

*Canoeing Victoria  
Annual Report  
2007-2008*





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## Office Bearers 2007/2008

June 07 – June 08

President	Gary Flanigan
Chair	Tom Hirrschoff
Interested Director	Geoff Hindle
Interested Director	Richard Lawrence
Independent Director	Richard Howard
Independent Director	Ross Stevens
Chair Canoe Polo	Ian Beasley / Mike Wilson
Chair Marathon	Mark Murray
Chair Flatwater	Neville Stone
Chair Slalom	Max Parsons / Roy Farrance
Chair Wildwater	Mike Wilson

## Office Staff

Executive Officer(s)	Andrea Boothroyd & Sharon Swoboda
Education Programs Manager	John Moore
Membership Officer	Carmel Cook
Book Keeper	Sandra Reaburn
<b>Project Officer</b>	Andrea Boothroyd
Vichealth Indigenous Project	
SRV Business Improvement	
SRV Sports Development	
SRV Masters Development	
<b>Project Officer</b>	Sharon Swoboda
Vichealth Indigenous Project	
SRV Business Improvement	
Yarra Descent	
<b>Project officer</b>	Catherine Gardiner-Gaskin
SRV Masters Development	

## Acknowledgments

Canoeing Victoria would also like to acknowledge the strong support provided by the following organisations:

### State Government Departments:

Department for Victorian Communities  
Sport and Recreation Victoria  
VicHealth  
Marine Safety Victoria  
Victorian Institute of Sport  
Parks Victoria

### Other Supporters:

Sport Education Victoria, Aquatics & Recreation Victoria, CKEA, Canoes Plus, Liquid Life, Kew Festival, Richmond Recreation Centre, Brunswick City Baths Moonee Valley Council



Supported by  
State Government  
Victoria



HEALTH THROUGH CANOEING





## Affiliated Clubs 2007/2008

Ballarat Amateur Canoe Club  
 Bass Coast Canoe Club  
 Bendigo Canoe Club  
 Canoe Factory Club  
 Canoes Plus Racing Team  
 Cobram-Barooga Canoe Club  
 Deniliquin Canoe Club  
 Echuca-Moama Club  
 Eltham College Canoe Club  
 Essendon Canoe Club  
 Fairfield Canoe Club  
 Footscray Amateur Canoe  
 G.E.C.K.O. Greater Eastern Canoe.  
 Geelong Canoe Club  
 Gippsland Kayak Club  
 Ivanhoe-Northcote Canoe Club  
 Kananook Creek Canoe Club  
 Kirinari Kayak Klub  
 Mercantile Kayak Club  
 Mildura District Canoe Club  
 Mitta Mitta Canoe Club  
 Melbourne Canoe Club  
 Patterson Lakes C.C.  
 Shepparton Canoe Club  
 Sherbrook Knox Canoe Club  
 Swan Hill Canoe Club  
 Tarwin River Canoe Club  
 Templestowe Canoe Club  
 Victorian Canoe Club  
 Warrnambool Kayak Club  
 Whitehorse Canoe Club  
 Yarrawonga Mulwala Canoe Club

## Membership for 2007/2008

### Membership Breakdown

	2007/2008	2006/2007
Adult	795	911
Junior	247	273
Life	7	5
Lifetime	1	2
Rec Adult	562	352
Rec Junior	20	4
School	86	62
Social Adults	51	67
Social Juniors	-	2
Junior Development	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1769</b>	<b>1680</b>

### Senior Members across all states

State	Members
Victoria	1409
NSW	N/A
QLD	1020 (Total Members)
SA	N/A
WA	N/A

### Junior Members across all states

State	Members
Victoria	353
NSW	N/A
QLD	
SA	
WA	N/A

### Total Number of Clubs

State	Total
Victoria	32
NSW	43
QLD	27
SA	12
WA	11
TAS	4
NT	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>



## Victorian Team Representation

### **Flatwater Victorian State Team**

#### Open Men

Piers Christiansen, Peter Gargiulo, Damon Bonney,  
Ross McDonald

#### Open Female

Allison Mitchell, Megan Rose

#### Age Group

U22 Mitch Kowarzik

U18M Eric Alger, Angus Campbell

U18W Amy Peters

U16M Travis Dodd, Conor Rogers, Michael Runic

Jono Carter, James Robinson

U16W Perri Lelievre, Caitlin Lamb

Team Manager: Aaron Coutts

### **Canoe Polo – Victorian National Team Representatives**

#### Mens Team (4<sup>th</sup> place)

Nathan Moore (Captain)

Steven Porter

#### Womens Team (5<sup>th</sup> place)

Kate Abbey (Captain)

Rebecca Jennings

#### U21 Mens Team (8<sup>th</sup> place)

Tom Stork (Captain)

Matt Perrin

Adrian Porter

Matt Greaves

Andrew Merrifield (reserve)

Matt Moore (Coach)

#### Managers

Brenda Stork

Bob Stork

John Moore

### **Slalom - Victorian State Team**

The following State Slalom Team was selected to represent Victoria at the 2008 National Slalom Championships.

**Senior K1M:** Warwick Draper, Mark Nicholds, Philip Mingerulli, Scott Guinea

**Senior K1W:** Sarah Grant, Leanne Guinea, Susie Wharton, Georgia Merritt

**Senior C1M:** Jack Pead, Chris Gusnieam Chris Wharton, Christian Fabris

**Senior C2M:** Tim Feben / Tom Baker Gabb, Talis Svarcs / Tom Greaves, Andrew Farrance / Kai Swoboda

**Senior C2Mxd:** Stuart Dry / Karen Rafferty

**Junior K1M:** Jaxon Merritt, Tim Hobbs, Alastair Anderson, Harry Ward

**Junior K1W:** Emily Fegan, Antra Svarcs, Marta Ivkov, Loren Kluwer

**Junior C1M:** John Hardman

**Junior C2M:** Adam McNeill / Tim Anderson

**Cadets Team:** Chris Fegan, Ellie Rafferty, Anton Ivkov / Adam Rajic, Jack Currie, Maggie Webster, Alan Robinson

Rosie Arnold, Ben Marriott, Maddie Batters

### **Slalom – Victorian National Team Representatives**

The following athletes were selected in the Australian National Slalom Teams.

#### **Olympic Team and Senior National Team**

Warwick Draper, Mark Bellafiore,

#### **U23 National Team**

Leanne Guinea, Sarah Grant, Phillip Mingerulli, Mark Nicholds

#### **Junior National Team**

Antra Svarcs

#### **National Talent Squad**

Emily Fegan, Antra Svarcs, Jaxon Merritt, Alastair Anderson, John Hardman, Tim Hobbs



## Presidents Report

The year now completed was another successful, very busy but rewarding year. Successful because we – our Co-Executive officers, their staff and the Board – through stringent financial control have again managed to return a 'breakeven' financial result. Finances within CV, as they are for all similar organisations, will always be under stress unless we can develop our own proprietary income streams. As you can imagine, that is more difficult to achieve than merely expressing such a 'wish' but, we are working on it!

Regretfully, due to the lack of water and therefore a predicted lack of participants, it was decided not to stage the Yarra Descent this year but we will have it back on the calendar for 2009, in the hope that we have more favourable weather conditions or rescheduled at a more appropriate time

Whilst the staff and Board members of CV have done wonders throughout the year, we collectively within CV are most fortunate in that we are supported by a most amazing and widespread pool of similarly dedicated, very talented and hard working members of our Discipline Committees. It is trite to say that without their efforts CV would simply not exist but, exist we do and we will continue to exist if we can retain the loyalty and dedication of these wonderful hardworking individuals and their seemingly endless band of volunteers – our sincere thanks to all who helped make the year now completed, such a success.

The Discipline Committees (DC), representing each different facet of kayaking, 'run' our sport. Serving on a DC committee, and on the CV Board, is very time consuming but is rewarding in both a personal and vocational sense. I would encourage all who aspire to be self employed or to become senior managers within their chosen organisations, to become active members of our various DC's if only to gain experience in 'running' an organisation.

As I have mentioned previously, the Executive and Board of CV are working to ensure the long-term survival of our sport through encouraging both recreational and competitive participation throughout the State of Victoria. The promotion of our sport requires both concentration of effort and greater funding. Our equivalent body in NSW experienced considerable financial difficulty during the past year and Australian Canoeing have actively been assisting in reorganising the State's organization.

The NSW difficulties were, in the main I believe, caused by a lack of government financial support. We here in Victoria receive considerable financial funding from the various government bodies and we thank them all for their continued support.

Kate Heeley, the immediate past CEO of Australian Canoeing, recently departed for a 'farm change' and has been replaced by Greg Doyle. CV look forward to working with Greg for the betterment of our sport in general and building on our sports wonderful successes in the recent Olympics.

One major and on-going task of the CV Board is to promote the creation of a recognizable and valuable 'brand image' such as to create wider public awareness of the sport in general. The aim is to develop a marketable image which will allow us to develop our own 'income streams'. Such an image will allow us to attract serious advertising revenue rather than being constantly reliant upon uncertain – but very much appreciated – government and Departmental grants.



Government sponsored funding is, at present and is likely to remain for all time, vital to our existence. The long-term aim of your Board is to create our own proprietary income streams such as to allow more flexibility in the promotion and delivery of the sport in general. Government grants are 'tied' to the delivery of specified outcomes. Our continued success in attracting this fickle source of funding is testimony to the efforts of our Co-Executive Officers, Sharon Swoboda and Andrea Boothroyd and I, on behalf of the Board and our membership in general, congratulate and thank them for their efforts.

Amongst the many successes achieved by our Co-Executives were the funding by Marine Safety for a Boat Handling course, a River Rescue course, support for a new boat ramp at the Essendon Canoe Club, *the continued coaching, masters and indigenous projects* and the funding of many other courses.

In order to develop our own 'marketable' image, we need the assistance of individuals with either or both, marketing and financial skills. Your Board is short of members at the moment but, whilst we would welcome expressions of interest from any interested person, we would particularly like to enlarge the Board numbers by appointing selected individuals with the requisite skills and training.

In closing, I again express my sincere thanks to all members of the CV community but my special thanks go to all DC committee members and volunteers, our staff and Executive officers and to the members of the CV Board – thank you and I look forward to working with you all in the future.

Gary Flanigan.  
President of Canoeing Victoria Inc.





## Finance Report

Canoeing Victoria would like to acknowledge our supporters and in particular Sport and Recreation Victoria, VicHealth and Marine Safety Victoria.

The Board believes that CV can meet its debts as they fall due.

Overall, the organisation reported a loss of \$12,937 on Gross income of \$327,445 which is a loss in the order of 3.9%. It should be noted, as a contributing factor to this overall result, that during the year all actual fixed assets were catalogued and compared to the depreciation schedules.

Any missing assets were reported in the accounts as loss on sale of fixed assets and they amounted in total to \$8302. However, we also found many assets to exist that were not included on our asset register. While we have attributed a fair value to all assets for insurance, our conservative auditors have prepared these accounts on the basis of no value to those 'recently discovered' assets.

Clearly our accounts undervalue many assets for two reasons; one that they were in part, or entirely, donated to the organisation – as such there was no expenditure to be capitalised. The second reason is that some expenditure of a capital nature has been expensed. Taking these factors into account changes the loss figure to the extent that it becomes insignificant overall.

However, looking at the performance of each division after adding back the one off asset write offs noted above shows Admin, Touring, Wild-water and Slalom to be at or about breakeven while the Marathon and Polo Disciplines need more attention. Marathon is showing a loss of \$4516 of which asset write offs only contributed \$813 This represents a loss of 18% on total annual turn over – clearly a concern. The Polo figures presented last year were incorrect, they omitted the pool rental for \$15,675 and include consulting fees to Parsons Brinkerhoff of \$10,909 which should have been Capitalised last year.

Accordingly, the auditors have restated the income statement for last year for these matters. The revised figures represent a loss for last year (2006/2007) of \$7,794 and a loss this year of \$2,021 despite holding a profitable Nationals even at Essendon during the year. Canoe Polo has \$26,004 cash at bank so we should not be too greatly concerned over a small loss.

Of more importance to the organisation is the membership growing or Shrinking?

While I understand that Slalom has held well run and patronised events, its Gross income of \$3125 in 2006/2007 and \$4,999 this year does not excite. Canoe Polo had income of \$52,613 last year and \$51,420 this year – if you took out the Nationals from this years Polo figure, the total would be less than last year. The challenge clearly, is to increase overall participation.

The Admin finances also took a one off hit of approx \$7,000, being 1/12 of the annual membership fees received in the year ending 2008 which related to the 2009 year. Taking the above factors into account does suggest that membership overall seems steady despite the difficulties being faced by some disciplines.

The large amount paid by CV to Australian Canoeing – last year \$64,066 and this year \$62,091, continues to put a squeeze on CV finances and regrettably, we have been forced to pass on some of that expense to the Disciplines. With NSW failing to meet its obligations to AC – and endeavouring to be placed in voluntary liquidation – it is possible that the repayments to AC might have to continue longer than the original agreement envisaged but, only time will tell on this particular. There is also an ongoing issue with GST on these payments to AC which must one day be resolved although we in CV believe that no GST is payable; clearly AC have other ideas!

During the year we opened accounts with ING to get better interest on our bank balance; the Federal Government has recently guaranteed those deposits so the increased interest revenue received from these deposits should not be at an increased risk.

Overall the message from reviewing the accounts is, times are not good but our finances are under control.

Ric Howard





## Executive Officers Report

Another busy year for the administration at the State Office. The Executive Officers (Andrea and Sharon) are still working in partnership to deliver good outcomes for the Canoeing Community. After the year of consolidation there was a strong emphasis on setting the goals and direction for the organization for the future. Now that the administration has sorted out the processes and day to day functions, a need to set the direction for the future was required.

### Strategic Plan

A Strategic forum was run in August which was the start of the development of the new strategic plan. After the initial feedback, a draft plan was developed to start the discussions about the future of the organization. Since then, we have had feedback from individuals, clubs and disciplines and we are still in the process of refining and updating the plan. The next major step is defining the implementation plan to deliver the outcomes over the next three years.

### Financial Reporting

A great deal of effort has been invested in the financial reporting of the organization. This allows both the Board and the office to fully understand the financial workings and ensure that budgets can be met. In the new year, we will be reporting against the Strategic Objectives to further align our activities and costs.

### Asset Management

Another major initiative this year has been to review the Canoeing Victoria assets, ensuring that the insurance is appropriate and up to date and that the equipment that is still being used is up to scratch and safe for all members to take advantage. A lot of work has been done to ensure assets such as the trailers were serviced, safe and procedures such as maintenance schedules were developed to protect such useful and valuable assets into the future.

### Club Support and Coach Development

Thanks to Sport and Recreation, we have been able to concentrate on developing the coaches and our masters programs that are the backbone to developing the sport into the future, whether for competition or for recreation paddling. We have identified that the Masters age group are our most popular age group and therefore we need to work towards providing better services as well as being as attractive as possible to future members. Qualified coaches and supporting their endeavours to improve, ultimately strengthen clubs and the general membership. The supporting programs beyond the coaching courses include such programs as workshops on appropriate topics, first aid courses, powerboat courses, mentoring programs, and many others. We look forward to continuing these initiatives into the new year and beyond.

### Club and Member Administration

One of our initiatives that we trialed during the year, was providing pre-printed revised membership forms to clubs to streamline the membership process for both clubs and the State Office. For those clubs that took up the offer agreed that it was a great idea and a simple one for us to implement.

In addition, the change in the membership form enabled us to capture information regarding the membership that has enabled us to understand our membership base better and assist us in communicating better with our members. We now have a number of newsletters that will be sent on a regular basis including our coaching and instructor newsletter that provides updates on what courses are available to increase skills and opportunities.

### Grants

Once again Sport and Recreation Victoria have strongly supported Canoeing Victoria over a number of projects. Primarily, they continue to support the ongoing administration tasks which we used to develop such things as the strategic plan, asset review and management, records management and developing our financial controls. This will be a great investment in the future.

We have also instigated a project to encourage participation in the indigenous community supported by Vichealth.



This is a two year project, and we look forward to it developing into a longer term initiative with support from many facets of the community.

Marine Safety have been extremely supportive by providing funding for such safety education programs as the River Rescue courses and the power boat courses as well as the purchases of much need safety equipment.

### Yarra Descent

In 2007 the inaugural Yarra Descent was successfully run although the water level was low as were the number of participants. The concept of the race is a good one, but it will be constant challenge with the water levels being low and never guaranteed. The decision was made to not hold the race in 2008 and will be reviewed for 2009.

### Murray Marathon

Most members if not all would be aware that the Red Cross is making the 2008 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Murray Marathon event the last for their involvement.. Canoeing Victoria and Australian Canoeing are aware of the impact that this will have on Canoeing in general if the race is not continued in some form in the future. As such, we have been in discussions with Red Cross and the advisory committee about our involvement in the future and what we can do to ensure its future existence. Unfortunately, we have not been invited to participate in the process for the event's future at this stage. Should a new event partner not be established, we are committed to trying to provide challenging and participation opportunities for our members and the community in the future.

### Administration Staff

Once again the staff at the State office has worked diligently and tirelessly to improve and deliver services to the members and the Canoeing Community. We would like to thank Sandra, Carmel, John and our new project officer Catherine Gardiner-Gaskin for all their efforts and patience during the year.

### Board Members

We would like to extend our thanks to our dedicated Board members who work for the benefit of all the members. Our esteemed leader Gary Flanagan with the assistance of the other Board members outdid themselves with their efforts in fundraising to ease the financial burden in the office. We said farewell to Ross Stevens and Richard Lawrence during the year due to personal commitments and thank them for their great contributions to Canoeing Victoria. In particular to Ross, for his contributions to Australian Canoeing and their financial situation. All canoeing members have benefited from Ross's input.

### Home of Canoeing Victoria

We have now well and truly settled into our new home at Westerfolds Park and the facilities we now have at our disposal are fantastic. It has also been great to see clubs and disciplines taking advantage of our new conference centre. Central access to our Education centre has also made life easier. The potential development of a slalom course under the Templestowe bridge is another step in developing Westerfolds park as the central hub to our organization. Despite it being such a great venue, we will be looking into the future for clubs and other venues to deliver our courses particularly in the regional areas.

### Major Objectives for 2008/09

Our time of consolidation is now behind us and we are in a great position to go out and promote and develop the paddling activities and more importantly find the partners to go forward with. The objective for 2008-09 is to work through the Strategic Plan and start to implement the objectives and make the sport grow both in competition and in the recreation area.

We want to be and should be the leaders in the industry in training our paddling educators, in skill and safety and with the review of the AC Award scheme 2008-09 will be the perfect time to review and raise the standards.

Sharon Swoboda and Andrea Boothroyd  
Co-Executive Officers.



## **Sport Development**

For their support of our development activities, Canoeing Victoria gratefully acknowledge Sport & Recreation Victoria (Coach Development and Masters Development), VicHealth (Indigenous Participation Development), Marine Safety Victoria (Whitewater River Rescue training, Powerboat Handler training, Safetyboat Handler training).

## **Coach Development**

This year a key focus for Canoeing Victoria was on training and developing our grassroots coaches. Our development activities aimed to:

- Increase the number of accredited coaches in canoe clubs & disciplines by developing the infrastructure and support required to complete and maintain coach accreditation; and
- Enhance the skills of accredited coaches by providing on-going professional development opportunities.

These activities help to improve athlete performance, strengthen local canoe clubs, and underpin our other grassroots development projects (see below).

Our achievements this year included:

- Completing a comprehensive needs analysis that identified the current barriers/enables to coaches completing their accreditation, and the infrastructure and support required by disciplines to deliver effective training programs.
- Establishing support infrastructure to help trainees to complete their coaching qualification.
- Piloting a partnership with Sport Education Victoria who are providing valuable advice and direction for our coach development activities.
- A 12 month coach training, development and networking calendar for several disciplines.

With the support of our discipline related coach development activities, the number of accredited Level 1 coaches in Victoria more than doubled over the year. Coach development will continue in 2008/09.

## **Volunteer Development**

In addition to our coach development activities, Canoeing Victoria organised and offered highly subsidised Whitewater River Rescue training, Powerboat Handler training and Safety Boat Handler training to upskill our volunteers to better support club and discipline activities.

## **Junior Development**

Canoeing Victoria's two key introduction-to-canoeing programs for schools continued this year:

- Kayaking in a Pool – a fun 90 minute program at a local swimming pool.
- Introduction to Canoeing – at our Education Centre on the Yarra River at Templestowe.

Canoeing Victoria began a review of its current school programs. The review identified the creation of successful and sustainable pathways for juniors is more likely to succeed where State office, disciplines and clubs work together in a local area.

Based on this principle, a Canoe Polo Junior Development Plan to 2010 was drafted which we aim to pilot over the next year.

The Downriver and Slalom School Championships were held in September 2007, and the Sprint and Marathon School Championships in April 2008. For the second year running the Canoe Polo School Championships were cancelled due to clashes with other activities and an early Easter holiday break. State Office is working across all disciplines to minimise the chance of this reoccurring.

## **Masters Development**

Canoeing Victoria conducted a comprehensive needs analysis into the requirements of the over 35 age group and the potential of that market to participate in canoeing. The research is giving us a thorough understanding of the area. As a result, a plan of activities to address the identified needs of this market is being created and a pilot program will be commence in the next year.

State Office is working with Marathon, Sprint, Slalom & Canoe Polo disciplines to participate in the Australian Masters Games in Geelong at the end of February 2009.

## **Indigenous Participation Development**

This development project is focused on creating participation opportunities for the Indigenous community in canoeing. This year has been about identifying organisations to assist us with the project, identifying the needs of the participants and reviewing/aligning the opportunities we can offer. The project is continuing in the 2008/09 year.



## Education

### Instructor Training

As a National Training Provider we once again ran training course to produce Australian Canoeing Accredited Instructors and Guides. Flatwater Instructor courses were once again extremely popular with Canoeing Victoria running both public and private courses for outdoor education groups, schools and individuals.

### Review of Education Processes

As part of the consolidation process, we have worked very hard to provide a professional approach to all our courses including improving the booking process and confirmation and participant information. This review process will continue into the new year with a review of the delivery of all the programs to ensure consistency and increase the quality of our programs so we can become the leader in the field as is expected of the State Organisation.

### Australian Canoeing Education Committee

At the 2006/07 AC AGM, it was re-stated how important the education aspect of canoeing is to Australian Canoeing and all the State Associations. As a result, the Education Committee was revitalized and took on the task to review the existing AC Awards scheme. They have now updated the scheme to ensure that the best interests of Canoeing are in hand. These updates have been available for review and Canoeing Victoria and key instructors have been reviewing these changes and providing feedback to the Education Committee. We look forward to implementing the new Award and offering more and appropriate courses in the future.

### Kayaking in a Pool programs

This is still proving to be a very popular program for the school groups. It provides a fun and challenging program for the kids delivered in a safe and familiar environment. The Challenge is now in the provision of the pools. The costs are sky rocketing and between the reduced water in the river and the costs of the pool, it is reducing our opportunities to deliver the program at a cost that is acceptable by the schools. In the new year, we will be looking for a sponsor to assist to ensure this type of program can continue into the future.

### School Programs

We continue to provide river paddling programs for schools which is another great package that we will be developing further into the future. The next step is concentrating on the pathways for those introduced to paddling in these environments to ensure they come back time and time again and become life long paddlers – our ultimate goal for all participants. Instructor costs and equipment are our main costs so investing in additional assets and streamlining our processes will assist with keeping these costs as low as possible, and increasing the opportunities that we provide.





## Canoe Polo

### **Summary**

The past 12 months have been very successful for canoe polo in Victoria. We hosted a very successful Australian Canoe Polo Championships. We had achieved our highest degree of representation in National Teams for many years. There is also signs that our novice and intermediate level player numbers are on the increase again after several years of decline.

### **Participation**

Participation in our sport in Victoria has been waning for several years. Many different factors have influenced this decline. A number of long term players have left to follow other interests. Late pool hours have discouraged young and older players from taking up the sport. Affiliation and insurance costs have discouraged university teams from participating which has also been further hampered by cutbacks to university club funding. None of these issues are insurmountable and are steadily being addressed and our player numbers are starting to grow again. With the support and help of Canoeing Victoria we are sorting through the issues with university participation and our Spring competition saw our first new Melbourne University team for several years join our Melbourne Competition. We have also had several people encouraging work mates to give canoe polo a try. This is not only increasing canoe polo participation but canoeing in general as these people are not from within our own paddling community and it is likely that some will branch out into other disciplines as they realise what other options are available to them.

### **Major Activities**

The most significant event individual event that occurred during the last year was our hosting of the 2008 Australian Canoe polo Championships. They were held on the Maribynong River at Essendon Canoe Club for three days during Easter. Twenty-three teams competed from ACT, NSW, Qld, SA, Vic, WA and NZ. It was a great success due to the huge amount of work put in by the organising committee lead by Brenda Stork. The Victorian participants and their results are given at the end of this report. The second national level competition that was conducted was the 2008 Victorian Invitational, the Victorian leg of the National Summer Series, held prior to the Interstate Championships

### **New Year objectives**

The main objective for the next year is to continue to rebuild our player base. Our approach will be to continue developing our junior programs and strategies in conjunction with Canoeing Victoria. By pursuing the reintegration of university students into our competition and by investigating ways to encourage existing players to get there friends to give polo a try. I would also like to get the clubs to become more active in promoting polo to their members to try and rekindle the club rivalries that used to exist in our sport. Other objectives are to improve the standard and quantity of available Referees and finding an alternative competition venue more conducive to junior player participation.

### **Competitions**

During the past year two Melbourne Competition Seasons (Spring and Autumn) have been conducted a short Summer Competition was also run on a more social level to help promote interaction between players in different grades and of different standards. Three Premier League seasons were also conducted to continue the development of our elite level players and those players aspiring to become elite players. These competitions are all played during weeknight evenings. Weekend competitions in the form of the 2007 Victorian Interclubs and the 2008 Victorian Invitational were also conducted

### **Thank you**

Victorian Canoe polo is pleased to acknowledge the contributions of the following organisations:

Richmond Recreation Centre  
Brunswick City Baths  
Moonee Valley Council  
Essendon Canoe Club  
Parks Victoria.

I would also like to acknowledge the special efforts of two individuals over the past five years. Firstly, Ian Beasley for the years of dedication and hard work he has performed as Chairperson of Victorian Canoe Polo during a difficult and demanding period of restructuring of canoeing in Australia. Secondly, Matt Moore whose boundless enthusiasm has totally reinvigorated our approach to junior and elite level development during his tenure as Development Officer.

Mike Wilson, Chairman October 2008



## Flatwater / Sprint

### Summary

This year has been a sad year for Victorian Flatwater with the loss of Damon "Massive" Bonney from Mercantile Kayaking Club.

Damon has been a wonderful personality around elite paddling, and was a testament to determination and persistence as he worked towards getting to Olympic standard. His influence on paddlers and rowers alike through his wonderful personality and example, his unfailing patience and ability to connect with people – especially the junior athletes, is a gift that we are grateful to have experienced and we are saddened as a community that we will not have from Damon in the future.

He owned the 200 metre championship due to his explosive speed off the line, and with the permission of his family and partner Lindsey we are naming the Victorian 200 metre Championship the Damon Bonney Memorial Trophy in his honour.

We also see the resignation of our stalwart administrator, Jenny O'Shea. Jenny has been the lifeline of Flatwater for many years, and without Jenny there is unlikely to have been the continuation of regattas and the results that Victoria has experienced in recent years. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to her, and the Flatwater Committee will not be the same without her smiling face and constant participation.

Glenn Singleton covered himself with glory by being a member of the Olympic qualifying crew in the Australian K4, however stress fractures in his back prevented him from competing in the final selection regatta in Sydney and therefore his chance at Olympic competition at Beijing. We all hope that Glenn can recover completely and continue to be the powerhouse in paddling in the men's ranks, providing benchmark competition for the up and coming developing athletes and bringing both himself and them along to the Olympic level.

It was great to see former Victorians competing in the Olympics and solid components of the Australian team.

### Events Conducted –

- Regatta 1 - Bendigo Cup, Lake Weeroona
- Regattas 2 & 3 - Barwon River, Geelong
- State Championships 2008:
  - Nagambie Lakes 1st and 2nd of March.
- Australian and Oceania Championships SIRC
- Flatwater Sprint Schools Championships Essendon Canoe Club, April 12th 2008.





## Slalom

### Summary

- Development of two new venues for slalom training on the Yarra; to include Dights Falls and possibly Westerfolds Park. Dr B Pahl appointed to represent CV on Dights Falls Committee.
- Development of a whitewater park in Melbourne. The Slalom Committee to address the need to move on this direction again soon, to build on the impetus formed through the success at the Olympics. Max Parsons appointed as Major project Manager for development.
- Following the destruction of the Goulburn Whitewater Course through a flood in early 2008, the SC has applied for funding to redevelop and improve safety on this course before the 2008/9 season.
- SC has accepted the need to form a committee to work on improving the number of schools participating in the Victorian Schools Championships.

### Victorian Events conducted

Yarra Series sponsored by Solution  
Country Series Races including King River, Big River and Canoes Plus Slalom  
Victorian Schools Championships  
Canoes Plus Slalom  
Victorian Slalom Championships  
Southern Cup Events

### Interstate Competition

Victorian Team Athletes and also School athletes traveled to Penrith in January 2008 to compete at the National Schools Championships and the National Championships.

Earlier in December 2007, teams from both the BBAS program and NTS traveled to Tasmania to compete at the Tasmanian State Championships / Southern Cup 1.

### Overseas Competition

Apart from the National Teams that represented Australia overseas during 2008, the BBAS canoeing program also took a team to New Zealand to compete at the Southern Cup during December 2007. The trip was part of the development of athletes in Victoria.

### High Performance

#### Successful VIS Scholarships

Congratulations to Warwick Draper, Mark Bellofiore and Sarah Grant for receiving 2008/09 Victorian Institute of Sport Individual Scholarships. With such great performances in 2008, we hope that this type of support allows these athletes to continue to perform at their best during 2008/09. We would like to thank the VIS for once again supporting our athletes in the pursuit of excellence.

#### Successful Academy Program

The BBAS program accepted 21 athletes for the 2007-8 season. A further 12 athletes were offered a beginners program. This is the largest Academy / Institute program in Australia, and the only volunteer program offered which shows results at a high level

### Athlete Development

#### Bendigo Bank Academy of Sport

#### Rapidly to London

Program was to run for 2 years, which concluded in August 2008, as yet no new plans have been publicized.

#### Melbourne Canoe Club

MCC has run various coaching sessions and development sessions throughout the year

IGGS, IGS and CPRT have also started athletes this season which may continue on in slalom

### Coaching

Coaches who attended the level 1 coaching program run during 2007 by Melbourne Canoe Club, finalized their training and some obtained qualifications throughout 2008. In addition, level 2 qualifications were also obtained by an additional two slalom coaches for the Bendigo Bank Academy of Sport Program.

The NTS squad also traveled to NZ to compete during December 2007.

Roy Farrance, Chair Slalom Technical Committee



## Financial Statements

See separate pdf versions of financial statements.