Archie Nelson  
Riley Galea



Photo : (From the top, right to left)  
Riley Galea, Ben Ross, Georgie  
O'Callaghan, Sarah Crosbee, Warwick  
Draper, James Stamp  
Photos by Andrew Stamp

### “Come and Try” and Family Fun Day Introductory Programs

The VSTC were able to support Paddle Vic and Melbourne Canoe Club who ran these programs. There were 120 participants in the “Come and Try” program in January and over 90 participants at the Family Fun Day in April. A significant number of these people have been part of ongoing programs.

The work that Leanne McLaughlin, Leanne Nichols and Abby Collins, along with many others, did to make these events so successful is acknowledged.

### Digital Honour Board and Historic Records

Together with Paddle Victoria the VSTC 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 kicked the project off and Chris Wharton picked up the baton to add the results data for events back to 2010. Their help and expertise with this project has been greatly appreciated.

### **Works at Goulburn River Slalom Rapid**

In preparation for the 2021 Paddle Australia Canoe Slalom Age Championships restoration works were carried out at the Goulburn River Slalom Rapid. The focus was on repairing the main wave and the rock groins which had been damaged by high flows.

These works were made possible by the support of the Murrindindi Council and the co-operation of OEG for access, Goulburn Broken River CMA, Goulburn Murray Water, Pacific Power and AGL. Obtaining the cooperation of so many organisations was facilitated by Paul Loughran, Chair PV. His help and expertise was instrumental in making it all happen.

The recent works are another small step in the process of developing this site. Since this rapid was first used as a site for slalom competitions in the 1970's a lot of work has gone into improving the rapid. The work of the numerous people who have contributed to this over 40+ years is acknowledged.



### **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 2021.

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.

Photo by Andrew Stamp

### **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 greatly appreciated and essential to being able to run slalom races in Victoria. The participation and support of paddlers at events is what it is all about and greatly appreciated. Paddle Victoria at all levels has continued to provide great support and help.

### **Slalom Committee 2020-21:**

Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Athlete's Representative

General Committee

Chris Runting

Sue Moorhen

Lynne Strmecki

Warwick Draper

Russell Bassett, Laura Montalto, Chris Galea, Tim Natoli



## Sprint



### Sprint Chair – Reka Abraham

The 2020 sprint season was one of significant disruption; however, it was also a season in which we cherished our time on the water. Immediately following nationals in Penrith in March 2020, most of Australia was met with various lockdowns and restrictions as the COVID pandemic marched through states. These restrictions were extended to Victoria, as was well known, which presented many challenges, both from an athlete's perspective, and from the perspective of the committee. Luckily, the committee was able to implement some new initiatives and run some events between lockdowns, which lead to a reasonably successful season overall.



There were many cancelled events during 2020. Factors for cancelling these included lockdowns and various restrictions surrounding gatherings, as well as a general lack of athlete interest. Nonetheless, when the committee did run events, attendance was often high, likely due to the desire of athletes to 'leave the house' and meeting their newly found freedoms with open arms.

Photo: Lachlan Dal Sasso, Aidan Han, Photo credit: Caroline Cooper

One of the more prominent lockdown initiatives by the Sprint Committee was the 'Athlete Social Media takeover'. Taking inspiration from our fellow states which have run similar programs in the past, various Victorian athletes were picked to share 'a day in the life' of an athlete in lockdown taking the audience on their daily routine. Feedback collected from this program was overwhelmingly positive, as the audience gained insight and inspiration from their fellow paddlers demonstrating that even in lockdown, you can still maintain a healthy lifestyle and exercise program.

One important key success factor of the 2020 season was the intermixing between disciplines. There were several events run over the season in conjunction with the marathon committee which were reasonably successful and received good feedback.

Following the athlete takeover and the lifting of the first 2020 Victorian lockdown, the Bendigo Canoe Club and the Paddle Vic Marathon Committee delivered a re-imagined Bendigo Sprints, adding the short course Marathon Event. We send our deepest thanks to the team at BCC for continuing to deliver the Bendigo Sprints, which has become a staple of the Victorian Sprint Calendar over the past couple of years.



Another successful event was the sprint and short course marathon event in Geelong, which once again worked in conjunction with the Paddle Vic Marathon Committee and the Geelong Canoe Club. The introduction of this event to the calendar was well received and we will hopefully be able to grow this event in future years.

In January, Victoria's premier Sprint Event was held, the State Championships, in Nagambie. 2021 saw the introduction of several changes to the event, including the introduction of a PFD Exemption to the event, spacing it out over two days, and combining it with the short course marathon championships. It was brilliant to see so many participants at the event from a variety of clubs throughout the state, and the two-day format received extremely positive feedback from the majority of the athletes.



Photo: Austin Dean (NSW) - Bradley Buissink credit: Caroline Cooper

In conjunction with Paddle Vic Marathon, we delivered a number of smaller events in the early phases of the year targeted towards juniors, which included the youth twilight sprints. This event was held at the Studley Park Boathouse and consisted of 200m sprints based on divisions of speed. This event had a large turnout, with all the major kayaking schools attending. The feedback from this event was positive, however there were clear areas for improvement – such as a lack of communication between the finish and start line, with entries changing on the spot, and large gaps between races.

Concluding the states' competitive season we had the Schools Championships in Nagambie which once again was combined with Marathon.

The committee's thanks are extended to the volunteers who helped out during the year. In particular, Predrag's attendance at many events assisted the committee immensely.



Photo: Emma Corrin credit: Caroline Cooper

Due to COVID-19 border restrictions across the country, we had a reduced national level competition season with GP1 and GP2 being cancelled. Originally scheduled for March and located in Penrith NSW, the National Championships was delayed multiple times and was eventually run in May in Adelaide, which unfortunately resulted in several senior athletes pulling out of the event. Nonetheless, Victoria fielded a strong team with a significant number of junior participants. These paddlers performed exceptionally well at this event, including Emma Corrin, who finished the event with six gold medals.

To close off the State season, just prior to the delayed national Championships, Paddle Victoria Sprint ran an awards night and dinner to celebrate the season that was. This was a new initiative spearheaded by Hannah Scott and Georgie Wakim and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. The committee looks forward to delivering this awards night in future.

**Reka Abraham**  
**Sprint Chair**

**Sprint Committee 2020-21:**

Chair:	Reka Abraham
Vice-Chair:	Noah Cameron
Secretary:	Alex Boyd
Treasurer:	Rowan Doyle
Logistics:	Lawrie Chenoweth
Grants & Fundraising:	Georgina Wakim,
Volunteer coordinator:	Saeid Keifari
General committee:	Hannah Scott, Chau Nguyen, Anthony Ilott, Zijing Chu



**Photo: Paddle Victoria Sprint 2021 Awards Night Winners:**  
Jorja Mandersloot, Hannah Scott, Rebeca Mann, Aidan Han, Lachlan Dal Sasso, Daniel Lopez Garza, Noah Cameron and Adam Holovics



**Photo :2021 National Championships VIC Coaching team:**  
Reka Abraham, Steve Vegh, Alex Boyd

**Vic sprint team 2021 National Championships**

Photo: Bradley Buissink, Dean Garo, Lachlan Dal Sasso, Aidan Han, Gabriel Cornwell, Maksim Nikolic, Sophie Hughes, Emma Corrin, Anthea Tan, Axel Tan, Noah Cameron – not in photo



## Wildwater



### Wildwater Chair – Damien Guthrie

April 2021

The committee started 2021 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 Wild Water Racing. Bendigo ran the Goulburn Bash, Canoes Plus Racing Team ran Yarra Classic race number 1 and the E2A and Victorian DR titles were held by April. Unfortunately the trend established in 2020 of cancelled events has continued throughout 2021, with the cancelling of many events including 2 National Championships that were planned in January and then again in August. This was very disappointing given the effort that went into planning these, and I thank the committee for the work that they did prior to cancelling.

We did however have success in running a few wildwater events throughout the year on the Yarra River during the periods when restrictions permitted. Outside of traditional Wildwater events some committee members were involved in running downriver (Eildon 2 Alex) and “Extreme”

Whitewater (King of The River) events and were able to adapt to suit restrictions at the time. There is an opportunity to grow the field and competitiveness of wildwater by introducing paddlers through these shoulder disciplines, which will continue to be explored.

Roy Farrance stepped away from the role of chair in April, however continues to provide a wealth of experience and strong involvement on the committee. His effort in taking up this position as an interim role is appreciated

With restrictions looking to ease, the committee is looking forward to opportunities to run the Victorian championships prior to the end of the year, to run a national event in January on the Mitta Mitta River at Dartmouth and a less interrupted 2022.



Damien Guthrie

Chair, Victorian Wildwater Technical Committee 2021

#### **Wildwater Committee 2020 - 21**

Chair: Damien Guthrie

Vice Chair: Warren Elms

Secretary: Tony Misson

Treasurer: Neville Humphry

General Committee : Wes Hurrey, Tim Flowers, Lynne Strmecki, Dita Pahl, Roy Farrance

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## Paddle Victoria Volunteer of the Year Award – 2020-2021

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

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

Paddle Victoria Awards Volunteers in the following Categories:

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

### **The nominees for the 2020-21 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/#1635143140410-c6e1d4ae-7d53>)



### **Club/ Discipline Volunteer of the Year Award**

#### **Peter Foster – Mercantile Kayak Club**

Our club Treasurer and responsible for the managing of the clubs finances and interacting with the Mercantile Rowing Club. In this capacity, Peter has ensured that during the COVID period the club has managed its finances well, procured some COVID safe equipment for the club. As an Olympic Medalist in K2 1000 in 1988, Peter is a great mentor to our high-performance sprint and marathon squads. He is very welcoming and supportive of all our paddlers both new and old. Thank you for your contribution!



#### **Lyne Strmecki – Melbourne Canoe Club**

Lyne’s contribution to paddling (Canoe slalom and Wildwater) in Victoria and nationally over the years has been tremendous. She works tirelessly behind the scenes in regards to the organisation and implementation of programs and competitions and a lot of the time her work goes unnoticed by the paddling community.

Through her past association with other sporting codes and the fact that she herself was part of the Australian basketball team, she brings with her a wealth of knowledge and insights from other codes that we can implement in our sport

*We would like to say to Lyne that: “we appreciate everything you have contributed to paddling and all the help you have provided to us over the years and we would have not been able to achieve all we have without you!”*



### **Clint Langdon – Ballarat Canoe Club**

Clint has set up all of our Club IT and maintained it and much of his work is unseen. He has set up the GoMembership transition and did it all so well and so fast, that we were the first club to go live. His work was used as an example for other clubs who were struggling to make the change.

Clint has run numerous Paddlepower and Induction session always ensuring the paddlers safety and creating systems and trips to get people paddling properly and safely and having fun!

Clint has now retired from club duties after a lifetime of contributing to BACC and more in the last few years than ever. We would like to acknowledge the extraordinary amount of work, much of it unseen in his private time, and broad scope of actively helping all paddlers and the club.



### **Lyndell Willcocks – Bendigo Canoe Club**

Lyndell has been working at the club for almost 30 years! She is always there lending a hand. She runs our weekly Club race every Saturday and often helps out with our juniors during training sessions and will often take one of the juniors under her wing and help them out with some one-on-one mentoring.

Lyndell is always available to provide good advice and help to new members and we are so grateful for all she does!

### **The nominees for the 2020-21 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/#1635143226896-4e8d9a63-64ff>)

### **Club Coach of the Year Award**

#### **Brigit Doyle – Fairfield Canoe Club**



Brigit has done an outstanding amount of work within Fairfield Canoe Club within the discipline of Canoe Polo. She has successfully run online sessions every Sunday for her junior programs since the start of the pandemic, coming up with new content, exercise programs, and more to keep them all engaged with the sport and connected with each other! A remarkable achievement when the online engagement of youth has been a challenging area during online learning and lockdowns.

Her contribution extends beyond Fairfield Canoe Club and she has a direct contribution to improving the paddling community throughout Victoria.

Her work with the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club and RMIT Outdoors Club getting their club members engaged with canoe polo and participating in the Melbourne Canoe Polo League has greatly strengthened the competition and the canoe polo community within Melbourne.

### **Cynthia Coakley – Bendigo Canoe Club**

Cynthia has delivered the K4K junior program for the past 3 years. The kayaking 4 kids program has addressed an important gap in the club programs. She runs a professional program and liaises with the parents and club equally well. Her programs cater for all abilities and she is inclusive and welcoming to paddlers from all different backgrounds.



### **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.

### **James Humphry – Bendigo Canoe Club**

James is a busy vibrant member of the Bendigo Canoe Club and makes sure to encourage everyone to have a turn in different boats each week, as well as teaching basic technique skills on the bank to make paddling on the water a bit easier.

He 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!

### **The nominee for the 2020-21 Paddle Victoria Club Instructor of the Year Award is:**

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 Instructor of the Year Award**

#### **Greg Cowling – Bendigo Canoe Club**

Greg has been a key member in the development of our junior paddlers in whitewater with 4 of them making the Australian Wildwater team. Greg delivers the basic skills which leads into rolling sessions in the pool. They then progress to moving water which delivered over a 2 day camp. Greg tries out new and different approaches to cater for different paddlers and is encouraging and welcoming to all new paddlers at Bendigo.



***Thanks to the all Club Committee Members and Volunteers!  
Your hard work and commitment to making paddling a better sport does not go unnoticed or unappreciated***

## Grant Applications

This year more than ever there were lots of Grants up for grabs by the Clubs.

Paddle Victoria are very happy to help you submit your Grant application with a letter of support. Get in touch with the office and make sure you don't miss out on the next round of funding!!

### Grants Submitted by Clubs:

- Yarrawonga Mulwala Canoe Club for the Australian Sports Foundation Active Kids Grant.
- Cobram Barooga Canoe Club for the Australian Sports Foundation Active Kids Grant.
- Ballarat Canoe Club for the VicHealth Community Shade Grant
- Cobram Barooga Canoe Club for the VicHealth Community Shade Grant
- North East Canoe Club for your Community Shade Grants Program
- Marathon Technical Committee for the VicHealth Community Shade Grant
- Melbourne Canoe Club for the VicHealth Community Shade Grant
- Slalom Technical Discipline Committee for the VicHealth Community Shade Grant
- Cobram Barooga Canoe Club for your Strengthening Communities grant.
- Melbourne Canoe Club for the Sporting Clubs Grant Category 3: Organisation Operational Capacity.
- Ballarat Canoe Club to provide training to upskill members of your club.
- Bendigo Canoe Club to provide training to upskill members of your club.
- Yarrawonga Mulwala Canoe Club for your Sport and Recreation grant to build a new shed aswell as female friendly change rooms
- Bellarine Paddlers to purchase new equipment

- Cobram Barooga Canoe Club for the **Moira Shire Community Strengthening Grant** – we received \$4,432 to help us purchase an OC2.
  - **Coronavirus Community Recovery grant** – we received \$2,500 to help purchase a few new beginner boats. We are still in the process of purchasing!
- Louise Greenwood - Cobram Barooga

We have been successful in all our others grants and now have a full fleet of sit on top and K1 racing boats

**Tim Roadley – Yarrawonga Mulwala CC**

#### Kirinari Kayak Club

Community Sport Package Clubs = \$1000.00  
 Community Sport Package Top-up R 2 = \$500.00  
 Community Sport Package Top-up R3 = \$1000.00  
 Community Sport Package Top-up R4 = \$1500.00



Photo: New Lifejackets for Cobram Barooga

**Whitehorse Canoe Club** were successful in obtaining a \$2000.00 grant for training - being utilized to subsidise swiftwater training for club members

**Wil Silcox – Whitehorse CC**



## Life Membership Awarded to Chris Wharton

Chris Wharton is the epitome of a lifelong paddler.

Introducing his young family to paddling over 30 years ago, Chris became a passionate paddler himself and a long time supporter of paddling in Victoria, volunteering endless hours on the Slalom committee as treasurer and many more hours on the banks assisting in the delivery of events.

His passion migrated to downriver paddling where he was a successful active participant and in the early 2000's, as chair of the Wildwater committee, ensured that despite low numbers in Victoria, downriver events were advertised and run consistently on the Yarra river for all and anyone that was interested. Rumour has it that his first trip was on the Yarra from Lower Homestead road to Jumping creek that took all day and included lunch. These days it would take Chris more like 30mins.

He competed in the Avon descent in WA in 2018 and has paddled white-water rivers around the world including rivers in Nepal, British Columbia and North America and has been down the Colorado through the Grand Canyon several times.

In more recent times, Chris has dabbled in the marathon discipline to diversify his paddling even further. Chris has been the cornerstone for the Wildwater discipline for over 20 years. His passion for paddling is second to none as is his dedication and to this end his nomination for Life Membership has been submitted.



## Club Memorable Moments!

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

Thank you **Paddle Victoria** for arranging the loan of 10 sets of



Paddle Vic whitewater boats and gear to the Ballarat Club for our second annual paddle with Kirinari Club.

We were able to equip our paddlers and practice safety skills.

Everyone is very

grateful!!!







**Yarrawonga Mulwala CC Come and Try with our new Sit on tops**

**Sprints at Bendigo Canoe Club**



**Early Morning Coffee run at Ballarat Canoe Club  
That's the way to do it!**



## Acknowledgments

- Paddle Victoria acknowledges 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, City of Casey, Murrindindi Shire Council and Shire of Strathbogie) at the grassroots level, and the YMCA. Thank you for your financial support of our vision and our passion.



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*Paddle Victoria respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nations, and pays respect to their Elders past and present.*

*Always Was, Always Will be, Aboriginal Land.*

## Draft Financial Statements