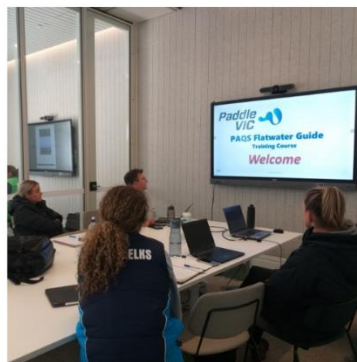


# Paddle VIC



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



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## Acknowledgments

Paddle Victoria acknowledges and thanks the following organisations for their support during 2022-2023:

### 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
- Outdoors Victoria
- Parks Victoria
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Vicsport

## Membership

2022-23		2021-22	
Seniors (Adult over 18)	1535	Seniors (Adult over 18)	1515
Life (Included in Adults)	8	Life (Included in Adults)	7
Juniors (Under 18)	397	Juniors (Under 18)	439
Direct Members – PA/PVic	42	Direct Members – PA/PVic	36
Volunteers ( Non Paddlers)	68	Volunteers ( Non Paddlers)	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>2042</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2026</b>

## 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. Without our volunteers we wouldn't have the incredible association we have today.*

*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.*

## Office Bearers

### **Board**

President, Chair and Interested Director	Victoria Langley (2022 - 2023)
Interested Director	Alex Boyd (2022-2024)
Interested Director	Jim Boyle (2022-2023)
Interested Director	Brigit Doyle (2022 – 2024)
Interested Director	Charles Power (2022-2024)
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)

## **Discipline Technical Committees**

### **Marathon 2022-23:**

Chair / Treasurer	John Young
Treasurer	Karen Merlo
Vice Chair:	Sue O'Rourke
Secretary:	Sally Miller
Grants:	Louise Greenwood
Communications:	Arabella Eyre
Sport/Junior Development:	Debbie Bennett
Race Permits and Plans	Tony Payne
Volunteers	Gary Flanigan
Governance	Michael Neilson

### **Canoe Polo 2022-23:**

Chair	James Du Bose
Events Coordinator	Jade Kerber
Junior Development Officer	Brigit Doyle
Development & Engagement Officer	Jade Kerber
Equipment Officer	Larry Robb
Equipment Officer (Shadow)	Gareth Jones
General Member	Frank Magee

***Slalom 2022-23:***

Chair	Chris Runting
Secretary	Sue Moorhen
Treasurer	Lyne Strmecki
General Committee	Laura Montalto
	Russell Bassett
	Chris Galea
	Phil Ross
	Tarryn Coward
	Max Myres

***Sprint Committee 2022-23:***

Chair:	Reka Abraham
Vice-Chair:	Noah Cameron
Secretary:	Louise Greenwood
General Committee:	Lawrie Chenoweth
	Georgina Wakim
	Anthony Illott
	Martin Buissink
	Alex Brunacci
	Belinda Hughes

***Wildwater 2022-23:***

Chair:	Damien Guthrie
Secretary:	Tony Misson
Treasurer:	Neville Humphry
General Committee:	Dita Pahl



## Vale – Bernard Boulton - Kirinari Kayak Club

1947 - 2022

Bernard Boulton has been a cornerstone of the Kirinari Kayak Club since joining as a member around 1983. In Bernard's time with the club Bernard has helped to mentor and encourage club members through his passion for both the club and sport and for countless years helped to guide the club on the committee. He held the role of Secretary for many years and only recently vacated the position for another member to take over.

In his time as Club Secretary and Membership officer he was a huge help to Roz in the Paddle Victoria office, sorting out numerous club membership queries and always being available to help members register and renew.

Bernard also worked in the community as a kayak and canoe guide running programs for Paddle Victoria after retiring from his own business.

Bernard (affectionally known as Bernie) brought his enthusiasm and passion for paddling to the role and was a great asset to the Paddle Victoria Education department.

We all loved working with Bernie. He was a gentle man who we knew we could always rely on for his skill and knowledge on the water.

One of our Instructors commented that "it had been an honor to work with him on all those river trips where I could rely on him absolutely and his generous advice and coaching when I got my open ww C1 qualification"

Many people would have fond memories of spending time on and off the river with Bernie.

Bernard was awarded Paddle Victoria Life Membership in 2019 for his ongoing contribution to paddling over many years.

We will miss his ready smile and gentle nature.



## Vale – Tom Hirrschoff - Cobram Barooga Canoe Club

1944 - 2023

Thomas "Tom" Hirrschoff (79), formally from Pierre, South Dakota, USA, died on 5th February 2023 in Box Hill, Victoria, Australia, of complications from pneumonia.

In his professional life Tom was a secondary school teacher for over 30 years in Australia, teaching mathematics, science, and psychology, and serving also as a school counsellor.

The Australian and international paddling community, however, will remember Tom for his involvement in paddling spanning 50 years. He, together with his late wife Liz, were involved in coaching, event organization and officiating in Victoria, since 1972. He was an international level technical official and officiated at multiple World Championships and World Cup competition events from 2000 through to 2017. In 2008 Tom was recognized with the Julius Patching



Official of the Year Award by Australian Canoeing (now Paddle Australia) for his contribution to running competitions. Tom also had a long involvement in supporting the administration of our sport, being an Interested Director and Chair of the Canoeing Victoria board (now Paddle Victoria) from 2005 to 2014. He supported marathon and sprint paddling, serving as a selector for state teams and organizer of major paddling events, including the Australian Masters Games.

Tom and Liz were strong supporters of junior paddling in Victoria, notably through the coaching and support of the Camberwell Grammar School kayaking team and of individual athletes. Tom and Liz welcomed many young country athletes and athletes from Sweden into their home, who stayed with them while studying, working and training in Melbourne. Tom took an active role in supporting the Coaching Evolution squad led by Cameron McMullen during the 2010's, when Victoria field strong teams of junior athletes, achieving selection to represent Australia at multiple Marathon World Championships. Many of those athletes are still paddling competitively today as young adults and as coaches of the next generation of juniors entering our sport.

Tom as an official could be intimidating for paddlers, barking instructions to achieve a straight line for a fair start. I am told on one occasion he disqualified all but one paddler from a Division 1 group for repeated false starts. On another occasion, in driving rain at Patterson Lakes he ordered junior crews to turn around to reform their line, with problems compounding as multiple boats capsized in the chop from the winter gale blowing in from Port Phillip Bay. During the heyday of the Murray Marathon Tom passionately advocated his view on the protest committee until 3:00 am in the morning, until all members realized that the first light was approaching, and they had to start the final day. He, and the late Joe Alia, another long serving official, were very good friends who would vigorously debate at events how things should be done. Tom was passionate, committed, generous with his time and experience, and a very good friend to many in the paddling community. Tom, we thank you for the support you provided to this sport, to your tireless contribution as an official and volunteer so that others could race, and to the difference you and Liz made to the lives of so many juniors within our state.

Vale, Tom Hirrschoff

John Young

On behalf of the Victorian paddling community

## Vale – Fred Jordan - Essendon Canoe Club

1936 – 2023



Fred emigrated to Australia in 1954 and shortly after arrival, joined the local canoe club which fortunately was the Essendon Canoe Club. Fred quickly became involved in all aspects of the club and was elected vice president at the 1959 AGM. Fred has the distinction of holding every office of the club and was made a life member.

It would be an understatement to describe Fred as a passionate canoeist.

With Fred's encouragement, many members of the club attempted C1, C2 and C4 paddling, these boats were inevitably launched at various social gatherings so Fred could teach all and sundry the fine art of paddling a canoe. There was only one way to paddle a racing Canadian canoe, kneeling and the J stroke was drummed into you.

Fred successfully competed for many years in sprint racing including State and National Championships.

### **Mark Heggie Executive Officer Paddle Victoria wrote.**

*My memory of Fred goes back to the 70's, Fred always greeted and encouraged us young paddlers.*

*He was a proud Canoe paddler, and he was one of the many European accents heard around sprint races in Victoria. As a young person it gave me the idea Kayak and Canoe sprinting was a truly international sport. The post war migrants like Fred taught us how lucky we were to be all together in Australia, the shared passion for paddling bought us all together.*

The legacy Fred has left the Essendon Canoe Club is all throughout the club. He was a sign writer by trade but was also a craftsman when it came to building paddles, canoes, and kayaks. Back in the day, many boats were built at ECC including the C4, the "George Varcoe" which was recently raced in Bendigo. When it was first built, it sank regularly in choppy conditions, but Fred went to work and increased the height of the foaming. As the story goes, it flew down the course at the next race with Fred at the back steering and yelling instructions to the other three paddlers all the way. There is no doubt, everyone on that course would have heard Fred's booming and distinctive voice.

Over many years, Fred completed and maintained all the signage around the club, painted internal and external walls and designed the club uniform, the club shield, and the club emblem. Fred is also mentioned in the history of the Fairfield Canoe Club as a good friend who painted some of the interior of their clubhouse.

Fred and his partner Christine were regular participants in club tours on many rivers around Victoria where they would launch their pristine blue Canadian and make paddling look so easy and effortless.

Fred will be remembered at the Essendon Canoe Club as a true gentleman, club cap on, dressed in his red and black blazer, a real traditionalist for everything that is a club. A chunk of the fabric of ECC has gone now, he's paddled off up the river, doing his J stroke to keep his canoe straight, he passed the finish line way back, he'll be sadly missed but never forgotten.

Tony Siler, Essendon Canoe Club President



## Vale – Alexander Fyfe Bill (Tubby) Smith

### Essendon Canoe Club

### 1926 – 2023

In May of this year past and present members of Essendon canoe club alongside members from several other Victorian clubs gathered to bid farewell to Bill Smith who passed away aged 96 years. Bill was a life member of Essendon Canoe club, a life member of Paddle Victoria and a recipient of the Australian sports medal in 2000. Bill joined ECC in 1970 with his son Peter and stayed on after Peter moved interstate for work. Bill quickly joined the committee of the club holding the following positions.



- o Vice President from 1970 to 1974
- o Club Commodore from 1975 to 1990
- o Club President in 1995 and 1996

There will be hundreds of paddlers who met Bill on a Saturday morning at the club where he devoted the day to introducing people to the sport and our club and in the time between introductions Bill spent his time maintaining the club's fleet and the facility.

It is not possible to reflect on Bills contribution without mentioning his wife Nora as they tirelessly worked together as a couple both for ECC and the sport in Victoria. Bill and Nora along with a small group from various clubs facilitated the running of both Marathon and Sprint racing over many seasons.

Bill was the equipment officer and so he transported the safety boats and all the gear to run the event. It was then the norm that you may find Bill on the water setting the course, starting the races, acting as a safety officer on the water and then packing up the gear. There were numerous memories shared by members from many clubs and a common one to describe Bill and Nora was "*first there and last to leave*".

At a time when the sport in Victoria and our club were not very flush with funds Bill manufactured many of the trophies presented at the time and there are several perpetual trophies still in circulation today that were the product of Bills craftsmanship. A number of paddlers present reflected that they had one of Bills trophies still taking pride of place on the mantle.

As the service ended to the sound of a piper leading Bill out of the chapel many of us shared the same memory of Bill's Scottish accent calling us up to the start line and we all realised his commitment allowed many hundreds of paddlers to enjoy the sport.

Michael & Jutta Brown, Essendon Canoe Club

## Executive Officer's Report



**Executive Officer  
Mark Heggie**

The year was not restricted by lockdowns and whilst high rainfall caused impacts in some areas increased overall flows created opportunities.

Many clubs suffered flood damage and the consequential clean up, resilience was again demonstrated by our community getting their facilities up and running.

Fortunately, unlike some previous high flow years, we did not have any serious safety incidents.

Overall, there is continued interest in events, programs, and membership with the desire to engage with local outdoor activities maintained.



### **Volunteers – the engine room of our organisation**

From the day to day running of our clubs and disciplines to hosting National / Oceana events volunteers initiate, plan, and provide the workforce.

Increased compliance at all levels with up-to-date standards creates significant workloads and responsibilities. Multiple statutory authorities and landholders are involved in all our activities.

The professionalism and diligence shown by our volunteers continues to impress us in the Paddle Vic office and we will always strive to support their efforts.

### **Paddle Australia compliance support**

Paddle Australia has continued to develop national policies and tools to support membership compliance and event accountability. These are vital initiatives to protect our participants, members, and volunteers. I thank the club and event committees for their adoption and time to learn the new procedures.

Accurate recording of who is at our events and clubs is vital for numerous reasons, including child protection, member protection and reliable information for insurance and incident reporting.

Again, we will continue to support our volunteers to achieve these high standards.

### **National Integrity Framework**

Paddle Australia committed to signing up to NIF (National Integrity Framework). This brought the states and member clubs under this program. I am pleased we have this framework to handle issues that can be difficult for small organisations. The NIF has also created an overall national approach to standards including child protection.

I am appreciative of this support from the NIF in my role as EO. I am also grateful of the engagement of Victorian clubs with the program and supporting the information sessions run by the NIF.

**PV Board**

I thank all the Board members who have served in this period, they are a vital support for myself and the staff. Board members take on considerable responsibilities and may engage with challenging issues.

The Board has actively engaged with disciplines and clubs to refine the way they can support them.



**PV Staff**

The PV staff has continued to act in all areas for the best interests of the organisation.

They continue to provide a wonderful source of knowledge that comes from their long-term association with the organisation.

I am privileged to work with such a supportive and flexible team. I know the staff are pleased and proud to support the efforts of our volunteer workforce.

**Future Challenges and Opportunities**

Paddle Victoria will explore different sources of income from our traditional membership and grants. Advocating for access to waterways and lands is vital to ensure low impact paddling activity can continue and access new waterways.

I feel the biggest challenge we have is engaging or connecting with the vast amount of non-member paddlers and ensuring our organisation remains relevant to our current diverse members.

I look forward to engaging with the states and PA to work through these challenges.

*Best in paddling*  
*Mark Heggie*  
*Executive Officer*



## Finance Report



**Finance Officer  
Sandra Reaburn**

For the Financial year 2022-2023, the combined Paddle Victoria association posted an operating loss of \$4,603. This would have been substantially more if it wasn't for Marathon and Polo who both ran exceptional events throughout the year. Unfortunately, Admin posted one of the largest losses we've ever had. There are two main reasons for the loss. The first is the lack of grants available along with our income being substantially down from previous years. Grants are becoming more difficult to acquire, and historically we have relied heavily on receiving grants to supplement our income. The second reason is that the office staff transitioned from Casual to Permanent Part Time back in July 2021. The increase in expenses of paying the staff their entitlements is affecting the bottom line. This was masked by the government covid money we received over the last couple of years, and we didn't realize the full effect it was having on the budget.

The office would like to acknowledge and thank the Victorian State Government through Sport and Recreation for their continued financial support and Play It Safe by the Water for their Water Safety Grant.

Our combined retained surplus for the Association is \$406,545.00

I would like to thank all the discipline chairs, treasurers, and their committees for all their work throughout the year. They put in a mammoth effort to keep their disciplines running efficiently. They organize countless events that I'm sure Paddle Victoria members appreciate.

### **Administration**

The Paddle Victoria office posted a loss of \$35,777. As I mentioned above, the staff moving from Casual to Part time has increased the payroll expenses. We now need to allow for holidays, carers' leave and public holidays, which are something we have never had to budget for in the past. We have increased the accruals in the accounts to cover the expenses. Another higher than normal expense was with the disciplines. The office spent \$13,486.00 on discipline support which was an increase from the previous year of 96%. Our membership income was slightly down from last year and our State Grant income was substantially down. Our expenses were down for 22/23, however the income was significantly down from previous years. Moving forward, the Office and the Board will work together to make sure this large loss doesn't happen again, and we will start to look for alternative income streams.

The Education Department had an enormous turnover of \$165,609.00, which was even larger than the previous year. Education turned last year's loss into a profit this year of \$7,836.54. Roz Manester and her Education team ran endless programs ranging from training professional teachers to school children and public programs. With over 100 programs completed in a 9-month period, it's a huge accomplishment for such a small group of people.

The Office retained surplus is \$162,589.00.





### **Marathon**

This year Marathon made a profit of \$27,886.92. Marathon ran the Oceania & Paddle Australia Canoe Marathon & SUP Championships in Geelong which was greatly supported by the participants and by receiving 3 grants for the event. The City of Geelong was very generous with a \$5000.00 grant and the Victorian Government with their two grants totaling \$5468.00. The Oceania event was a huge event to host. John Young and the Marathon team did an incredible and professional job and went above and beyond everyone's expectations.

Other events that were extremely successful throughout the year were the Bendigo Friendly, Short course in Bendigo, Tay Creggan race, Essendon City singles race, Victorian Championships and Victorian Schools. Once again Marathon was able to support their athletes by helping them with their travel expenses for the Worlds.

Currently the retained surplus for Marathon is \$104,808.82

### **Polo**

Polo has posted a profit of \$10,575.62. The committee ran a very successful National event in Ballarat in April. They had a terrific number of people who attended this event, and they were supported by the Victorian Government who gave Polo a \$5000 grant towards running the Nationals. Polo's other main events for the financial year were Brunswick Competition, Interclubs Series and the Nagambie Competition held in February. All these events helped Polo with this year's profit.

Polo's retained surplus is now \$79,914.47.

### **Slalom**

This year Slalom had a loss of \$5,910.16. Unfortunately, they had to cancel the Victorian Schools event due to the floods. Slalom put a lot of money and resources into the repairs to the Slalom Course and general maintenance to equipment which in total came to \$3,782.84. Melbourne Canoe Club and Paddle Vic both contributed towards the Slalom course repairs.

Slalom, however, did run a few very profitable events which included the Victorian Championships and the Yarra Series Races. Currently Slalom's overall surplus is \$42,345.08.

### **Sprint**

Sprint has posted a loss of \$832.80. Sprint held two events this financial year. The first being the Victorian Championship at Nagambie in January and the second partnered with Marathon the Victorian School Champs in March. Both events were very profitable.

They received two grants this year. One from Paddle Australia for Athletes Development and the other from the Victoria Government for an Athletes Travel grant.

Sprint currently has a surplus of \$10,565.48.

### **Wildwater**

Wildwater posted a loss of \$544.43. Wildwater only ran one event this financial year and that was the Victorian Wildwater Championships in September which made a small profit. Even though a discipline doesn't run any events it still has operational cost to cover. This is why Wildwater has posted a loss for this financial year.

Currently Wildwater has a surplus of \$6,323.15.

Sandra Reaburn  
Finance Officer



## Membership Report



## Membership Report

Roz Manester

Geelong Canoe Club Members out for a paddle

The 2022-23 year was a year where we saw members returning to clubs in good numbers after a few unsettled years during and after COVID.

We were all very busy helping members out to ensure that their memberships were up to date so that they could be ready to compete in the two National Championships that we ran in Victoria in April. Both Marathon and Canoe Polo ran two very successful championships over Easter.

Our Volunteer base is really growing and we encourage clubs to ensure that their Volunteers register for a free Volunteer membership to ensure that the Club and the Disciplines have a record of who is available to help out at Club and Discipline Events.

Paddle Australia are putting a greater emphasis on ensuring that Clubs are abiding by the Affiliation Policy, by having a solid committee structure and a growing number of members.

Unfortunately one of our clubs - The Break Inc, had to disaffiliate this year, as they were battling to grow their club numbers and their core business was not related to the traditional club structure. We also lost RMIT (ROC) due to low numbers. Yarra Valley Kayaking and Eltham Canoe Club have not disaffiliated as such but are on hold until we can work with them to grow their Club structure and attract more members.

The great news is that we welcome a new club, River Rats Paddling Club to our group of 30 Affiliated Clubs. The River Rats Paddling Club has been born out of a group of 20 paddlers who initially started training for the Perth Doctor Ski race and Molokai Challenge in Hawaii. The group trains every Tuesday and Thursday morning throughout the year. They paddle on the Yarra River in the vicinity of Herring Island and paddle on Port Philip Bay or in the ocean in Victoria.

If you see them on the river, make sure you give them a wave and make them feel welcome!

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. This page is open to all Paddle Victoria Club Committee Members and Members:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PVClubForum>

Again, the commitment and support of all the Club Volunteers doesn't go unnoticed in the office. Thank you to all the Club Committee members that do a great job of running your clubs and making my job in the office so much easier!

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!

Roz





## Education

### Education Report Roz Manester



It was another bumper year for the Education department. We had a turnover of \$165,000.00 which is an incredible achievement for such a small team of dedicated Coaches, Guides and Instructors.

We had 1866 people participating in our 65 programs as we reach out to the broader community to introduce them to paddling and spread the water safety message far and wide.

Our Coaches, guides and instructors work very hard travelling all around Melbourne Metro and Regional areas to deliver good quality programs with our fleet of canoes, kayaks and sit on top craft.

Most of our school groups return year after year to get their students out on the water to enjoy this great activity. Already in 2023/24 we have another 5 new schools on our books.

We ran 14 PAQs (Paddle Australia Qualification Scheme) training and assessment programs for Paddling Supervisor and Flatwater Guide for teachers and camp staff all around Victoria from Warrnambool, to Ballarat and down to the Mornington Peninsula. The demand for this qualification is increasing as more and more schools, camps and outdoor industries recognize these qualifications.



Paddle Victoria is always hiring, so if you have a Paddle Australia qualification, and are enthusiastic, have a love of the outdoors and paddling and are looking for casual work, to supplement your income or you would like to be out on the water sharing your passion for paddling with the next generation, then we are keen to chat to you! Don't hesitate to get in touch!



We have been fortunate enough to be part of a grant awarded to the Yarra Ranges Council. The State Government grant was used to develop the facilities at Lilydale Lake by increasing the club rooms and storage area for the Sailing Club, Sailability, the Model Yacht club and Paddle Victoria. We have gained an additional storage shed and some space inside the bigger shed to store a trailer. This will be an enormous help for when we run our big school and community programs. We will now have the ability to store more and varied types of boats as well as a small trailer to tow the boats down to the water.

We couldn't have done it without the incredible efforts of John Shields who has designed the sheds, erected the racking and manufactured a trailer for exactly what we need.

Thank you to the Yarra Ranges Council and the State Government for this grant!



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**



## Discipline Reports

### Canoe Polo



### James DuBose – Canoe Polo Chair

#### Winter season

The Winter season of FY 22-23 commenced with a robust start as our winter competition regained its momentum. During this period, teams engaged in a captivating three-month competition held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Brunswick baths.

On Tuesday nights, the Div 1 victory was secured by the Mooners, who maintained an unblemished record throughout the campaign. The Chiefs secured the second position, while Fairfield Youth managed to surpass their parents (Fairfield White) in the final match of the season, clinching third place by a mere 1 point.

Moving on to Wednesday nights, an exciting novice season was succeeded by a 6-week social/intermediate competition. This phase witnessed the participation of 3 new teams alongside one pre-existing team, all battling fiercely. Ultimately, experience prevailed as the MUMC Waterstriders secured the first place, closely followed by Marco Polos and Wet Exits. The Upside Downs concluded the ladder standings.

Special recognition is due to Oliver Vogel-Reed (MUMC) for achieving the title of the most improved player, and congratulations are in order for Natalie Uhlikova (MUMC) for her outstanding performance, leading her to win the coveted Best and Fairest award of the season.

James Du Bose and Natalie Uhlikova



James Du Bose and Olver Vogel-Reed







Concluding the winter pool season, the VYPA club organized an LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Come and Try session at the Brunswick Baths. This event was held in collaboration with Paddle Australia as a part of the larger Paddle with Pride initiative taking place nationwide in October. The VYPA club expressed immense pride in this event, and it was truly heartening to witness an all-inclusive gathering being held within our local community.

## Summer

Throughout this year, the summer season competition was in full gear, featuring four vibrant domestic interclub tournaments, an interstate event in Nagambie, and reaching its pinnacle at the National Championships hosted by Ballarat.

### Nagambie Cup

Although the Nagambie cup experienced a relatively smaller turnout this year due to its exclusion from the official interstate summer series circuit, it didn't dampen the success of the competition. Notably, participants from Canberra made their way to join the event, contributing to an enjoyable and fiercely competitive weekend. The results are outlined below:

<p><b><u>Division 1</u></b>                  1st Place - Fairfield White                  2nd Place - ACT Open                  3rd Place - VYPA Rainbows</p>	<p><b><u>Division 2</u></b>                  1st Place - Burley Babes (ACT)                  2nd Place - Fairfield Youth                  3rd Place - Fairfield Blue                  4th Place - VYPA Blue                  5th Place - VYPA Orange</p>
---	--

## National Championships – Ballarat (April 7th-9th, 2023)

The year proved to be highly triumphant for Victorian Canoe polo, marked by our role as hosts for the 2023 Canoe Polo National Championships in Ballarat. Drawing more than 100 athletes from Queensland, NSW, ACT, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, the event featured competitive action across 4 distinct divisions. Despite contending with Victoria's coldest Easter weather in 80 years, the spirit of the competition remained undiminished.



The competition outcomes are detailed below:

Category	Open	Womens	U21	Masters(45+)
1st	ACT A	ACT A	QLD	TAS
2nd	SA	SA	TAS	SA
3rd	VIC	QLD	VIC	VIC
4th	QLD	VIC	SA	
5th	ACT B	ACT B		
6th	NSW A			
7th	NSW B			

Huge gratitude must be given to Ballarat Canoe Club for running catering during the event, the City of Ballarat and Paddle Australia for their invaluable support, and the Victorian State government for their additional backing provided to make this event possible.



**Canoe Polo Committee:**

- James DuBose - Chair
- Jade Kerber - Events Coordinator
- Brigit Doyle - Junior Development Officer
- Frank Magee and Gareth Jones - Equipment Officers
- Larry Robb - General Member



## Marathon Report



### Marathon Chair – John Young



Photo: INCC 'Team Pursuit' Competitor Briefing July 2023 - Michael Neilson (Chief Official) and Arabella Eyre (Safety Officer) (Photo Sally Miller)

Photo: 2023 Victorian Marathon Championships, Geelong - Men's Open K2 - Isaac Johnson & Hamish Young (Photo Frank O'Rourke)

### PV Marathon highlights for FY23

Just as Marathon paddling gained momentum following the disruption from COVID our training and race program was largely brought to a halt with floods affecting our rivers and race courses in the latter half of 2022. Many clubhouses were flooded and training programs, especially the schools' programs, were brought to a standstill. Fortunately, from early 2023 the scheduled racing program was able to resume starting with the Frank Harrison & Interstate Marathon Cup in Albury in January. Victoria was victorious winning the Interstate Cup with the canoeist being the heroes of the day. The highlights of the year have been the well-attended Victorian Schools Championships in March in Bendigo, the vibrant Victorian Championships the following weekend in Geelong and culminating in the very successful Oceania and Paddle Australia Canoe & SUP Championships in April.

**Junior paddling:** In early 2021 we initiated the "Victorian Paddle Sports" program to encourage participation by young paddlers from school and club paddling groups. This has continued to gain traction with Carey Grammar commencing a paddling program for their students and the Murray Paddlers, INCC, Strathcona, Trinity, MLC and the Bendigo Clubs continued to be active in Junior paddling. Participation from Camberwell Grammar and Yarra Valley Grammar has not fully recovered from Covid and flood disruptions and we look forward to their reengagement in FY24

A successful combined Victorian Schools Marathon and Sprint Championships was held on Lake Weeroona in March with 147 paddlers, PV Marathon participated in the Bendigo Sporting Festival on the weekend of 2-3 July 2022, with 50 junior paddlers attending specialised flatwater "ready to race" clinics. The next series of clinics are scheduled for 23 September in conjunction with the Bendigo Cup weekend, focusing on portage & wash riding techniques.

**Australian Championships:** The 2023 Oceania and Paddle Australia Canoe Marathon & SUP Championship (OPACMSC) was held on the Barwon River at Geelong Canoe Club





from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> April. This was the culmination of several years of effort by the PV Marathon committee following the cancellation due to COVID restrictions of the 2020 and 2021 championships, to be hosted by Victoria, just before the events. The OPACMSC was well received by the paddlers, officials, and volunteers, with 306 paddlers participating in 811 events over three and a half days of competition. Paddlers ranged in age from 8 to 78, competing in canoe, kayak and, for the first time, SUP events in singles, doubles, K4/C4 and relay events. Thirty paddlers participated in the SUP events, seven paddlers participated from New Zealand and one from New Caledonia. A full report of the 2023 OPACMSC was provided to PV and PA in May.

Victoria has a strong contingent of eleven Open, U23 and Junior paddlers selected for the 19 person Australian team competing at the 2023 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships in Vejen, Denmark from 31 Aug – 3 Sept 2023. They are Reka Abraham, David Cole, Kate Leverett, Rebecca Mann, Joaquin Cuevas Perea, Hannah Scott, Brianna Jones, Aidan Han, Emma Murray, Isabella Parish, and Lachlan Dal Sasso. Five Victorians Master's paddlers have been selected in the 19 person Australian team to compete at the 2023 Masters Canoe Marathon World Championships at Vejen on 28-29 August. They are Dominic Scarfe, John Young, Lisa Newton, Michael Wilson, and Tony Bond.

**2023 program:** The event program for calendar 2023 is largely unchanged from the 2022 program other than a return to the Yarra and the Teams Pursuit format for the INCC event and scheduling of a Victorian paddlers Awards Night over the weekend of the Ben Ward event this December.

**Financial performance:** The Marathon discipline made a healthy operating surplus of \$27,886.92 (c.f. FY22 \$1,341), due to good cost control, strong race participation at the Victorian Championships, School Championships and OPACMSC along with grant assistance. Net assets are \$104,808.82, increased significantly from last year (FY22 \$76,922), with cash of \$100,241 (FY22 \$68,627). 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 FY23 Marathon race program and race participation

Date	Race	Location	Format	Distance	Host Club	Attendance	FY22
2-Jul-22	Vic Short Course Championships - Day 1	Lake Weeroona, Bendigo	Circuit, portage/singles	3*1.1	PVM/Bendigo	75	55
3-Jul-22	Vic Short Course Championships - Day 2	Lake Weeroona, Bendigo	Circuit, doubles/relay	2*1.1	PVM/Bendigo	50	
31-Jul-22	Footscray Salty Single Blader	Footscray	Circuit, singles/doubles/mixed	6	Footscray	29	26
17-Jul-22	INCC <b>Cancelled</b> - Dangerous weather conditions	Nagambie	Circuit, teams relay		PVM/INCC	----	----
13-Aug-22	City Twilight Race	Essendon	Circuit, doubles	4.5 - 25	PVM/Essendon	69	----
15-Oct-22	Echuca-Mtini <b>Cancelled</b> - Floods	Barmah - Echuca	Point-to-point, full dist/relay	50, 20	PVM/EMCC	----	----
23-Oct-22	Bendigo Cup - Marathon	Crusoe Reservoir, Kangaroo Flat	Circuit, singles/doubles/mixed	6-12	PVM/Bendigo	65	37
13-Nov-22	Salty TK & Rec Challenge	Footscray	Circuit, single/doubles/mixed	3*6	Footscray	34	26
19-Nov-22	Bendigo Friendly Sprints/ Short Course	Crusoe Reservoir, Kangaroo Flat	Circuit, singles/doubles/mixed/sprint	400m, 200m, 3*5	PVM/Bendigo	125	37
11-Dec-22	Ben Ward Metro	Footscray - flooding Murray	Circuit, singles, doubles, relay	3-24	CBCC	76	79
21-Jan-23	Frank Harrison including Interstate Challenge	Albury	Point-to-point, singles	16, 26	MMCC	60	89
22-Jan-23	Frank Harrison including Interstate Challenge	Albury	Point-to-point, doubles	16, 26	MMCC	42	65
5-Feb-23	Saltwater Classic, Footscray	Footscray	Circuit	3,24	Footscray	81	70
26-Feb-23	Murray River Classic	Yarrawonga	Circuit, portage		YMCC	34	44
5-Mar-23	VIC School Marathon & Sprint Championships	Bendigo	Short course circuit/portage	2.2, 3.3, 200m	PVM	147	180
11-Mar-23	VIC Canoe Marathon Championships - Day 1	Geelong	Circuit, portage/singles	12-27	PVM/Geelong	104	93
12-Mar-23	VIC Canoe Marathon Championships - Day 2	Geelong	Circuit, portage/doubles	12-27	PVM/Geelong	78	110
6-10 Apr	OPACMSC - Day 1	Geelong	Short singles, circuit, portage	3*3	PAM/PVM	96	26
6-10 Apr	OPACMSC - Day 2	Geelong	Singles, circuit, portage	7-30	PAM/PVM	137	28
6-10 Apr	OPACMSC - Day 3	Geelong	Doubles, circuit, portage	7-30	PAM/PVM	118	27
6-10 Apr	OPACMSC - Day 4	Geelong	SUP, mixed relay, K4	7-30	PAM/PVM	71	----
7-May-23	Yarra Doubles	Tay Creggan, Hawthorn	Circuit, doubles	3,22	PVM, Fairfield	127	136
18-Jun-23	City Singles	Essendon		4.5 - 25	PVM/Essendon	107	69
<b>Total</b>		Number of races scheduled = 24	Number of races held = 21		Average =>	82	67
	Club organised races					51	60
	PVM/club hosted races					91	48
	Championship events					103	77

Notes:

- 1) OPACMSC Australian Marathon Championships attendance comprises Victorian paddlers only.
- 2) Victorian SUP paddlers included.

## Officials training

The PVMTC updated the templates used by race officials and developed a prototype online learning module for the Turn Buoy Official on EdApp. Several Victorian Officials completed the requirements and became qualified as "National Marathon Officials", which was then put into practice at the 2023 OPACMSC in Geelong.



**Safety and focus for 2024:** Safety performance remained high, with no significant medical treatment or loss time injuries. In 2024 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 and the 2023 OPACMSC Organizing Committee for their commitment and the significant time contributed to organizing and running our events, training our volunteers and supporting our paddlers. 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 2024.

John Young  
Chair, Marathon Committee





PV Marathon Committee

Chair:	John Young
Vice Chair:	Sue O'Rourke
Secretary:	Sally Miller
Treasurer:	Karen Merlo (retired Sep 2022)
Communications:	Arabella Eyre
Sport/Junior Development:	Debbie Bennett
Race Permits & Plans:	Tony Payne
Volunteer Coordination:	Gary Flanigan
Grants/Sponsorship	Louise Greenwood
Governance	Michael Neilson

2023 PA Canoe Marathon and SUP Championships Organizing Committee

PV Marathon committee, plus

Peter Currie	Permits and safety
Alex Brunacci	Site management and equipment
Darren Pratt	SUP Technical lead



Photo: 2023 PA Canoe Marathon and SUP Championships Organizing Committee  
Back L->R Tony Payne, Peter Currie, Alex Brunacci, Sally Miller, Louise Greenwood, Sue O'Rourke, Gary Flanigan  
Front L->R Darren Spratt, Michael Neilson, Debbie Bennett, Arabella Eyre, John Young

2023 Australian Champions and placegetters from Victoria (Australian team selection events)

Event	First	Second	Third
<b>C1 W short</b>	Reka Abraham	Emily Harrison	
<b>K1 W short</b>	Rebecca Mann		Kate Leverett
<b>C1 M short</b>			
<b>K1 M short</b>			Casey Haynes
<b>C1 W Open</b>	Reka Abraham		
<b>C1 W U18</b>			
<b>C1 M Open</b>		James Miller	
<b>C1 M U18</b>			
<b>K1 W U18</b>		Emma Murray	
<b>K1 W U23</b>	Hannah Scott	Brianna Jones	Rachel De Kretser
<b>K1 W Open</b>	Rebecca Mann		Kate Leverett
<b>K1 M U18</b>		Aidan Han	
<b>K1 M U23</b>			
<b>K1 M Open</b>			Casey Haynes
<b>K2 W U18</b>	Emma Murray / Isabella Parish		
<b>K2 W Open</b>	Rebecca Mann / Hannah Scott	Rachel De Kretser / Matilda Stevenson (NSW-ACT)	Alana Johnson / Emma Kemp (NZ)
<b>K2 M U18</b>		Aidan Han / Lachlan Dal Sasso	
<b>K2 M Open</b>	Casey Haynes / Josh Kippin (WA)	Joaquin Cuevas / David Cole	

## Slalom Report



### Slalom Chair Chris Runting

A highlight of the year, for the second year running, has been the number of Victorian paddlers selected to the Junior, U23 and Senior Australian teams.

In 2022-23 most scheduled races were run, although the flooding in the last half of 2022 did affect some events. Participation in the sport remains below historic levels.

The Victorian Slalom Technical Committee (VSTC) has welcomed three new members. Max Myres and Tarryn Coward, who are both experienced and active slalom paddlers. Phil Ross also joined the team, following his time as IGS parents coordinator. Phil has also taken on the challenging role of Victorian Team Manager at national events over the past few years. Two long serving members, Lyne Strmecki and Sue Moorhen have stepped down this year. Their significant contribution to slalom activities over many years is acknowledged and appreciated.

### Yarra Series Races

All the Yarra Series Races scheduled for the 2022/23 year were able to be run and have been well attended.

Beginner's races with a modified course were held in conjunction with the races where appropriate, 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.



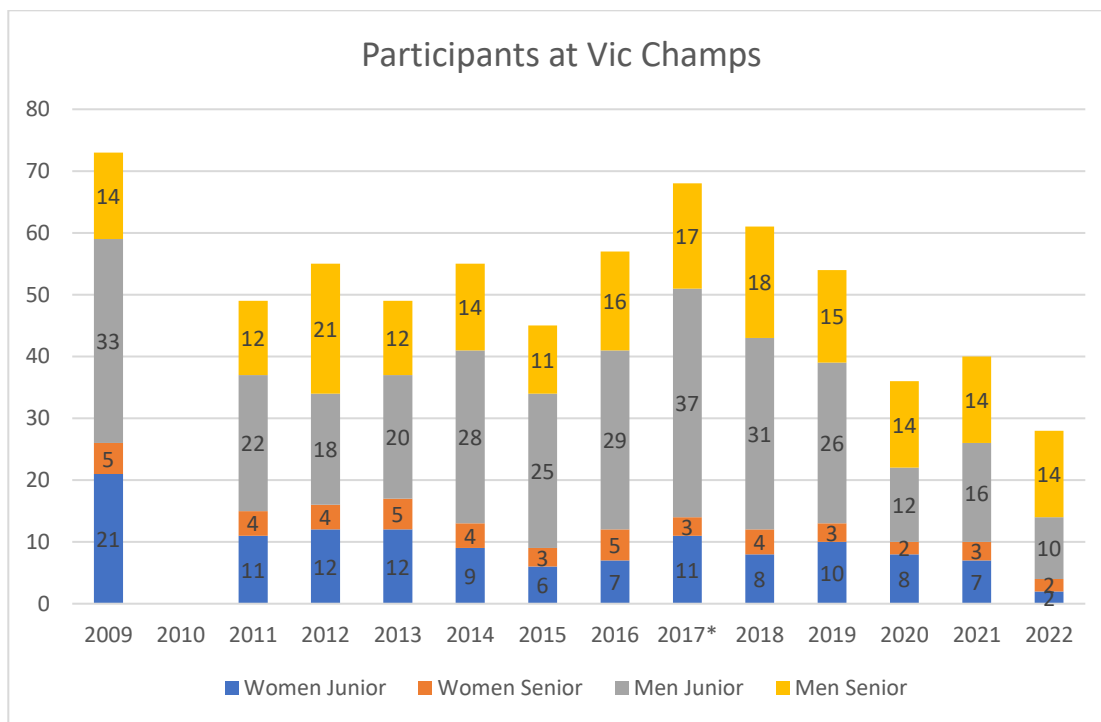
### Country Series Races

The Country Series Race at the King River in August 2022 was run as a training event with unlimited timed runs. There were not enough participants to warrant a fully set up race.

The Goulburn River Race in November 2022 was relocated to the Yarra River at Fitzsimmons Lane Bridge as Goulburn was in major flood.

### Victorian Championships

The Victorian Slalom Championships were held at Dights Falls on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. They were relocated from the Goulburn River as it was flooded. There were 28 competitors, 24 male and 4 females. The Yarra was at a very high flow which made for a great event on quality whitewater but did have an impact on the number of entries. 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  
 2022 at Dights Falls at Very High Flow Level

**Victorian Schools Championships 2022**

This event could not be run in 2022 due to flooding. The event was scheduled twice and washed out both times. Events in 2020 and 2021 were both cancelled due to Covid. We are hopeful the event will be back in 2023 after missing the previous 3 years.

**Victorians Selected for the World Championships 2023**

Tristan Carter (C1)

Also on the team were Kaylen 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.

**Victorians Selected to the World Cup Squad 2023**

Tristan Carter (C1)

Georgie O’Callaghan (C1)

Sebastian Montalto (K1)

Mark Crosbee (C1)





### **Victorians Selected to the 2023 Junior and U23 Australian Team**

The following Victorian athletes were selected to the U23 and Junior Team for 2023. The U23 and Junior World Championships will be held Krakow, Poland 15 – 20 August 2023.

#### **U23 Team:**

Abby Collins (K1)  
Mark Crosbee (C1)  
Sebastian Montalto (K1)  
Ben Ross (C1)  
Josh Montalto (K1)  
Georgie O’Callaghan (C1 & K1)

#### **Junior Team:**

Alicia Berryman (K1)  
Sarah Crosbee (K1 & C1)  
Riley Galea (K1)  
James Stamp (K1)  
Archie Nelson (C1)



James Stamp – Photo

The Australian team for these events comprised 18 athletes, 11 from Victoria, 3 from NSW, 3 from Tasmania and 1 from WA. Victorians made up 60% of the team. This is a reflection of the contribution made by so many people and organizations in Victoria over many years at all levels of the sport. They 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.

### **2022 Canoe Slalom National Development Squad (NDS)**

The National Development Squad is open to athletes between the ages of 14-21 and is run by Paddle Australia. The NDS athletes get the opportunity to take part in training camps around Australia with national coaches.

The Victorians selected to the squad of 11 athletes in early 2023 are:

Ali Berryman  
Sarah Crosbee  
Riley Galea  
Charlie Shamieh

## **Paddle Australia**

1. Rachel Crosbee from Victoria remains on the PA Slalom Technical.
2. 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 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. In January 2023 the VSTC appointed Rachel Crosbee to the position of “Pathways Co-ordinator” in Victoria to assist in the running of these programs for Victorian paddlers.
3. The “All States” training camps program continues to be supported by Paddle Australia. This program creates opportunities for all paddlers from around Australia, irrespective of age and ability, to be able to paddle at quality whitewater locations 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.

## **What’s Ahead?**



The VSTC are hosting the 2024 Paddle Australia Canoe Slalom Age Championships on behalf of Paddle Australia at the Goulburn River, Eildon on Friday 5th to Sunday 7th January 2024. The event is being held as part of the 2024 Paddle Australia Whitewater Age Championships which also includes Freestyle and Wildwater 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 contributions, particularly the committee members who are stepping down after so many years of hard work.

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 of paddlers at events is what it is all about and their support is greatly appreciated. Paddle Victoria at all levels has continued to provide great support and help.

## Sprint



### Sprint Chair – Reka Abraham

**Introduction:** The 2022/2023 season for Paddle Victoria Sprint was marked by incredible achievements, challenges overcome, and remarkable growth. Despite facing adversities such as flooding and logistical constraints, the unwavering dedication of our athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers shone through, resulting in a season full of accomplishments and positive developments.

#### Highlights:

- 1. Bendigo Friendly Sprint Amidst Flooding:** In November, the Paddle Victoria Sprint community showcased its resilience by successfully organizing the Bendigo Friendly Sprint despite the challenges posed by flooding. The event was made possible by the collaborative efforts and support from the Bendigo Canoe Club. This feat underscored our paddling community's strong sense of unity and determination.
- 2. State Sprint Championships:** Our annual State Sprint Championships, held in January, was a testament to the commitment and skill of our athletes. The event provided a platform for paddlers to showcase their talents and compete at the highest level, further elevating the prestige of sprint canoeing within Victoria.
- 3. Athlete Travel Grant:** We are proud to report that we secured an athlete travel grant, enabling our Sprint team to participate in the National Championships held in Perth.
- 4. Junior Success at National Championships:** The season's pinnacle was the Sprint National Championships, where our athletes showcased their hard work, dedication, and talent. Notably, our juniors achieved remarkable success, underscoring the effectiveness of our development programs and coaching. The medals and awards earned during this event were a true reflection of our athletes' relentless pursuit of excellence, which shows the promising future of sprint canoeing in Victoria.
- 5. Expansion of Sprint Officials Panel:** Paddle Victoria Sprint played a pivotal role in expanding the expertise of the sport by welcoming two new National Level sprint officials to the judges' panel - Louise Greenwood and Reka Abraham. Their involvement reinforces the growth of our sport and ensures the highest officiating standards.



6. **International Representation - 2023 Asia Pacific Cup:** Charlie Cornwell, a member of our development team, was selected to represent Australia at the 2023 Asia Pacific Cup held in New Zealand. This recognition reflects Charlie's exceptional talent and dedication, positioning him as an ambassador for Victoria and Australian sprint canoeing on the international stage.
7. **2023 Asia Pacific Cup Triumph:** The Australian Canoe Sprint Team demonstrated their prowess at the 2023 Asia Pacific Cup in New Zealand, securing a remarkable 19 gold medals, 15 silver medals, and 6 bronze medals. This impressive performance allowed Australia to retain the overall Asia Pacific title and cup, solidifying the nation's standing against formidable opponents from New Zealand, Singapore, and Japan. Athletes across U16, U18, and U21 divisions showcased their skills, emphasizing the importance of this event in nurturing emerging talent.
8. **Charlie Cornwell's accomplishments at the Asia Pacific Cup** included a 7th place finish in U16 K2 200m, a 4th place finish in U16 K2 500m, and a 3rd place finish in U16 Mixed K4 200m. These achievements underscore our young athletes' dedication, preparation, and skill.



*Future Initiatives:*

1. **Inter-State Collaboration:** The Paddle Victoria Sprint Committee aims to strengthen relationships with other State Sprint programs. Collaborative efforts are essential for enhancing the overall quality of sprint programs across the country.
2. **Hosting National Events:** The Committee is actively working towards bringing a Grand Prix event or a national-level competition back to Victoria. Hosting such events can significantly contribute to the region's growth and visibility of sprint canoeing.
3. **Synchronized Calendar:** Developing a Sprint calendar that aligns with the national event calendar and other related disciplines will ensure a cohesive approach to competitions and training.
4. **Athlete Support:** Paddle Victoria remains committed to supporting Victorian athletes pursuing excellence in sprint canoeing. Their success is integral to the growth and development of the sport.
5. **Sprint State Training Hub:** The Committee has set its sights on establishing a Victorian Sprint State training hub. This hub will serve as a focal point for athlete development, training, and coaching.





*Financial Overview:*

The financial performance of the Sprint division for the 2022/2023 financial year has been reviewed. A loss of \$832.00 has been recorded, with the primary expenses on medals expenditure of \$2,718.10. It has been noted that the significant medal expenses may require further review and potential reclassification for the next financial year. Considering rising costs, it is recommended that consideration be given to adjusting entry fees to ensure the sustainability of our operations.

*Conclusion*

The 2022/2023 season for Paddle Victoria Sprint was characterized by determination, achievement, and unity. We overcame challenges, celebrated triumphs, and witnessed remarkable growth within our sport. The dedication of our athletes, coaches, officials, and supporters remains at the heart of our success. As we reflect on the past season, we eagerly anticipate the continued success and development of Paddle Victoria Sprint in the years to come.

Thank you to our esteemed committee members and the entire Paddle Victoria community for your relentless dedication and contributions to the sport.

**2022/2023 Paddle Victoria Sprint Committee**

- Chairperson - Reka Abraham
- Vice Chair - Noah Cameron
- Secretary - Louise Greenwood
- General Committee:
  - Lawrie Chenoweth
- Belinda Hughes
- Georgina Wakim
- Martin Buissink

*On behalf of the Committee,*  
Reka Abraham  
Chairperson  
Paddle Victoria



## Wildwater



### Wildwater Chair – Damien Guthrie

#### WWTC Events:

The Wildwater committee ran one race event over the 22-23 financial year. This was the Victorian Wildwater Championships on 25<sup>th</sup> September on the Yarra River, Homestead to Wittons. Fortunately, there was plenty of water to run a very successful event with a good turnout of participants who thoroughly enjoy the event.

Very competitive racing resulted with the U23 men James Humphry fastest in both Classic and Sprint, very closely followed by Thomas Elms and close times from all other paddlers.

In December 2022, committee member Warren Elms led a WW skills clinic at Eildon with a large number of junior paddlers attending in addition to returning senior paddlers and others from other disciplines. This proved to be an important clinic with some paddlers going on to compete at Nationals at Penrith.

#### Club Events

Throughout the year the Wildwater community ran several other events through the clubs with the support of the Wildwater committee. Some of the events were the Wildwater Yarra Series at Fitzsimmons Lane, Eildon Festival of Paddling, and the Downriver Goulburn Classic.

The Goulburn Classic Downriver event lived up to its reputation delivering a beautiful day and superb river conditions. A small number of paddlers enjoyed the event with some staying on to paddle the next leg to Seymour. This is a lovely stretch of the Goulburn River. The first 10km leg is suitable for all craft; Canoes, Kayaks Tk1/2, skis, MULTISPORT marathon K1/K2, Wildwater and recreational boats. It's an event that everyone can enjoy!

#### Eildon Festival of Paddling

This was a major event held by River Racing Australia for 4 days at Blue Gums Park Eildon and is open for all to attend. This primarily involved Avoca Kayak Club, Bendigo Canoe Club, Canoes Plus Racing Team, Cobram Barooga Club and River Racing Australia and included Jack and Peter Newland from Freestyle. The first 3 days – Wednesday to Friday consisted of teaching varying skills – how to read water, maneuver on moving water, boat skills in the rapid and freestyle technique. This applied to creek boats, Wildwater, and freestyle and involved very young juniors up to several quite elderly paddlers. Between these clubs we have several paddlers who have represented Australia at Worlds who then provided instruction, teaching, and coaching across these skills.



There was a good number of about 40 paddlers, which was up from last year, plus parents and supporters who attended. The crowd was great as many in this community know each other as there are varying events during the year where they and many others participate. Several newcomers participated and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. For one chap, Mike, it was first time back in a boat and he went on to participate at Penrith in the Masters.

On the Saturday, there was Wildwater sprint racing and Sunday classic racing – both in your boat of choice – with timing by two stop watches to ensure correctness then transferred to a computer and then the results announced. No medals were awarded as this was just for fun and the experience of how an ICF Wildwater event runs.

This is a great opportunity to introduce new parents and supports race organising, running, and timing. Some of these parents then assisted with manual back up timing at the Penrith event.

It was a diverse group of paddlers from creekers to marathon and multisport, and a good range of events, sprints, classic, freestyle, fun events, marathon, and the Bridge to Bridge.

The Victoria paddlers did exceptionally well in their respective classes

#### **Classic Race**

U23 James Humphry first with a time of 11:44:16 / U23 Tom Ladson third with a time of 12:31:29

U18 Sophie Hughes third with a time of 14:11:66

Open Dita Pahl second with a time of 13:50:28

Masters, Warren Elms honours with a time of 12:53:47 / Eugene Stackpole time 13:01:76

#### **Sprint Race**

U23 James Humphry first with a time of 51.3 / U23 Tom Ladson second with a time of 51.9

Open Dita Pahl first with a time of 1:00.5

Masters, Warren Elms first with a time of 58.2 / Simon Watson second with a time of 59.5





These larger events cannot run without the support of the many volunteers that make it happen. The following people were a great asset to the event.

Peter McIntyre, Tony Misson, James Humphry, Greg Cowling, John Young, Carole Luntungan, Daniel Blake, Neville Humphry, Justin Hughes, Warren Elms, Dita Pahl, Roy Farrance, Garry Brannan, Graeme Smith, and Jack and Peter Newland.

**Current Committee:**

There are only 4 volunteers on the Wildwater Committee. Unfortunately, Dita Pahl has resigned from the committee however will continue to play an important role in the Wildwater community.

Damien Guthrie has stepped down from Chair this year and we would like to thank Damien for all his help and support overseeing the Wildwater Committee. Damien will stay as an active committee member.

The committee is seeking new members. From experience they conclude for members to be of value and respected by the community they represent they must:

1. be paddlers or support people who are active on a daily / weekly basis within the Wildwater / Downriver community. i.e., routinely paddling, coaching, or interacting with parents and paddlers and organising activities and running of events.
2. support and promote Wildwater / Downriver as the premier discipline while realising any opportunities that may present for any other paddling interests the community may have by integrating with particular activities of other disciplines. Eg. Creek boating, Freestyle and Marathon

Wildwater Committee



## Paddle Victoria Volunteer of the Year Award – 2022- 2023

*“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:**

### Club/Discipline Volunteer of the Year Award

#### **Anna Taylor – President – Ballarat Canoe Club**

Anna has been an incredible driving force in Ballarat over the past year. She has been a steward for the club for a long time but over the past year has been a driving force in rejuvenating the club and bringing in new and younger members. Anna's help and assistance at the 2023 Canoe Polo National Championships was immense, not only providing personal accommodation during the setup/packdown and competition to numerous members of the community, but also coordinating the BACC to providing warm food and drinks at the event which not only helped participants through a very wet and cold event, but also established a strong sense of community within BACC as many members came down and helped run the tent for the duration of the event. Anna has also spearheaded the introduction of canoe polo to the club, which has culminated in an ongoing agreement with the Ballarat Aquatic Centre to allocate sessions during the week for the club to run canoe polo and kayak skills sessions.



#### **Sue O’ Rourke – Marathon Committee Vice President**



Sue O'Rourke is nominated in recognition for the significant work she has undertaken for the PV Marathon community over the past few years, but specifically over the past twelve months.

She is the Vice-Chair of the PV Marathon committee, helping in the smooth running of the committee which delivers one of the largest competition programs within Paddle Victoria.

Sue takes the leading role in designing, creating and publishing PV Marathon activities through high quality event flyers, social media communication and monthly newsletters.

She is responsible for developing and creating on-line training content for Marathon officials and volunteers, which is now being

used by disciplines in other states within Australia. She has taken a leading role in organizing the July 2022 race clinics for junior paddlers, with sessions delivered by former Australian champions and Olympic athletes and organizing new racing and off-water paddling attire.

Sue is a key member of the 2023 Oceania and Paddle Australia Canoe Marathon and SUP Championships.

### **Louise Greenwood – Cobram Barooga Canoe Club / Paddle Vic Marathon Committee and Sprint Committee**

Louise is the secretary of the club and also maintains our Facebook page and has had great success in submitting and managing grants over the past 5 years. She supports people in all forms of paddling and always keen to try something new.

She puts countless hours into multiple events at every level from come and try's to Nationals. If there is something that you mention to Lou might not happen she'll find someone to fill the gap or decide to take it on herself.

She is always seeking and applying for numerous grants to enable the canoe club to grow and thrive. Without her input Cobram Barooga Canoe Club would not be in the position that it is today, and would probably only have a couple of people paddling.

Louise sacrifices her own training and just keeping pace with new and young paddlers so that they can get out and enjoy paddling.

Discipline: Secretary of the Paddle Vic sprint committee and also on the Vic marathon committee. Always helping out at races even at the detriment of her own participation.

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

#### **Steve Vegh – Patterson Lakes Canoe Club**

Totally selfless commitment to helping others of all levels get the most out of all disciplines of the paddling experience!

Steve is incredibly supportive in mentoring and coaching at our club, all on a volunteer basis. Steve volunteers his time to run group training session and will always spend time to help people of all abilities enjoy their paddling. He is always helpful in exploring, explaining, grabbing his tools to help on the spot whenever anyone has any issues with their boat, and does so with a smile.

He has been very supportive in volunteering his time at least 3 days a week coaching junior to masters paddlers both on the water and in the gym. Steve also is often found loading and transporting boats on the trailer to allow people from the club to race or join events.



Steve is a great supporter of all types of events, racing himself in a variety of craft in different disciplines and will often team up with inexperienced paddlers also to give them a taste of racing in a safe way. Steve has a particular dedication to supporting juniors who want to race as well as being very creative to find ways for paddlers of all abilities to access the sport.

Steve is a pleasure to deal with due to his gentle nature and friendly demeanor. He is always available for advice and support to everyone. As I paddle as well, I am on the water to witness his interaction with all the paddlers in a session. He spends hours paddling beside beginners and novices giving them technique advice and encouraging them.

Everyone knows Steve and has benefited from the generosity he shows sharing his knowledge with all aspects of paddling including equipment advice, technique and training programs.





## Around The Clubs

Many of our clubs were affected by the devastating floods in October 2022. It was an immense effort to clean up the damage and mud at the Clubs. We saw real team work of members coming together to help out, clean up there sheds and equipment!

Well done and thanks to all who were involved with this massive cleanup!



The Maribyrnong in Flood!



Photo floods at Footscray

*This morning we were able to access the club to initiate the removal of MUD, MUD and MORE MUD.*

*All up we had 20 people on the go with some putting in a very long extensive back breaking day as they swept and pushed 1,000's of kilo's of mud to aid returning our club to a functioning state.*

*The generosity of the people was fantastic and they were tired and broken!*

Floods at Shepparton.  
Again a massive cleanup  
and shout out to  
Les Goudie, Barry Bell and  
Trevor hard at it cleaning  
up at Shepparton Canoe  
club



Louise Greenwood  
Cobram Barooga Canoe Club  
Paralympics Australia has  
approved funding for 1 x Va'a =  
\$4290.00

We just received confirmation that  
we were successful in the  
paralympics grant for a new oara  
K1. Which is fantastic news  
Tim Roadley – Yarrowonga  
Mulwala CC

## Acknowledgments

- Paddle Victoria acknowledges the support of our major sponsors the Victorian Government through Sport and Recreation Victoria and VicHealth and Life Saving Victoria. The local governments that support our clubs at the grassroots level. Thank you for your support in our vision and our passion.





## Financial Statements Summary

Income	2023	2022	Expenses	2023	2022
Administration	\$ 326,538.00	\$ 410,216.00	Administration	\$ 362,315.00	\$ 419,844.00
Marathon	\$ 91,692.00	\$ 24,939.00	Marathon	\$ 63,805.00	\$ 23,597.00
Polo	\$ 37,145.00	\$ 6,746.00	Polo	\$ 26,569.00	\$ 9,563.00
Slalom	\$ 7,787.00	\$ 25,139.00	Slalom	\$ 13,698.00	\$ 13,690.00
Sprint	\$ 16,043.00	\$ 10,589.00	Sprint	\$ 16,876.00	\$ 10,457.00
Wildwater	\$ 243.00	\$ 994.00	Wildwater	\$ 788.00	\$ 962.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 479,448.00</b>	<b>\$ 478,623.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 484,051.00</b>	<b>\$ 478,113.00</b>

## Budget Summary

	2023	2022
Operating Surplus for the Year	-\$ 4,603.00	\$ 510.00
Opening retained surplus	\$ 411,148.00	\$ 410,638.00
Closing retained surplus	\$ 406,545.00	\$ 411,148.00