



Paddle VIC



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



Photos:

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

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Acknowledgments

Paddle Victoria acknowledges and thanks the following organisations for their support during 2021-2022:

Major Supporters

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

Supporters

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



Membership

	2021-22		2020-21
Seniors (Adult over 18)	1515	Seniors (Adult over 18)	1472
Life (Included in Adults)	7	Life (Included in Adults)	6
Juniors (Under 18)	439	Juniors (Under 18)	422
Direct Members – PA/PVic	36	Direct Members – PA/PVic	25
Volunteers (Non Paddlers)	36	Volunteers (Non Paddlers)	43
Total	2026	Total	1964

Affiliated Clubs

Ballarat Canoe Club	Mercantile Kayak Club
Bellarine Paddlers Inc	Mildura Canoe Club
Bendigo Canoe Club	Mitta Mitta Canoe Club
Canoes Plus Racing Team	MP Paddlers
Cobram-Barooga Canoe Club	North East Canoe Club
Echuca-Moama Canoe Club	Patterson Lakes Canoe Club
Eltham College Canoe Club	RMIT Outdoors Club
Essendon Canoe Club	Shepparton Canoe Club
Fairfield Canoe Club	Swan Hill Canoe Club
Footscray Amateur Canoe Club	The Break Inc
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	Yarrowonga Mulwala Canoe Club
Melbourne Canoe Club	Victorian Youth Polo Academy (VYPA)
Melbourne University Mountaineering Club	

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

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.

Office Bearers

Board

President, Chair and Interested Director	Will Silcox (2021 - 2022)
Interested Director	Mike Flavel (2020 - 2022)
Interested Director	Victoria Langley (2021-2022)
Interested Director	Brigit Doyle (2021 – 2022)
Independent Director	Lawrie Chenoweth
Independent Director	Georgina Wakim

Paddle Victoria Office Staff

Executive Officer	Mark Heggie (2016)
Finance Officer	Sandra Reaburn (2001)
Project Manager	Sharon Swoboda (2002)
Education Business Manager	John Moore (2007)
Membership and Club Support	Roz Manester (2011)
Education Administration	Roz Manester (2011)
Equipment Maintenance	John Shields (2009)
Communication and Website	Genevieve Douglas-Byrnes (August 2021- Feb 2022)

Discipline Technical Committees

Marathon 2021-22:

Chair / Treasurer	John Young
Vice Chair:	Sue O'Rourke
Secretary:	Sally Miller
Grants:	Louise Greenwood
Marathon Diary:	Sally Miller
Communications:	Arabella Eyre
Sport/Junior Development:	Debbie Bennett
Race Permits and Plans	Tony Payne
Volunteers	Hal Curwen- Walker
General Committee	Karen Merlo

Canoe Polo 2021-22:

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



Slalom 2021-22:

Chair	Chris Runting
Secretary	Sue Moorhen
Treasurer	Lyne Strmecki
General Committee	Laura Montalto Russell Bassett Chris Galea Tim Natoli

Sprint Committee 2021-22:

Chair:	Reka Abraham
Vice-Chair:	Noah Cameron
Secretary:	Louise Greenwood
Treasurer:	Rowan Doyle
General Committee:	Lawrie Chenoweth Georgina Wakim Saeid Keifari Anthony Ilott, Martin Buissink Alex Brunacci, Alex Boyd (Resigned halfway through the season)

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 – Joe Alia

Fairfield Canoe Club

1948- 2021

Joe Alia passed away in July 2021 after a short illness. The Board and Staff at Paddle Victoria are so very sad to have lost a great friend and advocate of paddling – Joe Alia.

Joe was a Paddle Victoria Board Member from 2016 – 2018 and has been a member of the canoeing community for over 40 years. He had experience in virtually all the roles within the community, from paddling to coaching, volunteering, club committee work and officiating. He was very involved in marathon competition but also appreciated the role recreational paddling plays in building the presence of canoeing across Victoria.



On a more personal note, Joe was a friend to all on the Board and in the Paddle Vic Office. We all have so many happy memories of Joe popping into the office to discuss the state of the Marathon tinnies, the latest update on Membership queries and his home renovations. Joe would always leave us with a smile and a good story.

His energy and enthusiasm for paddling was infectious. He even managed to get the non-paddling members of the office out in kayaks to do some training. We won't forget Joe on the loud hailer behind us telling us to paddle faster and raise our elbows!!

Our heartfelt condolences to Connie and all of those in the greater paddling community at Fairfield Canoe Club and the Marathon Discipline.

Paddle Victoria Board and Staff members



Joe has been a long term supporter of paddling in Australia. His involvement in paddling has spanned nearly fifty years, being introduced to Fairfield Canoe Club by Foster Rossetto, his friend since school, after initially participating in the Murray Marathon on a home built raft. Foster recalls the first paddle Joe built was 226 cm long with a 50 mm diameter shaft. They then went on to build their own kayaks, with the first one weighing over 30 kg. Times have changed.

Joe became involved with Fairfield Canoe Club at this time. Steve Vegh recalls Joe being one of the first people he met when Steve moved to Australia over 40 years ago. Joe participated in marathon and dragon boating, competing in Australia and overseas on a number of occasions before becoming involved as a flatwater and dragon boat coach. In these roles he contributed significantly to the development of paddling in Victoria. He had a long involvement as coach with Trinity Grammar and many of those currently paddling benefitted from Joe's instruction.

Joe was very committed to the running of marathon events, being an active member of the Marathon Committee for approximately twenty years and leading the committee as Chair for much of that time. Joe recruited me to the committee about twelve years ago, saying, while both of us stood on a windswept bank at Patterson Lakes, “your kids paddle, you are going to be at events for a while, you may as well join the committee”.



After joining the committee I saw the considerable time, effort and energy that Joe contributed to the successful running of our discipline. His dedication to the sport and willingness to help others was apparent to those that met him as was his knowledge and experience of paddling in Victoria. His contribution extended beyond the Victorian Marathon committee to involvement in the Canoeing Victoria and Paddle Victoria board, as well as the Paddle Australia Marathon Technical Committee. He was an international level Marathon official and officiated at World Marathon Championships. He and his partner Connie officiated at countless Victorian events and at Australian Marathon Championships.

Joe was actively involved in the Paddle Victoria Marathon Committee, as Deputy Chair, until entering hospital recently. At the end of May, on a chilly Saturday morning, he was launching and driving a safety boat for a training video for our event volunteers. He was mentoring race officials at Marathon events and active at Fairfield Canoe Club, helping install new access doors.

It has been a privilege working with Joe. Many of you have known him for a long time and shared many happy experiences. All those I have spoken with recently have expressed their admiration for him. I thank him for the positive contribution he made to paddling, for his help freely given to others and for his friendship. We are all saddened by his death and our thoughts and sympathy are with Connie and their extended family in this difficult time.

John Young

On behalf of the PV Marathon committee and all Joe’s paddling friends

Life Membership Awarded Posthumously to Joe Alia – October 2021



Vale – Wendy Phillips Yarrowonga Mulwala Canoe Club

1952 - 2022

Vale Wendy Phillips- Esteemed Member of the Yarrowonga Mulwala Canoe Club and on a personal level my dearest friend.

The Yarrowonga and Mulwala community is in mourning this week as we learnt of the passing of our dear friend Wendy Phillips. April 2022

On a personal level I was fortunate enough to work with Wendy for the last 12 years through the Yarrowonga Mulwala Canoe club of which Kevin and Wendy were both integral in its inception and ensuring that the club ran smoothly over the years with Wendy as treasurer.

Wendy was not only our treasurer but was the backbone behind our come and try programs providing support to our youth and fostering a passion for Kayaking in our community I got a chance to see what a great woman Wen truly was. I am glad that Wen got to see firsthand the excellence that our young girls are currently reaping through their state team selections at Marathon nationals and prior to that Brea's overseas tours. I will miss her dearly and want to extend my sympathies to Kevin and Wens family who she loved more than anything and always spoke so fondly of her beloved family her biggest accomplishment.

Know that we are thinking of you Kev and remembering and celebrating Wen's life with you.

It was a joy and pleasure to work with and beside you Wen.

I will never forget the warmth of your smile and your laugh and the private times we shared in the Triton folding up your walking frame to bring along with you to ensure that you could still be at all events. Although your health was declining you remained steadfast and determined to be there, whether it be come and try events or fund raising at Bunnings you were there!



I can't tell you what a loss you are to our Kayaking community!

Wen - RIP beautiful lady and Breath easy.

Tim Roadley – Yarrowonga Mulwala CC

Vale – Neil Grierson Fairfield Canoe Club

27/10/1945 - 02/03/2022

A very sad day on Sunday – Fairfield Canoe Club (and previously INCC) champion paddler, longtime coach, board member for many many years and friend Neil Grierson passed away after a long battle with cancer.



Enthusiasm and drive is what Neil always brought with him to all activities he was involved in, whether it be competitive races, boatbuilding & maintenance, club activities & any fun events. An 'ideas man' with a wide range of pursuits & talents who will be sadly missed, in so many & varied ways, at FCC.

Our deepest sympathies to Marg and the family.

Dave Renton OAM – Bellarine Paddlers

Awarded OAM posthumously

His widow Lorraine Renton receiving it on his behalf at Govt House 02/05/2022



Chair's Report



Chair Lawrie Chenoweth

William Silcox tendered his resignation in July 2022 and was unavailable to submit a report for his year as President.

It's been a tough year, so I would like to briefly summarise some of the points of interest over the last financial year.

1. After coming out of COVID we had thought that life would return to normal, however covid has hung around longer than we had hoped and the unpredictable weather meant that many paddlers were frustrated as plans and scheduled events battled to go ahead.
2. Paddle Vic intends to invest \$150,000.00 in Macquarie bank with a good interest rate.
3. The Board decided it was better to keep the Paddle Vic office open as much as possible whilst forecasting a slight loss to our finances. It was deemed better to be serving our clubs and members by keeping the office open rather than nobody answering the phone and further frustrating our paying members.
4. The Board and Paddle Victoria experienced some internal problems that absorbed a lot of time dealing with personal problems that affected the office and the Board.
5. The PV Board only started face to face meetings again in April this year after many Zoom meetings throughout Covid. Our Board President resigned in July due to work overload with business commitments.
6. I find myself acting Chair of PV and will look forward to shared roles on the Board in the future. I am excited about our new nominees being elected to the Board. We have selected strengths in positions on the Board, namely Finance/ Accountancy, Legal advice, Governance and correct Board processes.
7. I would also like to congratulate all the PV staff, for all the assistance they give to not only our members and the public but to the Board as well. I know at club level PV has a great reputation and as a Board, I thank all in the PV office for always being there to help and assist whenever they can.
8. Lastly, very recently and still happening now some of our wonderful clubs have had big problems with the floods. In Melbourne, Essendon and Footscray have been heavily affected. Unfortunately they are not alone. Shepparton and areas along the Murray, Echuca/ Moama and many other member areas are still suffering with rising waters. Maybe we can organize some funding or donations from other clubs - city or country to help out our paddling friends who have not been so lucky.

Yours in paddling
Lawrie Chenoweth



Executive Officer's Report



**Executive Officer
Mark Heggie**

This year was another year impacted by COVID and associated restrictions. Whilst most restrictions were lifted by October 2021 travel restrictions caused cancellations of some National events.

Events that could run were well attended as people were very keen to get out and about.

There was considerable confusion as we emerged out of lockdown when regulations regarding vaccination requirements came in to play. I attended regular meetings throughout the COVID period with VIC Sport, where versions of the fast-moving regulations were interpreted as to how they affected our Clubs and events.

I was continually impressed by our volunteer club and discipline committees, at how they sort clarity of regulations and worked hard to comply with both the spirit and the literal interpretation of the rules. There were instances where the regulations seemed disproportionate or not practical in relation to our Canoe clubs and I gave that feedback to Premiers Department via Vicsport. It is a subject that I will go on advocating for, by pointing out the differences and benefits of our activities compared to most conventional sports.

Paddle Victoria Club, Disciplines and Education have come through this difficult time with an excellent reputation for compliance throughout the COVID restriction periods and have excellent ongoing relationships with authorities and landholders.

Discipline Activity

Disciplines emerged from lockdowns with a rush of activity.

Highlights include Vic Sprint co-ordinating club activity throughout Victoria culminating in excellent Victorian attendance at the National Championships in Adelaide.

Marathon and Canoe Polo are working towards hosting National Championships in early 2023 after a long period of event postponements.

Water Access

Ongoing consultation with Melbourne Water has continued and the completion of access works at Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe has improved access at a much used site. Paddlers and the general public wishing to connect with the river now have safe ramps and stairs.

I have continued to consult with Parks Victoria and landholders regarding the opening of previously closed reservoirs that are being opened for passive water sports such as paddling.

Paddle Vic Staff

The staff have continued supporting clubs and disciplines and driving our education programs.

Disappointing cancellations have tested their resilience at times, but I thank them for showing great positivity and passion through these ever-changing times.

Ongoing

Paddling has emerged as a relevant activity as people seek connection with outdoor active recreation.

Clubs have seen an increase in active touring and social paddling. These paddlers are not necessarily competition paddlers but form a vital and ever-increasing proportion of our membership base.



The social, mental and long term physical benefits of an outdoor activity like paddling is now able to be measured.

Clubs have reacted to this change in membership and have worked hard to identify what their new members identify with and responded by running events and providing equipment to support their new members.

Clubs have also demonstrated they can accommodate and maintain a variety of paddlers within their membership.

As always volunteers at all levels are the drivers and workers in our community and I thank them all for continuing a proud and long legacy of paddling in Victoria.

Best in paddling

Mark Heggie

Executive Officer - Paddle Victoria



The Break Inc – Scott W

Finance Report



**Finance Officer
Sandra Reburn**

Finance Report

For the Financial year 2021-2022 the combined Paddle Victoria association posted an operating profit of \$510.00. Of course, this is substantially less than the previous year's profit of \$70,944.00 which was unusually high because of the COVID-19 pandemic support from the State and Federal Governments. Both Admin and Polo reported a loss with the rest of the Association's Disciplines making a profit.

The office would like to acknowledge and thank the Victorian State Government through Sport and Recreation for their continued strong financial support. We would like to thank the Victorian State Government for the Covid relief payments which totaled \$50,000 throughout the six lockdowns. Paddle Victoria would also like to thank Outdoors Victoria for reducing the office rent once again throughout this financial year. They have been very generous over the last few years with our rent reduction. We would also like to acknowledge the State Government, "Working for Victoria grant" to employ our Communications staff member Genevieve Douglas-Byrne for 6 months from August to February. Through this grant we were able to update the website and calendar and complete website updates and marketing formats.

Administration

The Paddle Victoria office posted a loss of \$9,627.00. This is made up of extra spending with the Adaptive Paddling program, Education and as per the Auditors request, increasing the long service leave accrual account. Three grants were finalized in this financial year, which were the Club Support grant, Adaptive Paddling grant and Working for Victoria grant. We appreciate the opportunity to work with the government through these grants.

The membership income was down from previous years due to the new split that is in place at checkout on the JustGo Membership portal. The split of \$55 to PV and \$40 to PA for an adult membership and the split of \$25 to PV and \$20 to PA for the junior membership is hurting our bottom line. Education had a turnover of \$130,000 with over 100 jobs recorded on the system. They have made a loss of \$6,456.00. This was mainly due to the higher-than-expected running costs of some of the programs. Staff shortages was a big factor in some of the costings.

Our retained surplus is \$198,366.00 which will help with future years when we don't have funding to help support the association.

Marathon

This year Marathon made a profit of \$1,342.00. Marathon's top five profitable events were the Victorian Championships Geelong, Victorian Schools Championships Nagambie, Tay Creggan in May, the Bendigo Sprints & Short Course and Frank Harrison Cup held with the Mitta Mitta Canoe Club. Marathon contributed towards the expense of uniforms and the transport costs to Queensland for the Paddle Australia Canoe Marathon Championships. John Young and his team of



volunteers have done an incredible job throughout the year and run the Marathon committee extremely efficiently. Currently the retained surplus for Marathon is \$76,922.

Polo

Polo has posted a loss of \$2,817.00. This year the Brunswick competition went ahead in between lockdowns. It managed to run only 3 pool sessions in total. The Polo committee also held the Interstate Summer Series at Nagambie with 13 teams attending which was profitable for the discipline. They were also involved in running the Interclub Series with 6 teams attending. Polo's overall surplus has reduced to \$69,339.00.

Slalom

This year Slalom made a profit of \$11,449.00. From the State Government, Slalom was able to secure a \$5,000.00 grant to help run the All Ages Championships in January. They also received a Covid relief payment from the government of \$2,500.00. The Victorian Championships held in November were very profitable with a great turnout. With all the uncertainty of Covid, the Slalom committee was lucky enough to still run most of the Yarra Series events which had a good turnout and were profitable. The Safety Training grant and Shade grant both were used throughout the financial year. Currently Slalom's overall surplus is \$48,256.00.

Sprint

Sprint has posted a profit of \$132.00. Sprint's main event this year was the Victorian Championship which made a slight loss and the Victorian Schools Championships which was organised with Marathon and was very profitable. For a second year in a row the Sprint Committee held an Awards night and not only was it a great success, it was profitable as well. Currently Sprint's surplus is \$11,398.00.

Wildwater

Wildwater posted a profit of \$32.00. They ran two profitable events through the year which were the Wildwater Championships in November and the Yarra Series race in June. Wildwater main expense for the year was the purchase of medals. Currently Wildwater has a surplus of \$6,868.00.

Sandra Reaburn
Finance Officer

Membership Report



Kirinari Kayak Club and Ballarat Canoe Club Annual Paddle – Anna Taylor

Membership Officer - Roz Manester

After another difficult year affected by COVID lockdowns and restrictions we are encouraged to see that Membership at our clubs continues to grow and thrive as people enjoy the different aspects of paddling and being able to get out and about in nature.

The club environment allows members to connect with each other and pursue a hobby, an exercise regime or chase their competitive goals. I would like to thank the Club Committees for keeping paddling alive in Victoria despite all the hardships and continually changing and evolving to meet their members needs.

Paddle Victoria were happy not to have to increase our membership prices again this year and our Club Affiliation Fees and Membership Fees remained the same for the 2022/23 paddling year. Our budget has however taken a knock as Paddle Australia has changed their affiliation model, and member fees now get split at checkout and Paddle Australia retain \$40 of the \$95 adult fee and \$20 of the \$45 junior fee.

Most of our clubs are successfully using the online portal – JustGo (formally GoMembership). As with any online system it has its frustrations and glitches, but on the whole I believe it frees up a lot of Volunteer hours spent on registering members and accepting payments. Paddle Australia have listened to club feedback and have been able to assist with functionality in certain areas.

Paddle Victoria however still remain the first point of contact with any club member or club support enquiries, so don't hesitate to get in touch via email or phone!



This year we welcomed two new clubs to the Paddle Victoria affiliated family.

The Break Club affiliated in August 2021. Based in St Kilda, The Break's focus is on using kayaking for mental health enhancement for improved wellbeing of The Break charity clients and the wider community. They aim to introduce lower income/disadvantaged people to the joy of the social hobby of kayaking and offering ongoing cheap participation.

The Break Inc ready for their clients – Scott W



We also welcomed MP Paddlers in May 2022. MP Paddlers are based in Mornington and aim to develop sprint and ocean paddling on the Mornington Peninsula.

Increasingly we are seeing clubs working together to provide greater paddling opportunities for their members. Make yourselves know to these new clubs and see if you have a common ground from which to work. The photo at the start of my report shows Kirinari Kayak Club and Ballarat Canoe Club enjoying their annual ANZAC day paddle.

Don't forget that Paddle Victoria are very happy to loan out equipment to your club if your members would like to join with another club to take part in a paddle or if you need to run a come and try to welcome new members.

Remember we have Club Forum Facebook Page. This Paddle Victoria group is designed to support, inform and facilitate discussions between Paddle Victoria affiliated clubs. Open to all Paddle Victoria Club Committee Members and Members:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PVClubForum>

As always, Mark, Sandra, Sharon, John and I are all in the office to support our clubs as best we can. Please feel free to contact us or send us any feedback for topics of discussion for our next Club Forum!

Thanks for your support and I wish you hours of safe and happy paddling!



Education



Education Report Roz Manester

Covid was over (well we felt like it was) and they came rushing out of hibernation to try paddling!

From school programs, Ladies River Rambles, Paddlepower school holiday programs, PaddleHub, Flatwater guide training and assessment, Basic Skills and everything in between we provided paddling for 1826 people, in over 100 programs and turned over \$130,000.00 worth of programs!! Quite an accomplishment for a little Education department!

The overall message is that people love paddling and so many people after being cooped up during our 6 lockdowns wanted to get out onto the water, to enjoy being outdoors and experience the joy of paddling, getting fitter and socializing all at the same time!

The big challenge we have is finding suitable areas for mainly school groups to paddle.

Lillydale Lake has proved to be very popular and we are grateful that the State Government have included us in their Lilydale Revitalisation project to develop and increase the storage capabilities we have at Lillydale Lake. We are hopeful that the project will be completed prior to the start of 2023 and will allow us to store many more and varied craft and therefore allow us to run many more programs up at the lake.

Highlights include the annual Upper Yarra school paddling week now in its 8th year, in which 17 schools and 300 students are exposed to paddling on sit on tops at Lillydale lake.

It's a great week of busy fun and lots of happy students!



Students at Lillydale Lake

Over 100 Ladies taking part in Ladies River Rambles and getting to enjoy activity, socializing and many of them trying out something new in their middle age. We encourage Clubs to join us in the Ladies River Rambles programs to allow these paddles to reach new locations that will extend the paddling abilities of our group of rambles.

Thankfully schools still have the budget to try paddling as it's a much more expensive sport than your traditional ball sports. We are encouraged by the amount of schools that return year after year to allow their students to experience paddling. We give them information about our disciplines and clubs and what they offer and hope that some of them will reach out to a club or discipline and take up paddling as a regular activity.

It was such a fantastic day (weather and program). We were so thankful to your staff who engaged the students, supported the less confident and gave our Year 6s a really memorable morning out together. It is the highlight of the year for many of them. We would love to use Paddle Victoria again in the future so MECS will be in touch again.

Alistair Coffey – Mount Evelyn Christian School

My girlfriends and I had a great time! Ian and Cheryl were very educational, and great that they were willing to stay a little longer so that we could attempt the rapids. Such fun! Learned a lot of valuable info, and had lots of laughs. Always a great activity with you guys and we'll be back, for sure. Thanks to you all, so much.
– Ladies River Rambles



*Hi Roz and team.
I want to say thanks for a great day on the basic skills course. The trainers, Tim and John, were clearly skilled and loved what they do. They were generous in sharing their knowledge and teaching us all with just the right level of support. They gave us confidence and brought a great atmosphere to the day. Everyone worked well together and I'd say we all had a wonderful time. We even all rolled our boats - pretty impressive considering the water temperature! **Basic Skills Participant***

Covid severely impacted my pool of Instructors, Guides and Coaches as many had left the profession to pursue other careers and part time jobs. I am so grateful for the support of those that did stick around as you worked tirelessly and constantly to deliver so many fun, safe and fantastic paddling activities. We are always on the lookout for new coaches, guides and instructors, so if you are keen or know someone that may want to work part time for Paddle Victoria to share the great paddling message amongst the community please get in touch!

Again this year, I couldn't have done it without my amazing team of hard working Coaches, Guides and Instructors. Thanks so much for your support and always representing Paddle Victoria professionally!

John Moore, John Shields and Ian Wallbridge – what a team!

Roz
Education Administration

SRV Adaptive Paddling Project

Sharon Swoboda – Project Manager

Sport and Recreation Victoria was very generous in supporting Paddle Victoria in developing the adaptive paddling program. Covid impeded the delivery and reach substantially however the bones of future adaptive paddling has been put in place and will provide the infrastructure to springboard more people paddling that experience additional challenges.



A Case Study

Max from Yarrawonga

The following case study involves Max. It is an example of how Max will be a future paddler in Victoria. Max (13) suffers from Cystic Fibroses and has limited use of his left side. He cannot hold a paddle in his left hand.

Max was inspired to have a go at paddling having met Curtis McGrath in person. Living near the regional town of Yarrawonga, Max's parents responded to an advertisement of an Adaptive Paddling come and try being held at the Club. Suddenly, they were all aware that paddling could be an option in their local area. Supported by Paddle Victoria, a coaching and committee session was held the day before at the club, discussing the challenges for both the club and the coaches to accommodate those with any sort of disabilities and the possible options / solutions / actions that could be implemented and understanding the challenges that just could not be overcome in the short term.

On Sunday morning, Max came along to the club and was "transported" down to the water in a double kayak in a modified trolley and taken out for a paddle with a young member of the canoe club. While adaptive paddles were not available, Max attempted to paddle with his good arm. The committee and club could see first hand what challenges Max faced, but also they faced as a club.

The delight upon his return of his experience was enough of an incentive for the club to reinforce their determination to enable their club to become more inclusive and accommodating of those who have additional challenges to actively paddle.

The outcomes of this simple exercise with Max were pivotable to the future of adaptive paddling in Victoria.

Below are some of the reflections of the journey that enabled Max to get on the water.

- **Influence.** High profile influence such as Curtis McGrath inspire future paddlers and cannot be underestimated. Face to face with Curtis made more of a difference than just the picture in facebook.



- **Advertising** – The family were not aware that paddling could be an option for Max, so it was important that the public knows that paddling can be accessible for those with a disability and the opportunities.
- **Collaboration** and partnership with an invested and committed Club, a State body with an inclusive strategic objectives and a National body committed to provide on-going pathways is paramount for long term success. Without the club on the ground, interested in being inclusive and willing to undertake change and a state body ready and capable of supporting the club, any program will fail.
- **Adaptive Equipment.** The trolley made it possible for Max to participate in a safe and fun way. He was given access to the steep boat ramp which otherwise would have been challenging. It also provided an element of fun and novelty – key to any successful initial paddling program.
- **A variety of adaptive equipment.** Max was only one participant and as such presented with a specific challenge. Other future paddlers will have different challenges and as such there is not a “one size fits all” solution. Adaptive equipment for “trial” use, needs to be flexible and easy to swap around to meet the needs of the paddler. If this is too hard or onerous, the participant and activity leader are likely to become despondent.
- **Positive initial experience.** Max’s paddling partner was young, enthusiastic, empathetic, encouraging and generous with her time and energy and therefore ensured his paddling experience was one he wanted to repeat. The conditions were not challenging which also added to the experience. Had his partner been anything else, his first paddling experience may well have finished differently and there may have not been a second paddle with better equipment.
- **Carer’s were supported.** His parents were well informed about the activity to ensure they felt confident in the activity for him.

As a result of this activity with Max

- The club purchased a suitable craft for adaptive paddling with the aid of local community support.
- Paddle Victoria purchased a number of adaptive paddling accessories to accommodate the likes of Max in the future and which will be available to all clubs for come and try purposes.
- Paddle Victoria amended their future come and tries to be structured differently to ensure each paddler is given adequate time and attention to ensure their needs are met.
- The Club and Paddle Victoria have a greater understanding of the challenges of physical access to waterways which will influence future waterway development discussions.

The next step for Max

- Try out the adaptive paddling equipment now available from a “template” boat
- Outfit a specific boat for his purpose.
- Develop a “paddling program” for him out of the club. This would include access, boat storage and access, where and when to paddle and how.
- Adapt the current club junior program to ensure integration to enable Max to participate.

If you or your club are interested in participating in the Paddle Victoria adaptive paddling program, get in touch!

A great shout out to the Victorian Government / Sport and Recreation Victoria for their generous support for this program.

Sharon Swoboda
Project Manager, Paddle Victoria.



Discipline Reports

Canoe Polo



Report submitted by James DuBose – Incoming Canoe Polo Chair 2022

Canoe Polo Annual Report

After a shaky start to the financial year in the midst of lockdowns and restrictions, the sport looked set for another year of interrupted and cancelled events. As the weather warmed the sport was able to resume within the state and saw some great attendance at local events, training sessions, and the Nagambie Cup. With plenty of contingency plans in place, our events ran successfully with no COVID or other issues.

Melbourne Canoe Polo League

Our 2021 Melbourne Canoe Polo League was again cancelled during the lockdowns after a few short weeks. Our upcoming 2022 iteration of the league looks set to be an exciting one with 7 teams entered in the open division on Tuesday nights and 4 teams of players participating in the beginner and social rosters on Wednesdays.



Victorian Interclubs Series

Our Interclubs series took place over the warmer months with five rounds of the series, hosted by Essendon Canoe Club, Fairfield Canoe Club and Victorian Youth Polo Academy, and saw the return of canoe polo to Ballarat in which the Ballarat Amateur Canoe Club hosted a round of the series. Congratulations to Fairfield Youth who claimed their first series win through consistent performances across the series.

2021 Victorian Interclubs Series - Final Placings

Team	Ranking	Points
Fairfield Youth	1	68
Fairfield White	2	66
Essendon	3	60
RMIT	4	48
Banana Bouys	5	28
MUMC Waterstriders	6	22
Fairfield Blue	7	20

Nagambie Cup

The Nagambie Cup had strong attendance from both Victorian and interstate players with 16 teams across all three divisions. Congratulations go to the QLD-based Brothers on taking out Div 1, the NSW team Mullet in div 2, and Vic-based RMIT in div 3.

Australian National Events

There were few major interstate events attended over 2021/22 summer with concerns around COVID and border restrictions. Victoria hosted our annual Nagambie Cup which saw attendance from most other states, however, due to late event announcements and border restrictions, our players were unable to reciprocate attendance to other states' events. The first half of 2022 saw the return of the annual national championships, hosted by South Australia. Unfortunately, due to miscommunication around player eligibility, our teams were forced to withdraw a week before the event. A pair of our U18 players participated in a U18 team made up of SA, NSW, Tas and Vic players, which took out the U18 category against strong competition from Queensland.

Looking Ahead

In the next year, there is a huge amount of polo happening. The 2022 Melbourne canoe polo league will take place between July and September hosting two nights, and the inclusion of a beginner season at the start of the competition looks set to substantially grow the number of new players. Over the summer months, our Interclubs series will return with events across Melbourne and Regional Victoria, and the Nagambie Cup is set for February next year, with the tournament relocating from the regatta centre to the centre of town for better spectating and event access. Amongst these competitions, local clubs will be running training and introductory sessions to continue to grow the sport, including in Melbourne's east (Fairfield Canoe Club) and west (Victorian Youth Polo Academy) as well as in regional Victorian (Ballarat Canoe Club and Cobram Canoe Club). All this will culminate in two weeks of Canoe Polo in Ballarat in the April Easter holidays where we will host the Ballarat Cup, Intervarsity Championships, and the 2023 National Championships.

James DuBose

Competitions Director and Development Officer and Incoming Chair 2022



Canoe Polo Committee 2020-21

Chair

Secretary

Events Coordinator

Junior Development Officer

Development and 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, Sharon Swoboda



Marathon



Marathon Chair – John Young

PV Marathon highlights for FY22

The past year saw Marathon paddling emerge from the disruption of COVID. Whilst some of our community lost friends and family, businesses and opportunities, on the whole we were fortunate. We had successes amidst the disruption, being able to hold about half our normal events in person, including the Schools Championships, Victorian Championships and some of our normal races. We held the second Frank Harrison Interstate Marathon Challenge, with Victoria again bringing home the trophy. Many people found ways to continue to paddle during the restrictions and we ran virtual races and the two-month Spring Back Into Paddling Challenge to maintain connection with our sport. Many paddlers are sporting new PV Marathon team wear as recognition for their achievement.

Junior paddling: In early 2021 we initiated the “Victorian Paddle Sports” program to encourage participation by young paddlers from school and club paddling groups. Over the course of the 2021 calendar year 224 individual juniors across Victoria took part in the program, with 31 completing five or more events in person despite the disruptions. The combined Victorian Schools Marathon and Sprint Championships continued to grow, with over 180 paddlers registered for the 2022 event in March. PV Marathon participated in the Bendigo Sporting Festival on the weekend of 2-3 July, with 50 junior paddlers attending specialised flatwater “ready to race” clinics run by Olympic and World Championship paddlers Cat McArthur, Mick and Kate Leverett and Reka Abraham, supported by nine coaches from Victorian clubs. The clinics focused on technique, body rotation, fast starts, wash riding, teamwork and crew boat paddling, with breaks between the clinics to participate in the Victorian Short Course Marathon Championships races, doubles short course races and a TK2 relay race, in which junior paddlers were partnered with a coach or former Australian Marathon team member.



Photos: (1) Cat McArthur leading one of the “Ready to Race Clinics”, Bendigo, 2/3rd July 2022; (2) volunteers about to set the course for the 2022 Victorian Marathon Championships, Geelong Canoe Club, 26/27th March 2022

Australian Championships: 2022 saw the recommencement of the Australian Canoe Marathon Championships at Lake Coomera on Queensland’s Gold Coast, after cancellation of the events in 2020 and 2021. Victoria fielded a strong contingent of U23, Open and Masters paddlers, with five athletes (Rebecca Mann, Hannah Scott, Rachel de Kretser, Emilie Harrison and Kate Leverett) being selected to represent Australia at the 2022 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships in Ponte de Lima, Portugal in September.



Junior participation unfortunately was lower than in previous years. However, those who attended performed well, enjoyed themselves and, importantly, made new friends from around the country and continued to build their race experience and paddling skills. We look forward to much stronger junior participation at the 2023 event, to be hosted by Victoria at Geelong Canoe Club at Easter.

2022 program: The committee revamped the event program for calendar 2022, with some new events, such as a September paddling camp in Bairnsdale and Saturday twilight paddling and pizza night at Essendon, and new locations and a single calendar year race program, rather than separate summer, winter and spring series. The Yarra Doubles race in May at Strathcona's Tay Creggan campus was again a popular event with juniors and adults, with 136 competitors.

Financial performance: The Marathon discipline made a small operating surplus of \$1341 (c.f. FY21 \$9,980), due to good cost control, strong race participation at the Victorian Championships, School Championships and Tay Creggan events and grant assistance. Net assets of \$76,922 increased slightly (FY21 \$75,580), with cash of \$68,627 (FY21 \$62,059). The surplus will continue to be reinvested in the sport, such as the "ready to race clinics" and seeding junior training programs.

Race attendance

Table 1 FY22 Marathon race program and race participation

Date	Race	Location	Format	Distance	Host Club	Attendance	FY21
18-Jul-21	Marathon Winter Series Race-4	Patterson Lakes	Circuit, doubles	8-20	virtual	11	
01-Aug-21	Footscray Salty Single Blader	Footscray	Circuit, singles/doubles/mixed	3*6	Footscray	26	
15-Aug-21	Marathon Winter Series Race-5	Lillydale Lake	Circuit, doubles, portage	Aug-20	virtual	31	
04-Sep-21	Marathon Winter Series Race-6	Yarrawonga	Circuit, singles, portage	5-25	virtual	29	
02-Oct-21	Echuca Mini	Barmah to Echuca	Point-to-point, full dist/relay	50, 20	virtual	11	
17-Oct-21	Bendigo Cup - Marathon (virtual)	Lake Weeroona	Circuit & virtual	6-12	Bendigo	12	76
14-Nov-21	Salty TK and Rec challenge	Footscray	Circuit, singles/doubles/mixed	3*6	Footscray	26	26
20-Nov-21	Bendigo Sprints/Short Course	Lake Weeroona	400m, 200m, ~3.5 km S & D	2*3.5	PVM/Bendigo	37	26
27-Nov-21	Murray Quad Peaches & Cream	Cobram to Tocumwal	Point-to-point, full dist/relay	25	EMCC		
11-Dec-21	Ben Ward Memorial - Day 1	Yarrawonga to Cobram	Point-to-point, full dist/relay	65	CBCC	126	
12-Dec-21	Ben Ward circuit - Day 2	Cobram	Circuit, relay	8	CBCC	79	
22-Jan-22	Frank Harrison Interstate Challenge (S Albury)	S Albury	Point-to-point, singles	16-26	MMCC	89	85
23-Jan-22	Frank Harrison Interstate Challenge (E Albury)	E Albury	Point-to-point, doubles	16-26	MMCC	65	89
06-Feb-22	Saltwater Classic	Footscray	Circuit	3-24	Footscray	70	64
26-Feb-22	Vic Metro and Regional club events	various	various	10-20	clubs	n/a	44
20-Mar-22	Vic Schools Marathon Championships	Nagambie	Short course, portage	2*3-4	PVM	180	155
26-Mar-22	Victorian Marathon Championships	Geelong Canoe Club	Singles, circuit, portage	12-27	PVM/Geelong	93	110
27-Mar-22	Victorian Marathon Championships	Geelong Canoe Club	Doubles, circuit, portage	12-27	PVM/Geelong	110	116
10-Apr-22	Murray River Classic	Yarrawonga	Circuit, portage	May-25	YMCC	44	
22-Apr-22	Australian Marathon Championships	Gold Coast	Short singles, circuit, portage	3*3	PAM/PQM	26	
23-Apr-22	Australian Marathon Championships	Gold Coast	Singles, circuit, portage	7-30	PAM/PQM	28	
24-Apr-22	Australian Marathon Championships	Gold Coast	Doubles, circuit, portage	7-30	PAM/PQM	27	
15-May-22	Yarra Doubles Race	Tay Creggan	Circuit, doubles	3-22	PVM/Fairfield	136	147
02-Jul-22	Vic Short Course Champs	Lake Weeroona, Bendigo	Circuit, portage, singles/double	3*3.3	PVM/Bendigo	75	55
03-Jul-22	Bendigo Sporting Festival	Lake Weeroona, Bendigo	Circuit, doubles/relay	2*3.3	PVM/Bendigo	50	
Total		Number of races scheduled = 25	Number of races held = 9	Average =>		60	83
	Club organized races					60	64
	PVM/club hosted races					48	76
	Championship events					77	127

n.b. Australian Marathon Championships attendance includes Victorian paddlers only

Officials training

The PVMTC organised a Foundation Marathon Official course, which consisted of a series of online workshops, quizzes and e-Learning, followed by mentoring during races. Seven new officials attended the workshop sessions held in Oct/Nov 2022.

Safety and focus for 2023: Safety performance remained high, with no medical treatment or loss time injuries, and all events incorporated COVIDSafe plans. New junior squads started in 2021 and grew in 2022 and more will start in 2023. In 2023 PV Marathon will continue to focus on three main areas: (1) assisting clubs establish and energize junior programs, (2) engaging with clubs to drive increased participation at races, and (3) provide mentoring support to new coaches.



Acknowledgements

I pass on my sincere thanks to the members of the PV Marathon Technical Committee for their commitment and the significant time contributed to organizing and running our events, training our volunteers and supporting our paddlers. The coming year will again be demanding, with PV Marathon organizing the 2023 Paddle Australia Canoe Marathon and SUP Championships, to be held at Geelong Canoe Club at Easter. I also thank the many volunteers who willingly gave their time to support our events, and without whom the discipline could not operate, and all the paddlers that participated in our events and we look forward to your continued support in 2023.

John Young

Chair, Marathon Committee

Marathon Committee 2021-22:

Chair / Treasurer

John Young

Vice Chair:

Sue O'Rourke

Secretary:

Sally Miller

Grants:

Louise Greenwood

Marathon Diary:

Sally Miller

Communications:

Arabella Eyre

Sport/Junior Development:

Debbie Bennett

Race Permits and Plans

Tony Payne

Volunteers

Hal Curwen- Walker

General Committee

Karen Merlo



Slalom



Slalom Chair – Chris Runting

2022 Canoe Slalom Annual Report – Victoria

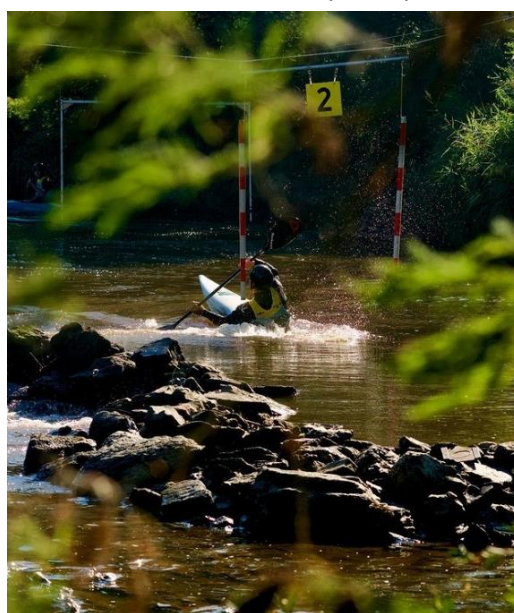
The 2022 year has seen a return to regular slalom activities in Victoria. Participation in the sport remains below historic levels. The impact of two years of Covid has constrained the number of new participants, particularly juniors.

A highlight of the year has been the number of Victorian paddlers selected to the Junior, U23 and Senior Australian teams. This culminated with Mark Crosbee (Melbourne Canoe Club) winning the C1 event at the Junior World Championships at Ivrea, Italy in July 2022.

The members of the Victorian Slalom Technical Committee (VSTC) remain unchanged. The work and contribution the members of the VSTC make cannot be overstated and is acknowledged.

Yarra Series Races

Three of the 5 Yarra Series Races scheduled races for the 2021/22 year were able to be run. The first two in 2021 were not able to be run due to Covid restrictions applicable at the time.



Fitzies Slalom Photo by Andrew Stamp

The races held in February 2022 at Fitzies and in May 2022 at Warrandyte were relatively well supported. The race scheduled at Dights in June 2022 was run as a training session with unlimited timed full runs. The high river flow made this a very successful and rewarding session.

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 2022, an initiative that started in early 2021. These provide an easy way for novice paddlers to try slalom paddling and get involved and have been well supported and will be continued where practical.

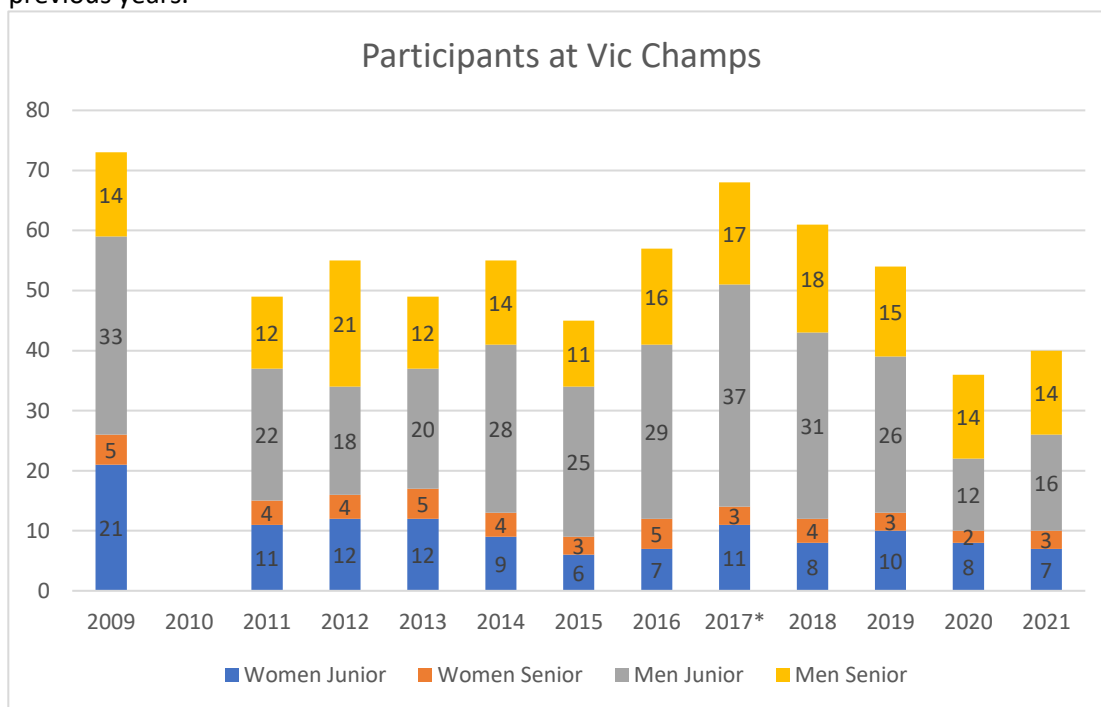
Country Series Races

The only Country Series Race run in the 2021/22 year was Race 3 which was scheduled for the Goulburn River in November 2021 but was run at Dights Falls due to the Goulburn not flowing. Fortunately, the Yarra was running at a high level which contributed greatly to this event being a success.

The Country Series races which are scheduled each year for the Big River in July and the King River in August do not attract much support or participation. They are often not viable to run due to low water. Dropping these races from the calendar is under consideration.

Victorian Championships

The Victorian Slalom Championships were held at Dights Falls on the 28th of November. They were relocated from the Goulburn River as it was not flowing and the Yarra was at a high level. There were 40 competitors, 30 male and 10 females. The following graph gives a comparison of participation to previous years.



*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 2021

This event could not be run in 2021 due to Covid restrictions

2022 Paddle Australia Canoe Slalom Age Championships, Goulburn River, January 2022

Victoria hosted this event on behalf of Paddle Australia. It was preceded by a Training Camp run by Melbourne Canoe Club which was open to all paddlers. The event was well supported with a total of 67 competitors including 20 from interstate. There were 22 Senior (U23 and above) male paddlers, 6 Senior female paddlers, 24 Junior (U18 and below) male paddlers and 13 Junior female paddlers.

Julien Billaut (National Senior Slalom Coach) and Titouan Dupras (National Performance Pathways Coach) attended the event and helped out with demonstration runs and foreruns. Their involvement and contribution was appreciated.

The State Government through Department of Sport and Recreation Significant Sporting Events Program provided a grant to support the event which was a major contributor to the success of the event. Their support is greatly appreciated.





Sarah Crosbee and Tim Anderson at Goulburn All Ages 2022 : Photo by Andrew Stamp

Victorian Team for 2022

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

Victorians Selected to the 2022 Junior and U23 Australian Team - July 2022

This was outside the Annual reporting period

The following Victorian athletes were selected to the U23 and Junior Team for 2022. The U23 and Junior World Championships were held at Ivrea, Italy in July 2022.

Jnr Mark Crosbee (C1 & K1)

Jnr Sebastian Montalto (K1)

U23 Ben Ross (C1)

U23 Daniel Shamieh (C1)

U23 Josh Montalto (K1)

The highlight result was Mark Crosbee winning the Junior Mens C1 event. This is the first time an Australian male has won a World Junior Championships in canoe slalom.



The Australian team for these events comprised ten athletes, 5 from Victoria, 3 from NSW, 1 from Tasmania and 1 from WA. Victorians made up 50% of the team. This is a reflection of the contribution made by so many people and organizations in Victoria over many years from the initial paddling experience through to high-performance development that have made the Victorian slalom community a vibrant and supportive environment that has attracted paddlers to the sport and enabled them to develop and excel at an international level. The ongoing challenge remains to maintain and build on this momentum.



Victorians Selected for the World Cup and World Championships Squad 2022

Tristan Carter (C1)

Also on the team were Kaylen Bassett, Lachlan Bassett and Tim Anderson. They now reside in Penrith NSW to enable regular training at the Penrith Whitewater Centre, but originate from Victoria and started their involvement with canoe slalom here.

2022 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 of 11 athletes in early 2022 are:

Ali Berryman

Sarah Crosbee

Riley Galea

Archie Nelson

James Stamp

Works at Fitzsimons Lane, Yarra River Slalom Rapid

A project to re-instate ICF standard slalom gates to replace the temporary training gates that have existed for the past 3 years has commenced. The project is well advanced and is expected to be completed sometime in September. Some of the funding for this project has come from Paddle Vic and this support is appreciated and acknowledged.

The labour has been provided by a large number of volunteers who offered to help out. The works have been co-ordinated by Ian Beasley and his hard work and expertise is appreciated.

Seb Montalto and Ben Ross at Junior Worlds 2022 Photo by Sarah Crosbee (002)



Paddle Australia – Canoe Slalom Performance Pathways Program

1. Russell Bassett and Chris O’Callaghan have resigned from the PA Slalom Technical Committee. Their contribution is greatly appreciated. Russell served on the committee for many years and passionately advocated on Victoria’s behalf and made significant contributions to the technical aspects of running major slalom events.
2. Rachel Crosbee has been appointed to the PA Slalom Technical Committee and her passion and expertise will be of benefit to that committee.
3. During the year Paddle Australia asked the PA Canoe Slalom Technical Committee (PASLTC) for their recommendations to develop a Canoe Slalom Recovery Plan. The draft plan *outlined a proposed way forward, to better support and retain current Canoe Slalom paddlers, and secure growth in participation for a thriving and sustainable future*. PA sought comment from the slalom community. The VSTC submitted a detailed submission which broadly supported the plan but argued that national teams should be filled where practical and junior squads should be more inclusive.
4. Through the Paddle Australia Canoe Slalom Performance Pathways program, funding is provided to the states with active slalom canoeing programs to assist with *“Improve the Talent Pipeline: by supporting the development and implementation of clearly defined and targeted talent identification, transfer and development strategies that improves the recruitment, identification, retention and development of young slalom paddlers”*. With the funding that Victoria receives under this program the VSTC through MCC who actively participate in slalom activities have been able to support 1) Provision of Coaching & Race Support at major races, 2) State Based High Performance Training Programs for all levels of paddlers, 3) The annual State Based Training Camp in November with a focus on beginners through to elite, 4) Supervised Gym Programs, 5) Come & Try and Beginner Programs, 6) Coach Training and Development, 7) Travel Support. This funding makes a real difference to the pathway opportunities for Victorian slalom paddlers and is a significant contributor to the historic and ongoing success of Victorian paddlers at the national level.
5. Paddle Australia has appointed former Australian Slalom Team member Ros Lawrence as the new Performance Pathways Lead for Canoe Slalom. Ros and Rachel Crosbee (PASLTC) have commenced the process to form a Women in Slalom working group. A successful online session of the slalom paddling community around Australia was held to seek opinions and hear personal experiences. Given the continuing decline in female participation in the sport and particularly a lack of retention, this initiative is very welcome.
6. The “All States” training camps program has been supported and formalised by Paddle Australia. This program was started by Jill Bassett and Leanne Nichols several years ago to create opportunities for all paddlers from around Australia, irrespective of age and ability, to be able to paddle at the Penrith Whitewater Stadium on gates in coached sessions. It helps to address the issue of a lack of quality slalom paddling opportunities for “non high performance” paddlers which discourages participation and retention of paddlers. A very successful camp was held in June 2022 at Penrith and was attended by approximately 40 paddlers from Victoria, Tasmania and NSW. More events are planned and scheduled.

What's Ahead?

As we are now in a phase of living with Covid we are back to running a full program of events.

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 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.

Chris Runting – Slalom Chair



Warburton From the Bridge - Photo By Andrew Stamp

Sprint



Sprint Chair – Reka Abraham

Paddle Victoria Sprint highlights for the 2021/2022 season.

We were optimistic that the new season would be more eventful after an excellent finish to the year. Our new committee was formed, and we are incredibly proud of the great diversity of the managing team. All the big clubs were represented as well as the big regional focal clubs like Geelong, Bendigo, and Cobram-Barooga.

We started planning for our upcoming season by learning from the previous years and getting used to and adjusting to the uncertainty.

Our first event of the season was run by Geelong Canoe Club. This was a friendly Sprint that turned into a fantastic time trial/training day for regional participants. The event offered single, double, and team boat races over 200 and 500m distances. The day's highlight was the final race between the dragon boats, OC6 and the R9s. We are grateful for Alex Brunacci, Carmel Brown and Geelong's support towards our sprint program and Victorian Athletes. Thank you for delivering a great event and helping us to improve.



Geelong Sprint Team boat race 1

Another successful event was the Bendigo Friendly Sprint. It is great to have a professional and committed team in our support group who deliver great quality events year after year. 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.



Bendigo Friendly Sprint 2

In January, Victoria's premier Sprint Event was held - the State Championships, in Nagambie. Taking all the feedback from our successful 2021 event, we tried to elevate the competition level for this year's state championships. We kept the positive changes like the PFD Exemption to the event, spacing it out over two days, and implementing long-distance events. This year, the U10s age group was introduced with great success. There are still areas for improvement – such as Officials, significant gaps between races and delivering the short course event. It was brilliant to see many participants at the event from various clubs throughout the state.



Vic State Sprint Champ 3



Vic State Sprint Champ 4

In February, a core group of athletes from Mercantile Kayak Club represented the state and their club at the Paddle Australia GP2 event, the only selection event for the senior team. The mighty Victorian team counted seven athletes. Noah Cameron, Adam Holovics, Bri Jones, Rebecca Mann, Isabel Neilson, Hannah Scott and Sebastian Wakim.

In concluding the states' competitive season, we delivered another successful Victorian School Championships in conjunction with Paddle Vic Marathon. The event was held once again at the Nagambie Lake Regatta Centre. We reached incredible heights with attendance, and the quality of the event is also improving year after year.



The committee's thanks are extended to the volunteers who helped during the year. In particular, attending many events, Anthony and Tracee Ilott assisted the committee immensely.

Initially scheduled for March and located in Perth WA, then changed due to further COVID-19 restrictions to Penrith NSW, the National Championships was delayed multiple times and was eventually run in May in Adelaide SA. This saw the largest attendance in Victorian Sprint in the past two decades, with 36 athletes competing. Victoria fielded a strong team with 24 junior participants. These paddlers performed exceptionally well at this event, including Axel Tan, who finished the event with eight gold medals. Another notable event was the State vs State K4 events. For the first time, Victoria had entries in each event, and we took home the title for the Open Men trophy, which included Mercantile's Adam Holovics, Noah Cameron, Justin Quill and Christopher Smith!



Axel Tan – FCC- 5



Paddle Victoria Sprint ran the annual awards night and dinner to celebrate the season. This event was another great success and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Reaching back to the past with a great athlete and entertainer, Martin Ralph, provided outstanding entertainment for the night.

Awards winners: Aidan Han, Tim Arnold, James Campbell, Hannah Scott, Bri Jones, Adam Holovics, Rebecca Mann, Sophie Hughes, Bradley Buissink, Emma Murray.

Not in the picture: Gabriel Cornwell, Isabel Neilson, Sophie Ward



Financial:

Sprint had a profit of \$132.00. We have attached the Auditors copy of the Sprint Profit & Loss.

Sprint was very successful with the Sprint Awards night and the Vic Schools in March.

The 2021 Vic Champs struggled to make a profit to a range of factors, namely the requirement to hire an external party from Rowing Victoria to help run the tower. The state suffers from a lack of individuals with the necessary skills to run the timing aspect of the event, and the committee is looking to rectify this issue for further events by running training sessions on the timing system.

There was an expense for Attention Media, which was part of the filming at Nagambie.

Other significant expenses were medals which cost \$1509.00, and uniforms.

Reka Abraham - Sprint Chair

Sprint Committee 2021-22:

Chair: Reka Abraham

Vice-Chair: Noah Cameron

Secretary: Louise Greenwood

Treasurer: Rowan Doyle

General Committee: Lawrie Chenoweth, Georgina Wakim, Saeid Keifari, Martin Buissink, Alex Brunacci, Alex Boyd (Resigned halfway through the season)

Wildwater



Wildwater Chair – Damien Guthrie

The main event to close out 2021 was the Victorian Wildwater Champs on the Yarra in November. This was unfortunately relocated due to a lack of water at the original venue (Big River) however was still a successful event enjoyed by those who could attend.

Low water also impacted the holding of the rescheduled 2022 nationals in January, however in lieu of this a camp was held at Eildon with several NSW paddlers at Eildon including a few races to close out the weekend.

Throughout the year the Yarra series races were held which helped get our paddlers ready for competing in the 2022 national championships in Perth (Avon river). 5 paddlers made the trip over (Thomas Elms, Dita Pahl, Abigail Watson, Simon Watson, Warrens Elms) with the majority making the podium which is a great result after a number of interrupted years.

We also recently held the 2022 Victorian champs, this was once again a great event on the Yarra river and had a competitive field with almost half the field being previous Australian Wildwater team members. Thanks to all the committee for their work throughout the year particularly assistance in running races and the hours spent organising events.

Damien Guthrie
Chair, Victorian Wildwater Technical Committee 2022

Wildwater 2021-22

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

Sue O' Rourke – Marathon Committee Vice President

I wish to nominate Sue for the significant contribution she has made over the past year to the Victorian Marathon community through her work on the Marathon Committee. Specifically, she has:

1. Developed and delivered the training program for new Marathon Officials. This work is now being adopted by other state organizations.
2. Organized the "Ready to Race" junior paddling clinics, attended by over 60 paddlers, held in Bendigo as part of the 2022 Festival of Sport.
3. Introduced new communication options for Marathon events, including event flyers (posters) and social media posts.
4. Taken a key role in the organizing committee for the 2023 PA Canoe Marathon and SUP Championships to be held in Geelong.
5. Led the development of new racing uniforms in preparation for the 2023 Championships.
6. Officiated at multiple PV Marathon events and the 2022 PA Canoe Marathon Championships in Queensland.
7. Performed her role as Vice-Chair of the PV Marathon Committee with ability.



Sue gets out and has a go. Even when her mobility was restricted earlier this year due to a broken ankle, she continued to officiate in roles where she could contribute, such as race registrations for the 2022 PA Canoe Marathon Championships at Lake Coomera on the Gold Coast, or timekeeping at the Victorian Marathon Championships.

Sue is a very capable and very worthy nominee.

Alex Brunacci – Geelong Canoe Club

Alex lives and breaths paddling and has contributed so much over many years to Geelong Canoe Club



specifically and paddling in general so this nomination is to acknowledge that contribution.

Alex has had and still holds various roles on the Geelong Canoe Club Executive Committee. He is always available to help out with whatever needs to be done at Geelong Canoe Club whether that is maintenance or helping people start or further their paddling careers.

Alex makes a difference by contributing his vast knowledge of paddling to all the roles that he is involved with. He has been and is still involved with helping organise paddling events at a local level as well as at a State level.

Alex has made an outstanding contribution within our paddling community and with other Barwon River users.

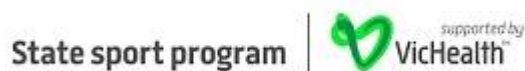
An example of how Alex has demonstrated this is by encouraging and promoting better relationships between the GCC community and other Barwon River users ie rowers and ski boats and Geelong Cross Country Club by attending and taking an active role in the Barwon River Users Group (BRUG).

BRUG reports to the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) to ensure a voice for the community groups that use the Barwon River and it's precinct. Alex is always willing to help other paddlers and due to his vast experience and personal high standard of paddling is a great resource for paddlers from total newbies through to experienced paddlers!



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 at the grassroots level, and the YMCA. Thank you for your financial support of our vision and our passion.



Financial Statements Summary

Income	2022	2021	Expenses	2022	2021
Administration	\$ 410,216.00	\$ 387,016.00	Administration	\$ 419,844.00	\$ 331,582.00
Marathon	\$ 24,939.00	\$ 22,632.00	Marathon	\$ 23,597.00	\$ 12,651.00
Polo	\$ 6,746.00	\$ 2,840.00	Polo	\$ 9,563.00	\$ 4,888.00
Slalom	\$ 25,139.00	\$ 21,816.00	Slalom	\$ 13,690.00	\$ 15,854.00
Sprint	\$ 10,589.00	\$ 15,248.00	Sprint	\$ 10,457.00	\$ 13,780.00
Wildwater	\$ 994.00	\$ 325.00	Wildwater	\$ 962.00	\$ 178.00
Total Income	\$ 478,623.00	\$ 449,877.00	Total Expenses	\$ 478,113.00	\$ 378,933.00

	2022	2021
Operating Surplus for the Year	\$ 510.00	\$ 70,944.00
Opening retained surplus	\$ 410,638.00	\$ 339,694.00
Closing retained surplus	\$ 411,148.00	\$ 410,638.00