



Annual Report 2005

Canoeing Victoria Annual Report 2005

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Presidents Report

This year has been a very interesting and challenging year for all involved with the administration of the sport of Canoeing within Victoria.

I personally joined the Board of Canoeing Victoria as President in Sept 2004 – and have since worked very closely with the other Board members, office staff and membership to understand the challenges that face our sport.

In summary the challenges are:-

- Offering a valued service to our membership through events and other services.
- Increased engagement between the members and the administration.
- Furthering the development of the sport for example through junior programs, elite programs, running high profile events and aiding the foundation of additional clubs.
- Generating adequate income to cover AC membership fees and office administration costs.
- Securing additional funding from grants for areas of development.
- Securing additional funding from sponsorship and fundraising events.

The delay in holding the AGM for F2005 is due to the huge step that Canoeing Victoria has taken by approving a new constitution which will now see our sport administration structure far more like that of a business. This will allow us to branch out and gain new skills onto the Board – it has been great to see that the new structure has encouraged a number of nominations for the Board from people that have not previously been involved in the administration of the sport at a State level.

Here in April 2006 I personally am VERY excited about the future of our sport based on the recent developments within Australian Canoeing, the current review that is being carried out on the way the sport as a whole is administered within Australia – and the very capable, knowledgeable and dedicated office staff and volunteers that we have within Victoria.

There are many challenges ahead – but I am sure that Canoeing Victoria is in the right position to meet them and to succeed in its mission of developing the sport of canoeing and kayaking within Victoria and getting more people out there on the water having fun.

Annette Kendall
President Canoeing Victoria

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Executive Officers Report

2005 has been a year of successes and many more challenges for the board members and staff.

Our major funding partners, Sport and Recreation Victoria and Vic Health have continued their essential support of key projects and Canoeing Victoria extends sincere thanks to these organizations.

The Department of Victorian Communities through Sport and Recreation Victoria has continued to fund Canoeing Victoria in the areas of Business Improvement, Sport Development and Future Direction Projects.

VicHealth and the Partnership for Health funding has been extended over a further 12 months and supports the Participation and Healthy Environment projects.

In partnership with Australian Canoeing the Victorian Institute of Sport has maintained elite athlete programs for Slalom and Flatwater Canoe Programs

The growth of our sport membership through 2003 – 04 has flattened out. This, along with ever increasing costs for services and supplies has restricted our efforts to expand, promote and market the sport of canoeing. While most of this year has been focused on basic administration and cost reduction some important milestones have been achieved.

A new constitution has finally been implemented. By next year a new board of directors with a strategic charter will allow the sport to move on from the issues of the past. As a sport, Canoeing in Victoria is too small to be dissected with individual agendas. I hope all members look forward to the day when the sport can focus on major goals collectively, achieve and celebrate the outcome collectively and move onto the next challenge collectively. Canoeing can only compete for sponsorship and exposure at the school and community level as a combined and united sport.

Our current calendar of events is very full and does not always inspire the general community, canoeing needs a new look and new events. The Yarra Descent in partnership with 6 local governments is a new event that every club should support, the potential to generate sponsorship and membership is greater than any existing canoeing event in Victoria. Canoeing continues to gain more exposure through events such as the Anaconda Adventure Race, Mars Challenge and other multi disciplined events that capture the community spirit and introduce people to our sport. Australian Canoeing supports these events with a view to participants eventually becoming paddling members of our clubs. Lets all discard our blinkers, do the paddling we like doing best but also positively support the new initiatives that may challenge the traditional events of our sport.

Canoeing Victoria has been lucky in retaining all part time staff for another 12 months. They all work extremely hard to provide a professional and enthusiastic image. The office has been reduced in size (to reduce cost) and "hot desk" workstations have been implemented. All staff are looking forward to new office facilities at Westerfolds Park in 2006, these will be shared with Parks Victoria and the Outdoor Recreation Centre

On behalf of the board I thank all of the staff for their efforts and cooperation throughout the year. 2006 will be a year of substantial change and I encourage all members to actively participate in the opportunities and discussion that will initiate the changes

Please take the time to read the attached reports that provide details on committee activity, project activity and financial details.

Eric Ward , Executive Officer

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Junior / Schools Programs

(Note: This section does not include recreational programs delivered to schools).

The Canoeing Victoria office conducted two main events for schools in 2004/05 that continue to address current gaps in canoeing/kayaking pathway models.

- The Kayaking in a Pool program aimed to provide a fun, cost effective introduction to kayaking for Years 5 to 10 students in a friendly pool environment.
- The All School Paddle Sports Carnival aimed to provide a friendly, cost-effective novice-intermediate competition – a stepping stone between introductory programs (e.g. Kayaking in a Pool) and State level school championships.

For the first time, introduction to canoe polo sessions were delivered to around 250 year 10 students in a metropolitan secondary school as part of the school's physical education program.

During the year, the office also provided marketing and administrative support to assist Discipline Committees (Flatwater, Canoe Polo & Marathon) with their state level school championships.

Kayaking in a Pool

Programs/Activities:

The Kayaking in a Pool program is an introductory program for students in Years 5 to 10 in regional Victoria. During 90 minute sessions, students are introduced to basic skills and safety equipment involved in kayaking through many fun games and activities in a swimming pool environment. Relatively stable and easy-to-manoeuvre canoe polo BATs are used for all sessions.

VicHealth is the major sponsor of the program.

Participation:

The participation objective was 900 students with 25% of schools in focus regions re-participating.

- **Over 1,200 students participated.**
- Over 70% of schools re-participated.

Regions & Pools: Pools were visited in the following locations:

- Cobram (Northern Region - Murray)
- Leitchville (Northern Region - Murray)
- Manangatang (Northern Region - Murray)
- Numurkah (Northern Region - Murray)
- Shepparton (Northern Region - Murray)
- Tungamah (Northern Region - Murray)
- Yarrawonga (Northern Region - Murray)
- Frankston (Southern Region - Peninsula)
- Kooweerup (Southern Region - Peninsula)
- Ballarat (Western Region)
- Beauford (Western Region)
- Camperdown (Western Region)
- Healesville (Eastern Region - Inner)
- Seville (Eastern Region - Inner)
- Warbaron (Eastern Region - Inner)

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Major Activities

Introduction to safety equipment involved in kayaking.
Introduction to basic paddling techniques (active session).
Capsize, exit and recovery procedures (active session).
Games e.g. modified canoe polo, rescue relay, kayaking surfing.

Major Outcome

The program exceeded its participation objectives and was delivered within budget. Now in its fourth year, success of the program in terms of market penetration is evident as:

- the re-participation rate of schools is extremely high.
- the number of days spent at key venues increases.
- the number of schools participating at key venues increases.

All School Paddle Sports Carnival

Programs/Activities:

The All Schools Paddle Sports Carnival is a competition for novice to intermediate paddlers from Years 7 to 10. It is an ideal 'next step' from the Kayaking in a Pool program. Students competed in school teams in three main events. Schools were required to provide one student per team to assist in the running of the event e.g. as timekeeper, slalom referee, marshall. This was the second year of the carnival. It was held at the Monash Aquatic Centre in Glen Waverley. Canoe polo BATs were used as the one type of craft for all events.

The Department for Victorian Communities is the major sponsor of the program.

Participation:

The participation objective for the program was 4 to 6 schools.
70 students from 4 schools participated.

Major Activities:

- Slalom (100m)
- Sprint (50m).
- Canoe polo games.

Major Outcome:

While the carnival met its participation objectives and was delivered on budget, participation was well below that of 2003/04 when 116 students participated (across 2 venues). Participants this year tended to be younger and not as experienced as the previous year. This indicates a positive repositioning of the carnival (i.e. for novice paddlers).

Victorian All Schools Canoeing Championships

Programs/Activities:

The Canoeing Victoria office provided marketing and administrative support to assist Discipline Committees (Flatwater, Canoe Polo & Marathon) with their State level school championships.

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Participation: | - Flatwater | 144 participants |
| | - Canoe Polo | 83 participants |
| | - Marathon | 133 participants |

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Education

The Programs area has seen continuing support from a wide range of schools, Universities and public organisations. To a large extent, participating numbers have remained steady within a continually changing commercial market. However, along with the media's continued depiction of the Yarra River, the Commonwealth Games has led to a reduction in the length of Term I for schools, therefore, a large majority of schools have dropped Term I activities this year. Only a few have been able to combine their Term I and Term II extra-curricula activities.

However, there have been some significant changes: the most noticeable is the number of schools electing to use VCA for providing qualified Instructors to run programs without hiring the VCA equipment. Subsequently, this has led to a decrease in revenue. Essentially this means that, to date nearly 40% of the Schools' programs have used only VCA Instructors, reflecting a projected loss of revenue of \$8000.

The other change has been the tightening up of budgets at the school level. Instead of providing canoeing programs for entire year levels, schools are being more specific in terms of relating excursions to the school curricula. From the 2005-06 period several schools have elected not to use VCA services this year. Given that these were quite large programs, the loss of revenue is over \$7500 for this financial period.

Nevertheless, Canoeing Victoria has offered programs to a much broader community base. While a difficult market to access, we have seen over 240+ people take part in our canoeing activities for the Kananook Creek Association as well as a further 160+ for the Banyule City Council 'Arty Farty' Festival. Potentially, the Kananook Creek Association will establish a canoe club based around the Kananook Creek. At present they have over one hundred people who are interested in such an idea.

Now that the Australian Canoeing Award Scheme is up and running we have seen over 70 new Instructors qualifying for either the Level I Flatwater or Level II White water Instructor Award. While having 70 newly qualified Instructors in Victoria, it also means that those 70 Instructors are working outside of the VCA structure, and despite being unable to put a dollar figure on this, it would impact upon our business. Also, despite lack of water due to seasonal conditions we successfully ran several River Rescue Award courses.

Links have also been developed with several tertiary institutions through adding ACAS Units to a range of accredited TAFE/University courses. Once again, the students qualified tend to seek more permanent employment as offered by a camp or other organisation.

Overall, the numbers of people participating in our various courses has declined slightly. The Introductory Come & Try sessions have not been as well attended as in previous years, due to the unfavourable media coverage of the Yarra River. This in turn has reduced the numbers participating in the ACAS Basic Skills Award courses. The various skill based courses have led to quite a few paddlers going on to become members of VCA Clubs.

Meanwhile the growing popularity of sea kayaking as well as sit-on-tops has led to some of the VCA's previous clients now pursuing this form of sport. At present, we are establishing links with some of the suppliers of sit-on-tops, aimed at providing training for staff as well as add-on selling of skill based programs for buyers.

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Healthy Environments Project

Program / Activity

Year 2004/2005 saw the second year of the 3yr funding plan by VicHealth. The program continued to include:

- **Framework** – A Club development program to initiate assistance to committees of clubs to underpin successful clubs.
- **Help People feel included** – Studies have shown that people that feel they belong to a social environment such as a sporting club, lead healthier and happier lives.
- **Sunsmart** – As with previous years, an objective to change participants and spectators attitude to sunburn and associated cancer.
- **Smokefree** – Again as with previous years, an objective to reduce and educate participants and spectators to the detriment of smoking and the affects of passive smoking.
- **Injury Prevention** – To reduce the decrease in participation due to injury. The objective being education on warm up and warm down, injury prevention and understanding the type of injuries experienced by the specific sports.
- **Responsible Alcohol** – An education process on the detrimental affects that excessive alcohol has on participation and performance.
- **Healthy Eating Choices** – To provide participants and spectators healthy options in the food offered at events.

Major Activities

The major focus of the year was to address the communication issues between Canoeing Victoria and the clubs. This was initiated by a monthly newsletter updating the HE (Healthy Environments) Project, continuing to visit clubs, attend as many major events as possible (such as Vic Champs, promoting ourselves with the introduction of Name badges and CV Stickers and generally increasing our presence in the Canoeing community. However, attempts where thwarted somewhat by the project officer's maternity leave.

The other major activity, was the Volunteer of the Year nomination and process. 21 nominations were accepted with all nominees receiving a certificate of appreciation, a letter of thanks on behalf of the Canoeing Community and a small token gift. (sanity or movie vouchers). Winners to be announced in 2005.

Smokefree saw a resource pack sent to all clubs including a marketing incentive to introduce and support a smokefree policy within the club. The uptake was not as many as we would have liked, however, we believe it was mainly due to many clubs not having a club room and therefore it lost priority to implement.

Major Outcomes:

21 Nominations for Volunteer of the Year
Bananas provided to all Vic and School Champs (and other events as well)
Draft Volunteer retention resource pack compiled
Production of CV Stickers
New members 2004 were sent personalised letter to encourage renewal for 2005.
Club visits included Shepparton, Patterson Lakes, Kirinari, Sherbrooke Knox
Introduction of HE Newsletter
Development of new web site.

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VIS – Sprint Canoeing Program

Major Outcomes

There have been many significant achievements by the VIS Sprint Canoeing Program in the 2004-5 season, resulting in a high standard of performance at National level.

The VIS Squad athletes were able to make many A Finals in the National Championships and National Selection Trials, and many of these paddlers went on to win medals at these Championships.

One of the major achievements of the VIS Sprint Canoeing Program has been the establishment of our Elite Training Centre at Mercantile Rowing Club. This has been a significant factor in our success this season. Being in Melbourne itself makes it central to all athletes in the suburban area, and as such, we have athletes training at the centre coming from many areas across Melbourne. Being in the Rowing Precinct, training here allows a great amount of cross-pollination of Coaching and Training ideas with the VIS Rowing Program. Also, being so close to the VIS Offices and Training Facility, it allows the Scholarship Athletes access to the Facility.

Another major success for the VIS Sprint Canoeing Program has been to establish strong links to the Regional and Junior / School Canoeing Programs. The whole of Sprint Canoeing within the State now works towards common development goals, as set out by the VIS Program along with Canoeing Victoria. These coaching and training guidelines have been established in conjunction with Australian Canoeing and the other SIS/SAS centres; the ultimate aim being to allow our athletes to perform successfully at the International level.

The Under-pinning Programs that the VIS Sprint Canoeing Program and Canoeing Victoria have developed over the past few years are resulting in a number of medals being won in the Junior ranks at the National Championships, as well as enabling those Athletes coming out of Junior ranks to step into a well established Elite Program.

Major Activities / Programs

The Program now has a sound Coaching structure, with the VIS Head Coach and Canoeing Victoria Coaching Co-ordinator, Craig Pickett, running the Elite Training Centre in partnership with Tim Altman. All Senior State Team Members, along with a number of Juniors, are coached by Craig and Tim. There are some strong school/club programs around the State, and these form the basis of our underpinning programs. Albury-Wodonga is one of these centres, providing a number of National Championship Medallists, as well as having developed some of our Elite athletes over many years. Matt Flower coaches the athletes at this club. The Juniors in the Victorian Team this year came from Matt's Mitta Mitta Canoe Club, or from three other Schools' programs. These are Woodleigh School, coached by Cameron McGill, Methodist Ladies College, coached by Tim Altman, and BeaconHills College, coached by Craig Pickett, Brei Meek and Ross Parsons. Craig Pickett was also selected as a Coach on the Australian Junior Team, which raced successfully in Europe in mid 2004.

During this season 2004-5 a number of developing Athletes have taken the step in to Elite Levels, as shown by those non-Scholarship athletes that have medalled at National Championships. It is hoped that we may establish some Training Agreements, funded by our own Budget, with the Strength and Conditioning Department. The use of the Strength and Conditioning Facilities, including the Recovery Area, have proved invaluable to our athletes with access to them. We would also like to budget for the use of the Recovery Area for the Squad at a convenient time.

One of the major areas of benefit of being involved with the VIS is the sharing and cross-pollination of training ideas. Being able to tap into the training methods, innovations and ideas from other Coaches in other sports has been of major benefit to our program. We have already utilised a number of training methods that have been learned through contact with

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the VIS Swimming and Rowing Coaches, as well as contact with the Strength and Conditioning Unit, and of course, with Sport Science, also.

Currently, in Victoria, we have four major underpinning Training Centres, as previously mentioned. The aim of these centres is to increase participation at the School/Junior Levels, and to provide quality coaching to these athletes. This Program is very successful, having produced a number of medals at the National Level this season. Last Season, two athletes were selected to the National Junior Team from these Centres. While these centres are providing our up and coming athletes to the VIS Elite Squad, the VIS Program assists these programs to achieve their aims. The VIS Coaches provide help to these training centres in the form of Coaching sessions with the athletes, as well as helping the regional coaches with their training and technical programs. The athletes that reach State Level from these squads then receive further help from the VIS Program in the form of State Team Training Sessions and Camps, where these developing athletes train with the Elite Athletes and the VIS Coaches.

With Canoeing Victoria, it is envisaged that the Schools' Program will be expanded, with a new emphasis being the establishment of more Competitions and a major emphasis on Team Boat Races, similar to the Head of the River style Regattas that have been so successful for Rowing. The VIS and Canoeing Victoria Programs aim to increase the number of Schools Competing at State Sprint Championships and National Championships. This is to be done by encouraging those Schools that already compete in events such as the Murray Marathon, and have established programs, to participate in the Elite events, and to offer Coaching from the VIS Coaches and Athletes to help them achieve this.

A number of Surf Lifesavers have successfully made the transition to compete in Sprint Canoeing, as shown by the results of these athletes at National Championships. One of these athletes won a Silver Medal in only his second year of Sprint Canoeing.

The Senior State Team has been made up of VIS Scholarship Athletes, as well as a number of the VIS Squad paddlers. Thus the Scholarship holders are able to set a benchmark for the up and coming paddler, while at the same time, those developing athletes are putting pressure on the Elite athletes to improve their own standards, with the end goal being to make National Teams, and to perform at the highest levels Internationally. All State Programs, of course, are feeder Programs to the National Program.

The main goals for our Program are to increase the standard of our Athletes by the following:

- increase the participation levels in our sport at all standards
- to establish sound technique and training background, as well as the standard of performance in our Junior Paddlers and their Coaches
- to allow for a strong transition from Junior to Senior ranks
- to continue to improve the performances of our Elite athletes through providing a strong training environment, with top class coaching and support from the various VIS Services

By improving to standards of our athletes at all levels, we aim to improve the results of our Elite Athletes. What we learn through our training methods and innovations we would like to pass on these results, both our successes and failures, to other Sports and Coaches, so that they can benefit from our experiences, as we already have from some of the well established Sports and Coaches within the VIS Community. By establishing our Elite training Centre in the Rowing Precinct, in central Melbourne, we allow further exposure to the general public, and to other sports, as to the commitment and dedication of our VIS Athletes. With the successes of our Program, we also hope to retain paddlers in Victoria. Since the demise of Sprint Canoeing as a Tier One Sport, in the mid Nineties, a number of Victorians have joined other State Institute Programs to improve their chances of National Selection. As a result, many Victorians have made National and Olympic Teams under the banner of other State Institutes. We hope to reverse this trend, with the continued build up of our Program, and the resultant improvement in performance.

Craig Pickett
VIS Program Director , Canoeing Victoria Coaching Co-ordinator

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Canoe Polo

Victorian Canoe Polo continues to provide excellent opportunities for participation and development in an exciting sport enjoyed by a wide range of players with a wide range of skills. The Canoe polo committee and many volunteers have continued to produce a busy and successful year with many achievements.

Events Conducted

The following events were held:

2004 Spring and 2005 Autumn series
2004 Summer series
2004 Invitational Championships
2004 Interclub Championships
Premier League
Under eighteen competition
Schools Championships

Programs/Activities

The following programs and activities were conducted during the year:

Development squad training
Referee training
Coaching sessions for regular players and high performance players

Participation

| a. Players by gender | | b. Players by age | |
|----------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Male players | 180 | Juniors | 20 |
| Female players | 50 | Adults | 210 |
| Total players | 230 | Total players | 230 |

Major Activities

Development - A Schools Development Squad was created in response to interested students identified in the schools program. Twenty players from nine schools joined the development squad and received team coaching, individual skill development and training camp activities.

Most Valuable Player award - The MVP was introduced in the Autumn 2005 season to acknowledge those players making a special contribution to their team and also to encourage excellence in the sport.

Promoting Canoe Polo - Several opportunities have been taken to promote canoe polo to a wider community. Nominations were submitted to the VicSports Awards in three categories. They were Sportswomen of the Year (Kate Abbey), Junior Sportsperson of the Year (Tom Stork), and Junior Sports Team of the Year (Tom Stork, Lauren Ljiljak, Adrian Porter, Simon Baird, Matt Perrin, Anika Spiridis, Joshua Shannon).



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Major Outcomes

Canoeing Victoria – Canoeing Victoria and canoe polo have worked closely through the year to advance canoe polo. In particular Eric Ward and Andrea Boothroyd have organised and attended canoe polo competitions, and promoted the sport through the Kayaks in Schools program. It is exciting to see that Canoeing Victoria now has their own fleet of canoe polo bats and take these to the regional areas for introductory games.

Refereeing – Several training sessions were held during the year for new players and as a refresher for others. These informal sessions were well received and provide an excellent introduction to the Australian Canoe Polo accreditation program.

National Teams

Australian Canoe Polo Championships

| Category | Placing |
|----------|---------|
| Junior | 2nd |
| Youth | 2nd |
| Open | 2nd |
| Women | 2nd |
| Veteran | 4th |

World Championships 2004 - Victorian players continue to show their dedication and expertise to represent Australia at the 2004 World Championships, Miyoshi, Japan in July. Congratulations to the following players: Kate Abbey, Amy Dawes, Sarah Moore, and Briony Turner in the women's team (finished 5th in the competition). Nathan Moore and Matthew Moore in the men's team (finished 6th).

Ian Beasley
Chairman

Canoeing
Victoria



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Slalom

The 2004 / 2005 year has continued to be a busy and productive year for Canoe Slalom with the continuation support for the Yarra and Country Series of slalom races, strong support for the TID camps and State Championships.

The Whitewater Feasibility Study was completed and submitted to Government. Canoe Slalom commissioned a second Study which concentrated more on the financial aspects of a Whitewater Facility. This second Study concluded that the Cost Benefit Ratio for a facility of this type was very favourable and work has now commenced on a document to further demonstrate the very significant benefits to the community. This is expected to be completed shortly and further representation will then be made to Government.

Australia plays host to the Canoe Slalom World Championships later in 2005 to be held at Penrith, NSW and Victoria is well represented in the National team as well as supplying a significant number of Officials for the event.

Events conducted

As per schedule the following races were (will be) conducted within the seasonal year April 2004 – December 2005.

Yarra Series 2004 / 2005

Slalom races (6 of) conducted on various sites on the Yarra River. Champions trophies presented at Vic. Slalom Champs in December 2005.

Country Series 2004 / 2005

Slalom races (4 of) conducted on various Country Rivers culminating in Series final on the Goulburn River with Champions trophies presented.

Victorian Schools Whitewater Championships 2004.

Held at Warrandyte in September 2004 and to be held in September 2005

State Slalom Championships 2004

Conducted on the Goulburn River in December 2004 and to be held in December 2005.

Programs / activities

Talent Identification Camp (TID) was successfully held in November 2004 on the Goulburn River. This annual camp is run in partnership with Canoe Kayak Education Australia (CKEA). The camp will again run in November 2005.

Slalom squads selected following the Victorian Schools Slalom will receive ongoing coaching and clinics in partnership with CKEA.

Squads selected are Schools Squad (approx. 50) and Development Squad (approx. 20). Work is continuing in conjunction with the VIS to identify and form an **Emerging Athletes Squad**. This squad will select athletes (mainly concentrating on juniors) that demonstrate a future ability to gain selection into National Teams. This squad will be recognised by the VIS with logos and some use of facilities but will not carry any direct funding. It will be controlled through the VIS Slalom Program.

There will be a strong initiative to target females, particularly juniors, into the VIS Slalom Program with the most likely entry being through the Emerging Athletes program.

Participation

Numbers have increased slightly over the preceding year. Generally this has been a result of better programs and the ongoing Olympics effect.



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Adults have continued to remain static. There have been increases in Junior numbers (approximately 10%). This has been largely due to excellent school programs by Ivanhoe Grammar and smaller school programs through Slalom Committee initiatives and the continuing hard work of CKEA.

Canoe Slalom continues to have a strong working relationship with Canoe Kayak Education Australia (CKEA) and greatly value our partnership.

Canoe Slalom initiated subsidised coaching sessions which were very successful. These were under the control of the Slalom Committee and it is intended to continue this program in the following year. VIS athletes continue to support this coaching initiative and their time is greatly appreciated.

Major activities / Outcomes

The major activity for the year has been the successful running of the State Slalom Championships in December 2004. This was a highly successful event that returned an acceptable profit that has/will be targeted back into Slalom for the benefit of athletes and officials.

Significant work continues to be undertaken by Canoe Slalom with respect to the Whitewater Facility proposal and this remains our number one priority. We have attracted the strong support of some current high profile MP's as well as the Victorian Olympic Committee.

State Teams

The following State Slalom Team was selected to represent Victoria at the 2005 National Slalom Championships.

Junior MK1 – Chris Guinea, Scott Guinea, Phil Mingurelli (VIS), Phil Gibbins(VIS)
Junior LK1 – Sarah Grant, Emily Fegen, Stephanie Harder, Alex Muir-Smith
Junior MC2 - Tim Feben/Tom Baker-Gabb, Talis Svarcs/Tom Greaves
Junior C1 – Liam Garvey, Jack Pead (VIS), Richard Merjan
Senior MK1 – Andrew Stamp(VIS), Anton King(VIS), Warwick Draper(VIS), Mark Nicholds
Senior LK1 – Dita Pahl, Mia Farrance(VIS), Victoria Milne(VIS)
Senior C1 – Cam Gee, Chris Fabris, Nick Caudry
Senior MxdC2 – Andrew Farrance(VIS)/Leanne Guinea (VIS)
Coaches: Zlatan Ibrahimbegovic, Roy Farrance

National Teams

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

Junior MK1 – Phillip Mingurelli (VIS), Phillip Gibbins (VIS)
Junior C1 – Jack Pead (VIS)
Senior MK1 – Warwick Draper(VIS)
22's C1 - Christian Fabris (VIS)
Senior LK1 – Victoria Milne(VIS)
Senior MC2 – Andrew Farrance(VIS), Mark Bellafiore(VIS).

I would like to thank the **Victorian Institute of Sport** for their ongoing support of Slalom through the **VIS slalom program**.

As can be seen from the above athletes, the VIS is well represented at a national level and the VIS Slalom program continues to deliver results. There are strong paddlers emerging from junior ranks who are expected to make national teams next year.

Max Parsons
Chairman – Slalom Committee



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Touring

The 2004-05 year represents the second year where there was a further contraction in activities in support of non-competition (touring) canoeing due to the lack of an active committee.

The Touring AGM was called in August but there was insufficient response from Clubs to form a Committee. This in itself is a disappointing result for the year. A strong and active committee can mount campaigns and undertake activities that advance the interests of the canoeing community. It shouldn't need to be stated but the message fails to be heard by touring paddlers and many valuable ideas fail to be acted upon.

Three noteworthy activities were:

PFD Regulations – submissions to the PFD review closed during the year and we are awaiting the drafting of the new regulations. The draft regulations will undergo further public comment.

Recreational Boating Advisory Committee – canoeing interests were represented by Laurie Atkins as the Canoeing Victoria delegate.

Search and rescue exercise – planning is under way for a combined emergency services search and rescue exercise at Port Franklin in Gippsland. The exercise will simulate a search for a sea kayaking party off Wilsons Promontory.

Watching brief – there will continue to be a watching brief on matters affecting canoeing and a limited response to advocate in the interests of the canoeing community.

For the healthy future of Touring, it is imperative that there is a greater involvement from a diverse range of paddlers who have non-competition paddling as their primary interest.

Laurie Atkins

Canoeing
Victoria



Canoeing Victoria Annual Report 2005

Marathon

Education

- Continued to train and upgrade officials through practical involvement.
- Continued to implement risk management and safety plans by clubs at all race venues.
- Liase with Canoeing Victoria to offer level 1 coaching programs

Community Development

- Encouraged, assisted and supported clubs in hosting races
- Encourage new clubs to host races
- Identify and involve club members, parents and other volunteers who express interest in canoeing as potential officials
- Continued to assist Canoeing Victoria on education and paddler development
- Continued to support schools with Marathon with placement of coaches
- Recognition of Officials at races with CV Marathon Cups
- Continue to provide trophies for Club points competition and junior development
- Compensate officials who gain recognition as licenced boat drivers

Competition Development

- Provide a Senior/Junior Club and School points system
- Entries this year were up 5 on last year
- Selected a Victorian Team to compete at the Australian Marathon Championships which was highly successful both individually and as a team
- Subsidised the purchase of racing suits for Victorian Team members use at Australian Championships
- Provided qualified officials to assist the organisation of the Australian Championship
- Ran a successful Victorian Championships
- Provided a selector for Australian Team selections
- Provided an ICF Official at International events
- 2 members on the Canoeing Victoria Executive (Treasurer & Chairperson)
- Provided \$3,750 towards expenses to the Victorian members of the Australian Team

Marketing and Communication

- Continued to support and develop an active web site
- Scheduled five committee meetings and executive meetings and an AGM to conduct business and distribute information
- Assist with the dissemination of information from Australian Canoeing and Canoeing Victoria to clubs and members on Marathon issues
- Supported membership registration process for race entry and assist clubs in improving their membership process
- Continuing to expand monies and equipment through direct sponsorships



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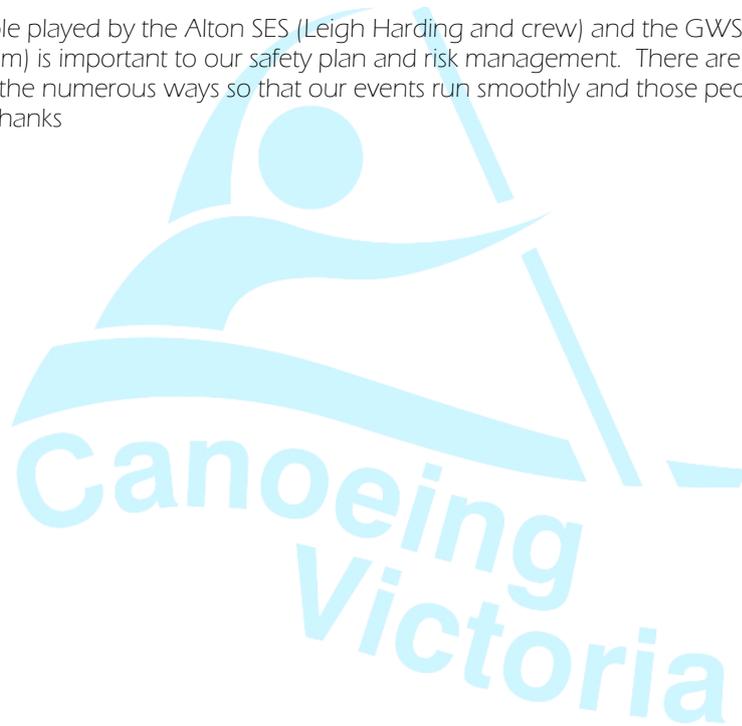
Conclusion

The 2004-2005 Canoeing Victorian Marathon Winter Series has been a success. The well organised racing and venues results in a competition that provides the best for paddlers in Australia. The fact that officials and volunteers have a willingness to contribute maintains a healthy environment for marathon in Victoria.

The Marathon Committee continues to contribute significantly to the Canoeing Victoria Executive. This relationship has allowed marathon to be involved in many new initiatives and has helped to shape the function and performance of Canoeing Victoria. The implementation of a new database system at Australian Canoeing and Canoeing Victoria levels should streamline membership and the final development of the new Constitution should be a challenge.

The 2004-2005 Season has been a success because so many people continue to volunteer to fill positions.

The crucial role played by the Alton SES (Leigh Harding and crew) and the GWS First Aid (Dot Seller and team) is important to our safety plan and risk management. There are many others who assist in the numerous ways so that our events run smoothly and those people also have my heartfelt thanks



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Flatwater

The 2004/2005 season has been a successful season for Flatwater despite several programming issues. We have seen modest increases in participants across the age groups, with a increase numbers of new juniors attending the Victorian Championships.

We are looking for further improvement with the development of coaching networks, increase focus on junior development and sourcing avenues to increase participation across various age groups.

Coaches Seminars will arranged to increase the networking of coaches and exchange of ideas and information. There is a need for coaches to look at the development of athletes as a planned process, leading forward so that the athlete can be the primary beneficiary of the wisdom of several people, rather than depending on one individual.

We are looking to develop regional links with clubs to develop paddlers through qualified coaching. It is envisaged that the development of these Satellite Squad programs will create pathways for developing athletes so that they can reach out for more technical training with specialist coaches, and be in an environment where they are training with like-minded athletes. The general improvement of the level of achievement of the elite athletes may be assisted with the centralisation of facilities in the city through the possible formation of a new club based on the Yarra.

To expansion the school competition to attract a wider range of junior participants we are investigating a K4 competition.

We are also conscious of the need to cater for veterans across the sport, and attract them back to Flatwater competition.

In the National Championships there were several competing athletes. The Senior athletes performed well, with Victoria well represented in the B Finals. Junior performances were spectacular with several gold, silver and bronze medals awarded across the team.

Events Conducted

Regatta 1 November- Nagambie

Regatta 2 December - Footscray

Regatta 3 February - Nagambie

Victorian Championships Feb 2005-Nagambie

Inter-Schools Championships April 2005-NWSC Carrum

Programs / Activities

Development of the regional links to provide pathways for developing athletes.

Coaching seminars for networking opportunities and exchange between coaches with ideas and concepts.

Development of all school competitions.

Participation

No data is available at the time of this report, but the general attendance for the season was promising within the senior ranks, with a steady number of regular participants.

Junior development has led to growth in the junior ranks, with several new juniors in the Victorian Championships. The All Schools Championships was a great success with over 160 paddlers.

Major Outcomes

2004-2005 has seen the development of a more structured approach to the development of the Flatwater discipline. We are encouraged by initiatives to increase the base of the juniors.

