

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE TO THE BOARD OF CANOE VICTORIA

At the meeting held on the 17th December, 2008.

Firstly, I would like to record the CV Board's welcome to our newest Board member, Andrew Coutts. Andrew was appointed to the Board at our November meeting and brings with him a wealth of marketing and promotional experience developed over many years in business and as a director of other sporting organisations; welcome Andrew and thankyou for joining our Board.

Andrew's appointment to the Board fills out our skills base quite nicely. Ric Howard looks after our financial affairs – together with Sandra in the office – Tom Hirschoff (our Chairman) is an internationally accredited event official and spends much of his time officiating at events here within Australia and – at his own expense – travelling overseas to officiate at international events. Geoff Hindle works tirelessly with Parks Victoria and other departments on improving both the useability of the rivers and seeking better access. Geoff has also assisted with quite a number of past fundraising events for CV; thankyou Geoff! Me, I seem to be charged with seeking sponsorships and fund raising in general.

I have been pursuing many positive leads with future sponsors and I look forward to being able to bring these to fruition in the near future.

Whilst the CV Board is an industrious and harmonious group, we could not of course function without the dedication and support of our Executive officers; Sharon and Andrea who in turn are supported by Carmel and Sandra, John Moore who runs our education programs and Catherine Gardner Gaskin who is working on our masters project. During the past year, the Executive officers have organised and conducted many successful events and courses in addition to their normal list of projects and submissions; first aid, power-boat handling, coaching certificate Level 1 and more recently, Coaching Level 2. Feedback received by me on each of these courses, but particularly the Level 2 coaching course, has been highly congratulatory; well done people!

Our Technical Committees (TC's) have also worked tirelessly to organise many, many events which really are the 'face of Canoeing Victoria'; again a very warm thankyou to those many members who volunteer their services as members of the TC's.

I would also extend my thanks to those many volunteers who give of their valuable time to assist both the TC's and at Bunnings Sausage Sizzles conducted by me on behalf of CV. Regarding the catering at the Bunnings Sausage Sizzles and at various marathon events, I note my appreciation of the assistance provided by a retired friend Neville Kidson, Geoff Hindle from the CV Board, Werner Bolz and many ladies from the Fairfield Canoe Club, Justine and Melissa Jenkins, my son Cameron, my daughter Victoria and my son-in-laws Giovanni and Graham; thankyou all!

The Murray Marathon (MM); as most people would now know, the Red Cross have decided to withdraw their support for this annual Christmas event. This coming MM will be the last with any input from the Red Cross organisation. It was with great enthusiasm that the YMCA announced that in partnership with Canoeing Victoria they will be the beneficiary and event manager post 2009. Canoeing Victoria are extremely excited at the option to work with the YMCA to ensure the longevity and continued success of the event.

Finally, I wish to record my heartfelt thanks and best wishes for the festive season to my fellow Board members, to the staff of CV and to our many supporters and sponsors. My thanks and best wishes go also to the personnel within the various government departments who assist with our funding; thankyou all!

May you all have a great Christmas and I look forward to rubbing shoulders with many during the Murray Marathon; I will be in an Open Mixed relay team – which of course will be aiming to be first in our class over the line at Swan Hill - entered under the name of 'Fairfield Fliers'.

Keep well,
Gary Flanigan