



## **IVANHOE NORTHCOTE CANOE CLUB INC.**

*Affiliated with Paddle Victoria*

PO Box 180, Ivanhoe 3079  
ABN 35 350 725 748

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### **Annual General Meeting 2020**

#### **President's Report**

It has been an honour to act as President of the club for a third year. Being supported by a great committee has made my job a pleasure. I begin by thanking the 2020 committee members. Their hard work, enthusiasm, collective knowledge, and experience has been invaluable. I particularly thank Geoff Baird for all his initiatives and we have missed him since his retirement from the committee early in this year.

- Vice President, Acting President & Treasurer – Candice Charles
- Secretary/ Race Participation Coordinator – Penny Young
- Secretary - Geoff Baird (Half year)
- Membership & Racking Coordinator – Geoff Baird (half year)
- Membership & Racking Coordinator - Candice Charles (half year)
- Social Coordinator – Sally Miller
- Communication Coordinator – Brianna Jones
- Coaching Coordinators – Steph Langley
- – Hannah Scott
- Club House Coordinator & Boat Captain - Lawrie Chenoweth
- General Committee Member – Anthony Cross

The first seven months of the 2019/2020 financial year started with promise but things declined quickly after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. I was overseas when this occurred and I sincerely thank Candice, who was acting as President in my absence, and the committee, for capably creating protocols under the Restricted Activity Directions of the Chief Health Officer to keep all members safe. As the situation worsened, we were forced to close the clubhouse altogether. I am happy to say that we managed to lend out many of our club fleet to people who could store and transport them. Unfortunately however, only those who lived within five kilometres of a waterway could continue to paddle in single boats in groups of two. I know that many of our members have suffered terribly from not being able to take part in the sport they love and I hope that we will be able to get the clubhouse open again soon and everyone will be able to get back to paddling.

#### **Membership**

You will find a comprehensive account of membership numbers in the membership and racking report (separate document).

The pandemic has had implications on the numbers renewing in 2020/21. I urge anyone who has not yet renewed to do so, particularly those who have boats stored at the club. We are confident that paddle sports will be extremely attractive once restrictions ease as it is a non-contact sport, takes place outdoors and can easily abide by social distancing.

## Racing

Racing continued up until the shutdown and we had paddlers represent the club in PV Marathon and Sprint races as well as events such as the World Championships, Avon Descent, Goulburn Classic, Broken Creek Classic, Salty Single Blader, Ben Ward, Massive Murray Paddle, Clarence 100, and many downriver and ocean races. The PV Marathon committee had worked hard to plan for hosting the Australian Championships in Geelong but that was not to be, and of course all international aspirations were put on hold.

### Penny's report:

*While events this year have changed the normal racing landscape for the majority of 2020, INCC members still managed to take part in an impressive range of races over the summer before our paddling lives were so dramatically disrupted.*

*Events such as the Bendigo Cup and Ben Ward weekend event were well attended by our juniors in school programs, but also saw the involvement of some senior paddlers. Two of our members competed in the Massive Murray Paddle in an impressive feat of endurance. Three INCC paddlers took on the Broken River Classic and five tested their skills in the Goulburn Classic downriver race.*

*The Paddle Vic Marathon Summer series consisted of races both in Melbourne and further afield, with members travelling to Yarrawonga and Albury to take part in events. This summer racing series culminated in the Victorian Championships, where 43 INCC Yarra Paddlers took part in singles events and 62 in doubles. While the junior paddlers were once again a large proportion of entrants in these events, there were 15 and 16 senior paddlers in the singles and doubles events respectively.*

*Sprint events were also part of the racing calendar for many of our members, with some impressive results. 14 paddlers took part in the Paddle Victoria Sprint Championships in January, with three dedicated members making the trip to Sprint Nationals held in Sydney in March.*

*Although this year may not have shaped up the way anyone could have anticipated, congratulations to all our members who challenged themselves in races this year. Well done to those who took the step out of their comfort zone and raced for the first time, we certainly hope to see more of you taking the leap when racing resumes. Congratulations too to those who participated in one of the many different disciplines, such as downriver or ocean racing, or tried a new craft for the first time, such as in the Salty Single Blader.*

*Racing may not look quite the same in the immediate future, but I am sure our INCC Yarra Paddlers will be ready to embrace whatever form it may take.*

## Coaching/Training

***Insert Steph's report here.***

Thanks are extended to Steph for again coordinating our beginners' programs.

We conducted;

- ?- Beginner courses (?? Participants)
- ?- Private Beginner courses (?participants)
- ?- Beyond Beginner courses (? participants)

Thanks are also extended to Reka for coordinating the Junior Paddleroo program.

## Réka's report:

*We had about 12 kids in the program last year and early this year.*

*In Term 2 we ran online sessions twice a week (Tuesday and Saturday), keeping our junior athletes engaged and active. Half of the group was active and regularly attending the sessions.*

*During Term 2-3 school holiday and the beginning of Term 3 when restrictions were lifted, we were fortunate enough to run face to face sessions on the water with great attendance.*

*For the rest of Term 3, we had a break.*

*The online sessions have been re-opened and running two sessions a week on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons. We are doing general age-related fitness sessions and some sport specific activities.*

*I hope we will soon be able to run small face to face group sessions.*

*In the 2019/2020 season the group actively participated in Victorian marathon and sprint events with great results.*

*We have also run some successful camps during the Easter holidays in 2019 and in January 2020.*

*The camps are very special for the kids. They love the opportunity to be around kayaking and spend all day near the water.*

*I am positive that 80% of the kids will return to the program when we can run on water sessions.*

*Boys - 7 (U16 - 3, U14 - 3 U12 -1)*

*Girls - 5 (U16- 4, U14 -1)*

We are lucky to have a fantastic group of coaches who provide excellent tuition as needed.

Our regular Tuesday/Thursday group, Saturday squad and other mid-week and informal groups remained continually active up until the shutdown. Since the lockdown those who have been able to have modified their activities appropriately and continued to paddle.

Our MLC and Camberwell school groups were active up until the shutdown and we look forward to seeing them back on the water when restrictions lift. Special recognition is extended to Rob Russell for his wonderful leadership of the MLC program over the last 18 years as he is no longer running that program. His passion for the sport has led to many girls winning State and National titles and competing internationally. There have also been many who have just loved the sport for recreation and fitness. Cat McArthur, a former MLC and INCC member has been selected to compete in the Tokyo Olympics and we look forward to that exciting event.

### **Goals**

After achieving good progress in 2018/19 the committee continued with the same three areas of focus this year.

### ***Improved clubhouse facilities***

We continued to work tirelessly with council on the building project. The grant received for the erection of a new boat storage shed and planning for upgrading the Panther Pavilion hit a few roadblocks. Although council had given us a building permit to erect the shed, they received an objection to the removal of the gazebo structure on top of the River Pavilion (the Bunker building). This meant a lengthy wait for a VCAT hearing which luckily fell in our favour. Our next challenge is now an application for a heritage order to be placed on the whole of the Bunker building. In the meantime, there have been Geotech, structural, heritage and arborist reports done on the site. Our aim remains

to create integrated boat storage, wash down, changeroom and social activity areas. The site must also provide easy river access and areas for the Girl Guides to operate from, as they are our joint partner in this initiative. I thank Candice, Rob Godwin and the council officers for their patience working on this project.

Whilst open, our gym continued to attract regular workout groups and individuals and was enhanced by the installation of blinds which ensured more privacy from passers-by. We also purchased a new industrial vacuum cleaner to help clean up the presents left by possums. The best improvement recently has been the installation of a new access system. The new system allows for doors to be controlled remotely and uses the latest security technology. Thanks again to Candice for overseeing this project.

#### ***The creation of a more comprehensive coaching and squad structure***

There was little change in this area in the last financial year however new opportunities have arisen recently. We are planning to start a new program for secondary school students in 2021 called the Yarra Yakkers. This program will be a part of the Paddle Victoria Marathon Junior Paddling Program, Victoria's strategy to increase the number of junior paddlers and update the competition program for school students. It is a flatwater program and will incorporate both marathon and sprint training. This is an exciting new initiative and has taken careful planning. Thanks to John Young for all his leadership in this area.

The Paddleroos program will also be revitalised next year, with the aim of recruiting more participants and returning focus to primary aged boys and girls.

#### ***Improved communication to members and the wider community***

With little to report in the second half of the year communication has continued as required. I hope members enjoyed the recent newsletter which went out to members along with the new fobs (for those people who had paid their membership).

I thank each and every member for their continued support of the club and look forward to a bright future once we can put 2020 behind us. The prospect of more junior activity and better facilities is exciting. Our aim is to provide all members with a fun paddling experience so please forward your ideas and feedback to the committee.



