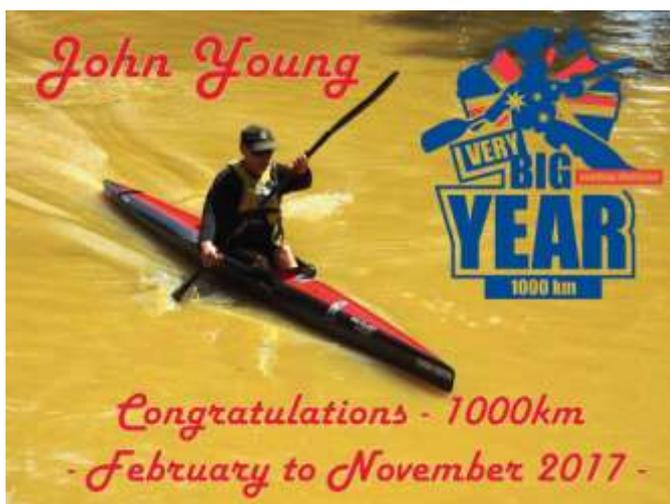




Annual Report

2017-2018



Annual Report 2017-18

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Acknowledgments

Canoeing Victoria acknowledges and thanks the following organisations for their support during 2017- 18:

Major Supporters

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

Supporters

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

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

Front cover : Brendan Clarke - Marathon, Canoe Polo Competition, John Young – 1000KM Paddle and Slalom Paddlers
Lachlan Bassett and Kaylen Bassett
Photos – Dean Jones and Kylie Wilson

Membership

	2017-18	2016-17
Full Adult	526	538
Recreational Adult	798	722
Life	9	5
Full Student 18- 24	80	89
Full Junior U18	202	251
Limited Youth	221	197
Social/Non Paddling	39	30
Total	1875	1832

Affiliated Clubs

Ballarat Amateur Canoe Club
Barwon Heads Canoe Club
Bellarine Paddlers Inc
Bendigo Canoe Club
Coaching Evolution Kayak Club
Canoes Plus Racing Team
Cobram-Barooga Canoe Club
Echuca-Moama Canoe Club
Eltham College Canoe Club
Essendon Canoe Club
Fairfield Canoe Club
Footscray Amateur Canoe Club
Geelong Canoe Club
Goldfields Paddlers Inc
Ivanhoe-Northcote Canoe Club
Kananook Creek Canoe Club
Kirinari Kayak Klub
Melbourne Canoe Club
Melbourne University Mountaineering Club
Mercantile Kayak Club
Mildura Canoe Club
Mitta Mitta Canoe Club
North East Canoe Club
Patterson Lakes Canoe Club
River Racing Australia
Shepparton Canoe Club
Swan Hill Canoe Club
Tarwin River Canoe Club
Victorian Canoe Club
Victorian Sprint Paddlers Inc
Warrnambool Kayak Club
Whitehorse Canoe Club
Yarra Valley Kayaking (X- Sherbrooke Knox CC Mar'18)
Yarrowonga Mulwala Canoe Club

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Office Bearers

Board

President, Chair & Interested Director	Paul Grant (2016)
Interested Director	Marg Buck (2016)
Interested Director	Joe Alia (2016)
Interested Director	Reka Abraham (2017)
Interested Director	Georgina Wakim (2017)
Independent Director	Lawrie Chenoweth
Independent Director	Paul Loughran
Independent Director	Daisy Brooke (res 2018)

Administration Staff

Executive Officer	Mark Heggie
Finance Officer	Sandra Reaburn
Membership & Club Administration Officer	Roz Manester
Education Business Manager	John Moore
Education Administration Officer	Roz Manester
Equipment Maintenance Officer	John Shields
Communications Officer	Brea Roadley (Res April 2018)
Project Manager	Sharon Swoboda

Discipline Technical Committees

Marathon

Chair	John Young
Vice Chair	Joseph Alia
Treasurer	John Young
Technical officer	Geoff Baird
Communications	Arabelle Eyre
Diary	Sally Miller

Polo

Chair	Dale Tomlinson
Treasurer	Stephen Porter
Special Projects	Ian Beasley
Equipment Control	Larry Robb
Comms Co-Ordinator	Ben Watts
Pool Co-ordinator	Michael Jarman / Ben Watts
Committee Member	Jen Stevens / Ken Brownlee
Committee Member	Frank Magee
Nationals Co-ordinator	Jay Burgess / Stephen Porter

Slalom

Chair	Russell Bassett
Secretary	Sue Moorhen
Treasurer	Lyne Strmecki
General Committee	Laura Montalto
General Committee	Chris Galea
General Committee	Chris Runting
Athletes Rep	Warwick Draper

Sprint

Chair	Rowan Doyle
Vice Chair	Laurie Chenoweth
Co-ordinator	Gary Flanigan

Wildwater

Chair	Chris Wharton
Vice Chair	Mathew French
Secretary	Lyne Strmecki
Committee Member	Wes Hurrey
Committee Member	Tony Misson
Committee Member	Leanne Nichols

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President's Report



Paul Grant
President

We are in the process of changing our name to Paddle Victoria, in line with our National body which is now Paddle Australia. The coordination and implementation of the name change has been challenging and at times frustrating for a variety of reasons and has taken up more energy and time than it should.

For this re-branding exercise, there was a lack of a coordinated approach between the national body and the states and the resulting confusion certainly did little to enhance our reputation amongst our members. I apologise to the paddling community for this episode.

We have welcomed a new CEO to Paddle Australia, Phil Jones, and he has brought a renewed focus to the table and has made enormous efforts to liaise effectively with the states. It is crucial for our state to have a solid relationship with the National body and we now have such a relationship.

Last year was a year of developing relationships with key stakeholders and this year has been a year of cementing those relationships. We are now seen as the 'go-to' people for issues surrounding this sport and Mark and the team have spent countless hours in meetings and putting in submissions.

The amount of time and effort to get a new project off the ground is staggering and a number of projects are slowly but surely going through the many-layered approval process. These projects include paddle centres, the development of river access sites, and education programs.

I would like to personally thank the staff in the office who put in the behind-the-scenes hard slog to push

these projects along from inception, through application and then delivery. Specifically we are talking about Sharon Swoboda, Sandra Reaburn, Roz Manester and Mark Heggie. I should also add that as the first point of contact for Paddle Victoria, the many and varied issues of the day are handled expediently and effectively by the office.

The financial position of Canoe Vic is stable and sound. We are limited by lack of funds as to how many projects we can deliver.

I would like to thank those who contribute to the sport. From course set-up to compilers, to the trailer –towers, the bib-washers and all of those in between you have my thanks. We are not the AFL and rely entirely on our volunteers. We simply would not exist without them. I would also like to thank my fellow board members not only for their time but for their willingness to tackle some of the broader issues challenging our sport.

We look forward to the challenges and opportunities that the coming year will bring.

Paul Grant - President



Finance Report

Sandra Reaburn – Finance Officer

canoeing Victoria as a whole has posted an operating loss of \$8,126.00 for the 2017-2018 financial year. This year's loss is due to Polo making a large loss of \$12,002.00 and Slalom posted a loss from ordinary activities of \$9,098.00. Admin Account, Marathon, Sprint and Wildwater were able to increase their retained surplus this financial year. During 2017-2018, Canoeing Victoria continued to receive strong financial support from the Victorian Government through Sport and Recreation Victoria and from VicHealth. This support has been critical to Canoeing Victoria in helping to implement a number of projects throughout the year.

Administration

Administration posted a surplus of \$736.00. This was slightly less from what was forecast but this has increased the closing retained surplus to \$120,930.00. The Regional Paddle Sports Centre Project at Westerfolds Park is still in the planning stage and Canoeing Victoria contributed \$4,776.00 this financial year. Education made a small profit this year \$181.00 even though we had more than 57 courses throughout the year. This year Education branched out with equipment hire and kayak sales which both were profitable. Education purchase two new fleets of adult sit on tops for their extremely popular public programs. Membership income is still down from a few years ago which will be reviewed in time for the next membership year. Gary Flanigan and his team raised \$2,211.75 in Bunning's BBQ's which we are extremely grateful for.

Marathon

This year Marathon made a surplus of \$8,383.00. All their events made a surplus which is very encouraging for the future of Marathon. In particular the Victorian Championships, School Championships and the Winter Series Races all made a significant surplus. After a few years of using Webscorer combined with the well organised events they are increasing their retained surplus every year which is now at \$58,086.00

Canoe Polo

Canoe Polo posted a loss of \$12,002.00 which was mainly due to the 2017 Spring Competition making an \$11,508 loss. A combination of high pool fees and not many teams participating caused this competition to make a substantial loss. Polo has invested \$16,023 into equipment for future junior programs - kayaks, spray decks, paddles and helmets which increased their insurance and depreciation expense. Gary Flanigan and his team raised \$400.00 in Bunning's BBQ's to help Polo pay for their new junior equipment. Once again the pool hire was the main expense for Polo at \$28,368.00 up from previous years.

Slalom

This year Slalom posted a loss of \$9,098.00 this was due to Slalom investing \$27,039.00 into the regional development of the Goulburn River. Melbourne Canoe Club donated \$5,000.00 and State Plant Hire \$6,996.00 towards the repairs. Slalom hosted the National Junior and National Open Championships event in January and with the generous support from Department of Health & Human Services with a grant of \$10,000.00 the overall event made a surplus. Australian Fabrication Industries sponsored the uniforms for the Nationals. The Victoria School Championships held in September and Yarra Series events all made a surplus.

Sprint

Sprint made a surplus of \$826.00. Sprint held two events this year, Victorian Championships held in February and Victorian School Championships held in March both at Nagambie. These events made a surplus and with the help from Gary Flanigan and his team who donated \$449.00 from their Bunning's BBQ's it increase Sprint's retained surplus to \$5,717.00.

Wildwater

This year Wildwater made a surplus of \$3,029.00. They ran the National downriver selection races at the Mitta Mitta and on the Goulburn River in January. This help to increase their surplus quite significantly for the year. The other Downriver events also help the positive outcome. Wildwater has a retained surplus of \$7,602.00.

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Executive Officer's Report Mark Heggie



Facilities

2017-2018 has been a year of consolidating work and consultation with partners such as Melbourne Water. With the completion of the 50 year plan for the Yarra Canoeing Victoria has given input and assisted Melbourne Water to connect with the wider paddling community to gain information on favored paddling spots and the access points along the river. This data has been compiled and using a matrix taking in to account numerous factors such as usage, zoning, heritage, cultural and geographic consideration to produce a prioritized list of access points requiring upgrading. These sites will support recreational paddlers and competition training venues. Significant upgrades to water access at Templestowe Slalom training site have been prioritized.

Numerous other sites will be upgraded, Finns Reserve access has been completed, large slab rocks form a stepped natural looking transition to the water, replacing a slippery eroding site. The site already had good toilets, BBQ and parking. Completing the link to the water enhances the experience of the park by connecting the park to the river.

I have also been involved in lobbying regarding the Carrum Water Sports Centre. The facility has fallen seriously in to disrepair, buildings and finishing tower condemned. There is conflict of use at the site with rowers and paddlers sharing the centre with power boats. If the course is buoyed for lanes they have to be removed for powerboat usage. The centre was originally commissioned for rowing and canoeing to enhance bids for Olympic and Commonwealth Games. The motorboat lobby is well funded and noisy, it is vital we retain the use of this centre.

Governance and Regulations, Child Protection

The position of Executive Officer entails consultation with our regulators and statutory authorities. Regulations such as child protection are developed at a the State Government level and rolled out by bodies such as Human Services and Sport and Recreation Victoria, then down through Sports Organizations, such as Canoeing Victoria to our clubs. I am pleased the way the disciplines, clubs

and members have adopted Child Protection as a prime subject in the day to day running of their clubs.

It has taken many discussions at all different levels to keep this discussion going, as well as compliance with the state law, Child Protection has to be part of our culture that we all are responsible for.

Canoeing Victoria staff has provided support and guidance to clubs to assist in spreading the message, we have also had great contributions from clubs who have actively driven their own policies for Child Protection.

Whist not mandatory, I have a personal desire to have all Canoeing Victoria members carriers of the Working with Children Certificate.

The role of Executive Officer is the contact point between regulatory authorities and paddlers, I have been involved in ongoing consultation with Marine Safety and the Office of the Minister for Transport regarding acts that have gone through state parliament regarding the hosting of Marine / Aquatic events.

It is a reality of today that all our events are hosted on land and water that come under numerous state and regional authorities and they are all looking for higher levels of planning, risk management and compliance.

Many of these Authorities wish to deal with myself at as the Peak Officer of the organization for granting event permits.

Paddle Sport Centre Westerfolds Park



The final surveys, reports and community consultation have been completed and the plan will be published October 2018. Once all approvals have been granted the process of gaining funding will start.

Canoeing in Victoria has had virtually no infrastructure spending in the past decades, the development is part of an overall plan that will

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improve visitor experience to the park. There will be public access toilet and change facilities and the access views to the water will be enhanced with pathways and ramps. Separation of bicycle traffic and foot traffic/spectators under the bridge will upgrade the amenity of the area for all visitors. Paddlers from throughout the state will have access to the facility, the most equitable access role I can envision is paddlers will be members of their own club and then if they wish to have access to the facilities they will become 'members' of the centre, not unlike a gym membership.

Education and Participation Programs

Following on from last year's changes to the administration activity has increased, Roz Manester has taken on the new role with enthusiasm, this is on top of her membership role working directly with clubs and members.

Office Staff and Coaches

Canoeing Victoria staff has a deep and long term commitment to the organization.

The office staff, Sandra Reaburn, Roz Manester, Sharon Swoboda, John Shields and John Moore have a passion and belief that what we do as an organization is worthwhile and does make difference, they are supportive of each other's roles . I know that everyone makes their decisions keeping in mind what is good for our organization. The coaches and Instructors we engage in our programs are great ambassadors for the association and love to share their passion for paddling.

Volunteers

More than ever our volunteers are essential at every level of the organization. Not only is it a time commitment, volunteers have to work within an increasingly complex regulatory world. From assisting at a race to sitting on a board or committee there are numerous personal responsibilities. Fortunately there are passionate and committed people who are willing to be a vital part of driving our sport. Thank you to all volunteers.

Disciplines

There has been increased activity in the disciplines, with volunteers stepping up and revitalizing activity.

Sprint have formed an operating committee, following years where it was been held together by a couple of stalwarts, Gary Flannigan and Lawrie Chenoweth. They have formed an active committee which is developing programs both for races and training squads.

Marathon have also had new volunteers step up and have developed new race formats in an effort to encourage more participants. Marathon has also hosted a series of skills workshops, thanks Mick and Kate Leverett that has elevated the level skills across the state.

The Victorian Slalom Committee has gone on being a driving force not only in the state , it has hosted the open nationals at Eildon in January 2018, and is backing up in January 2019 to host the Juniors and Masters National Championships.

The Future

There is a considerable shift in the recognition of the benefits of sport at all levels. Sports such as Canoeing contribute more than gold medals to our community.

Sport is increasingly being recognized as having a significant role in physical health, mental health community connection.

Canoeing Victoria has with the support of Vic Health developed a series of participation programs such as Paddle Power and PaddleHub.

There is increasing funding opportunities at many levels for supporting participation. Clubs are already having success in gaining grants for equipment to run our participation programs.

I believe if we widen the base of the pyramid of participation all aspects of the sport will benefit, from recreation to elite performance.



All the best in paddling

Mark Heggie

Executive Officer Canoeing Victoria

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Administration Report

Roz Manester – Education and Membership

Education

Working in such a competitive space with so many “sporting” providers, Canoeing Victoria works hard to maintain and attract new clients to our Education programs. The schools work on very tight budgets with so much of their funding being cut. Those schools that we do attract value the programs we offer and return annually as they feel confident that their students are paddling in a safe and secure environment as well as having a fun paddling activity.

Our ACAS qualification courses are highly regarded with more and more schools, TAFEs and camps recognizing the value of getting an ACAS certified qualification. Our enrolments into these programs continue to increase and Education was happy to post a good profit over the financial year.



Membership

Our membership again saw a small increase over the last financial year which was pleasing in an era where Club Membership appears to be a decreasing trend. However over the last 3 years we are seeing New memberships increasing and Renewing memberships decreasing. This is a worrying trend which indicates that perhaps we aren't offering our club members what they want. Canoeing Victoria would like to work with clubs to try and identify these needs and help them retain their existing membership base.

Increasingly, for the members that we do have, the shift appears to be towards the recreational paddlers. As PaddleHub and our Capacity Sports PaddlePower programs have reached more of the paddling community, we have seen a small increase in the recreational paddler membership through the clubs who are hosting these programs. The challenge for our clubs is to offer paddling activities

that engage the recreational paddler as well as providing a competitive pathway for those wishing to compete.

Clubs are always welcome to contact us in the office and see if we can come up with ways to help with your membership retention or a membership drive to attract new members.

Capacity Sports Paddlepower Program



Our Capacity Sport PaddlePower programs continue to be popular and widely supported. This year we saw a growth in the number of Clubs that ran PaddlePower. Melbourne Canoe Club and Yarrowonga-Mulwala Kayak Club have sufficient coaches and equipment to run it unsupported by Canoeing Victoria, however other clubs such as Essendon, Fairfield, Shepparton, Ballarat and Geelong, require equipment and coaches. Canoeing Victoria are very happy to promote the program for your club, and provide coaches and equipment so that you can run this great Paddlesport program. In the last financial year we put almost 500 young paddlers through this fantastic program. Paddle WA has recognised what a great program it is and have started rolling PaddlePower out into their clubs with great results!



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PaddleHub

Sharon Swoboda – Project Manager

PaddleHub had another successful year with around 25 PaddleHub days spread throughout the State including Shepparton, Yarrawonga, Ballarat, Geelong, Lillydale lake and Warrandyte. With another 1500 participants during the year, the program hit the target of families with 80% of paddlers part of a family unit paddling on the day.

Using the sit on top craft has proven to be an attractive, safe and fun way to get new people on the water and introduced to kayaking and touching base with Canoeing Victoria and their local club. Many using it as a stepping stone to the junior Paddlepower program and other club activities or just going out and buying a kayak and going for a paddle.

The Shepparton area is currently a hot bed for testing new kayaking programs and has shown great participation from the local community with fabulous support from their “Active in the Park” program where the council provide a huge array of free activities for the people. We found that not only were the kayaking programs booked up well in advance, and we had many returns during the summer and also from previous years. It seems they love the program and line themselves up to book as soon as it comes on-line.



The connection between the local Shepparton Canoe club has also supported the local paddlers to become qualified as coaches to assist in the delivery of the program as well as running Goulburn river

trips which were also are a sell out.

We have had fantastic support from the Greater Geelong city council who allowed us to deliver 3 PaddleHub sessions which were also fully booked and proved to be super popular with a cry to come and do it again. Warrandyte festival was a welcome activity and despite the weather being less than ideal, we had good participation and look forward to providing this type of service to the community groups in the future.

While we have finished the official VicHealth support for the project, we envisage that the program will continue to run as a cornerstone activity for the family unit and young paddlers as they start their initial journey into become a lifelong paddler.



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Canoeing Victoria

Volunteer of the Year Award – 2018

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

Another successful year in our Disciplines, in our Clubs, at races and events for competition and recreational paddling would not be possible without the many unselfish acts of volunteering by our wonderful members and their families

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

The nominees for the 2018 Canoeing Victoria Volunteer award are:

Allison Parkinson – North East Canoe Club

Allison is a vital part of the North East Canoe Club, organizing the Reel Film festival helping to raise over \$3000. Organizing come and try events, leading multiple trips of varying disciplines. Allison also organises the ongoing training in the Wangaratta indoor pool for rolling and stroke technique sessions during winter. Without her input the club would not be where it is today. She supports the club to have an increased boat fleet and improved safety equipment for club, community and schools to use.

Geoff Baird – Ivanhoe Northcote Canoe Club

Geoff has contributed significantly to his club both as the Technical Officer for the Marathon discipline, but as well as his contribution to his club. Over the past 10 months Geoff has changed the way Marathon Races occur through the implementation and modification of an RFID system (automated timing system). Using his knowledge of electronics and programming to deliver this exceptional system

to further improve the quality of Marathon Races, with the ability to now record lap times, and provide additional information to paddlers to improve their performance as well as the overall increase in the smoothness of races being run. Geoff also has improved the managing of the Marathon discipline's race equipment storage and transportation, ensuring less effort and time needed by volunteers. His work for INCC includes developing a RFID system for club members to access the club house, developing an automated system for recording usage of club boats and taking a lead role in the renovation of the club house. This renovation has allowed for INCC to have a gym to increase in member participation and increase safety in the club area.



Geoff and other INCC members creating a new gym space. – Photo – Suzanne Lipe

John Young - Ivanhoe Northcote Canoe Club

At Marathon race days John's contribution can be seen every step of the way from race day preparation of opening entries to posting the final results. Putting in place more detailed safety protocols that were not in place previously. Importantly John has also led the introduction of the WebScorer entry system – ensuring decreased effort and time in event entries by volunteers. John has provided tremendous support and encouragement for younger members of marathon racing, providing tips and congratulations both on and off the water. John has also introduced new events during the winter series to encourage more social participants as well as instigating race clinics

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to improve the standard of Victorian paddlers vying for selection in national teams.

John would not be able to do so much without the tremendous support and contribution by his wife Ruth Young. Ruth provides support during race organization, donating a large amount of her time to the sport. At his club, John can be seen answering questions from anyone and everyone, as well as encouraging both new and old paddlers to participate. John is a great leader of the interclub (INCC and Fairfield Canoe Club) interclub training sessions.

Tim Roadley – Yarrawonga Mulwala Canoe Club

Tim Roadley has developed numerous after school programs and PaddlePower sessions for the Yarrawonga Mulwala Canoe Club. With 30-40 children arriving to try kayaking as well as learn about the safety skills needed in both paddling and around water bodies.

Tim's instruction not only teaches the sport of canoeing but also the equipment, safety and the dangers of rivers and lake's. He has provided a pathway for interested children to join and further their skills in an advanced training session to be able to compete. This pathway has proven successful with various junior paddlers and as result in the growth of the club's membership.

Tim takes the effort to drive juniors to competitions and provide support during all events.

Tim has been the secretary of the club for over 10 years and handles all correspondence and is the main organiser of our Summer Series Race.



Tim Roadley running a social paddle on the Murray

Barry Bell - Shepparton Canoe Club

The Shepparton Canoe Club is Barry Bell. He never says no. Barry spends many hours helping new members and assisting existing members with their training. If anyone has a problem with their craft Barry always puts his hand up to help repair the craft. His knowledge on how to repair and how to build canoes is extensive. We have just had a big shed clean up and Barry is making more racking so that we can fit more boats into the shed. He has a great rapport with other lake users like the Rowing Club and the Tri Athlete Club.

Barry will be at every River Connect, Paddle Hub and Paddle Power event. Getting canoes ready for and setting up the days proceedings. He encourages other members to be involved, and those that can help will, but it's Barry that is the consistent factor in all events held on the lake either by the Shepparton Canoe Club, Canoe Victoria, or Shepparton City Council/River Connect. Without Barry's efforts there would be hundreds of people in the local area that would miss out on the fabulous experience of 'canoeing'.

Always willing to pass on his knowledge to new member's and spend countless hours helping existing members train for major events. He encourages us to get on the water and he will get in a canoe with us if other training partners don't turn up. He is always encouraging club members to make sure we have enough paddle hours up before an event so that we don't injure ourselves during an event.



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Russell Bassett – Melbourne Canoe Club/ Slalom Chair

Russell Bassett was introduced to paddling in 2013 as most adults are via their children involvement. Russell came from a non sporting background but quickly found areas where he could contribute and in particular compiling/timing before taking on more tasks as the Chair for the Victoria STC in 2016.

In the last 12 months, Russell took his voluntary work to a completely different level:

- Chair of the Victorian Slalom Technical Committee
- Chair of the Australian National Junior/Schools Slalom Championships and the Australian National Slalom Championships held in Eildon in which he prepared documents including Guidelines, Risk Assessment, Grant applications, Preparation of the site (funding and coordination of rock excavation), running of the event, compiling, volunteers, and accommodation and catering.
- Chair of the STC that coordinated the Victorian School Slalom and Victorian Slalom Championships.
- Chair of the STC for the Yarra Series (domestic races)
- Chief Scorer for the Australian Open (Slalom)
- Member of the Wildwater Advisory Committee
- Victorian representative of the Australian Slalom Technical Committee
- Member of the Westerfolds Community Canoe Hub Working Committee - A project focused on the development of a paddle centre at Templestowe.

The committees work with government, local bodies, stakeholders and the community.

Russell introduced SiWi data into Victorian slalom which is now used in every race. He has been committed to training volunteers, development of the electronics and building associated equipment. Russell and his volunteers are now utilised at the National level in Penrith.

In 2017/18, the training site at the Westerfolds slalom rapid was upgraded with permanent poles and gates. Russell was 1 of 4 people directly involved in the planning, building and maintenance of the project. After a number of acts of vandalism, Russell was often the sole person available to repair the damage.

It would be safe to say that Russell has been completely absorbed into paddling and all in a voluntary basis.

The difference Russell's contribution has made is significant. The training environment is more professional and easier to use. Equipment is up to date and functioning, allowing for races and results to be obtained quickly and with credibility.

Stewart Nicol – Footscray Canoe Club

The roles Stewart serves are numerous. He is the first face for new members at the club, constantly making himself available at all hours.

He has improved the club storage via multiple plans and lobbying the council.

Stewart is instrumental in drumming up support for club trips and external races, as well as organising handicap races.

He is always willing to help fix club boats and equipment.

Stew is always generous with his paddling knowledge to anyone who needs a little advice (whether they want it or not!), and the boundless enthusiasm he has. He is still passionate about racing and has held many records, his latest being a member of the V60 K4 FCC/INCC record-holding team in the 2018 RPM200. He's an inspiration and has probably forgotten more about paddling than I'll ever know!

THANK YOU
Volunteers!
We couldn't do it without you

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Slalom Report

Russell Bassett
Slalom Chair

The Canoe Slalom Discipline in Victoria continues to be vibrant with strong competition and solid support from many volunteers. A key focus of the slalom paddling community was the further development and improvement of the Slalom Course at Eildon in preparation for hosting the 2018 Canoe Slalom National Championships and the 2017 Junior (Schools) National Championships.



The Victorian slalom community remains healthy, despite a declining trend in the number of competitors. In 2017-18 significant effort has been made to ensure participation levels increase. Ivanhoe Grammar School saw an influx of 30 new athletes to the sport. A considerable number have joined Melbourne Canoe Club and Canoes Plus Racing Team and continue to compete at Yarra Series Races.

In April – May 2018 the Victorian Canoeing STC were requested to host the 2019 Junior (Schools) Canoe Slalom National Championships in January 2019. This was agreed, and planning is well advanced for hosting this event at the Goulburn River, Eildon Slalom Course.

The Slalom Technical Committee (STC) saw the resignation of Mr. Dean Tonkin and Mrs. Karen Shamieh from Slalom Technical Committee, we thank these individuals for their time and efforts. It also saw an increase in STC membership with the appointment as Sue Moorhen (Secretary) Chris Galea (Logistics), and Chris Runting (Vice Chairman). Chris Runting has agreed to take over as Chairman of the STC after the hosting of the 2019 Junior (Schools) National Championships. This new larger group has provided an input of experience and balance to the committee.

The committee's immediate imperatives were to ensure the Yarra and Country Series race events were organized effectively and run professionally, with results known and posted in a timely fashion. There was an immediate focus on the task of coordinating the resources of a sub-committee group to co-ordinate the hosting of the 2019 Nationals Juniors (Schools) events in Eildon scheduled for January 2019. The committee successfully hosted two such events in January 2018. The STC has applied for a Sport and Recreation Victoria Grant to subsidize the associated costs of running this event as well as pledges of donations and trophy sponsorship, likewise there is a promise of a financial consideration from the Shire of Murrindindi.

A significant achievement by Victoria, was for members of the STC to run the timing and scoring system at the Australian Open in February 2018. Likewise, we have developed a portable Wi-Fi system which interfaces with an electronic timing and scoring system (SiWi Data). SiWi has the ability to provide accurate penalty scoring and timekeeping. SiWi Data is the timing and scoring system used to time and score canoe slalom races at Olympic and International Level (ICF World Cup and ECA Events). The development and refinement of this scoring system and capacity building of knowledge has provided Australian

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Canoeing Slalom Technical Committee (AC STC) a succession plan and an experienced pool of people capable of running the scoring system at Penrith Whitewater Centre during hosting of Nationals, Australian Open and Oceania events. Likewise, it has also provided a platform for other states to improve their timing and scoring system, as is the desire of AC STC.

Canoe Slalom sport continues to be predominantly supported by two clubs, Melbourne Canoe Club (MCC) and Canoes Plus Racing Team (CPRT). However, MCC has taken a more active role in organizing events and providing support to the committee and likewise extending its reach into regional hubs such as Warburton.

Yarra and Country Series Slalom Races

The Yarra series continues to be a great introductory to slalom competition for the new and younger paddlers plus provides an opportunity for enjoying activities and events on the natural rivers such as Big and King River in country Victoria.

Victorian Championships

The Victorian Championships and the Victorian Schools Slalom Championships were scheduled to be run by the slalom discipline in November 2017 at Eildon however were cancelled to extremely high-water levels and an extreme weather event.

High Performance

Australian Canoe Slalom Championships

The **2017 Australian Canoe/Kayak Schools Slalom Championships** were held at Eildon on the Goulburn River in Victoria between 5-7 January 2018.

There were **94 athletes that entered the Schools championships**. A summary of the entrants by age group and gender is provided in Table 1. The age calculations for athletes are based on their age in 2017, with junior paddlers being 15 years and under and senior paddlers 16 years and over.

Table 1. Number of athletes that entered the Schools championship by age group and gender.

Junior		Senior		Total	Total
F	M	F	M		
19	35	13	27	94	32
					62
54		40			

Of the 94 competitors approximately 57 per cent were junior athletes & 43 per cent senior athletes. Overall there were 34 per cent female athletes and 66 per cent male athletes.

Forty-seven (47) schools were represented by the paddlers. The largest representative group was the Victorian Ivanhoe Grammar School with 21 students, followed by five students from Upper Yarra Secondary college and four from NSW Great Lakes College, Eltham High School & Mazenod College WA. A summary of entrants by class, age group and gender are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Number of entrants for the Australian Juniors Slalom Championships by class, age group and gender.

Class	Junior		Senior		Total	Total
	F	M	F	M		
K1	19	35	13	27	94	32
						62
C1	12	21	9	22	64	21
						43
C2	4	10	5	29	48	9
						39

The Australian Juniors event included traditional teams' races. A summary of teams racing is in Table 3.

Table 3. Team entrants for the Australian Juniors Slalom Championships by class and age group

Class	Team age group		Total
	Junior	Senior	
MK1	6	6	12
WK1	2	5	7
MC1	1	5	6
WC1	-	-	-
C2	1	1	2
Total	10	17	27

The Australian Juniors competition includes a wildwater sprint race. The wildwater sprint race runs

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from the slalom start near the boat ramp to the end of the slalom rapid. The results for from the wildwater sprint race contribute to the individual and school results calculations. Table 4 is a summary of competitors in the wildwater sprint race.

Table 4. Number of entrants for the Australian Juniors Wildwater race by class, age group and gender.

Class	Junior		Senior		Total		Total
	F	M	F	M			
K1	8	21	8	22	59	F	16
						M	43
C1	-	3	1	2	6	F	1
						M	9
C2	-	1	-	2	3	F	-
						M	3
Total	33		35		68		

Table 5. Number of individual entrants to the Nationals events, by state/country, gender and age group

State	per state	M/F	No's	Athletes by age group			
				Junior	23	Open	Mst, Vet, Vint
NSW	31	F	11	6	2	3	-
		M	20	5	5	3	7
Canberra	2	F	-	-	-	-	-
		M	2	-	1	-	1
Tasmania	1	F	3	2	1	-	-
		M	12	6	1	-	5
Victoria	64	F	12	9	1	1	1
		M	52	29	7	5	11
WA	25	F	10	2	8	-	-
		M	15	8	5	1	1
I/nation	2	F	1	-	1	-	-
		M	1	-	-	1	-
Total	139			67	32	14	26

The **2018 Australian Slalom Championships** were also held Eildon on the Goulburn River in Victoria between 10-12 January 2018.



A total of 126 athletes entered the National carnival. There were 42 female athletes and 84 male athletes, with many paddlers coming from Victoria. Of the total number of paddlers, 63 per cent were in the junior age group (18 years and under). A summary of individual entrants is provided in Table 5.

Key Results of the Victorians at the Australian Championships (Nationals) – Finals Results

Fastest MK1:	Warwick Draper
Fastest JNR MK1:	Bradley McLaughlan
Fastest MC1:	Warwick Draper
Fastest JNR MC1:	Robert Janiszewski
Fastest MC2:	Kaylen Bassett & Lachlan Bassett
Fastest JNR MC2:	Brad McLaughlan & Daniel Shamieh

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Canoes Plus State Trophy

Winning State (all athletes) 3,2,1 points individual & teams events.

1. Victoria
2. **Galloway Linden Woodward Junior State Team Trophy**

State with the most points earned by the nominated State Team

1. Victoria

Whitebrook State Team Trophy

State with the most points earned by their nominated State Team (5,3,2,1) Individual events only.

1. Vic (80)
2. NSW (35)
3. WA (32)
4. Tas (23)

Victorian Athletes - Australian Open Performances

K1M

Timothy Anderson Finalist - Result 7 OPN

Victorian Athletes - Australian Open Performances

K1M

Timothy Anderson Finalist - Result 7 OPN

Victorians Selected in Australian Team to compete at 2018 Junior/Under 23 World Championships Ivrea – July 2018

Jnr K1M- Joshua Montalto

Jnr K1M- Bradley McLaughlan

Jnr C1M- Robert Janiszewski

Coach- Warwick Draper

Team Leader- Laura Montalto

(Results to be given in next financial year report)

Victorians at the Junior/Under 23 World Championships in Bratislava, Slovakia 18-23 July 2017

The Junior/Under 23 World Championships were held in Bratislava, Slovakia, from the 18th to 23rd of July 2017. An Australian team of 16 athletes competed, 7 Junior and 9 Under 23, supported by 4 coaches including Christian Fabris (Victoria) and team manager, Jill Bassett (Victoria). Australian senior international ICF official, Sue Natoli (Victoria).

The final results for Victorians competing at this event were:

U23C1M- Tristan Carter. 59th

Jnr K1M- Cam McLaughlan 57th

Jnr C1M- Lachlan Bassett. 23rd (Semifinalist)



Cam McLaughlan



Lachlan Bassett



Australian Team - Bratislava

NTS SQUAD 2018 (Victoria)

Abby Collins

NZ Development Tour

Ryan Hughes

NZ Development Tour

Claire Tonkin

NZ Development Tour

Bradley McLaughlan

NZ Development Tour

Zoe Lau

NZ Development Tour

Seb Montalto

NZ Development Tour

Mark Crosby

NZ Development Tour

Daniel Shamieh

NZ Development Tour

Ben Strmecki

NZ Development Tour

Al Anderson

Coach

Kaylen Bassett

Coach

Rachael Crosby

Coach

Leanne McLaughlan

Team Manager

Canoe Polo Report



Dale Tomlinson
Canoe Polo Chair

Victorian Canoe Polo

Introduction

Canoe Polo has been an established sport within Victoria since the late 1980's. The purpose of the Victorian Canoeing Canoe Polo committee is to promote the sport of Canoe Polo (or Kayak Polo as it is known in Europe). Canoe Polo in Victoria is based in the inner suburbs of Melbourne, and provides 4 grades of competition from Novice through to A-grade levels of competition. Canoe polo attracts a range of paddlers into the sport, from experienced paddlers from other disciplines, to novice paddlers with no experience at all. Victorian canoe polo is a great breeding ground for international competition, with our top paddlers competing for positions in Australian teams.

Canoe Polo Levels of Competition:

Urban Competition

Our autumn competition was well attended but we seem to have lost a number of existing teams from the competition.

We have had good support with the introduction of a Novice competition as part of our winter competition which has been well attended, but have difficulty in keeping up the interest for new players.

Interclub Competition

We had interclub competitions at Geelong, Essendon, Yarra and Patterson Lakes. We hope to have these running again over the Summer months.

Summer Series

The Summer Series competition was well attended with competitions in Adelaide, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. Look out for a new exciting formation later on in the year.

The Australian Championships

This year the Australian Championships were run at West Lakes South Australia.

Victoria had a very successful competition winning the overall competition.

All Victorian teams performed well in their designated classes and some particularly outstanding performances by the Victorian junior teams.

The Challenges Ahead

Like all minor sports, Canoe Polo competes against bigger sports for media attention, sponsorship, and government support. Over the next few years, the focus for the committee will be on growing the number of teams and players. We will need to focus on methods of gaining the attention of the public, and to advertise Canoe Polo as a sport that anyone can participate in. We would also like to become more involved with schools and even have a separate schools competition. Another exciting opportunity is with Universities and it is slowly making a comeback across Melbourne and we also hope to have a separate competition later in the year.

Dale Tomlinson
Chairman, Canoe Polo Committee.

Canoe Polo Results

2018 Australian Canoe Polo Championships

31 March—2 April 2018

Australian Championship trophy went to Victoria as the best overall performing state in the tournament.

Open – Victoria 1 = 3rd

Josie Beever	Jay Burgess
James DuBose	Liam Farrington
Andrew Merrifield	Matt Perrin
Steve Porter	

Open – Victoria 2 = 5th

Michael Jarman	Leo Lee
Callum McConnell	Kal Rawson
Lockie Reekie	Nick Waters
Ben Winter	James Winter

Women – Victoria = 2nd

Josie Beever	Bridget Doyle
Kara Farrington	Rebecca Jennings
Hannah Kerber	Jennifer Stevens

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2018 Canoe Polo National Championships

U21 Vic won against QLD 10-2.

Youth U21 – Victoria = 1st

Bridget Doyle	James DuBose
Leo Lee	Kane Reekie
Lochie Reekie	Kal Rawson
Ben Winter	James Winter

Juniors – Victoria = 3rd

Julian Howes	Kane Reekie
Sam Waters	Tom Waters
Hayden Yacoub	Liam Yacoub

Vets – Victoria - Unplaced

Andrew Waters	Michael Jarman
Matt Young	Rob Mconnell
John Yacoub	Jennifer Stevens

Masters – Victoria = 2nd

Dale Tomlinson	Lee O'Shannassy
Andrew Waters	Ken Brownlie
Ian Wallbridge	Paul Baker
John Moore	

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Sprint Report

By Rowan Doyle – Sprint Chair (Photo – Dean Jones)

The sprint committee was re-formed early in 2018 with the immediate task of organising the Victorian Sprint Championships and the longer term task of rebuilding sprint in Victoria. The committee were determined to run a Victorian Champs day which was fun, safe and on time and we met all of these objectives. We were helped by great weather on the day at Nagambie Lakes - and by a good number of enthusiastic and determined volunteers.

This year the sprint championships were run under the Webscorer system for the first time and we really appreciated the assistance of John Young and Ruth Graves in teaching us and helping us to use this system.

We then worked closely with the Marathon committee to organise the schools championships. Unfortunately the weather was against us on that day and the sprint racing had to be cancelled due to high winds.

We are very pleased to now have a Victorian Surf group (VSSA) running a regular sprint training squad out of Patterson Lakes and Ivanhoe/ Fairfield, organised by Jon Ford.

Looking forward, we have a reasonably full sprint calendar organised, including local “fun” races as well as the Victorian championships on 17 February.

We’d like to acknowledge the Victorian athletes who were selected for Australian sprint teams this year - AJ Reynolds and Hannah Scott. AJ competing in the

world championships in Portugal during August and bringing home silver, and Hannah competing in the junior worlds in Bulgaria during July. A number of our sprint athletes also performed really well at the world marathon championships last month in Portugal.

We’d like to thank the Sprint committee for their support this year: Georgina Wakim, Reka Abraham, Lawrie Chenoweth, Gary Flanigan, Marg Buck, Neil Grierson, Jon and Jenny Mayne and Mark Heggie.

I’d particularly like to highlight Gary Flanigan’s work over many years through volunteering at “Bunnings” BBQs to raise money to keep the sprint committee “in the black”, and Georgina and Reka’s work on getting our sprint communications out through social media.

Results

A special mention to our Victorian athletes Hannah Scott and Amanda Jane Reynolds who were selected into the Australian Sprint Team to compete at this years World Cups and World Championships.

AJ Reynolds – 2nd at World Sprint Championships



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Hannah Scott – 7th in semi final for K4W 500m at Junior World Sprint Championships



Photo – Dean Jones

2018 CV Sprint Champs 200m - 3

1	Logan Dutton & Søren Marette	Coaching Evolution & Silkeborg Kajakkl	U23K2
2	Macgregor Doyle & Noah Cameron	Fairfield	U23K2
3	Søren Marette	Silkeborg Kajakklub	U23K1
4	Logan Dutton	Coaching Evolution	U23K1
5	Rebecca Mann & Isabel Neilson	Goldfields Paddlers	U23K2
6	Noah Cameron	Fairfield	U23K1
7	Adam Holovics & Chris Smith	Mercantile	OpenK2
8	Adam Holovics	Mercantile	OpenK1
9	Brendan Clarke	INCC	U23K1
10	Sean Jones & Casey Haynes	Mercantile & Coaching Evol	OpenK2

2018 CV Sprint Champs 500m - 2

1	Logan Dutton & Søren Marette	Coaching Evolution & Silkeborg Kajakkl	U23K2
2	Søren Marette	Silkeborg Kajakklub	U23K1
3	David Ceddia & Casey Haynes	Mercantile & Coaching Evol	OpenK2
4	Adam Holovics & Chris Smith	Mercantile	OpenK2
5	Adam Holovics	Mercantile	OpenK1
6	Logan Dutton	Coaching Evolution	U23K1
7	David Ceddia	Mercantile	OpenK1
8	Brendan Clarke & Isaac Johnson	INCC	U23K2
9	Noah Cameron	Fairfield	U23K1
10	Sean Jones	Coaching Evolution	U18K1

2018 CV Sprint Champs 1000m - 3

1	Logan Dutton & Søren Marette	Coaching Evolution & Silkeborg Kajakkl	U23K2
2	Søren Marette	Silkeborg Kajakklub	U23K1
3	David Ceddia & Casey Haynes	Mercantile & Coaching Evol	OpenK2
4	Logan Dutton	Coaching Evolution	U23K1
5	Macgregor Doyle & Noah Cameron	Fairfield	U23K2
6	Casey Haynes	Coaching Evolution	U23K1
7	David Ceddia	Mercantile	OpenK1
8	Brendan Clarke & Isaac Johnson	INCC	U23K2
9	Rebecca Mann & Isabel Neilson	Goldfields Paddlers	U23K2
10	Brianna Jones & Hannah Scott	INCC	U18K2

Wildwater/Downriver Report



Chris Wharton
Wildwater Chair

The last 12 months has seen an increase in junior paddlers and an improvement in their performances. We are seeing more people paddling downriver boats. We are still finding it difficult to pull in regular large numbers of paddlers at each Yarra Series race or training on country rivers. There are also moves to split wildwater races out of the schools competition which I will discuss later.

We have had good numbers to the Vic DR sprint championships on the Goulburn as we run them at the same time as the slalom development camp and they join in. We also had good numbers to the Vic Schools DR (65) but again we are having trouble in transitioning them into the sport on an ongoing basis.

National DR selection races were held in January 2018 both at Mitta Mitta (through the sharks tooth rapid) and at Goulburn river from the dam finishing past the slalom site. Those that competed at the Mitta found it a big step up with training testing the junior paddlers and those new to this rapid and several boats carried the scars of errant lines and were seen to be covered in dust tape the next day. All the young paddlers were full of praise for the great water and the challenges. Their times improved as they patiently reran the sprint rapid.

Analysing these results shows some pleasing trends:

We had 10 seniors making percentage for potential selection into the senior team

Name	Gender	Class	Race Age	Percent age	Selection criterion	Race	Place
Maddie Wilson	F	C1W	Open	133.8%	140%	Mitta Mitta Classic	1
Maddie Wilson	F	C1W	Open	132.5%	140%	Goulburn Classic	1
Robert Janiszewski	M	C1M	Open	126.2%	135%	Mitta Mitta Classic	1
Robert Janiszewski	M	C1M	Open	130.0%	130%	Mitta Mitta sprint 2	1
Robert Janiszewski	M	C1M	18	127.3%	135%	Goulburn Classic	1
Kaylen Bassett Lachlan Bassett	M	C2M	Open	120.9%	125%	Goulburn Classic	1
Dita Pahl	F	K1W	Open	120.4%	125%	Mitta Mitta Classic	2
Dita Pahl	F	K1W	Open	125.0%	130%	Mitta Mitta sprint 2	1
Dita Pahl	F	K1W	Open	121.3%	125%	Goulburn Classic	1
Imogen Douglass	F	K1W	18	124.1%	125%	Goulburn Classic	1
Maddie Batters	F	K1W	23	119.5%	125%	Goulburn Classic	2
Maddie Batters	F	K1W	23	126.7%	130%	Goulburn sprint	1
Al Anderson	M	K1M	Open	109.6%	110%	Mitta Mitta Classic	3
Al Anderson	M	K1M	Open	108.9%	110%	Goulburn Classic	3
James Humphry	M	K1M	18	108.9%	110%	Goulburn Classic	1
Kaylen Bassett	M	K1M	23	105.7%	110%	Mitta Mitta Classic	1
Kaylen Bassett	M	K1M	23	109.9%	114%	Mitta Mitta sprint 1	1
Kaylen Bassett	M	K1M	23	111.0%	114%	Mitta Mitta sprint 2	1
Kaylen Bassett	M	K1M	23	107.1%	114%	Goulburn sprint	1

For full results, head to the Paddle Australia website:

<https://paddle.org.au/2018/01/05/2018-wildwater-senior-team-selection-race-results/>

<https://paddle.org.au/2018/02/05/wildwater-nationals-and-schools-results/>

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a) There was no junior team selection this year, however, 7 juniors would have met junior selection criteria in several races based on percentages from previous juniors

Name	Gender	Class	Race Age	Percent age	Jnr Selection 2016	Race	Place
Ben Strmecki, Thomas Elms	M	C2M	16	151%	172%	Goulburn sprint	1
Jack Anderson, Luke Anderson	M	C2M	16	153%	172%	Goulburn sprint	2
Daniel Shamieh, Brad McLaughl	M	C2M	18	143%	172%	Goulburn sprint	1
Ben Strmecki	M	K1M	16	115%	121%	Mitta Mitta Classic	1
Ryan Hughes	M	K1M	16	117%	121%	Mitta Mitta Classic	2
Ben Strmecki	M	K1M	16	115%	121%	Goulburn Classic	1
Ben Strmecki	M	K1M	16	119%	121%	Goulburn sprint	1
Ashlee Ilott	F	K1W	16	134%	137%	Goulburn Classic	1

Imogen Douglass and James Humphry who made senior selection times are also eligible for junior selection.

Looking at participation we can see that Victoria paddlers accounted for almost 65% of entrants and won 60-65% of medals.

Nationals, Schools and Mitta Mitta Results Jan 2018

All Paddlers											Victorian Paddlers										
Row Labels	12	14	16	18	23	Open	Mast	Vet	Vint	Grand Total	12	14	16	18	23	Open	Mast	Vet	Vint	Grand Total	% Vic
≡ Goulburn Classic	9	13	8	10	9	3	3	3	3	58	3	8	7	5	5	2	3	3	3	33	57%
C1M	1	2	1							4	1	2	1							4	100%
C1W					1					1					1					1	100%
C2M						4				4					2					2	50%
K1M	8	7	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	36	2	4	4	2	1			2	3	18	50%
K1W		6	1	5	1					13		4	1	2	1					8	62%
≡ Goulburn sprint	3	25	28	25	19	5	3	5	3	116	1	8	11	11	11	2		3	2	49	42%
C1M	1		3	4						8	1		3	3						7	88%
C1W					1					1				1						1	100%
C2M		2	1	3	1					7		2	1	2						5	71%
K1M		17	15	14	7	3	3	5	3	67	6	4	5	3	1			3	2	24	36%
K1W	3	7	11	7	4	1				33	1	1	5	2	2	1				12	36%
≡ Mitta Mitta Classic			3	4	9					16			2	3	6					11	69%
C1M					1					1					1					1	100%
C1W					1					1					1					1	100%
K1M			3	4	4					11		2	3	2						7	64%
K1W					3					3					2					2	67%
≡ Mitta Mitta sprint 1			3	5	8					16			2	4	5					11	69%
C1M					1					1					1					1	100%
C1W					1					1					1					1	100%
K1M			3	5	3					11		2	4	1						7	64%
K1W					3					3					2					2	67%
≡ Mitta Mitta sprint 2			3	3	8					14			2	3	5					10	71%
C1M					1					1					1					1	100%
C1W					1					1					1					1	100%
K1M			3	3	3					9		2	3	1						6	67%
K1W					3					3					2					2	67%

The number of downriver paddlers was the **highest** it has been for many years. This is because the National wildwater championships were held in close proximity to the schools event.

Following the completion of Selection Trials Kayleen Bassett K1, Dita Pahl K1 and Maddie Wilson C1 into the senior team. Best result was at the World Champs in Switzerland where the team of Rob McIntyre (NSW), Alex McIntyre (NSW) and Kaylen Bassett (VIC) finished fourth in a time of 1:12.19 and +3.46 seconds behind winner Slovenia. France finished second and Germany third. Maddie Wilson had a 10th in C1.

There was no junior DR team in this period. They only occur every second year.

Chris Wharton
Chairman



Marathon Report

John Young – Marathon Chair

The primary focus of the Marathon Committee for the past year was to continue to provide a high-quality racing experience for all levels of competitors and to foster the development of junior paddlers. The Committee works in conjunction with host clubs to hold a Summer race series, a Winter race series and state and school championship events. Twenty-three marathon races were held, with some marathon paddlers also participating in sprint, river/wildwater, multi-sport and ocean racing events.

Race attendance

Race attendance varied markedly, depending upon race location and school involvement, ranging from as few as 17 up to approximately 160 paddlers, with an average of 87. Unfortunately, despite the wide range of events on offer, the proportion of Paddle VIC members participating in marathon racing is small, and most paddlers only participate in one or two events each year. A small core participates regularly and we deeply appreciate their support.

Table 1 FY18 Marathon race program and race participation

Date	Race	Location	Format	Distance	Host Club	Attendance
23-Jul-17	Winter Series 4 (D)	Patterson Lakes	Doubles, circuit, portage	8-24	CV/PLCC	163
30-Jul-17	Salty Single Blader	Maribryngong River, Footscray	Circuit, singles/doubles/mixed	3*6	Footscray	29
06-Aug-17	Winter Series 5 (D)	Nagambie Lakes	Doubles, circuit, portage	8-24	CV	90
27-Aug-17	Winter Series 6 (S)	Barwon River, Geelong	Singles, circuit, portage	8-24	CV/Geelong	83
14-Oct-17	Echuca Mini	Murray River, Barmah to Echuca	Point-to-point, full dist/relay	50	CV/EMCC	64
21-Oct-17	Bendigo Cup	Loddon River, Bridgewater	Circuit	10-20	Bendigo	82
12-Nov-17	Footscray Dress Rehearsal	Maribryngong River, Footscray	Circuit	10-28	Footscray	27
18-Nov-17	Murray Quad Peaches & Cream	Murray River, Cobram to Tocumwal	Point-to-point, full dist/teams	25	Murray Quad	17
09-Dec-17	Ben Ward	Murray River, Yarrawonga to Cobram	Point-to-point, full dist/relay	65	CBCC	153
10-Dec-17	Ben Ward	Murray River, Cobram	Circuit, relay	8	CBCC	126
21-Jan-18	GP1: Murray River Classic	Murray River, Yarrawonga	Circuit, portage	10-20	YMACC	27
04-Feb-18	GP2: Saltwater Classic	Maribryngong River, Footscray	Circuit	3-24	Footscray	69
10-Feb-18	GP3: Frank Harrison Memorial (S)	Murray River, Albury	Singles, Point-to-point	16-26	MMCC	111
11-Feb-18	GP4: Frank Harrison Memorial (D)	Murray River, Albury	Doubles, Point-to-point	16-26	MMCC	93
04-Mar-18	GP5: Summer Finale	Barwon River, Geelong	Singles, circuit, portage	2-24	Geelong	77
18-Mar-18	Vic Schools Marathon Championships	Nagambie Lakes	Short course, portage	2*3-4	CV	136
21-Apr-18	Victorian Marathon Championships	Barwon River, Geelong	Singles, circuit, portage	12-27	CV/Geelong	111
22-Apr-18	Victorian Marathon Championships	Barwon River, Geelong	Doubles, circuit, portage	12-27	CV/Geelong	75
06-May-18	Marathon Winter Series Race 1 (S)	Barwon River, Barwon Heads	Singles, circuit, portage	2-24	CV/Barwon Hd	117
19-May-18	Australian Marathon Championships	West Lakes, Adelaide	Singles, circuit, portage	7-30	AC/Sth Aus	61
20-May-18	Australian Marathon Championships	West Lakes, Adelaide	Doubles, circuit, portage	7-30	AC/Sth Aus	57
03-Jun-18	Marathon Winter Series Race 2 (D)	Yarra River, Hawthorn	Doubles, circuit	4-27	CV/Fairfield	137
24-Jun-18	Marathon Winter Series Race 3 (S)	Yarra River, Fairfield	Singles, circuit	8-22	CV/INCC	111

Notes: Number of races = 23 Average 87

■ Winter Series
■ Club hosted races
■ Summer Grand Prix series / Echuca Mini
■ Championship events

n.b. WS4 includes the participation of 76 dragon boat paddlers

Championships events

Three major championship events were an important part of the 2018 race calendar. The Victorian Schools Marathon Championships were held at Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre in March, as a single day event in conjunction with the Schools Sprint Championships. This format, comprising World Cup style short course singles and doubles marathon races in conjunction with 200 m singles and doubles sprint events, was initiated in 2017

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and has been embraced by students, teachers and parents, with attendance increasing again this year. The Victorian Marathon Championships were held over two days at Geelong in April and served as the selection event for the Victorian Marathon Team for the Australian Marathon Championships.

The Australian Marathon Championships were held at West Lakes in Adelaide over two days in May, with 61 paddlers from Victoria participating amongst over 380 entries from Australia. The list of paddlers placing first, second or third was previously published on 21st May, with 20 crews being Australian champions. Ellie Johnson (Warrnambool) was awarded the Coulthart Trophy for best Under 16 Female paddler. Victoria won the Frank Whitebrook Trophy for the State with the highest point score across all classes, the International Trophy for the State with the highest point score across the international classes (K1, K2, C1, C2) and won the Graham Halford Challenge Trophy. Marlena Ahrens (Fairfield) was awarded the 2017 Australian Open Female Marathon Paddler of the Year and Michael Leverett (Barwon Heads) was awarded the 2017 Australian Masters Male Paddler of the Year.

2018 Marathon World Championships

Approximately 500 paddlers from 35 countries attended the World Championships in Vila de Prado, Portugal in September. Twelve of the 19 paddlers representing Australia were from Victoria, with a further two Victorians participating in the Masters World Cup held immediately prior to the World Championships. Four Victorian crews finished in the top half of the World Championship events in which they participated, with four crews also finishing in the top 10 in their respective events.

Table 2 Victorian participation in the 2018 Marathon World Championships and Masters World Cup

Event	Crew 1	Crew 2
Masters World Cup		
K1 M V50	Dominic Scarfe (16/32)	
K1 M V60	Peter Currie (6/24)	
K2 M V50	Dominic Scarfe / Stuart Bryson (QLD) (12/16)	
K2 M V60	Peter Currie / Mark Lawson (WA) (2/13)	
World Championships		
C1 W Open	Reka Abraham (9/14)	Kristen Woodcock (SA) (14/14)
C1 M Open	Sabastian Wakim (11/15)	
K1 W U18	Briannah Jones (7/29)	Hannah Scott (12/29)
K2 W U18	Briannah Jones / Hannah Scott (5/15)	Rachel De Kretser / Emily O'Rourke (13/15)
K1 M U18	Seamus Spanner (19/35)	Luke Dooley (WA) (24/35)
K2 M U18	Seamus Spanner / Bryce Newton (17/23)	Liam Dohnt / Luke Dooley (WA) (DNF)
K1 W U23	Rebecca Mann (6/14)	Isabel Neilson (DNF)
K1 M U23	Casey Haynes (18/27)	Logan Dutton (19/27)
K1 W Open	Tegan Fraser (QLD) (DNF)	
K2 W Open	Rebecca Mann / Isabel Neilson (9/14)	
K1 M Open	Glenn Rypp (SA) (19/31)	Josh Kippin (WA) (20/31)
K2 M Open	Logan Dutton / Josh Kippin (WA) - DNS	Casey Haynes / Michael Baker (WA) - DNS

Junior development

Introducing young people to paddling is critical to the ongoing sustainability of our sport. This continues to be our major challenge, with few Victorian clubs currently operating junior programs. Fortunately, Victoria has five schools with flatwater paddling programs, which introduce over 50 juniors to paddling each year. However, only two of these schools compete throughout the year, with the programs at three schools confined to the summer period. Increasing junior participation at a club level and encouraging additional schools to offer paddling programs remains a key focus of the Marathon committee.

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The Marathon committee initiated three “Ready to Race” clinics during 2018, aimed at lifting the competition skills of our U18 and U23 paddlers. These were very successful, with twenty-nine paddlers attended one or more of the clinics led by Mick and Kate Leverett, with an average of 16 attending each clinic. A separate skills clinic was organized for single blade canoe paddlers, which was open to all ages, however, this was cancelled due to lack of interest. We plan to hold further junior race clinics in 2019 and introduce a masters race clinic if the demand exists.

Financial performance

The Marathon discipline was fortunate to make an operating profit of ~\$8,000 due primarily to continued tight cost control and steady race participation. The discipline finished the financial year with net assets of ~\$58,000, comprising cash of ~\$40,000 and equipment of ~\$18,000. During the year Marathon invested ~\$3,000 in developing an automated timing system and ~\$1,000 providing storage for race equipment on one of the safety boat trailers.

Achievements in 2017/2018

- Trialled new race formats (e.g. doubles/singles/pairs event at WS4, doubles to singles event at WS5, long distance and relay sprints at WS6 in 2H 2018) and locations (Barwon Heads and Lillydale Lake) to encourage increased participation.
- Introduced a “social” class at events to encourage paddlers not interested in racing to participate.
- Offered registration discounts for early bird and 65+ age paddlers.
- Developed a RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) automated race timing system.
- Introduced a new Victorian paddling uniform for state and national championship events
- Worked with Dragon Boat Victoria for dragon boat participation in marathon racing, with four dragon boat teams and 76 paddlers participating in 2017 WS4 at Patterson Lakes.

Initiatives for 2018/2019

- Working with clubs to establish and energize junior programs at all clubs.
- Working with clubs to establish race coordinators to drive increased club participation at races.
- Building a base of trained officials and volunteers to run our events and prepare Paddle VIC Marathon to deliver the Australian Marathon Championships in Victoria in 2020.

Safety

The safety and wellbeing of all participants is the most important priority at our events. Through preparation and training we are fortunate to seldom have issues more serious than blisters or grazes. However, we had one serious injury this year, where one of our junior paddlers lacerated his Achilles tendon on the seat rail of his boat when exiting during portage training. The injury required medical treatment involving a number of operations and a period of four months without paddling. Fortunately, the paddler has recently recommenced paddling and we wish him well for a full recovery. The incident and lessons learned were shared with the other state marathon committee and the Australian marathon paddling community.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the members of the Marathon Committee and those who assist the committee in project roles, without whom the discipline could not operate. I thank Joe Alia for his many years of service as Chair of the Marathon Committee and in his new role as Vice Chair; Alan Opie, who was Secretary of the committee for over 20 years and who retired from this position recently; and Graeme Bowes, formerly Vice-Chair and a long-standing member of the committee who also retired this year.

Space does not permit me to name all those who have assisted this year, however, I wish to thank Sally Miller, for her considerable efforts in producing and publishing the Marathon Diary, which she has done for the past five years, Arabella Eyre for her ongoing work as communications officer, ensuring our community remains informed of events and activities, and Debbie Bennett for her efforts

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finalizing the design and delivery of the new Paddle VIC racing uniforms. I welcome Geoff Baird to the committee as technical officer and express my thanks for the enormous effort he put in developing the automated timing system, upgrading our equipment management and volunteering at every race.

I also wish to thank the many volunteers that help at each of our races, and single out Ruth Graves, who, like Geoff, has attended every race to handle race registrations and timing, and Gary Flanigan for towing safety boats to many of those races and then providing on-water safety. I also wish to thank Mick and Kate Leverett for their time, experience and enthusiasm in delivering the junior development clinics this year to help our younger paddlers perform to the best of their ability at national and international competition.

Finally, I would like to thank all the paddlers that participated in our events and I look forward to their continued support in 2019.

John Young
Chair, Marathon Committee

Notable achievements of Victorian paddlers

Listed below are the results of Victorian paddlers at the Australian Marathon Championships

2018 Australian Marathon Championships

Class	Name	Place
U12MK1	Bradley Buissink	3 rd
U14MRec2	Bradley Buissink/ Maksim Nikolic	1 st
U16MC1	Tyler Creed	1 st
U16MC2	Arnie Shanahan/ Tyler Creed	1 st
U16MC1	Arnie Shanahan	2 nd
U16MK2	Nathan Jones/ Robert Burns	3 rd
U18MK1	Seamus Spanner	1 st
U18MK1	Sean Jones	3 rd
U18MK2	Bryce Newton/Seamus Spanner	2 nd
U18MK2	Sean Jones	3 rd
U23MK1	Casey Haynes	1 st
U23MK1	Logan Dutton	2 nd
U23MK1	Brendan Clarke	3 rd

OpenMK2	Logan Dutton	2 nd
OpenMK2	Casey Haynes	3 rd
Men	Dean Garo	1 st
45-49MK2	Ben Johnson/ Brett McDonald	1 st
45-49MK1	Ben Johnson	2 nd
50-54MK2	Dominic Scarfe/ John Young	1 st
50-54MUC2	Alex Brunacci/ Stephen Routley	1 st
60-64MK1	Peter Currie	1 st
60-64MK1	Rob Russell	3 rd
U16WK1	Ellie Johnson	2 nd
U16WK2	Gabby Walker/ Piper Wright	2 nd
U16WK2	Monique Westcott/ Sienna Nodin	3 rd
U18WK1	Hannah Scott	1 st
U18WK1	Brianna Jones	2 nd
U18WK1	Rachel de Kretser	3 rd
U18WK2	Brianna Jones/ Hannah Scott	1 st
U18WK2	Emily O'Rourke/ Rachel de Kretser	2 nd
U23WK1	Rebecca Mann	1 st
U23WK1	Isabel Neilson	2 nd
U23WK1	Alana Johnson	3 rd
OpenWC1	Reka Abraham	1 st
OpenWK2	Isabel Neilson/ Rebecca Mann	1 st
OpenWK1	Megan Shaw	2 nd
OpenWK2	Alana Johnson/ Penny Young	2 nd
Women	Monika Galovic	1 st
35-39WK1	Kate Leverett	2 nd
40-44WC1	Chau Nguyen	1 st
55-59WSki1	Jo Davis	1 st
55-59WK1	Andrea Szkibik	3 rd
60-69WK1	Suzanne Lipe	3 rd
50-	Joanne Davis/Ralph Wright	3 rd
54MixedRec2	Andrea Szkibik/ Neil	2 nd
55-	Tattersall	
59MixedK2	Peter Currie/Tanya	1 st
60-	Beacham	
64MixedK2		

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2017 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships

Class	Name	Place
U23MC1	Sabastian Wakim	13 th
U23MK1	Casey Haynes	18 th
U23MK1	Logan Dutton	20 th
Open K1W	Marlena Ahrens	15 th
Open K1W	Kate Leverett	DNF
60-64Mixed	Maggie Vegh/Steven	1st
Rec2	Vegh	
U23WK1	Isabel Neilson	10 th
U23WK1	Matilda Stevenson	11 th
Junior WK2	Emily O'Rourke	10 th
C1 Women	Reka Abraham	6 th

Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the support of our major sponsors the Victorian Government through Sport and Recreation Victoria and Vichealth, Capacity Sports, Life Saving Victoria and Melbourne Water. The local governments that support our clubs at the grassroots level, thank you for your financial support of our vision and our passion.



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Audited Financial Statements