

Nominations for President - candidate statements

We have received two nominations for President for 2022-23, so have asked each to provide a statement to help members who will vote at the AGM

CANDICE CHARLES

I would bring a range of skills and experience to the role of President - paddling-related and in leadership and governance. In nominating for the role, my priorities are:

- members' experience
 - a friendly welcome and effective communication for people of all ages and stages
 - support for recreation, fitness and competition activity
 - access to a range of club boats in good condition
 - a variety of on-water and off-water social opportunities for members to connect and have fun
- continuing the great work of recent years to increase participation through our junior programs and adult learn-to-paddle courses
- ensuring the club has safe, fit-for-purpose facilities to support future growth

I have been a member of INCC Yarra Paddlers for 20 years and have served on the committee since 2009, as Treasurer until 2020 and more recently as Vice President. I am a regular social paddler, irregular competitor, qualified coach and for the last few years, the membership co-ordinator so am in regular contact with a wide cross-section of our membership. I have also led the club's lobbying campaign with Yarra Council for a number of years and since securing \$500k in the 2019 council budget for the first phase of the project to develop/redevelop fit-for-purpose facilities for the club, I been working actively with councillors, officers and other stakeholders to overcome the challenges that seem to continually thwart progress.

I am a believer in the value of community sport. I have been involved all my adult life and have served in leadership roles in athletics, rowing and now kayaking.

My professional background is in health, community and financial services, and has included leadership roles in the for-purpose, government and sectors. My current 'day job' is as a Chair and Non-executive Director, serving on the boards of large organisations providing disability and health services.

TAMARA MCKENZIE

I would love the opportunity to be INCC President.

My husband, Ben, and I have lived in Fairfield, near the river, for nearly 20 years. We have 3 children, Max, Ella and Lucy.

My eldest son, Max, started kayaking with Camberwell Grammar School in 2018 and loved paddling from the first day. He then joined INCC as part of the junior paddling program after doing a holiday camp. My life was turned upside down when he tragically and suddenly died in August 2021 from anaphylaxis at aged 15. Max loved kayaking, loved competing and loved being part of INCC. He would love to know I was getting involved in something that brought him so much joy.

His younger sister, Lucy started paddling a few years ago too, and is also part of the INCC junior program. She's in Grade 6 now and has many junior years ahead of her.

I was President of Friends of Kayaking at Camberwell Grammar School in 2020 and 2021 (previously treasurer). I have attended many paddling events in Victoria over the past few years, and earlier this year I was at the 2022 Paddle Australia Canoe Sprint Championships in Adelaide.

Ben and I approached our daughter's school, Carey, a few months ago about establishing a kayaking program there. The school was incredibly keen and supportive, and are starting in Term 1 next year. Both Ella and Lucy will be part of that exciting new program.

I trained as an Optometrist but have worked in public health for the past 20 years. I have had various roles, including Company Secretary, and have worked closely with many Committees. Since Max's death I have been on personal leave from work, which means I have a large amount of time to devote to being INCC President.

Even though I haven't paddled much myself, INCC is extremely important to myself and my family. It meant a huge amount to Max. I want to help ensure it's a fabulous place for paddlers of all ages to be a part of.