



## PRESIDENT'S EMAIL

NOVEMBER 2018

**Dear Members**

With our fantastic Blue Water Paddle Festival and AGM weekend successfully completed, I want to update you on a few key points. **I also want to seek your active consideration of volunteering to help run the Club in 2019.** Those members who were able to attend the Blue Water Paddle Festival enjoyed a sublime weekend at lovely Barwon Heads. We had great weather, great paddling, great networking and from what I picked up, a lot of learning and skills progression.

During the actual AGM I was very pleased to confer Life Memberships on two great contributors to our Club, Terry Barry and Peter Costello. I know that Terry and Peter were very appreciative of this honour, and many members mentioned to me how much they admire their efforts in supporting members at large. Well done indeed guys and we all look forward to your ongoing contributions.

### **2018-19 Subscriptions**

I know that many members will have paid their subscriptions already, but these are now due and payable at the latest by 30 November this year. **Can all members who have not paid please do so by this date.** Beyond this point you will be unfinancial and risk being struck off the register of members thereafter.

### **2019 Committee Nominations**

At the AGM, the Club's four Office Bearer positions were filled as follows:

- President – myself
- Vice President – Peter Newman
- General Secretary – Maggie MacPherson
- Treasurer – Ray Pilbrow

Subsequent to the AGM proper, Kate Alberico kindly nominated for the Membership Coordinator role. Welcome Kate.

This means that we do not have a full committee for 2019 and it is likely we will have to cut back planned initiatives for next year unless we can fill vacant positions. It is simply not possible to govern the Club and progress initiatives to benefit members with a minimum Committee of five persons.

The incoming Committee is currently completing a handover process and will be meeting shortly to consider practical plans for 2019. But, without a full Committee on board it is likely we will have to curtail a range of activities. This may mean we will have to move to minimum program in terms of Sea Trek publication, website upgrades, trips program offer and other initiatives.

**One approach may be to run a series of projects with support drawn from members. So if you are interested in helping with running of the Club via short projects, please let me know.**

The big challenge we have is filling the outstanding Committee positions. Some members have flagged an interest in these roles, but nothing has been finalised yet. I emphasize that we can work out a suitable arrangement regarding Committee meeting attendance for these roles (i.e. it is not necessary to attend all Committee meetings). **I therefore strongly urge all members to consider expressing interest in the roles below:**

### **TRIPS COORDINATOR**

The Trips Coordinator shapes and coordinates the Club's trip calendar, involving coordinating the listing of Club paddles and liaising with trip leaders. This role is responsible for ensuring there is an active trip program in place by proactively following up Trip Leaders to facilitate their involvement in the Club's annual trip calendar. This includes maintaining a catalogue of potential trips and producing trip statistics and evaluations on a rolling and annual basis.

### **TRAINING AND SAFETY COORDINATOR**

This role works with Club Instructors as required to schedule training programs, proficiency course intakes and the allocation of instructors to training events. In addition, the Training & Safety Coordinator is responsible to facilitate the implementation of the Club's training, grading and paddling safety policies and systems and ensures that they are in accord with appropriate contemporary developments in these areas. The role maintains the Club's training materials and related information. The role also coordinates the Club's involvement with external accreditation and safety authorities. *(Note: Given the role of our Trainee Instructor Group, this role mainly acts as a link between this group and the Committee)*

### **COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**

This role is responsible for managing three inter-related member and public communications channels for the Club: social media, web and email. The role is responsible for publishing on-line material and liaison with designated technical support to enable maintenance of the Club's principal communications asset – the website, as well as curating the Club's Facebook Group site. The Communications Officer will coordinate any on-going website development, utilising technical support as required. They will regularly publish new material to the website to service Club members and the broader public. The role will work with the Sea Trek Coordinator to ensure effective integration of all Club communications.

### **SEA TREK COORDINATOR**

The primary responsibility of the Sea Trek Coordinator is the production of the Sea Trek magazine – the quarterly on-line journal of the VSKC. This requires desktop publishing, writing and editorial skills and a capacity to plan and manage a broad balance of sea kayak-related topics. The role also requires strong networking skills and the capacity to encourage members to contribute.

The Sea Trek Coordinator will therefore actively solicit articles, reports and digital photographs from all VSKC members. The role is responsible for the on-going refinement of the publication standards of Sea Trek to ensure contemporary presentation.

### **Sea Kayak Basics**

As mentioned in my previous President's News, this new VSKC specific grade is replacing 'Grade 0'. It will be a mandatory requirement for all newly joining members, and will be awarded upon demonstration of some basic skills and knowledge. This will be available on regularly held Club training and induction paddles. The VSKC Trip Leader of the day will make the award once a paddler demonstrates the requirements. The Trip Leader will also help paddlers to understand and practice requirements, in some cases on dry land as appropriate.

A successful assessment workshop was run at the recent Paddle Festival, with some 12 members being granted their Sea Kayak Basics grade. We will be advising details of how existing ungraded members can transfer across to this grading in the near future (including recognition of prior skills), but this is in part dependant on reviewing the availability of Trip Leaders to undertake any assessments that may be required and our capacity to provide the necessary administrative support.

A summary of knowledge and skill requirements is provided below:

#### **Knowledge:**

- Present sea kayak and on board equipment to VSKC standards
- Present themselves for the paddle suitably dressed for the conditions on the day and know how to modify clothing to suit changing conditions
- Understand use of whistle, hand and paddle signals to communicate.
- Show an understanding of correct posture for paddling and basic injury prevention

#### **Skills:**

- Competently fit the spraydeck, launch the kayak and paddle away from the launching point in a controlled manner.
- Able to paddle forward and turn the kayak in an efficient manner
- Able to perform a basic low brace support stroke
- Come alongside and raft up as a group or with at least one other kayak
- Perform a competent wet exit from the kayak.
- Get back into the kayak with assistance from other paddlers
- Swim 50 metres in full sea kayaking (paddling) gear
- Demonstrate an ability to maintain an effective group paddling pace

**Very best regards**

**Richard Rawling  
President, VSKC**