

Chairmans report Ski Racing Victoria 2014-15

I have only been back on the board now for a little over 12 months and taken over the role as Chairman after our first AGM in October last year.

To say this has been a hard year is an understatement. I would like to commend the other members of the SRV board for all the work they have done.

To try and run a club as large as ours without money is a huge task, I would like to thank SRA for allowing some time to pay our debt to them giving us a time payment scheme and room to move.

Anthony Savona worked with our other debtors ensuring the time payment plans he put in place were honoured. I must say all of these suppliers were happy to work with us ongoing and we paid them for last season services on time.

As treasurer Anthony did a tremendous job and I would like to thank him for his efforts.

Yes we were short of cash and desperately needed an inflow, Kris Pogorelec stepped up to the plate not only getting all our races at point scores sponsored he got Mulwala Ski Club on board to sponsor in cash and kind, 2 Grand Prix's at Yarrawonga giving us a much needed boost. Thanks Kris for your hard work.

With our loss of funds came the need to recoup what we could from insurance etc. Graham Lee was like a dog after a bone consistently and methodically speaking to our insurers and the CBA bank. We managed to obtain \$11,000 back from insurance after paying the excess. The CBA bank were difficult not wanting to admit they had made an error but Grahams diligence paid off and at our Presentation night I was able to announce they paid us \$58,000. We know \$69k is not the total of what was stolen but it put us back into the black and we look forward to a better season financially this year.

With the new board back in December a new position was created of governance with the focus to be on our constitution, model rules and legislation to ensure our club is run correctly. Graham has that role.

Tom Bishop resigned as our Secretary in late February and we then had a period without secretarial assistance until the appointment of Sue Maher in June. I would like to thank Tom and welcome Sue.

The Grand Prix series was a success and everyone enjoyed Lake Mulwala as the venue is fantastic and the club there makes us feel welcome.

Our point score series was again a success as we look forward to another season starting on September 5. Unfortunately we have had to move PS2 from Boga to Lake Kangaroo due to

the water depth at Boga. There were discussions regarding changes to our racing format which will be addressed this year prior to the end of the season so any changes that are made are well before the next season commences giving everyone adequate notice.

The new event we ran in conjunction with the Mildura Ski Club at Wentworth was fantastic, what a lovely piece of river to race on. Unfortunately due to some differences we will not be doing the same this year which disappoints me personally after the work put in.

Our Robinvale race was marred by the unfortunate death of Jai Welch which saddened us all. SRV will be naming an event after Jai at Robinvale in his memory. After a lapse of a year we again worked with the Robinvale Committee on the event and look forward to doing the same again this season. I would like to thank Doug Perry for the huge effort he put organizing the event.

Our presentation night at the RACV club was fantastic, great venue, service was good and we managed to finish the awards in time for dancing and catching up. We acknowledged our winners, and Ray Lochhead as a life member along with the life members from the VSTC who became SRV life members. Unfortunately the night finished early due to an incident which we have been working through. Hopefully we can use the venue again.

With the incidents involving Ian Baker, Jai and previous ones in ski racing there has been a focus by Roads and Maritime Services NSW on how our events are run and risk management. Along with SRA I have been involved in discussions with them and Transport Safety Victoria discussing how we manage events and a greater focus on risks within our sport which will affect the way events are conducted.

As part of this myself and others have updated the SRA rule book where by the focus is not on the Chief Judge controlling events but now the position of Race controller has changed to Race Director who will manage an event. The Race Director will have the contact names and numbers for all emergency services and is the focal point with everything that occurs at an event.

Under TSV we now have to ensure that all competing boats comply too state legislation as well as our rule book. This means normal safety equipment like a bailing bucket and lanyard, and larger than SRA fire extinguishers have to be carried. Please ensure all boats are compliant at PS1 or you will not be racing. We will prepare a briefing sheet and put on our web site early next week with these changes. All of those who man our rescue or buoy boats will now have to wear life jackets.

SRV have purchased additional Fire Extinguishers and 20 life jackets for the start of the season as well as bringing the old rescue boat back into service as a back up to our normal boat.

I know we are going into a tough year with the increased cost of fees associated with events. SRA did not want to increase membership costs and chose to make more user pay. Grant the new CEO has worked hard on reducing costs within SRA so the full cost of the insurance increase was not passed to members and I know he and the SRA board are looking at ways to bring the cost to members down.

Due to other increasing costs SRV have not increased our entry costs for point scores and we are looking forward to a more positive family orientated year with a few things for the kids to do off the water whilst they are not competing.

I would like to thank all the SRV board members for all of the work they have put in over the season as we look forward to a bit easier year financially. Thankyou to all those who helped out at our events, and thank you to all the partners and families that let us spend the time working on our great sport.

Steve Shipp

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