



Dragon Boat Victoria Annual Report 2022



Contents

President's Report	3
Board of Directors	5
ROPAG Members	6
Regatta Officials Mentoring Program	6
Sweeps Committee	6
DBV Key Staff.....	7
Season Statistics.....	8
AusDBF Accredited Courses	8
2021 Victorian State Championships.....	9
AusChamps.....	9
DBV Strategic Plan July 2020 - June 2023.....	10
Kayo and Fox Sports Australia Sponsorship.....	12
Projects Planned / Delivered	13
Pink Paddle.....	14
Pride Come & Try	14
Financial Report	15

Presidents' Report

Dragon Boat Victoria is one of the eight Dragon Boat associations across Australia and is the governing body for dragon boating in Victoria, with 1017 registered members across 26 affiliated clubs. Despite enduring the lagging effects of covid lockdowns and in particular, the Omicron variant, the Victorian dragon boating community has once again demonstrated not only its resilience as a community but its passion for the sport of dragon boating. Membership has grown by 3.48% despite most other associations experiencing a decline. Our participation at regattas has increased year on year and is higher than pre-covid. At this year's AusChamps, from 12 events Victoria entered on state vs state day, the Victorian teams achieved 6 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze placings. Victorian paddlers are also well represented in the National Dragonboat team making up 30 members of the 54-member squad. As paddlers, coaches, sweeps, drummers, volunteers, officials and supporters, we should be proud of what we have achieved as DBV.



As mentioned in previous annual reports, the DBV Strategic Plan was created in 2019 with a view that it would be implemented in 2020 and would be the strategic direction of DBV for the next three years. The essence of any strategy is to ensure the governing board and its operations team are clear about its objectives, where it will allocate resources and, equally important, where it will not. The DBV strategy is underpinned by four key Pillars:

1. Enhance the awareness and profile of dragon boating in Victoria
2. Grow the membership base, with a focus on U24, premier and senior categories
3. Increase the accessibility of dragon boating across Victoria
4. Provide enhanced central support and pathways for clubs, sweeps, coaches and officials.

In order to monitor the performance of the board and operations team, several measures of success are aligned to the four strategic pillars, these measures include:

- Number of members
- Member retention rates
- Premier : Senior ratio
- Average regatta attendance
- Development course attendance

Over a three-year period since the implementation of the strategy, Dragon Boat Victoria has experienced consecutive years of growth. Despite Covid, over the three-year period, membership grew by 7.14%. Conversely, paddler attrition rates continue to fall year on year. Some of this can be credited to the lagging effect of the DragonPass, moving away from annual memberships to a rolling membership, and offering a product better aligned to our membership needs. Furthermore, average regatta attendance has grown every year. In the 2019/2020 season (pre-covid), average attendance at regattas was 300 participants; Fast forward to 2021/2022 season, average regatta attendance reached 429 participants per regatta. The increase can be attributed to the ROPAG (Regatta Operations & Pathways Advisory Group) changing the way we run regattas with a clear focus on increasing participation and trying new formats. The board used extensive data analysis to identify the best locations for regattas to increase participation.

Contrary to national trends, the average age of paddlers continues to fall over the three-year period from 49yo in 2019/2020 to 44yo in 2021/2022. This can be attributed to the growth in the premier category, in particular under 24s, through university participation. A strong premier category is a long-term growth strategy.

There continues to be a strong uptake in coaching, sweeps, and officials courses throughout the year. The operational team, in consultation with the ROPAG, have strategically timed these courses to maximise attendance and effectiveness. However, we believe there are more opportunities to develop pathways that can be explored by the incoming board. The incoming board will also need to consider the broader DBV Strategic Plan moving forward as the existing strategy expires next year. The board can consider extending the existing strategy giving it the ability to be fully implemented free from covid challenges, or create a new strategy.

On a final note, I would like to share a famous quote from renowned management consultant Peter Drucker, *“culture eats strategy for breakfast.”* What he meant is that no matter how great your business strategy is, your plan will fail without an organisational culture that encourages people to deliver results. The Board and operations team have been able to deliver these results through the clouds of covid by fostering a culture of trust, where everyone has an equal voice, egos and club colours are parked outside the meeting door, and the greater needs of the sport are prioritised over individual club needs. For this, I thank the board and operations team for their expertise, commitment and patience in growing the sport of dragon boating in Victoria and laying the foundation for greater things to come.

John Cuzzupi

President of DBV

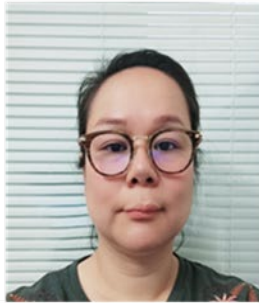
Board of Directors

The association is governed by a Board of seven Elected Directors plus up to two Associate and two Appointed Directors. Best practice arrangements and responsibilities of the DBV Board include undertaking the process of ensuring for DBV members that the DBV Board has Directors who have both the right skills and complementary skills to carry out the legal responsibilities required of governing bodies and lead key elements of our strategy and operations.

We would like to thank our outgoing committee members Adrian Stephens, Lesley Chan, Kieran Ormrod and Di Edmondson for their tremendous contribution to DBV. Their contribution not only helped us steer DBV through challenging times but was invaluable in helping us grow. We wish them all the best.



Kerrie Waworis
Board Member



Lesley Chan
Appointed Member



Adrian Stephen
Vice President



Kieran Ormrod
Board Member



Christine Watson
Secretary



Steve Arrowsmith
Treasurer



Diane Edmondson
Appointed Member



Heather Watts
Associated Director



James Hankins
Board Member



John Cuzzupi
President

ROPAG (Regatta Operations & Pathways Advisory Group)

The ROPAG has played a vital role in supporting the DBV board by providing recommendations on improving regatta operations and enhancing paddlers' participation and experience. Furthermore, its expertise has provided the DBV Board with invaluable guidance relating to the interpretation of race rules and race formats. Craig Ryan acts as Chair of the ROPAG and has been an important link with the Board. The DBV Board thanks the ROPAG for their contribution and for showing strong conviction to continually challenge the way we do things to enhance the paddler's experience.



Serge Cucca



Philippa McLean



Georgia Parry



Ulrich Moshhammer

ROMP (Race Officials Mentoring Program)

As mentioned previously, Race officials in dragon boating play a critical role in ensuring we all get to enjoy the sport in a safe, fair and supported way. Without officials, we simply wouldn't be able to run regattas. We would like to thank both Philippa McLean and Georgia Parry for the role they play in supporting and mentoring existing and new officials.



Philippa McLean



Georgia Parry

Sweeps Committee

The Sweeps committee play an important role to ensure new sweeps or existing sweeps are accredited to safely steer dragon boats across different waterways during training and at regattas. We thank them for their ongoing, immense contribution.



Jim McGoldrick



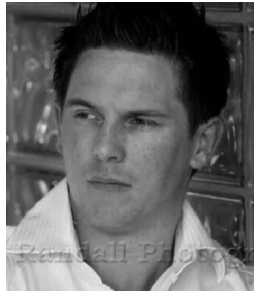
Jen Reilly



David Abel

DBV Key Staff

Craig Ryan - Operations Manager



Craig's role is to drive the strategy, including priority initiatives by ensuring DBV's four main pillars are met with measurable targets. He also works to enhance the awareness and profile of Dragon Boating in Victoria, including growth, technology, marketing and media plans.

He works with all the key stakeholders across the state and oversees the grant & funding submissions so that the financial performance of the Association is healthy.

He also acts as the Event Director for all DBV-sanctioned events and regattas.

Kirsten Parton - Operations and Events Coordinator



Kirsten started with DBV in July of 2021, her main role is to assist DBV in operational aspects and the planning and delivery phase of our regattas and events. This includes but is not limited to, arranging regatta vendors, infrastructure, volunteers, administration and equipment.

Also having responsibility for DBV administration, monthly EDM's, updating and maintaining the RevSport database, responding to general and regatta related enquiries from clubs, members and the general public.

Season Statistics

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Total financial members	967	978	1012
New members:	228	251	277
Female members %	67.7%	67.4%	68.5%
Male members %	32.3%	32.1%	30.9%
Differently, Identify/Other	N/A	0.5%	0.6%
Membership growth rates	2.53%	1.13%	3.48%
Average member age	49	46	44
Membership attrition	22.47%	19.6%	17.75%
Regatta participation	2100 at 7 regattas	2001 at 5* regattas	2149 at 5* regattas
participants at DBV regattas	300	400.2	429.8
The gender split of members in crews	Female: 47.1% Male 52.9%	Female: 69.6% Male 31.1%	Female 68.8% Male: 31.2%

*Includes numbers from CBC

Accredited Courses and DBV workshops

During 2021-2022 the following accredited courses and workshops were held.

Course	Month	Location	Number of attendees
AusDBF new officials	September	Online	11
L2 Sweeps Course	November	Ballarat	11
L1 Coaching Course	February	Albury/Wodonga	18
L2 Coaching Course	March	Melbourne	7

2022 Victorian Championships

The Victorian State Championships (500m & 2km) were held at the National Water Sport Centre on March 19, 2022. Blessed with great weather, almost 400 competitors from 14 Clubs competed for State honours across Premier, Seniors (amalgamated A, B & C) and Breast Cancer & Survivor divisions.

A first for DBV this year was the decision to run the 200m State Championship category in conjunction with the Lunar New Year competition held at Docklands a month earlier. The split format proved successful, enabling schedules to cater to the large field of entrants at both regattas.

Another first for the Championships was the amalgamated Senior's category. This involved an officials' handicap calculation being applied to A, B, C crews results to establish the outright Seniors' winner adding an extra layer of interest, unpredictability and excitement to the results.

Congratulations to all State Title winners and thank you to all officials and volunteers who enabled the success of the events.

Australian Championships 2022 – West Lakes, SA

Congratulations to our Victorian team on their successful campaign at the 2022 Australian Championships held in Adelaide in April. Uncertainty created by Covid 19 and lockdowns severely delayed Victoria's preparation for the Championships, so the results achieved with minimal training sessions were particularly commendable.

From 12 events entered, Victorian teams achieved 6 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze placing. Special mention to our Senior A squad taking 4 Gold from 4 events in strong competition.

DBV would like to thank 2022 State Team Coaches, Palmiro Casasnovas (Premier), Racheal Blake (Senior A), Kerrie Waworis (Senior B) and Team Managers, Christine Watson and Samantha French for their work in ensuring Victoria was well represented at the AusChamps.

DBV Strategic Plan, July 2020 - June 2023

To provide clarity on the objectives of DBV and lay out a roadmap to achieving them, a 3-year Strategic Plan for DBV was developed in July 2020 and launched at the 2020 AGM. This plan was developed using feedback and insights from the 2019-2020 Member Survey as well as historic DBV regatta and performance data which was synthesised by the DBV Board across a series of workshops.

The Strategic Plan lays out a clear Vision, Mission and Measures of Success for DBV over the next three years. These provide a “North Star” from which to anchor DBV’s central planning. From this, four Strategic Objectives were developed, which form the framework for guiding effort and allocating resources, each of which are underpinned by a series of Priority Initiatives: the practical steps to bring our defined objectives to life.

The four Strategic Objectives in the Strategic Plan are to:

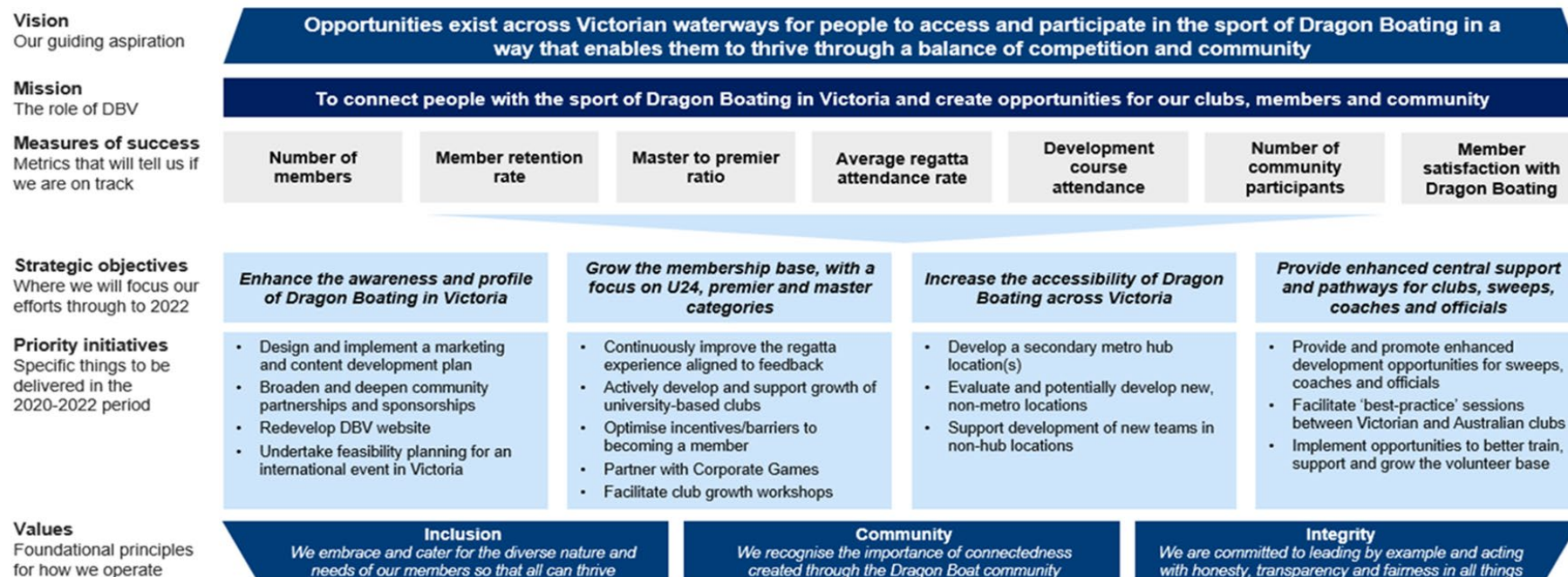
1. Enhance the awareness and profile of Dragon Boating in Victoria
2. Grow the membership base, with a focus on the U24, Premier and Seniors categories
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Finally, a set of Values were identified as guiding principles for how DBV will operate. The Values are **Inclusion** (embracing and catering to our diverse member base), **Community** (recognising the importance of connectedness) and **Integrity** (acting with honesty, transparency and fairness).

The “Strategy on a page” below summarises the DBV Strategic Plan for the period July 2020 to June 2023



Strategy on a page



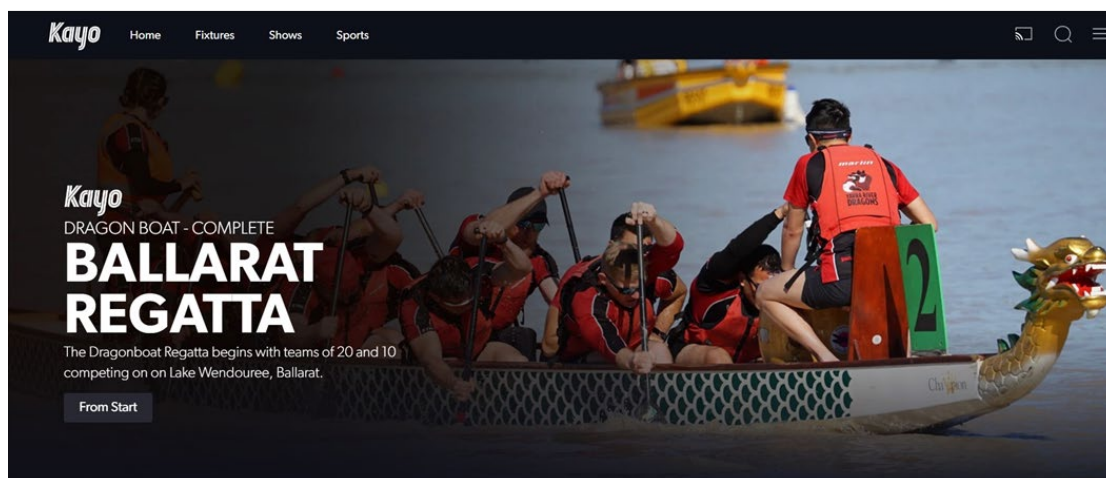
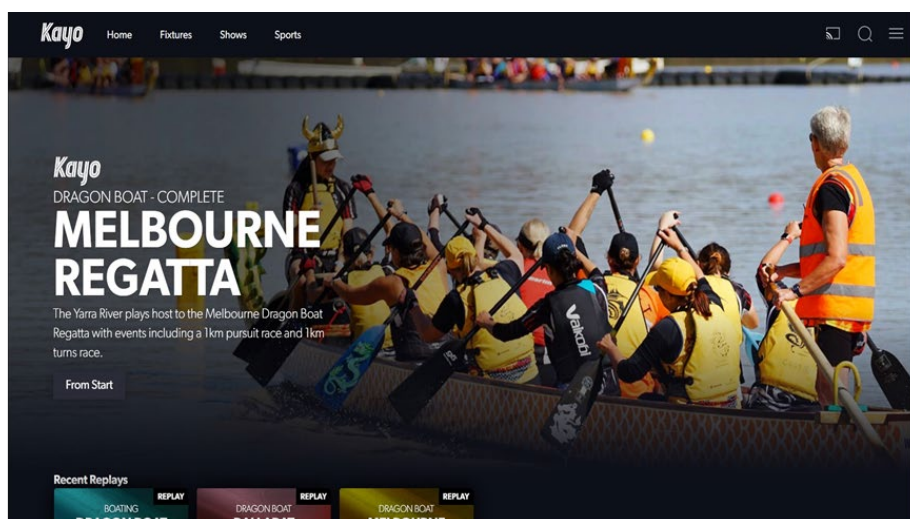
Key Features of the Strategic Plan in Action

1. Kayo and Fox Sports Australia – Sponsorship

Dragon Boat Victoria secured a two-year Media Rights Agreement Sponsorship via a grant for under-represented sports. This is the second year of the media rights agreement. DBV is working diligently to try and secure another two-year agreement.

Kayo is Australia's fastest growing and greatest reach sports streaming platform. As of August 2022, Kayo has 1,312,000 subscribers.

Due to Covid restrictions, only Ballarat, Melbourne and CNY were streamed on Kayo for the 2021/ 2022 season.



Projects Planned / Delivered

DBV has planned and delivered a number of key events aimed at enhancing the awareness and profile of dragon boating as a sport and increasing the accessibility of the sport across Victoria. Some examples are outlined below.

1. Moomba Festival

Moomba is Australia's largest free community festival, held in Melbourne over the Labor Day weekend each March. In 2018 it had a record attendance of 3.8 million people (2.3 million tourists).

DBV was successful in working with the City of Melbourne to have Dragon Boating included as a feature for 2022 and future Moombas. However, due to short notice of our successful application and combined with an unsuitable location, DBV was unable to participate in the event.

Participating in this festival aligns with DBV strategic pillar 1) 'Enhance the awareness and profile of Dragon Boating in Victoria'.



2. Pink Paddle Event

The Pink Paddle event scheduled for Saturday; 4th December 2021, was postponed for 12 months to avoid any concerns relating to covid. This year over 350 paddlers from DA clubs from Australia and New Zealand will compete in Victoria in the heart of Docklands on December 5th 2022.

The Pink Paddle events sit within the DBV Strategic Plan - Pillar 1 - *Enhance the awareness and profile of Dragon Boating in Victoria.*



3. Pride Come try day.

Dragon Boat Victoria was excited to announce it will be developing an LGBTIQ+ inclusion strategy and supported the Australian Dragon Boat Federation in running a National Pride “come and try” weekend this year.

The pride come and try day sits within the DBV Strategic Plan - Pillar 1 - *Enhance the awareness and profile of Dragon Boating in Victoria.*



Financial Statements

View Financial statements [here](#)