



# AUSTRALIAN OUTRIGGER CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MICHAEL SEAY

## Overview

As we look back on the year 2022-23, it is evident that this has been an incredible year for the sport of paddling and our board. We have experienced a series of remarkable events and achievements that have truly shaped our community and the way we approach our sport. Our overall membership has grown and we have achieved some great achievements which I have touched on below.

## Overall Membership

The membership has grown over the last 12 months from 3536 in 2022 to 3943 in 2023, roughly a 11.5% increase overall. Growth is promising to see again as we peaked over 4,000 prior to COVID. The efforts of our clubs in attracting new members to our sport and encouraging participation in regattas locally and nationally is outstanding and we are on track to reach 4,000 memberships again.

The main growth has occurred in the NSW Zone at 6.8% moving from 953 total members to 1,192 for 2023 and was an increase in juniors from 32 to 61 juniors which is fantastic to see.

AOCRA Membership Movement and Breakdown 2022 vs 2023									
	Sep-22				Sep-23				
Zone	Juniors	Seniors	Total	% By Zone	Juniors	Seniors	Total	% By Zone	% Change on year
SQ	146	1,339	1,485	42.0%	126	1,496	1,622	41.1%	3.9%
NQ	65	610	675	19.1%	67	581	648	16.4%	-0.8%
NSW	32	921	953	27.0%	61	1,131	1,192	30.2%	6.8%
SS	6	119	125	3.5%	3	147	150	3.8%	0.7%
WA	108	190	298	8.4%	102	229	331	8.4%	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>3,179</b>	<b>3,536</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>3,584</b>	<b>3,943</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>11.5%</b>

No significant movement in SS Zone, NQ Zone, WA Zone and a small increase in membership in SQ Zone moving from 1,485 members to 1,622 and juniors dropped from 146 to 126 juniors in SQ.

## Major Events

**National Sprints 2022:** One of the standout moments was the National Sprints in 2022. The atmosphere was nothing short of electric, thanks in large part to John Herbert's awesome commentary. This event brought our community together, creating unforgettable moments.

**Return of V1 Racing:** In February 2023, we witnessed the return of V1 racing, a significant milestone for our community. It was a critical qualifier for the IVF World Sprints in Samoa. Additionally, V1 racing made its way back onto the National Marathon program in May 2023, providing new and exciting opportunities for our athletes.

**Sydney Harbour Challenge 2023:** The Sydney Harbour Challenge was an absolute highlight, attracting more international participants than ever before. Hosting the event over three days in a new location at Rose Bay was a resounding success. It showcased our sport on a global stage and highlighted the natural beauty of our surroundings.

**Record Attendance at National Marathons 2023:** The National Marathons in May 2023 saw a record attendance of 930 competitors. This not only demonstrates the healthy spirit of competition racing to be National Title winners but also the sense of community and camaraderie that our sport fosters.

**Zone-hosted Events:** Our zones played a crucial role in making this year special. Their efforts in hosting a variety of amazing events contributed significantly to our collective success.

**Road to Samoa Campaign:** A journey that truly exemplifies our commitment to excellence is the "Road to Samoa" campaign. Australia's representation at the IVF Distance World Championships in Samoa during August 2023 is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our athletes.

Amidst all these achievements, we must acknowledge the unsung heroes of our sport; our volunteers at the National, Zone, and club levels. Their tireless dedication and countless hours of hard work make our sport possible. Your efforts are deeply appreciated, and we recognize that without you, paddling would not be the vibrant community it is today.

Yet, even in our moments of celebration, it is important to address the challenges. As a board, we sometimes find our time consumed by a minority that chooses negativity, disruption, and disrespect. However, we firmly choose to focus on the positive 98% of our paddling community, those who share our passion for the sport and support each other. It is this majority that makes our journey as a board worthwhile, and together, we will continue to thrive and grow.

I am thrilled to reflect on the remarkable year we have had in paddling, and I want to share some of the key areas we have shaped in our sport. This report is a testament to the dedication and spirit of our community, and it underscores our commitment to continuous improvement and unity.

## Website

Our website project, though at times feeling like a never-ending story, is making significant progress. The development team is tirelessly working on modules, and we remain on track for the release of the new site in November 2023. Clubs have been contributing their specific data, and we are excited to soon unveil this valuable resource.

## Coaching

In coaching, we are finalising new Level 1 and 2 courses to align with the new website. It is fantastic to see numerous coaching courses running across our zones in October and November, with enthusiastic participation.

One major achievement is the in-house accreditation process for new coaches and renewals. With Zone Coaching Co-ordinators on board, this change reduces certification turnaround time, ensuring that our coaches can hit the water with confidence.

## General Governance

We've completed a thorough legal review of AOCRA's structure and are actively discussing outcomes and future directions. Amended our bylaws to ensure they are up-to-date, and we have conducted an annual review of all rules. There will be dialogue conducted with the new board and the new zone representatives after the AGM to discuss the way forward.

Our adoption of the National Integrity Framework issued by Sports Integrity Australia (SIA) in 2022 was a significant step. In the first quarter of 2023, SIA announced the framework would be changed as they have no legal jurisdiction to make the decisions they implemented for all sports across Australia. We are now required to align our policies with SIA's updates in the areas of discrimination, child protection, wagering laws, and anti-doping policies. We have issued all of our revised SIA policies to SIA in September and await final approval before we can launch to our members.

The new policies from SIA will only deal with.

- Discrimination issues
- Child protection
- Wagering laws
- Anti-Doping policies

## Junior Development

Attracting and retaining juniors in our sport remains a challenge and it is vital for our long-term growth. We are very proud of our Under 16 and Under 19 teams at the IVF World Sprints in Samoa and we recognize the need to strengthen our junior program further. Our National Junior Development Director has been working tirelessly to address this issue, and we encourage all of you to join this important effort.

I also want to acknowledge the top 5 clubs in Australia with Junior Programs as we all know it takes a village of humans to run a Juniors campaign and these clubs are obviously doing it well. To support these clubs, and the Juniors within, the board has commenced a yearly grant to these 5 clubs that will have to be used for the Juniors and associated adults to travel to events both locally and internationally of \$5,000 per club. The top 5 ranked clubs are;

- |                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| 1. Maia OCC            | 38 juniors |
| 2. Redcliffe OCC       | 27 juniors |
| 3. Geographe OCC       | 26 juniors |
| 4. Bunbury Wavemasters | 21 juniors |
| 5. Mission Beach       | 19 Juniors |

## High Performance Team

Andrew Buckley and team have transformed the process for selecting the V6 teams for the IVF Distance World Championships to be more inclusive, resulting in impressive results. Of the three V6 teams that won Gold, 16 of these paddlers were racing at the IVF World Distance Championships for the first time. A special mention to our double gold medal winner Tony Compton stepping up as a V1 reserve to race and won gold along with winning a second gold with his V6 team and it was his first time at the IVF World Distance Championships.

Our performance in Samoa, with three Gold and two Bronze for V6 racing and 2 x Gold and one Bronze for V1 racing, is a testament to this change and the talent within our community.

The results for our entire team were impressive and we hope that more individuals will be motivated to make the team in Brazil in 2025 and of course Hilo for sprints in 2024.

## Financial and Sponsorship

The treasurer's report is attached within the body of the annual report with financial information.

AOCRA achieved some valuable sponsorships over the last year and we thank them all for their continued support results over the last 12 months and continuously look at ways to filter money back into the sport in a manner that creates growth and opportunity for our community.

We would like to especially thank:

- V Insurance Group
- Sunshine Coast Council
- Paddling Promotions
- Ozone Australia
- Pure Athletic

## Safety

Safety is paramount, and while we've made strides in some areas, we've also experienced heartbreaking losses. With regular occurrences of heart conditions and other medical conditions being more prevalent and Senior Masters category being the largest representation of our paddling population, we urge everyone to declare any medical conditions, undergo regular check-ups, and listen to your body. Coaches play a crucial role in assessing paddler capability especially in more challenging conditions along with ensuring everyone's safety and welfare. Following our rules at all levels regarding safety and managing risk is for everyone's wellbeing. Noncompliance is not acceptable at any level.

## 2023/24 and Beyond

Looking ahead, we have an incredible season awaiting us, with milestones like the 10th year of the Sydney Harbour Challenge in March 2024 and preparing to represent at the IVF World Sprints in Hilo, Hawaii in August 2024. There are several board positions up for election and I hope these new members along with the current board continue to achieve great results for the sport over the next 12 months and beyond. It has been an Honor to be president over the last 2 years of the sport and I wish the next president all the very best.

There is plenty of opportunity to be involved in the management of the sport at all levels from club to National level and we need volunteers. It is upon all of us to give back time to the sport as it takes a village to run the sport and many hands make light work.

In closing, remember that our passion for being connected on the water is what truly matters. Let's embrace the challenges, celebrate our achievements, and stay united as a community. Together, we make the waves of change and progress.

Stay safe, and let's keep paddling forward.

**Mick**



# TREASURER'S REPORT - JANINE NIKORA

## Financials at a Glance

An optimistic year for AOCRA with a \$45K surplus delivered with successful events and focus on development of events, athletes and securing sponsorship. With sport moving forward and international competition opportunities available, this momentum enabled clubs and paddlers to rebuild, participate and compete.

## Income Performance

- Membership new and renewed represented 39% of this year's total income compared to 49% last year with an overall increase in total revenue. This equates to an increase of \$12K on last year.
- Regatta Income, Merchandise and associated sponsorship represented 50% of this year's income compared to 36% last year and that equates to an increase of \$109K.
- We experienced higher participation nationally and internationally on last year with impressive competition this year's Sydney Harbour Challenge weekend, National V1, National Marathons and the Ocean Downwind Series. First year for Sydney Harbour Challenge including 2 days of racing in partnership with Bondi Outriggers in the spectacular Rose Bay location and the Ozone Australia Kurnell Downwinder hosted with Port Hacking Outriggers. A massive turnout at National Marathons held on the Sunshine Coast in partnership with Mooloolaba Outriggers. Host clubs partnering with AOCRA received \$48K.
- Nationally our Events Team with our partner clubs and zone were exceptional in delivering successful events. It was encouraging to have members volunteering for their first time to help in key areas.

YE 2022-23 \$000's	% of Total Income	Sources of Income	YE 2022-23 \$000's	% of Total Income	Inc / (Dec) on Prior Year \$000's
225	39%	Senior Membership	213	49%	12
14	2%	Junior Membership	16	4%	(2)
31	5%	Club Affiliations	30	7%	1
258	44%	Regatta & Merchandise Income	149	34%	109
32	6%	Sponsorship	8	2%	24
21	4%	Other	21	4%	0
<b>581</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>144</b>

## Expenses Performance

- Overall expenditure increased with the return to hosting all national events and enabling events to continue as planned providing competition opportunities to rebuild participation. This was relative to the prior year with an increase in regatta costs due to return to sport with Sydney Harbour Challenge, National Marathons and the sponsored Downwind Series. Administration reduced with not replacing the part time administration along with website expenses due to Noosa Media not charging for adhoc help desk while developing our new website. Insurance and legal expenses were up on last year to meet current requirements.
- Regatta expenses were up on last year by \$113K with more events being held than prior year and in particular investing in the Downwind Series and National Sprints 2022 to rebuild participation levels. First time hosting National Sprints since 2020 pre-covid. This led to the towing and travel subsidy pool being utilised to attend national events. Travel vouchers at national events as prizes for competitors including juniors to participate in upcoming events which encourages participation and enhancing performance in alignment with our strategic plan. Cost increases in contractual and infrastructure requirements for events. Enabling members to volunteer in key roles at events and the ongoing promotion of our sport contributing to an increase participation.
- Core activities realised an overall increase of \$40K with travel and accommodation up \$21K for contractors and core volunteers present at events, AOCRA Board fulfilling their roles and the High-Performance team delivering the Samoa 2023 campaign. Legal expenses of \$17K with AOCRA ceasing the pursuit of AO Brand trademarks due to ongoing poor professional service, requiring legal advice for representation at appeals and civil claims. Progressing the L1 & L2 Coaching program at \$9K. Insurance was up \$8K with competitive premiums and increased cover for personal accident and management liability.
- Depreciation increased \$24K with replacing old event computers, IPADS and printers to run national events and depreciation of \$18K the initial website project and development prior to terminating with the current investment in developing to be depreciated once the new website goes live this year in December 2023.
- Administration and website expenses reduced by \$17K with not replacing the part time administration support and the current website development not charging for help desk support.

YE 2022-23 \$000's	% of Total Expense	Sources of Expense	YE 2021-22 \$000's	% of Total Expense	Inc / (Dec) on Prior Year \$000's
250	43%	Regatta	137	37%	113
48	9%	Administration	59	16%	(11)
		Bad Debts			
131	28%	Core Activities	91	25%	40
42	8%	Depreciation	18	5%	24
60	11%	Insurance & Registration	52	14%	8
5	1%	Website Management	11	3%	(6)
		Other			
<b>536</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>168</b>

## Surplus Or Loss Quarterly Performance

With nine national events during the year, with one Downwinder in Q1 and a second Downwinder and Nationals Sprints in Q2 and a Junior day with the traditional Gubbi Gubbi cancelled with less than 35 Juniors potentially committed to attending, Sydney Harbour Challenge weekend with three events and National V1 in Q3 and National Marathons in Q4, 64% of total income was recognised in the last two quarters.

AOCRA strategically invested in the competition pathway with events to rebuild post covid in 2021 and 2022 to encourage a return to outriggering competition. During this last year AOCRA invested in the two Downwinders and National Sprints 2022 compared to the prior financial year being the Downwind Series and Sydney Harbour Challenge in 2022.

The inaugural 2021-21 Downwind Series was impacted with COVID restrictions and going into its second year was an investment into growing OC1 racing of \$8K and a free Junior Day at \$5K. National Sprints 2022 was the first time this event run since 2020 due to COVID and this event focused on return to sport and participation at a cost of \$14K and \$6K travel and accommodation. The event video highlights showed the vibrant atmosphere for the 400 competitors that competed with many wishing they had attended after viewing the highlights. Normally National Sprints would attract around 650 - 800 competitors. AOCRA ran the inaugural National V1 Championships to grow V1 racing in Australia. In the third quarter, the traditional Sydney Harbour Challenge grew from one event to three over a long weekend with record entries and National Marathons held the inaugural Aussie Va'a Solo offering another V1 racing opportunity.

For partnered events, AOCRA contributed a total of \$48K to host clubs, supporting clubs to host.

The majority of Sponsorship of \$32K was realised in Q3 & Q4 at \$26K in line with national events. The sponsorship received supports contractual, infrastructure and promotional requirements and is based on AOCRA delivering on milestones. Thanks,

with appreciation to our sponsors in 2022 – 2023: Ozone Australia, Paddling Promotions, KRT Australia, Margen, Sunshine Coast Council and V Insurance who sponsor financially and in kind.

In the last quarter a \$14.5K bad debt was recognised by the auditor as ‘recovered’ in other income with AOCRA actively pursuing repayment with legal advice. This was offset with annual depreciation expensed in June at \$42K and \$7K invested in SS and WA zones with AO zone branded tents and banners for hosting events in their regions.

<b>PROFIT or LOSS SNAPSHOT YE 2023</b>	<b>Q1 SEP \$000's</b>	<b>Q2 DEC \$000's</b>	<b>Q3 MAR \$000's</b>	<b>Q4 JUN \$000's</b>	<b>TOTAL \$000's</b>
Income	80	131	189	181	581
Expenses	67	131	136	202	536
<b>Surplus or Loss</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>(21)</b>	<b>45</b>

## Areas Of Interest in the Statement for Profit And Loss 2022- 2023

1. Sponsorship & Donations: Are allocated to events in line with sponsorship requirements. Offsetting direct regatta costs for National Sprints, Marathons, Downwind Series and Sydney Harbour Challenge.
2. Bank fees relate to the current system with third party Secure Pay / FIDSERV fees for facilitating regatta and event transactions to the trust account. They are consistent. Once the new website is in play, AOCRA can review current banker and banking activities and will source a better third-party solution at a competitive rate in 2023-24.
3. New assets purchased of \$8K for computers, IPAD, printers for events, new website Development \$42.5K, prior website development terminated \$12K. Depreciation is as per tax rates and includes depreciating prior website project and development in this year.
4. Donations relate to \$5K to our partner Whitecloud Foundation who provide free mental health support to our members, families and friends. The 2023 National Marathon program announced we would be making a donation to this very worthy partner. \$1K sponsorship to the Team Cronulla competing at the 2022 Hawaiki Nui event for sponsored shirts with AO Branding. The team were proudly representing Australian Outriggers in Tahiti.
5. There are advertising and promotion costs for each event with merchandise and medal design, facebook advertising, video highlights and hero shots, AO Branded media wall and banners, digital marketing collateral. With the new AO Branding released in 2020, AOCRA see building the brand through events and celebrating our competing paddling community for participating and placing as the best value of exposure, branding and promotion of our events to build national and international participation and new membership.
6. With more events during the last 12 months contractual requirements increased for the cost of using Lake Kawana for Sprints, permits, agreements with partner

clubs to host the free Junior Day in lieu of Gubbi Gubbi, host two downwinders and National V1 Championships.

7. With more events during the last 12 months, there is an increased cost in sourcing support boats and running them, event security and first aid.
8. Legal Fees were \$17K up on last year which included legal service for trademark applications for the new AO Branding that AOCRA terminated due to the poor legal advice given at \$13K and AOCRA required to attend an NST and independent arbitrator appeals \$10K.
9. National Championship events budget for a Towing and Travel Pool for interstate members and clubs to apply for. This pool supports these members travelling and towing canoes to these events.
10. Training and Coaching at \$9K is the engagement to write and review the new L1 & L2 Coaching program, supporting SS Zone hosting the L1 Coaching Course in July 2022, videoing athletes at Selection Camp in March 2023 for performance review and training provided to zones on application of the new AO Branding.
11. Travel and accommodation \$35K for running national events, \$5K for attending WA and NQ Zone AGMS. \$2K for 2023 Samoa selections and training camps.

<b>AREAS OF SPECIFIC INTEREST in year end 2023</b>				
<b>Income Trend</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Sponsorship & Donations	234,636	6,792	8,000	32,500
<b>Expense Trend</b>				
Bank Fees	12,126	10,574	11,607	10,588
Depreciation	25,077	16,252	17,506	42,171
Donations	5,000	0	154	6,000
Event Advertising & Promotion	12,370	9,600	24,400	41,764
Regatta - contractual	75,699	9,798	1,990	23,347
Regatta - safety	38,523	5,598	23,127	32,327
Legal Fees	2,283	4,965	6,110	23,136
Towing & Travel Subsidy	19,011	10,987	9,435	20,573
Training & Coaching	2,045	605	0	8,701
Travel & Accom & Meals	13,887	23,941	21,558	42,496

## Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable as of 30 June 2023

The level of activity as of 30 June 2023 was in line with recent National Marathons in May 23 where regatta dispersals to be paid from the trust account to AOCRA and Clubs. At the same time creditors are to be paid for event related activities and clubs towing and travel assistance.

As at the 30 June 2023 the balance on hand for Accounts Receivable was \$149K of which \$28K relates to club affiliations and regatta dispersals of \$28K in 0 – 30 days owed, \$106K to AOCRA in 31 – 60 days for National Marathons May 2023 and \$14.5K for recovery bad debt AOCRA continue to pursue.

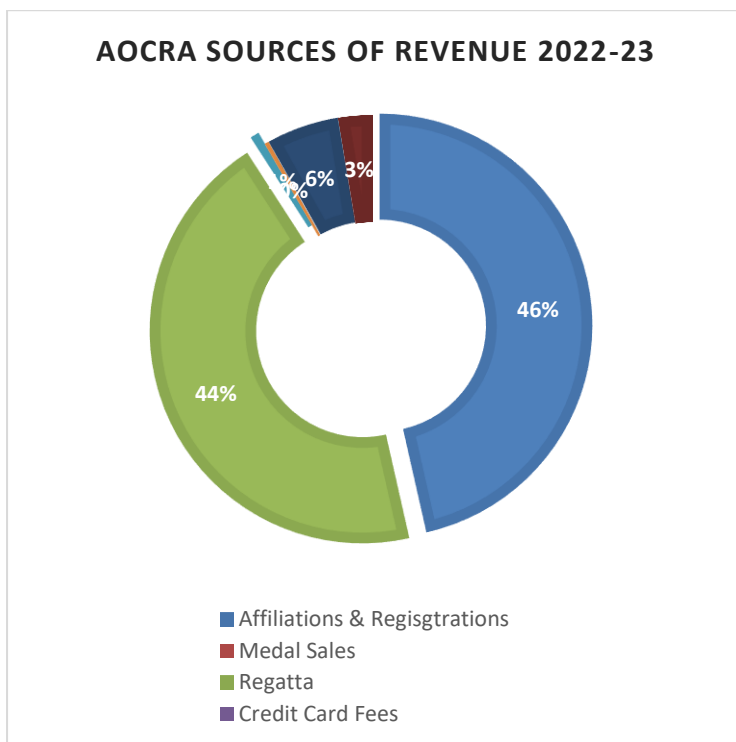
The balance on hand in Accounts Payable at 30 June 2023 was \$81K with \$73K in 0 – 30 days owing for events and \$8K in over 90 days relating to accommodation booked for Gubbi Gubbi accommodation paying a deposit and the L1 & L2 Coaching project to pay on delivered milestones.

### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

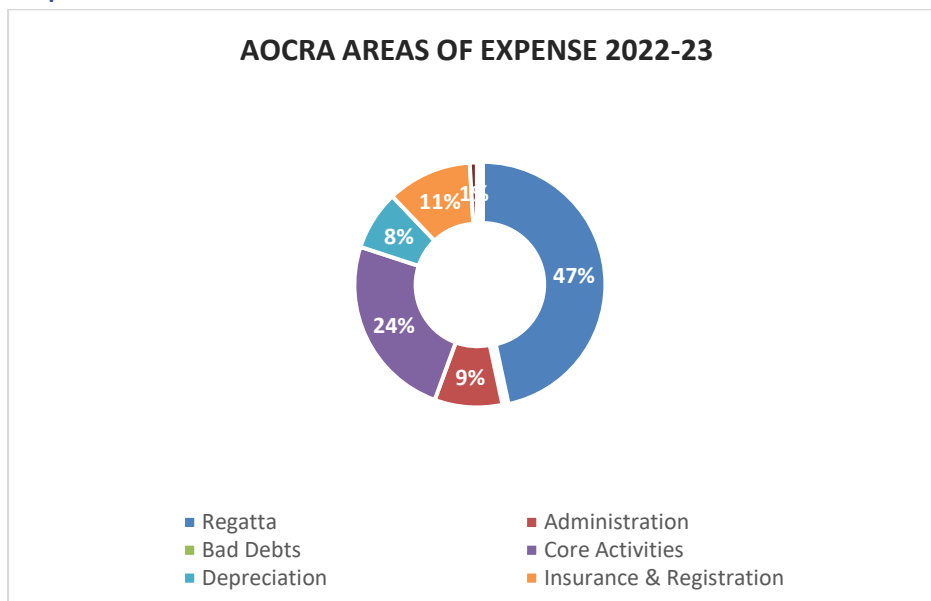
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>
	<b>\$000's</b>	<b>\$000's</b>	<b>\$000's</b>	<b>\$000's</b>
Affiliations & Registrations	225	281	257	270
Medal Sales	2	5	1	
Regatta & Merchandise	220	98	149	258
Credit Card Fees	6	2	3	4
Sponsorship & Grants	234	7	8	32
Interest	3	1		2
Gain (loss) on sale of equipment	3	2	11	
Other	0	0	8	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>581</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Regatta	401	77	137	250
Administration	58	52	59	48
Bad Debts	6	20	0	0

Core Activities	89	83	91	131
Depreciation	25	16	18	42
Insurance & Registration	75	66	52	60
Zone Grants				
Website Management	9	10	11	5
Other	11			0
<b>Total</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>536</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>45</b>

## Income Sources



## Expense Sources

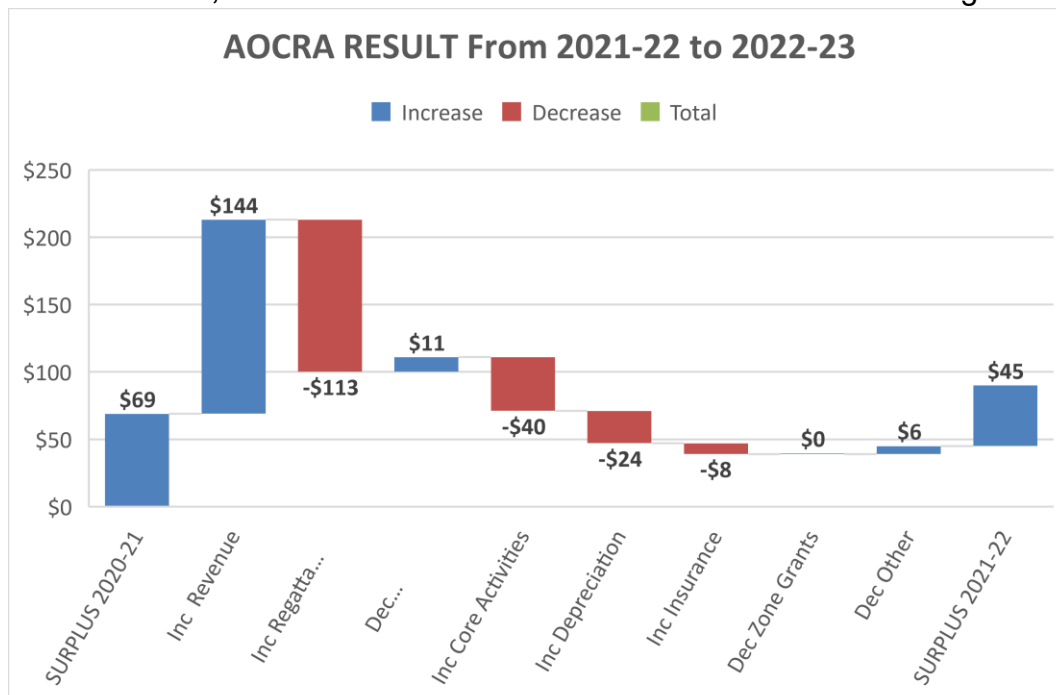


## AOCRA Result from 2021-22 to 2022-23

This view shows the key areas of our organisation and how they performed to contribute to the surplus of \$45K. During the last 12 months the main areas of movement were in delivering events such as the Downwind Series and National Sprints. These events were focused on participation and offering more downwind racing to our members.

Core activities realised with working through legal matters, increased insurance cover, travel and accommodation of event officials and key volunteers, high performance and Board commitments.

Administration, website and insurance movements were small changes on prior year.





**AUSTRALIAN OUTRIGGER CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION LTD**  
**ABN: 20 584 327 165**  
**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR**  
**ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Affiliations and registrations	2	270,177	257,411
Medal sales		-	1,412
Regatta income		222,855	121,042
AOCRA merchandise		30,846	24,903
Regatta other		4,401	2,537
Credit card fees		3,763	3,140
Sponsorship and donations		32,500	8,000
Interest received		2,313	165
Gain / (loss) on sale of plant and equipment		-	10,906
Bad debts recovered		14,550	7,500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>581,405</b>	<b>437,016</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Accounting and audit fees		3,850	3,810
Administration sub-contractor		17,144	27,149
Administration subscriptions		8,467	7,069
Advertising and promotion		19,791	18,100
Allowances	3	15,200	18,750
AGM expenses		442	182
Bank fees & charges		10,588	11,607
Bookkeeping		12,057	12,975
Consultants		-	2,915
Depreciation		42,171	17,506
Donations and sponsorship		6,000	154
Insurance and registration		60,409	52,395
Legal fees		23,136	6,110
Permits, licences and fees		2,978	3,207
Printing and stationary		1,254	1,672
Regatta expenses	3	228,913	127,499
Rent		5,602	9,479
Repairs and maintenance		981	224
Sundry expenses		-	822
Telephone and internet		273	771
Towing subsidy and travel assistance		20,573	9,435
Training and coaching programs		8,701	-
Travel and accommodation		42,496	21,558
Trophies and awards		-	3,760
Website		5,501	10,869
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>536,527</b>	<b>368,018</b>
<b>Current year surplus before income tax</b>		<b>44,878</b>	<b>68,998</b>
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Net current year surplus</b>		<b>44,878</b>	<b>68,998</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		-	-
<b>Total other comprehensive (losses)/income for the year</b>		-	-
Surplus attributable to members of the entity		44,878	68,998
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity</b>		<b>44,878</b>	<b>68,998</b>

**AUSTRALIAN OUTRIGGER CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION LTD**  
**ABN: 20 584 327 165**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	798,353	833,287
Accounts receivable and other debtors	5	148,660	12,338
Inventories	6	26,223	19,569
Other current assets	7	-	9,123
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>973,236</b>	<b>874,317</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	8	95,559	76,514
Intangible assets	9	6,080	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>101,639</b>	<b>76,514</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,074,875</b>	<b>950,831</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable and other payables	10	171,332	92,166
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>171,332</b>	<b>92,166</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable and other payables	10	-	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>171,332</b>	<b>92,166</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>903,543</b>	<b>858,665</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		903,543	858,665
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>903,543</b>	<b>858,665</b>

**AUSTRALIAN OUTRIGGER CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION LTD**  
**ABN: 20 584 327 165**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from members and customers		442,770	484,999
Payments to suppliers and employees		(412,721)	(359,021)
Interest received		2,313	165
Net cash generated from operating activities	14	32,362	126,143
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		-	13,500
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(61,216)	(4,462)
Payment for intangible assets		(6,080)	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(67,296)	9,038
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Repayment of borrowings		-	-
Increase in borrowings		-	-
Net cash used in financing activities		-	-
Net increase in cash held		(34,934)	135,181
Cash on hand at beginning of the financial year		833,287	698,106
Cash on hand at end of the financial year	4	798,353	833,287

# The AOCRA High Performance Team (HP team) annual wrap up!

Hi paddlers, clubs & zones,

Well, what a year for our great sport of outrigger canoe racing and what an amazing bunch of paddlers we have here in Australia. We are improving and getting “Gold Medal Ready” for the future.

The AOCRA High Performance team was formed in December 2022. It’s been a big year and with the assistance of the AOCRA Board, some fantastic volunteers and supporters, team coaches and supportive clubs we have worked together to run our Road to Samoa campaign, prepare for our Highway to Hilo campaign and have started to develop a high-performance system for our sport in Australia. The HP system has been informed by feedback from our zone presidents, paddlers and elite athletes and coaches.

The great thing is we are not starting from scratch. We have the amazing work of our fellow AOCRA members who have been involved in developing high performance in our sport for many years and who have contributed to building some good practices, knowledge and experiences over previous campaigns.

The AOCRA HP team’s vision and aim is to develop our sport and create pathways to ensure all paddlers, no matter the size of your club or where you paddle in Australia, will receive an equal opportunity. During the qualification and selection process, paddlers are evaluated based on their behaviour, attitude, capability and performance using transparent criteria.

Our intention is to always do better, and we will continue to learn, improve and adjust from campaign to campaign and develop our high-performance system to further grow the sport based on positive behaviours, strong values and a disciplined approach to improving performance both on and off the water.

## Road to Samoa

We did receive positive feedback from paddlers who felt like they were, for the first time, provided an opportunity to seek selection for their country. However, the HP team acknowledges there were elements of the qualifying and selection process we didn’t get right, and we have learnt a lot about this process through some direct and honest feedback about how we can improve in the future. Thanks to all those who participated in what was our first attempt at providing this equal opportunity for all paddlers in our sport.

Once teams were selected, there was support provided to develop training programs, running camps, appointing coaches and communicating with the Australian team around preparations for the world championships in Samoa.

Preparation and support for competition included data analysis, regular coaches' meetings discussing progress of teams and key event information and a briefing on likely race conditions and course intelligence.

It is extremely expensive both in terms of time and dollars to represent your country especially in an amateur sport. I know many teams and paddlers undertook their own fundraising, but in addition AOCRA made the biggest investment ever in providing funding to support the campaign and paddlers, with over \$30,000 being provided through a number of mechanisms to help get the team prepared and ready for Samoa.

In terms of results, our Australian team represented us with pride and distinction at the IVF World Distance world Championships in Samoa. We competed hard but also shared our culture with J16 teams leading us in our cultural dance piece.

Through qualification, selection, training, significant hard work, commitment, discipline, sacrifice and cost and then hard competition, our team put in some fantastic performances in representing our country and AOCRA.

Team Australia achieved 5 Gold medals & 3 Bronze medals:

- 2 individual World champions – Rose Edyvean and Tony Compton
- 3 World Champion Teams – Master 50 Women, Master 60 men and Master 70 men
- 3 Bronze medal winners – Maria Pokia Master 50 V1, Master 40 Women & Master 70 Women.

## Highway to Hilo

We have hit the highway in our preparations for world sprints with the release of our selection policy for our elite teams and provided a training program to assist people prepare for qualification and selections.

We currently have our coach's expression of interest out and have had some first-class coaches who have already put up their hand to support the elite program for Hilo.

## High Performance System – what next?

The HP team is now working to document our learnings and put forward a proposal for how to create and embed a High-Performance system for outrigger canoe racing in Australia that will look to improve our national performance levels but also importantly help us to be our best on the world stage. The HP system will include several critically important elements such as:

- Support and involvement from everyone, paddlers – Clubs – Zones and the national body AOCRA
- Based on agreed values
- High Performance events are in our national calendar for both sprint and long distance
- Improved communication through regular communiques and Podcasts to share experience from elite paddlers, coaches and other experts

- Collaborate with zones to run development activities for junior development and HP pathways for paddlers and coaches
- Improved qualification and selection standards and criteria
- Team management and administration & logistics
- Performance data and training programs

The HP team will work hard to help our teams be Gold Medal Ready!

As we all know, when we represent our sport and country, we are representing something far bigger than ourselves as individuals. All our actions add to this story and the history and culture of Australian outrigger canoe paddling. This is why it is important to make every contribution positive and for the betterment of the sport.

The opportunity for our sport is great, as everyone reading this hopefully agrees, but we are a relatively small sport built on a base of committed and dedicated volunteers. For us to be our best we need all members to be committed and supportive of the high-performance program and system. If you have feedback or ideas for improvement, please don't hesitate to reach out and contact the HP team and support Australian outrigger canoe racing.

Cheers from the HP Team,

**ANDREW (Buck) BUCKLEY** - Director High Performance

**Lou Donald** - High Performance Coaching Coordinator

## NATIONAL JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. I would like to pay my respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples today.

Oh, what an incredible year it has been, 2023 has truly been a whirlwind. As a newcomer to the world of outriggering, I have faced numerous challenges that have demanded me to swiftly adjust accordingly. I have had the privilege of gaining numerous positive and fulfilling experiences, which have enabled me to effectively apply my existing skills to provide support to AOCRA Juniors and their affiliated clubs.

Throughout this journey, I have encountered various challenges, particularly when observing clubs that have limited junior memberships, as they strive to provide opportunities for their young members to partake in local regatta events. We have heard the request to grow junior representation in clubs. The AOCRA Junior Development Officer (JDO) urges every zone and club to engage in discussions, formulate a comprehensive plan, and we, the AOCRA JDO team, are delighted to offer our assistance throughout the entire process.

The essence of any sport lies in the growth and progress of young athletes within clubs. At the grassroots level, the development of junior paddlers remains vital for the future of outriggering in Australia.

Let's celebrate the positives! Throughout Australia, we presently boast a total of 40 clubs with Juniors represented to the count of 332 enthusiastic junior members who have successfully registered for the year 2023. The current state of our sport appears promising. The primary objective of the AOCRA JDO teams going forward is to increase these numbers, to develop those paddlers that aspire to excel and become elite paddlers in outriggering for Australia. We must continue to encourage our juniors to engage in training, participate in competitions and continue to enjoy developing their abilities and valuable experiences.

'The Road to Samoa campaign' for Va'a World Distance Championships in Samoa 2023. Congratulations to our juniors' crews' representatives; J19 Women, U16 Boys, U16 Girls crews. Supported by their Coaches; U16 Girls coach: Ange Atina. U16 Boys coach: Jean Tetohu. High-Performance Coaching Co-Ordinator: Louise Donald. "Thank you to the coaches, assistants, support crews, parents, guardians, friends and families for your unwavering support towards our junior paddlers."

Trans-Tasman Gubbi Gubbi 2023. Over the course of three consecutive days, a series of exhilarating sprint and marathon races were organized exclusively for budding paddlers in the junior category. These races attracted participation from various international clubs, schools, and crews, showcasing the immense talent and dedication of young athletes on a global scale. On our home soil at Mooloolaba Spit Beach in Queensland, we had a total of 68 Australian junior participants for this event. AOCRA

and JDO team hosted over 200 juniors along with their dedicated coaches, supportive crews, parents, guardians, friends, and extended families.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the AOCRA events team, the diligent planning committee, the accomplished race director, and all the participating teams. I would also like to express my appreciation to the local clubs and the dedicated volunteers who contributed their time and effort throughout the entire weekend."

I strongly urge clubs throughout Australia to give careful thought to involving their young members in upcoming events like this one.

AOCRA Junior Development eagerly anticipates its ongoing commitment to bolstering the progress of young paddlers across all Zones. We are dedicated to providing forthcoming incentives for junior participants to represent their regions at esteemed national and championship events in the future.

Leading the Junior Development division on behalf of AOCRA and all the clubs has been an immense honour and privilege, I look forward to continued investment into our promising young paddlers who will influence and continue to secure the future of Outrigging Australia.

**RERE AGBEFE**

**JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT**

## SAFETY REPORT – PETER WILLIAMS

This racing season has seen some magnificent racing and some fantastic National and International results, yet it has been tinged with sadness with the terrible loss of three very loved and respected members of our paddling community. My condolences go out to the families of our three lost paddlers.

The vast majority of Incident reports received have been as a result of accidents within the training arena. Incident Reports are vital to our sport to enable us to continue to monitor trends and issues that arise and attempt to implement risk mitigation strategies to make our sport safer, both during races and training sessions.

Contrary to some “myths” that circulate the paddling community from time to time, Incident Reports do not impact on our insurance and they do not make our premiums go up, as indicated they are a tool, one of many, that can be used to make our sport safer. The last thing anyone from any club wants is to see is teammates injured through the sport we all love.

It is vital that incident reports contain as much detail as possible. This provides a clear picture for the Safety Officers to assess the actual occurrence and implement actions if required.

### Regattas

The zones have conducted many Regattas throughout the racing season, with incidents occurring on occasions. Our sport carries inherent risk and we need to mitigate this risk as much as possible. Having said that, we understand that accidents can and do happen, so please be conscious of your surrounds, your crew and yourself.

### Race Director

The role of the Race Director could be compared to that of a CEO of a company. Whilst not engaged in every activity, they have an overarching responsibility for everything that occurs on race day. Many clubs also nominate an “On Water Director” who is in essence the Assistance Race Director. These two positions MUST manage and oversight all operations of the club’s regatta.

It is imperative that they are conversant with our “Regatta Rules” and equally, if not more important is their ability to react to, and manage, any major incident that may occur during the regatta. There have been a few circumstances this year at different regatta’s where the Race Director has not taken control of a situation that clearly fell within their responsibility.

Obviously if there is a major incident, a thorough, detailed and descriptive report would be submitted via the Incident reporting system on the AOCRA Website.

### Beach Start/Finish

Some races this year have included a “Beach Start or Finish” where there are either wind waves or ocean swells that can impact on the canoe’s stability.



Race Directors should include in their thorough briefing of all steerers or paddlers (OC1/V1) potential risks associated with the race start/finish. Some clubs have limited access to surf waves and an informed briefing will help their preparation and planning. This year saw some OC6 canoes Huli in shallow water whilst negotiating breaking waves near the shore, luckily no major injuries resulted.

## Support Boat Management Plan

A recent safety advice indicated the need for adherence to the Support Boat Management Plan. These plans, and the associated ratio of boats to canoes is designed to ensure the safety of all paddlers participating in the event. This plan would be pivotal to inquiries should a catastrophic incident occur that requires investigation by authorities.

Any support boats that are allocated responsibility for safety patrols of the racing fleet must be able to retrieve/rescue paddlers should the need arise.

The importance of compliance with our expected standards cannot be overstated.

## Training

Injuries and incidents have occurred at training venues throughout the country and across all Zones. These have ranged from sprains and strains to medical episodes requiring support from Maritime/Water Police and Ambulance.

Whilst training may not be at the same level of intensity as racing, there is still significant scope for injury. Coaches should be undertaking Risk Assessments to determine the safest option for all paddlers and consider all options.

“Tool Box Talks” or mini briefings should be encouraged where coaches and paddlers discuss what options are available to them should an incident occur. This could range from a broken ama to a medical episode where a paddler has lost consciousness.

As indicated earlier, training is where the majority of injuries have occurred this year and the ongoing diligence of all paddlers is key to keeping our sport as safe as possible.

## General Health

In the recent Safety Notice that was distributed, I asked that paddlers consider their overall health and fitness in conjunction with their training regime. Regular visits to the doctor, blood testing and, if necessary, specialist testing should all be considered, especially those of our more “mature” paddlers.

I recently had an MRI on my heart and lungs, purely to be on the safe side and have a check-up to ensure I am able to continue to train and race.

Please consider your overall health and wellbeing in conjunction with your training.

Please remember “Safety overrides everything else”

See you on the water and safe paddling.

**PETER WILLIAMS**

**DIRECTOR OF SAFETY**

## AO EVENTS TEAM REPORT

The AO Events team, Trish Johnston, Steph Cullen and Janine Nikora have spent a very busy 12 months working behind the scenes and on site at a variety of events during the year.

### National V1 Championships

These were held in February at Sutton Park. Thanks to WAVE Academy Outriggers for hosting this event, which was also a qualifying event for V1 paddlers for the IVF World Distance Championships in Samoa. The hot and humid conditions were challenging. Congratulations to all who competed and special mention to those who travelled great distances to this event. Thanks to the volunteers from the host club for partnering with us for this great event.



### Sydney Harbour Challenge

2023 saw a change of scenery for this popular iconic event on the Australian calendar held in the pristine backdrop of Sydney Harbour. The new ocean aspect of the race along the coast tested the paddlers as wind and bumps featured during the day. Rose Bay was our base and Bondi Outriggers partnered with us to put on an awesome event.

Event highlights were broadcasted via ABC Pacific Sports Show celebrating an inspiring story for Women's Day showcasing outriggering connecting women and families through traditional Polynesian sport. Thanks to Rachel and Pounamu Walker for sharing their inspiration to race together paddling the Va'a.

Not only did we have the Saturday Sydney Harbour Challenge, but we also had Friday racing for paddlers qualifying for IVF World Long Distance Samoa 2023, and then followed it up with a downwind race at Gunnamatta Bay, hosted by Port Hacking Outriggers. It was an action-packed weekend of racing. This year we had 31 Mixed crews, 45 Women's crews and 61 Mens Crews, and we welcomed 20 International teams.

As always, the racing was competitive across all divisions with Overall line honours for the women and mixed being local club Northern Beaches and for the men Wailea from Hawaii. Thank you to all the volunteers on the day, and special thanks to Bondi Outriggers, and the key officials who assisted with the planning and running of this fantastic weekend of racing.



## Ozone Kurnell Downwinder

Thanks to Ozone Australia and Paddling Promotions for sponsoring the 2023 series which kicked off with the Ozone R1 Kurnell Downwinder on the Sunday of the Sydney Harbour Challenge weekend.

This downwinder had International and Australian Outriggers surfing the bumps during the race at Kurnell and finishing in Gunnamatta Bay. It was a cracker being the first of 3 planned downwinders. The quality of competition was up there with World Title legends racing in the men's race.

There was strong competition between our Australian women paddlers; Lian Schmidt and Robyn Saultry.

THANKS to our host partners; Port Hacking Outriggers for delivering an amazing downwinder.

## AO National Marathon Champs / Aussie Va'a Solo

The Aussie Va'a Solo, and National Marathon Championships were held on the beautiful Sunshine Coast this year. We partnered with Mooloolaba Outriggers as hosts for these events. With all zones being represented, Day 1 kicked off with our inaugural Aussie Va'a Solo 10 and 16 kms with sunny and challenging conditions for all V1 competitors.

The outrigger field showed strong racing in the National OC1/2 10 and 18kms races with a couple of skis joining the start line. Congratulations to all competitors, including our Juniors, who placed and participated. Day 2 and 3 saw over 270 teams hit the water for the OC6 marathon races. As usual competition was fierce and 930+ paddlers enjoyed the venue, competition, and catching up with old friends and making new ones. Thank you to the Mooloolaba team and the many volunteers who assisted with the running of this event.

Thanks to Ozone Australia for sponsoring an OC1 for which the entire paddling community supported, and the proceeds went towards Travel Assistance for the athletes going to the IVF World Long Distance Championships in Samoa 2023.



## Ozone Mini G Downwinder

The Ozone Race 2 Mini G of the 2023 AO Downwind Series went down in Cairns with great conditions and an impressive turnout. Fantastic to see competitors from Queensland and NSW participating and especially the Juniors.

This race is part of the Ozone Australia and Paddling Promotions Downwind Series and competitors received a bonus entry into the sponsored series prize draw.

The conditions turned on, and the waves on the finish line proved a spectacular challenge for numerous paddlers. Well done for taking on the Mini G this year. Congratulations to our host partner club Hekili Outriggers for hosting a smooth and vibrant event.



## IVF World Distance Championships Samoa

Our team enjoyed supporting this campaign working with the High-Performance Team and athletes over 8 months leading into this world class event.

The weather conditions were challenging with the heat and wind along with some very strong competition. Australia is extremely proud of all our competitors.

In the spirit of Va'a paddling these incredible experiences make lifetime memories and the beginning of new goals ahead. Kane Munt and J16's lead Australia at the Worlds Distance Cultural evening in the Va'a Village and did Australia proud with their performance. See more on Samoa in Buck's AO High performance report.



WORLD DISTANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDAL TALLY			
	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
NEW ZEALAND	8	13	3
TAHITI	7	3	3
HAWAII	5	6	5
CANADA	5	2	4
AUSTRALIA	5		3
GREAT BRITAIN	4		1
USA	1	4	1
SAMOA	1	1	3
NEW CALEDONIA	1	1	
CHILE	1		1
FRANCE	1		
BRAZIL		3	4
COOK ISLANDS		1	1
FIJ		1	1
GERMANY			1
RAPANUI			1
AMERICAN SAMOA			1

## Trans Tasman Gubbi Gubbi

We hosted over 120 junior paddlers from New Zealand and 9 from New Caledonia this year at the Mooloolaba Spit on the Sunshine Coast. There were over 120 races on the schedule including sprints and marathons and for some paddlers this was their first-time racing on the ocean. Land games were also part of the program which provided great entertainment for all. It was a wonderful, exciting event and many friendships were formed between all junior paddlers. Thank you to the Junior Development team for their input and to the key volunteers, all the junior parents, canoe rigging, clubs loaning canoes, marshalling and our timekeeping ladies who volunteered.



## National Sprint Championships

Planning is in full swing for the upcoming National Sprint Championships. This event will be a qualifying event for teams wishing to represent Australia and their clubs at the IVF Elite and Club Sprint Championships to be held in Hilo, Hawaii. The success of this event depends on exact planning and the dedication of key volunteers, officials, and paddlers and family who volunteer. We look forward to hosting you all for this event and having you volunteer as well. The Kawana Lakes venue is top class and Sunshine Coast Council are great to work with, being very helpful and supportive to our sport.

## Event Sponsorship

There are two key areas that help with keeping race fees reasonable, the first is volunteer time pre, during and post event to close out. The second are our valued sponsors which provide significant support in covering event contractual and infrastructure requirements and offer amazing incentives in the way of canoes and travel vouchers.

Many thanks to: Sunshine Coast Council, Ozone Australia, Paddling Promotions, V-Insurance Group, Pure Athletic, Nudi-cover, Paddle Shop, Kaha Paddle Trainer for your generous support during 2022- 2023 race season.

## Vendors

There are many vendors we work with to attend our events offering food & coffee along with canoes, paddles and paddling equipment and their presence at events helps our paddlers have direct access to some great gear and make lasting connections to source a range of gear and merchandise.

These vendors provide a great service and being present on location just makes everything easier. We look forward to seeing all vendors in the 2023 – 2024 season.

## Marketing

All national events are promoted on social media to attract Australian Outriggers and International paddlers to competing in Australia building our sport and reputation for a great destination to race.

We have focused on building a sport brand; Australian Outriggers, which we can be proud of being very visual through our logos, presentations, video highlights, hero shots, merchandise that showcase our sport and who we are.

We collaborate with fellow paddlers and supporters to get some great outcomes and thank Lian Schmidt, Ellie Bennett and Jamie Gray for working with us to bring our events alive and help our community share our sport with everyone.

## Other Event Team Commitments

The events teams also spent planning and participation time at the selection and training camps for the teams competing in Samoa. We work with the zones in developing the race calendars. Considerable time is also spent reviewing Zone / Clubs combined events program and working with them on Risk and Support Boat management plans to ensure good practices are in place.

All these events take weeks and months of behind the scenes planning and long days on site before during and after events. We have enjoyed working with the zones and

host clubs to see regattas being run well with ongoing improvements, sharing our expertise and helping our sport run with good practices in play.

To all the volunteers, officials, clubs and zones who have assisted us, we are very appreciative and thankful for your time, dedication and friendship.

Trish, Steph and Janine





## SOUTH QUEENSLAND ZONE – PRESIDENT’S REPORT

On my opening I'd like to begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today would also like to pay my respect to elders past present and emerging.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee of 2022/23. It has been one of the best productive committees I have ever had the privilege to work with, The knowledge, experience & expertise that was on this committee was second to none and the Sq zone got to witness that first hand with some amazing events and initiatives that we have rolled out for all to enjoy and the inaugural SQ zone championship at Rainbow Beach were a testament to this.

I stepped up to take the role on as president for a second term, as I am passionate for the sport and believed I could bring a point of difference to the zone and continue working on projects that I think could make the sport fun and inclusive for all members and add that wow factor that I believe has been missing for several years. I also have great pride in being inclusive and also being transparent in all actions I take and involve the entire committee on all decisions being made moving forward and I think this is the key to having a good working committee & team approach which will assist in rolling out these projects in a timely manner.

### On water

The committee of 2022/23 got straight to work and had several zoom meetings and started planning on how the future could look moving forward with some of these ideas that I wanted to introduce to the zone especially in the competitive arena and some key race events that we could potentially turn into major events that we all look forward to on an annual basis.

So, we looked at events calendar and started the planning process and working out where they best fit in the competition calendar.

We then broke it into 3 major categories

- juniors regattas,
- traditional regattas
- specialty events.

### Juniors

Juniors was still bit of an unknown with so many paddlers moving onto other activities over the Covid period and it was about drawing a line in the sand and seeing what we had left in our club junior programs and how we can best cater to maintain the juniors we have and how we could potentially bring past juniors back paddling and enjoying our sport again.

With so many events being cancelled along the way it was really hard to gauge where the junior Programs were at so we threw ideas around a lot running Specialised junior events such as

Tri series - Standalone Junior regattas

## SQ Zone junior championships at Rainbow Beach

Unfortunately, the Tri series never took off due to numbers being so low in the sport it was not a viable option at this stage so we shelved the idea and maybe once numbers grow again it could be revisited by a future committee.

## Spirit of Aloha

But as we quickly found out junior numbers had plummeted to a lot lower participation than we first thought, and a lot of these ideas had to be scrapped as they weren't sustainable nor financially viable to host.

We are super proud that we have been able to reintroduce The Spirit of Aloha junior games onto the calendar for 2022 and we received great support from the Sq zone clubs that still had active junior programs.

Spirit of Aloha was a fun event set up like the tv show survivor where juniors were placed in teams and given challenges & relays to receive points over the 2 days of fun and games.

The colour run relay at the end of the day was a massive hit as well as the pizzas and prize giving.

I would like to thank all the clubs and their junior coaches for being involved in making the event so successful & from loaning and transporting club craft to help run the fun challenges & activities. Once again Spirit of Aloha will be on at the end of October and hopefully this is the start of a new wave of juniors falling in love with the sport and bringing their mates back to paddling and building our junior numbers again to sustainable level.

## Specialty events

Specialty events allows the zone to introduce racing of different formats into the zone calendar to create fun and a point a difference and Something new to look forward to and to train for and more importantly bring the clubs together.

- 1) **G C 30 0 C 6** iron hosted by Outrigger Australia has grown in numbers in its second year of running so that alone is a great step forward. To see more crews tackle the 30km iconic paddle from Nth Kirra along the amazing coastline of the Gold Coast taking in Surfers Paradise as the head north to the Seaway is something I encourage all paddlers to put on their bucket list of things to do. The introduction of the 3km mini marathon was well received and an opportunity to allow novices & juniors to be also a part of the event. Once again, the Mini Gc 10 km Broadwater course was popular and had plenty of entries.
- 2) **Whale run** hosted by Mooloolaba seen a new out & back 45km course with the start & finish at Mooloolaba to try and encourage participation growth as numbers had slipped away over the last couple of years as logistics from Bribie Island was partly to blame by the feedback we had received.

Unfortunately numbers this year were at an all-time low for both the ocean change over race and beach change over relay so some serious conversations & decisions will need to take place about this events viability moving forward. I would like to knowledge the work that was put into this event by Mooloolaba club and its volunteers and on a personal note I hope we can turn the numbers around as I would hate to see this event be lost and no longer on the events calendar.

3) **Pier to Pier** OC6 change over relay race

Hosted by Bribie Island, Scarborough, Redcliffe, Poly Va'a clubs.

Bribie Island took the lead on this event with the other 3 clubs still being involved this year and all worked together to put on another amazing day on the water with some challenging conditions to really test the paddlers on the day.

The SQ zone took a step back from being in the hosting space but stayed heavily involved in the background to assist the 4 clubs deliver the event for the second time on the events calendar.

4) **Summer Safari** 65km oc6 relay

The summer safari was a hit with plenty of paddlers participating over the day. With 7 change stations along the way as teams made their way from Broadwater Parklands on the Gold Coast to Bayside compound at Raby Bay. Teams had the opportunity to paddle in some amazing water ways including rivers & canals as they made their way north to the finish line where paddlers were greeted and welcomed to land to some amazing food that had been prepared by the generous Bayside members.

Bayside occ & Gold Coast occ jointly ran the event in a co-host agreement and paddlers were met with overcast conditions but epic winds and perfect tides on the day for a fast-paddling conditions seeing crews post amazing times.

Thanks to both clubs for putting on an amazing day and once again the Sq zone worked in the background to help deliver this amazing experience for our paddlers.

5) **Battle of the Bays** was to have continued on for a fourth consecutive year and to be hosted by Brisbane outrigger canoe club for the second consecutive year. But under tragic circumstances the event had to be cancelled with only a few days to go until the event was due to start.

I am sure that the event will return to the event calendar in 2024 and be well supported once again.

## Traditional events

The committee felt that we need to revisit what had worked well in the past for the zone and we believe by introducing a 5 round OC6 series & 4 round small craft series starting in January 2023 was important but we also took it to the next level by introducing and SQ Zone championships that we held at Rainbow Beach at the start of May and what a success that event turned out to be.

The race series were introduced the point score system similar to being used in the past but unfortunately, we didn't receive the support we had hoped for consistently across the series and many club team's & individuals failed to meet the criteria requirements to be eligible for prize giving so once again a re think on this will need to

happen moving forward and try and find a solution on how we can maintain good numbers so host clubs can run viable regattas.

We also introduced the 4km mini marathon in the oc6 series and it took a little while for clubs to warm to this but by season end had great support and numbers on the water so I can see this remaining on the program at future events.

We also trialled a handicap point score system to run alongside the traditional point score system to allow the smaller clubs to still have the opportunity to be competitive in the points score system over the series.

I need to thank Tracy Hand for gathering the stats and punching the figures into a spread sheet over the season and including calculations at Rainbow Beach on the day for presentations that night of the trophies to the winning clubs.

Premier club & Premier club handicap was a new initiative also to stimulate participation and to reward clubs across competition, growth, hosting and supporting events.

Points were awarded across the season in several different categories and handicap was worked on club membership numbers as of January 31 2023.

- 1- Actual membership
- 2- junior membership
- 3- novice membership
- 4- meeting attendance
- 5- clubs hosting events
- 6- travel distance to events
- 7- nominations purchased at events
- 8- race results

Once again without Tracy Hand assisting on collecting all this data these awards would not have been possible, so thank you for your time.

The other thing you would have noticed there was the option for clubs now to enter these races as aggregate age crews.

As we have worked out a system for aggregate age to fall in line with the traditional age groups to allow clubs to encourage participation.

It was great to see clubs using aggregate age and I believe more and more clubs will revert to this format in the near future to keep crews on the water.

The zone had issues finding hosts to run regattas in 2022/23 after the EOI process had been completed. It looked like many events potential 5 regattas may have been cancelled but a last-minute walk around talking to potential clubs by the Sq zone committee members at the Noosa River race held in December we were able to convince clubs to rethink and step up to support the zone and its paddlers.

I will make special mention of these clubs who stepped up to help out

Outrigger Australia - oc6 / small craft

Gold coast - small craft regatta / oc6

Bribie Island - small craft regatta

Mooloolaba- small craft regatta

Noosa, Northcliffe & Coffs Coast we thank you for hosting oc6 regattas and your contribution to the paddling community for the last season was very much appreciated and, on a side, note it was great to be paddling back down at Coffs Harbour after many years without a regatta in that region, it's just a magic part of the world to go paddling.

The other notable difference you all seen was the introduction of the coloured age division bands for oc6 racing and the bright yellow leader's bands for the crews leading the points series.

These coloured age bands really worked well on the water and the feedback from the paddlers was encouraging and they are here to stay as the idea was embraced by all.

Sq zone championship

Rainbow Beach - wow wow wow

What an incredible amazing experience

Location, location, location

I cannot put this event into words, the response from the paddling community was simply amazing with 25 of 28 club's participating in its inaugural year says it all.

This event is still the highlight of my time in zone and the reflection from the survey by the members backs that up.

Everyone is still talking about this event and given the chance will continue to grow into an iconic event on the paddling calendar for paddlers in our zone, across Australia and overseas.

Paddlers are already comparing this event to the glory days of Hamilton Island and believe we may have stumbled across an event & location to recreate what was a must go to event in Australia.

The local community & business operators were abuzz with excitement when we arrived in town with many of the accommodation options being filled and paddlers spending \$\$ in the local community family business helps the local economy especially in the off-peak season in that tourist town.

Many of these businesses donated prizes, vouchers and gifts for our prize giving at presentations and wanted to be involved.

The local surf lifesaving club at Rainbow Beach were superb to deal with and could not do enough to help out.

To have them provide 4 water safety craft and man the first aid for the weekend made running the event so much easier as they understand their Beach & waterways better than anyone and gave us the opportunity to host a safe and enjoyable event.

Gympie Regional council events team, alongside the Mayor, made us so welcome to the region and nothing was too hard.

The council events team also provided a small work force team to assist with set up, pack up and was on sight for majority of the event in case we had any issues and needed assistance.

We have formed a great relationship and hopefully will be able to continue to grow this event together moving forward.

They were so impressed with the event they are hoping to add this as a part of their major events program and want to lock it in for the next 5 years and have budgeted 10k a year towards this being an annual event. 50k over 5 years.

We made a conscious decision at Zone that we needed to be inclusive with this event and engage the community and with that we also used a local business to set up her coffee cart for the morning coffee drinkers and a local charity group ran the BBQ on the Saturday- Cooloola coastal care raising funds for the endangered turtles in the region.

## Off water

### Level 1 coaching

Unfortunately, not a lot of action in this space as like all zones we are all waiting patiently for the new coaching format to be released from AO

In saying that we have just released dates for a course on October as we have had so many requests and clubs are needing coaches in their systems.

This course will still be delivered in the old format as the new format has still not been released.

The zone purchased some amazing equipment over the last 12 months to help promote the sport at our amazing race locations and also to assist clubs in having the capacity to host events by having the opportunity to loan the 8 x 5 equipment trailer for their events.

Clubs that have used the trailer have said it was a fantastic initiative and made hosting so much easier having everything in the one place and the easy access for set up and pack up was also great and hassle free.

Assets in the trailer include

- 1 - SQ Zone branded Marquees 6x3
- 2 - Promotional feathers
- 3 - Promotional table covers
- 4 - Pop-up Presentation medal dias
- 5 - Portable PA system
- 6 - Portable generator
- 7 - Inflatable sleds for jetskis
- 8 - Tables registration tent
- 9 - First aid kits
- 10 - Defibs

- 11 - Start flags
- 12 – Hi-vis vests
- 14 - Go pro
- 15 - Camera
- 16 - Drone
- 17 - iPads
- 18 - Portable stop watches

Notable mentions of contribution to the sport

I would like to take this opportunity to send a special message of thanks to Adam Smith from Australian Water Craft Registry for his ongoing support to provide water safety at all our events and his assistance in set up and pack up of all on water equipment.

He is there from dawn to dusk never mind how wet and cold he is and continues to show up and support our paddlers at all events.

Kai Millen from Paddle Life TV was one of the best things we have done at zone level for a long time and the way he captured the Sq zone championship at Rainbow Beach was amazing and the photos, videos and interviews captured this amazing event and we all love seeing our memories as they still get shared on social media.

Some of the videos have been viewed 10k times in just 4 months since the event and what a great promotion for our sport.

KRT - Kevin & Tracy massive thanks to these guys for supporting our paddlers from the Sq zone who represented Australia in Samoa.

The fundraising initiative of selling Rainbow Beach merchandise at the championship with all proceeds going to our zone reps to assist with the cost of this campaign was very generous and greatly appreciated and we raised \$2500 for the athletes.

### **Awards of excellence**

Congratulations to the following clubs for your success at the national championship that were held at Mooloolaba beach and the SQ zone championships held at Rainbow Beach

### **National championship points score**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Mooloolaba
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Outrigger Australia
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Noosa

### **Sq zone championships point score**

- Noosa
- Handicap - Gold Coast
- Sq zone series oc6
- Noosa
- Handicap - Gold Coast
- Sq zone series small craft

Mooloolaba

Handicap points - Gold Coast

Premier club - Noosa

Premier club handicap points - Gold Coast

## In memory

Vale Danny Topfer & Dave Mason

With all the great things that have happened in the last year we faced some difficult times along the way and we unfortunately lost 2 great gentlemen of the sport way to soon and on both occasions very suddenly that shocked us all into disbelief.

I would like to this opportunity for us to take a moment to reflect on the loss of both Danny Topfer from Brisbane OCC and Dave Mason from Bayside who went above and beyond with their contribution to the Sq zone.

Dave served as Zone president and as committee member for several years and was always contributing to the zone to make paddling a better sport.

Danny was instrumental to bounce ideas off and his input and knowledge of paddling, ocean, wind, swell was the go-to person for expertise information for event hosting, new event planning and general race prep.

Both these gentlemen also served on club committees and sub committees and are truly missed by all whom they touched.

I also would like to acknowledge other paddlers from our zone clubs who have also passed in the last 12 months there has been a few, as well you are sorely missed by all and may you all rest in peace.

Life is way too short so let's get around each other show respect and be kind to each other and enjoy each other's company and support these clubs through these difficult times.

So, on closing I would like to thank my committee of 2023 and a massive thanks to the committee members who are leaving us this year and not going around again you have been simply amazing, and I have enjoyed working and getting to know you all over the last 12 months it's been a blast.

Finally, I must thank my amazing wife Linda who allows me the time and space to invest in this paddling world 24/7 and to my 2 beautiful daughters Shania & Kianna who have grown and lived with this their entire life. You girls are just epic and thank you for your understanding of what time and commitment is needed as a volunteer to get the job done.

Yours in paddling

Leigh Paine

Chief



## NEW SOUTH WALES ZONE - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to the current Zone committee for their commitment during the year. It takes your time, energy and focus, and our sport would not exist without you. Each and every action of the Zone Committee was taken with the focus of growing and improving the sport in NSW, for NSW.

Thank you also to the NSW clubs and members for your support throughout the year. With your involvement, we have delivered a competitive, safe and engaging regatta season to help grow the sport in our zone, and this is reflected in our membership growth 15% in active membership over the last year.

### Regattas

Together we have delivered a successful racing season:

- 7 club regattas throughout the state in challenging but safe conditions and profitable to the club.
- A hugely popular and successful State Titles run by Port Hacking club, strongly supported by NSW clubs, in which Port Hacking also made a very generous \$15,000 financial contribution to our AO national sponsor organization – White Cloud Foundation
- One combined regatta – the Head to Head Relay on the Central Coast with Te Ika Nui which has much potential to grow to become interstate event
- With AO and Bondi Club, the Sydney Harbour Challenge was run out of Rose Bay, with a new course inspiring many international and interstate crews to come back to Sydney and take part in this iconic event,
- Port Hacking club completed a memorable SHC weekend for visiting paddlers by running the Kurnell Downwinder the day following SHC, providing a challenging downwind event.

### Community

The feeling of community is common in many clubs and it is refreshing to see clubs helping clubs:

- At regattas, loaning canoes and offering steerers to clubs with multiple junior teams.
- Informal interclub racing by clubs located close by
- Invitations to canoe blessings shared amongst clubs.
- Open invitations to shared training sessions to lift the standard of single craft paddlers.
- State Titles and Port Hacking's generous donation to White Cloud Foundation.

This is what our sport is about.

Growing

## Coaching

NSW ran a very successful Level 1 Coaching course with 8 of the 21 participants now becoming accredited Level 1 Coaches. NSW and AO have worked together to now bypass Paddle Australia for coaching certification creating a more efficient and cheaper process. New clubs without coaches are connected to established clubs with coaches. This season we are holding another Level 1 course, a Steering Clinic, and onboarding facilitators to further support training coaching for members.

## International Representation

This past season we have seen a huge increase in Australian team representation by NSW members. The new AO national selection policy provides a pathway for good paddlers in small clubs to become exceptional paddlers. 9 NSW clubs (almost one third of our NSW clubs) had members participating at the World Marathon Outrigger Canoe Championships in Samoa in August. Of Australia's outstanding results of 5 Golds and 3 Bronze medals, NSW's Tony Compton provided a particularly notable performance with a win in the individual and team V6 master 70 division.

Each of these representative members will take that experience back to their clubs to lift the standard of paddling here in NSW and to inspire their club mates to similar goals.

## Challenges and goals

Maintaining respect. This year we experienced a disappointing episode of social media bullying. The AO Code of Conduct promotes behavior standards and penalties will and were applied to those who deliberately choose bullying behavior. There are policies and actions to take if you have a disagreement. Bullying in any form is not tolerated in our sport.

Looking ahead, we as a committee must look at ways to make running a regatta easier, ensure regattas provide a positive and safe experience for all members, continue to support a plan that allows a broad representation of NSW members to achieve national representation, continue to provide and facilitate training for coaches and paddlers, promote our sport to increase participation at local, national and international level, and to continue to work with AO in these endeavors. The Zone is committed to its role of managing outriggering in NSW Zone to the benefit of its clubs and members.

As a sport, we must continue to attract new membership. Clubs are community organizations, and club committees are encouraged to welcome new members, encourage membership diversity and accommodate the needs of members by providing suitable training and racing opportunities.

Let's futureproof our sport through commitment to these goals and look forward to another successful season in 2023-24.

**JANE HALL**

## NORTH QUEENSLAND ZONE – PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The last year for the NQ Zone I feel, again, has been a very successful one considering the challenges we have endured during this period. There was some lost ground recovering from some issues from the previous year which all volunteer groups must endure from time to time. The members did not get any direct impact from the sorting of such it just delayed some progression on the things we did wish to be working on. The zone committee managed to get back into full swing working on the key issues and we have to thank the support of all our zone members through the last year. The support we get from our members is what keeps the zone functioning. We as the committee just work hard to try and achieve the vision that the members desire.

The current committee has been in the seat since May last year. The 2022 season continued strongly with some great events as the year progressed. We have all seen some variations to the norm through the year as race formats from some clubs were changed to add some variety to the events. This was well received by members overall even though some of these changes disadvantaged some. The fact is if we don't try, we will never know what works and what does not work. The zone committee does not run events, nor should we ever do so, our job is to manage the zone, keep our members safe and provide clubs with the support they need to achieve the events they wish to hold. The members of our zone vote us in to manage the sport and that's exactly where we try to focus all our energy. The zone committee is always willing to provide advice or support to any clubs or individual members. For this to be achieved the clubs and members need to reach out so we can help or sometimes we may miss knowing assistance is required.

One of the big things we achieved in the last year was the media coverage at every event thanks to a paddle live tv. This has proven to be a very good thing for our zone and its members and we just need to ensure moving forward that we manage this well and make good decisions to keep it affordable and ongoing for the members of our zone. We have a contract with paddle life tv to continue this through the remainder of the 2023 season. Kai and the crew at paddle life have done a truly outstanding job of this with each episode getting better and better. The members are really embracing this and contributing to the really good content we get to highlight our sport in the north and, more importantly highlight the great amazing people and friendships we have amongst the member base in the north.

The clubs in our zone continued to improve the quality of their events and make them run smoother each time. This is a huge effort by the clubs that often have limited numbers to achieve such outcomes and often means they, themselves, often miss out on getting to race. We wish to find ways to lessen the impact of this on clubs by getting more people from other attending clubs to assist each club on the day to ensure the quality is maintained and more people get a chance to compete.

Last year saw the first time that The Mini G and the GBROC events were split and held over two separate weekends. This seemed a huge success and progresses into this

year's format for the event. This has opened up many additional opportunities to the members of the sport and from all zones to allow them better options to be involve in these two events and allow additional things to be held during the week in between. This has also helped the host club with the previous issue mentioned by allowing more of their members to be able to participate in one of these events as great as this is on the surface it too has some issues for some due to cost and travel but these issues will never be fully removed from having an impact, we just need to minimize the negative impact as much as we can.

The zone again over the last twelve months has held several development training camps for its members to increase knowledge and skill base to all who attend. We do acknowledge that we need to spread these out and hold some in a larger area to encompass all members and make available to all due to our large area, this is not a easy fix. The zone at this stage does not charge any member to attend these development camps however, we do need to look at how we sustain these moving forward. The feedback from these weekends has so far been very positive from those who have attended. We certainly wish to continue these and intend to hold them in all corners of our zone in the future.

It has been amazing to see so many NQ Zone members and clubs attending big events outside our zone, such as Sydney harbour and the recent national titles, and seeing so many outstanding results coming from these events with our zone members and clubs placing very high in these high-level events. It truly highlights the quality of paddling we all are building in the north. Also, it is worth mentioning the large number who were involved in the world sprints last year and those that are involved in this year's Samoan Campaign. Super proud of all NQ Zone members involved in this.

The zone again managed to successfully hold another big gala function to end last season which was well attended and enjoyed by those who attended. We do wish to continue this into the future and will continue to work on the best location and format to hold such. We do feel that this is an important aspect of our zone and supports the friendly spirit we have built in the north. We are to date the only zone to officially hold such as we truly value our people and the friendships we create.

The concern we have moving forward is, as good as all our events have been for those who have attended, we have seen a noticeable overall drop in participation over the recent year. This is clear in the regatta income we receive from events. We need to look at how this affects our sport long term and what we can do to steer this back to a positive growth outcome for all. Things affecting this is the ever-increasing cost of living in general, the added cost of fuel which affects us massively in the north due to our large travel distances and the increased cost of accommodation for people attending events. All of these are outside our control. What we can look at is changing our structure of events to limit the impact these expenses are having on our member base. For example; we have less events less travel but make each event bigger. The other cost issue is the cost of nominations we all want heaps of racing options but this drives costs up. Clubs also wish to make money but if nominations are too high people

won't pay. Overall, if clubs don't make money that leads to no club willing to offer events. We need to communicate and work through solutions to address these issues, if we don't bring everyone to the table to resolve this our sport will struggle to survive, this is not just a money issue it's a value issue. The biggest value while I'm president is our people not what we make or how much we bank but we need a balance of funds from what we do to ensure continuation of the sport we love.

This year has been another year where there have been many concerns and threats to our sport. I have been in this sport consistently for the last 34yrs and each year there are threats and concerns. Some are no more than rumours and people trying to stir things up and create conflict. We need to be smart and realistic in what we get involved in what we listen to and are influenced by. As a president of the northern zone, I have and, if I remain as president, will always have, an open-door policy and willing to hear anyone's concerns. Whether that be if they feel poorly treated or not given a fair go during their participation in the sport in the north. I will always listen and always try to resolve fairly and reach suitable outcomes. There will be occasions where we simply cannot please all or fix everything, but we will listen and do all we can to prevent recurrence of any negative situation for our members. But please understand I, as president, can only control and be accountable for outcomes in our northern zones and can only correct issues that our zone is responsible for. Also, as a president I will not fight rumours and chase theories, we need to stay focused on what is real and factual. If we tried to defend every rumour, we would never have any time to actually run the sport itself, we need to stay focused on the facts.

The rules that govern our sport are there to protect all members and to protect the structure of the sport itself. The rules around behaviour are extremely important and need to be followed by all members. Any proven breaches of these rules must be actioned, they need to be enforced to protect the sport and its members. In severe or repeat cases penalties also need to be applied or the rules will never stand for anything.

One such rule we have seen some increased issues with is the rules around social media. Most of our zone would have received an email a short while ago expressing the seriousness of the social media platforms and the detrimental affect breaching such can have on the sport. The email was written by me as the president, and I stand firm on all it contained we have to be firm on this one. The rules clearly state it's unacceptable and any breaches of such can result in very serious penalties being applied. Although we have not had a known breach of this rule in our zone many of us have seen it happening within the sport and relating to events outside our zone. Unfortunately, these progressed quickly and ended up becoming very personal between people and some very nasty allegations being thrown. This behaviour and any participation in such are unacceptable and does a huge amount of damage to people within the sport and the good reputation of the sport itself it affects all and even affects potential future members and sponsors. This behaviour in our zone will not be allowed to go on without penalties to every person who gets involved. No matter what you see, what you hear or how you feel, no social media platform is a solution, it will

only end in harsh penalties being applied. I can only enforce this in our zone area. So again, if anyone has something that has upset them please reach out we will listen there is no doubt in our best effort to run the zone at times we will get things wrong, this is not intentional and we will work wherever we can to resolve and prevent further issues.

The running of any zone is not an easy job there is so much to cover and so many people to please and there are so many things that puts what we enjoy at risk. A key part of being able to do this is to know what is critical to our zone and its members. You need to know what is valued and what works as well as what doesn't. You need to know what is flexible and what's negotiable as well as what isn't. To get sustainable outcomes you need to have certain relationships with other key players in the game. To get good honest outcomes to benefit our zone you need to have trust in the person you have leading these interactions. That trust does not come from them being a yes man/woman to other parties it comes from believing that the person you back has the honesty and courage to stand tall and fight for what matters to you as members, and to only vouch for what they can honestly prove and account for with facts not rumours.

Over the last ten years the working relationship between the NQ Zone committee and the national board have been maintained well and for the majority of the time has been in good close working condition. Obviously over time there has been some moments of tension in the relationship and to be totally honest at that level from time to time there should be. If both groups are standing for what is important to them and what is vital to them there will be some things that don't align simply because we are different entities and we manage different areas. What is vital or a priority to each group is different. If it was always happy and rosy nice in this space, it would simply mean someone is not doing their job honestly or standing up for what the people they are representing need or expect. These good working relationships often encounter bumps and some small wounds in their journey as we progress on the important issues of the sport. Many times, respect and understanding from both sides with a little give and take usually leave these wounds as minor scratches and wound recovery is speedy and we all move forward with no long-term damage encountered. Sometimes these interactions are more serious and the long term damage is significant. There have been and always will be the odd occasion that parties just must agree to disagree to resolve issues before they become major wounds. We don't always have to agree on everything to get the best for the sports future.

Before any rumours start to flow and make what is real worse. The facts right now is that the NQ Zone and other keys players in the sport are going through one of these such situations over the last few weeks. As for how long it will go on for, or how much damage to the relationship is done during the attempts to move on, will depend on how both parties work forward and what they are willing to understand. All I can say is I will only ever account for what I have proof of and I will only speak and be held accountable for what happens in the jurisdiction I control as the NQ Zone president. The cause for this unsettlement is due to events that have happened outside our zone and happened in areas governed by other people. I have full confidence that eventually a way forward

will prevail, and we can all get back to focusing on building a great sustainable future and stop spending all our energy putting out fires.

There are big things for us to look forward with and focus on. The NQ Zone is strong and resilient. The AGM directly follows this and if re-elected I am ready to continue with all that we have underway.

**DARRELL THOROUGHGOOD**

# SOUTHERN STATES ZONE – PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Kia Orana to All

AGM Presidents Reports, are supposed to look back on the previous 12 months and recognise achievements, highlights, points of note and gratitude to people and I intend to do just that, starting with volunteers.

There are volunteers all over this zone, there are the volunteers who freely offer their time to undertake tasks such as working on a committee, washing the canoes, maintaining the canoes, coaching, cooking the snags for the Bunnings fundraiser for example. I wish to express the SSZ committee’s ‘Thank You’, for all your hard work and also your time. Time is such an expensive commodity to give to a club and we recognise this and I am sure your fellow paddlers at your club recognise and appreciate this also.

The recognised achievements in Southern States Zone, the regattas. First one was Geelong OCC in February 2023, was held in Torquay. A lot of great racing and the ‘Welcome Back’, to Torquay OCC who have been absent for a short period of time. The enthusiasm from TOCC was in the air and they seemed to be loving every minute of the regatta. The introduction of Western Beaches OCC new boat, what can I say, except, that she turns like it’s on rails. Also, Inlander OCC, Kia Opuia OCC and Patterson Lakes OCC who travelled down the highway very early in the morning, was great to have you on board.

Inlanders OCC, continued to hold their Winery Run in May 2023. Nothing better than rugging up and having a paddle down the Murray River, from Barmah to Echuca and stopping at the Cape Horn Winery. The scenery was stunning and I am no drinker, but it was a great spot to chill out with some pizza, music and great people. This was the first time I had attended and thoroughly enjoyed myself and will be back in 2024.

My points to note, is the introduction of the AO Rules in March 2023. I cannot mention enough the importance of these rules and the expectation that I have of all paddlers to recognise and understand the responsibility they have, to not only themselves but also to others, especially coaches and committee members. We remind committees during our SSZ Club Delegate Meetings and paddlers that it’s okay to put in an incident report to AO, should you believe that one is warranted. AO have only received 1 report from our zone, and a large number from other zones have been received, we know that there are more out there that need to be reported. Should you receive an email from our zone committee relating to an incident report please do not take offence, we are purely following the AO rules and guidelines and that we as a committee are ensuring that our paddlers are safe. It is purely policy and procedure that we are following.

Continuing on with points of note, it is disappointing that we are still waiting for accreditation of Coaches Course 2022, our Coaching SS Zone Co-ordinator is communicating constantly with AO and also have our AO President chasing this up for



6 months, we are not the only zone in this position, but we hope to get this rectified very shortly, given that our Coaching Course for 2023 is not that far away.

More points -

Website – apparently November 2023 (Lets watch this space!)

Anna Wells and I attended a AO Zone Presidents meeting via Zoom on the first weekend of July and listened to the points of interest that AO wanted us to hear regarding Cassie Smith's report, Building Bridges for a Stronger Outrigger Canoeing Community. Finally, we all have received this and there is a lot to read and we wait to see how this will be implemented into the Strategic Business Plan Summary, as there is a lot to digest.

Katerina Epae attended regular Junior Development Meetings with AO and Kat has the enthusiasm and motivation to move her ideas forward, starting with Melbourne OCC first off. I will not let the secret out but the soul of paddling and showing juniors the way will come back with Kats guidance. Watch this space.

Gratitude to people, the SS Zone committee members are the ones who I wish to show gratitude to. First off, the SSZ Secretary Anna Wells, SSZ Treasurer/Safety Officer/Coaching Co-ordinator Uby Woods, SSZ Vic President Alex Brunacci, SSZ Committee Member Marie Van Vleman, SSZ Junior Co-ordinator Katerina Epae and last SSZ Committee Member Peter Carr aka Biggles (who left us for much greener pastures in Harvey Bay). These experienced and knowledgeable paddlers, account for close to 100 years of experience that has led you through the past 12 months. It has not been easy, these positions sometime feel unappreciated and hard work, but these people are the ones that I could have not done my job without, so thank you team, we worked well together in the 6 man call the SSZ Committee and now we leave it in a much better place than before COVID for the next committee.

Yours in Paddling

JENN MORGAN

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA ZONE – PRESIDENT’S REPORT

No report was provided