



**PORTSEA  
SURF LIFE  
SAVING CLUB**

# Impact Report

## PORTSEA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

July 2023



# Contents



# Part One Introduction

## We exist to save lives...

Since the first patrol held at Mount Levy Beach in 1949, the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club has primarily existed to save lives. In the 2022/23 patrolling season alone, our patrolling members dedicated over 9,000 patrol hours to keep the beach going public safe – undertaking 35 rescues, providing major and minor first aid support in 162 cases and being directly involved in 2,963 preventative actions. Whilst protecting the beach going public will always be our primary objective, our contribution to the Mornington Peninsula community extends well beyond the confines of the beach.

Equally important as saving lives is developing people. We are incredibly proud of the development opportunities the club provides its members and it remains a critical part of our DNA. In recent years, we have extended this opportunity to school and community groups, which is presented in this report.

Our first Impact Report (Environmental, Social and Governance Report) sets a new benchmark in Australian surf life saving club transparency and impact reporting.

It shines a light on what we do and how we impact the communities in which we operate. Importantly, this report also highlights the many extraordinary efforts of our talented and valued members – and transparently sets out ambitious targets for us to strive to achieve in the next five years.

Development of our Impact Report builds on our continuing commitment to strong governance, sustainable growth and responsible leadership. We hope that it provides you with further insight into what we do and why this is so important.

We look forward to discussing this report further with you and as always, we greatly appreciate your continued support for all that we do.



**Matthew Mahon**  
President



**Brett Croft**  
Vice - President &  
ESG Report Sponsor



**Holly Hart**  
ESG Director



24 July 2023

Portsea Surf Life Saving Club  
Back Beach Rd  
Portsea VIC 3944



200 The Boulevard  
Port Melbourne VIC 3207  
PO Box 353  
South Melbourne DC VIC 3205  
Tel (03) 9676 6900  
[mail@lsv.com.au](mailto:mail@lsv.com.au)  
[www.lsv.com.au](http://www.lsv.com.au)  
ABN 21 102 927 364

Dear Portsea Surf Life Saving Club,

**LSV headline strategy- Environmental Stewardship**

Life saving clubs have an important role to play in preventing aquatic related death and injury in Victoria. Recent statistics compiled by Life Saving Victoria have shown increased drowning rates across the state's waterways, which serves to heighten the importance of life saving clubs in our community. The Portsea Surf Life Saving Club is one of Victoria's oldest clubs and operates in one of Victoria's most iconic but also most dangerous aquatic environments. Whilst it has always been clear that it exists to save lives, the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club has also had a long history of fostering innovation and developing strong and resilient leaders. It is all of these traits that see the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club being deservedly recognised as a leading organisation in sustainability within the life saving movement.

The team at Life Saving Victoria is pleased to support the delivery of the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club's inaugural ESG Report. This report transparently highlights the impact of the club's various activities and sets a benchmark for the identification and communication of non-financial reporting targets and performance for other life saving clubs across Australia.

Life Saving Victoria looks forward to continuing to work with the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club as it delivers on the initiatives communicated in this report.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Greaves  
Chief Executive Officer



# Portsea Surf Life Saving Club

## Season 2022/23 at a glance...



**5,633**

Valued members



**400**

Patrolling members



**113**

Full-Time/Part-Time Bronze Medallion participants



Over

**300**

Primary aged school children educated



**35**

Rescue actions



**150**

SRC & Cadet participants



**40**

Silver Medallion participants



**10**

Platinum Camp participants



**5**

Major first aid incidents



**650**

Nippers/Starfish Nippers



**157**

Minor first aid incidents



**2,963**

Preventative actions

# Our values

—  
Defining who we are  
and what we do...

Everything that we do  
as a club should be  
guided by our values.

Everything that we do as a club should be guided by our values. Refined during the 2018/19 season in response to a need to greater reflect what is important to us and how we want to interact with each other (and the broader community), our values support the delivery of our purpose, are lived through our actions and most importantly, set the boundaries for the behaviours expected of our members - in and outside of the club:

## How we make a difference



### RESPECT AND TEAMWORK

- ✓ Reflects how we operate – as one club – working together across social/ economic demographics and age profiles
- ✓ Reflects our need to treat each other with mutual respect – valuing diversity of backgrounds/cultures and diversity of thought
- ✓ Reflects our need to work together to deliver positive outcomes for the club
- ✓ Reflects our respect of the club and all those who have come before us



### PROTECT THE COMMUNITY

- ✓ Reflects our primary purpose to ensure the safety of the community (“vigilance and service”)
- ✓ Reflects how our community sees us – professional, diligent and enthusiastic to serve
- ✓ Reflects how we need to interact with the community



### EMPOWER STRONG & RESILIENT LEADERS

- ✓ Reflects our need to act as stewards and to develop future leaders
- ✓ Reflects the need for experienced members of the club to share knowledge and experience to develop the younger members of the club
- ✓ Reflects the need for all of us to share responsibilities (and accountabilities) across all areas of our operations
- ✓ Reflects the need for the club to provide ongoing learning and development opportunities.

# Aligning our actions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals...

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint to seek to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030, all people enjoy peace and prosperity – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests<sup>1</sup>. At its heart of this goal are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which represent the urgent call for action and are widely recognised as the way forward to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Government, private enterprise and not for profits such as the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club all have a role to play in activating the call for action.

In considering what we do, how we operate and how we might best contribute to our community, we identified 9 of the 17 SDGs that we saw were best aligned to our contribution to the call to action. Throughout this report, we have referenced them as relevant into the initiatives we are conducting. Whilst not all elements of the 9 SDGs are relevant to us, we feel that they do provide a framework for us to follow.



<sup>1</sup>THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development (un.org)

# Part Two Social



# Our people are our greatest asset...

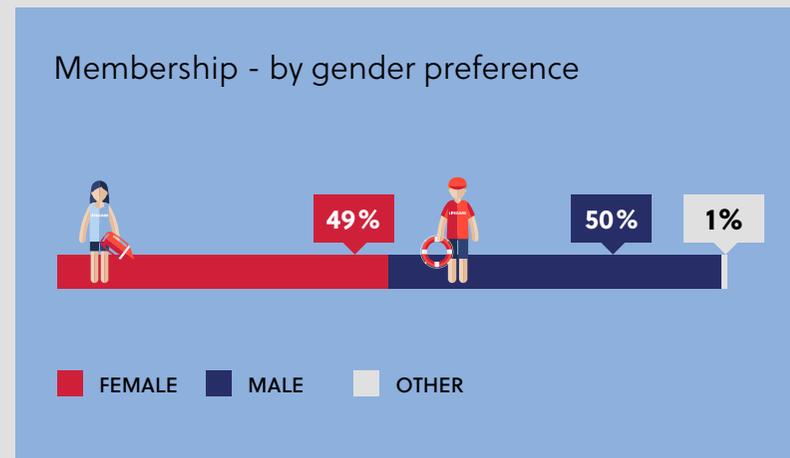
Our club is represented by 5,633 proud members, of which around 400 are defined as patrolling members<sup>2</sup>. The club's membership has grown exponentially since the redevelopment of our clubhouse completed in the 2019/20 season and we are the largest surf life saving club operating in Victoria. Our members hail from a variety of metropolitan and non-metropolitan locations across Victoria, including 1,296 from the local Mornington Peninsula community. We also have members residing outside of Victoria (34) and also outside of Australia (4). Member engagement activities seek to promote our purpose, develop future leaders, build our life saving capability, increase our life saving capacity and offer the opportunity for networking and social activities.



## Membership Diversity



**Our 5,633 members are generally evenly split between male and female members (with 1% not identifying a gender preference):**



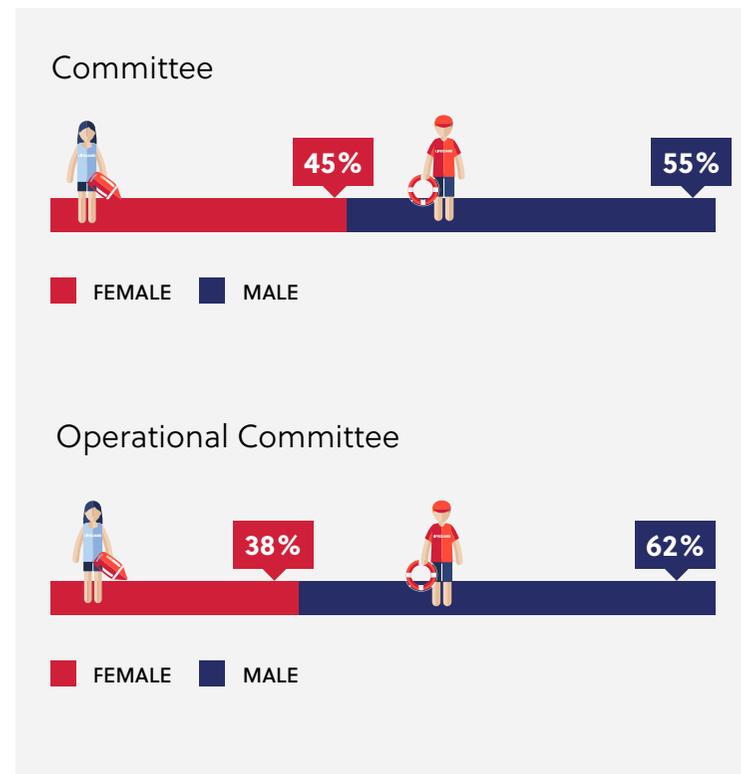
Source: Portsea Surf Life Saving Club membership database

<sup>2</sup> Members who undertake at least 15 patrol hours in any patrol season.



We are continually working towards ensuring that we have an inclusive and diverse membership – reflecting the community which we represent. Our membership and club leadership gender statistics illustrate our efforts and dedication to this goal. However, we acknowledge that we have more to do to ensure gender parity at all levels of the club. We also acknowledge that gender equality is only one aspect of creating a diverse and inclusive club. As illustrated later in this report, we are also striving to become a more inclusive and welcoming community. Programs such as the Starfish Nippers Program, the Frankston High School Bronze Medallion Program and the Schools Program have all been implemented in recent years with this objective in mind. We will also continue to focus on our cultural diversity – particularly given the findings of Life Saving Victoria’s Drowning Report<sup>3</sup> that highlighted those from a culturally and linguistically diverse community represented 35% of all drowning deaths, making them twice as likely to drown than people born in Australia.

The gender balance reflected in the governance and operational/ leadership roles within the club is as follows:



Source: Portsea Surf Life Saving Club membership database

<sup>3</sup> [Members LSV-Drowning-Report-2020-2021-FINAL.pdf](#)

# Developing the Future Leaders of our Club

Whilst we exist to save lives, we see that we have an equally important role – developing the future leaders of both our club and the broader community. Our members have a variety of opportunities to take on leadership roles, through participation in committee/sub-committees (approximately 40% of our Committee are aged 25 or younger), running educational programs, patrolling the beach and making new connections through club activities. Our progress towards this goal is best evidenced through the reflections from three of our younger members - our outgoing Club Captain, Jess Lamb, our co-leader of the season 2022/23 Cadet Program, Nick Flockart (aged 17) and our youngest patrol captain, Alexandra Croft (18):

"I joined Portsea SLSC in 2015, gaining my Bronze Medallion through the Part-Time Bronze program run by the club. That summer, based on encouragement from a variety of members and wanting to contribute more to the club, I co-led the club's Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) program. This was my entry into leadership development activities at Portsea and based on my positive experiences educating our younger members, I then led the Cadets Program the following year. These opportunities provided me with great relationships with our younger club members and importantly, the insight and experience to take on the Advanced Training Director role as a pathway to becoming the Education Director. During these periods, I also led the delivery of the Silver Medallion program which I thoroughly enjoyed and which allowed me to understand better the need for organisation, effective communication and leading by example. The culmination of these experiences has allowed me to take on the Club Captain role which I have now held for the past 3 years. In this role, I have benefited greatly from the guidance and support of some of our most senior members which has allowed me to develop my own way of thinking and problem solving which I have applied to both club and non-club activities."



Jess Lamb

"Acting as co-leader of the 2022/23 season Cadet Program has provided me with the opportunity to think about and action what I saw as being important to the development of our younger members. Throughout the program, I was able to plan activities and allocate roles to my supportive fellow instructors, as well as communicate with the parents and carers. I was able to gain insight into what is involved in running a successful Cadet Program, meeting the learning needs of participants and importantly, managing people. The skills I gained from co-leading the Cadet Program will be used by me in leading future club programs and supporting the club in all that it does."<sup>4</sup>



Nick Flockart

"I first joined the club as a Nipper and have since progressed through the Silver Medallion Program. This year, I was provided with the opportunity to become the Patrol Captain of the Point Break patrol which, like many of our patrols, comprises patrolling members of various ages and experiences. Taking on this position of responsibility within the club has been an amazing opportunity for me to further develop my surf life saving knowledge, refine my leadership capabilities, improve my communication skills and consider what it takes to run a successful patrol. I am grateful for the opportunities provided to me and to be able to lead a great group of patrolling members."<sup>5</sup>



Alexandra Croft

<sup>4</sup> Nick Flockart was the club's 2021/22 Junior Wishart Award winner

<sup>5</sup> Point Break was recognised as the club's best patrol for the 2022/23 season

# Building Greater Capability and Awareness

Critical to the ongoing development of our people is improving capability leverage external programs run by Life Saving Victoria. During the 2022/23 Season, members of the club attended the following external programs:

## U18 Leadership Development Camp

## U13 Leadership Development Camp

These camps focused on developing leadership, communication, and mentoring skills whilst broadening participants understanding of lifesaving.

## Building Greater Female Leadership Participation/Representation

To build greater female participation/representation, the club to date has developed a number of programs<sup>6</sup> that have been implemented or expanded in the current season:

"I felt privileged to be part of such a wonderful group of women and really enjoyed meeting lots of other club members"



<sup>6</sup> The Female Networking Event and Female Upskilling Sessions were both enabled through the support of the Victorian Government's "Change our game grant". "Change our game" is a Victorian government initiative that aims to increase the number of women and girls participating in sport and active recreation.

## Female Network



The club hosted a session where a panel of four inspirational women discussed gender equality issues from their own experiences including discussion on empowerment, equity, barriers/overcoming the challenges they had encountered, the use of mentors and provision of insight and advice for the audience. A light lunch was provided after panel discussion to enable networking and the sharing of lived experience.

The aim of the female networking event was to increase the level of engagement of both women and girls within the club as well as to foster greater participation in club activities and make new connections. The value created from this event will be measured through our ability to reconnect non-active females to the club and fostering relationships that lead to leadership opportunities. Feedback received from the attendees at the session was very positive.



## Female Upskilling Sessions



During the 2022/23 season, a 4-week female upskilling program was conceptualized and delivered by club member Domi Hart. The program was aimed at upskilling elements of our female member cohort. In each session, two qualified female coaches and a female lifeguard were present to guide participants through a number of activities designed to increase confidence and upskill capability. Feedback received from the sessions was very positive:

"I learnt quite a lot and regained some confidence in the surf. I also feel like I will be better able to guide and help my little kids in the surf after brushing up some knowledge."

"I feel extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from such fabulous role models as Domi, Tash, Mackie and Steff – all young Portsea club members. I'm more than twice their age, but I've always admired the way they handle themselves in and out of the water. It didn't matter whether it was the first or five hundredth time any of us had ventured into Portsea waters, the girls were extremely informative, helpful and encouraging. The back beach can be intimidating but I think less so now for all of us lucky enough to join these fabulous sessions."

"It was also fantastic to meet the other women in the community and have the support too."

## Pink Patrol



Aligned with LSV's state wide Pink Patrol program (forming part of 'International Women's Day celebrations), 35 female active members (along with a number of male Champions of Change) attended this beach patrol during the current season. Pink Patrol celebrates the contribution that females have made to surf life saving and in particular for us, our club. These contributions were reinforced at a social networking function in the club rooms after the patrol.



## Life Saving Victoria ("LSV") - International Women's Day nominations



LSV offers a variety of recognition programs to promote female participation. General Committee members Sue Crowe and Sas McNamara were both recognised for their outstanding contribution to life saving at LSV's annual International Women's Day breakfast, supported by a number of their peers from the club.



## Building Pride in our Membership...

### Pride Patrol



The 2022/23 season saw the club hold its second Pride Patrol. The Pride Patrol seeks to recognise the contribution to life saving activities by our club's LGBTI members as well as being a vehicle to promote and celebrate the diversity of our club. Pride Patrol was attended by over 25 active members.

## A Club for People of All Abilities...

### Starfish Nippers



The Starfish Nippers program is one demonstration of our club's commitment to inclusion and diversity in our education programs. The Starfish Nippers program<sup>7</sup> involves a dedicated team of members (capably led by Andrew Argyrou and Alexandra Madden) executing a modified nippers program for children (aged 6 years and above) with either physical or intellectual disabilities. The Starfish Nippers program is considered to be an inherent part of our broader Nippers Program - all aspects of the program are consistent, other than certain activities which are modified to suit an individual participant's needs ensuring everyone can be included.

The Starfish Nippers program has a profound and positive impact on everyone who gets involved. The benefits flow to not only our Starfish Nippers and their families, but also to our member volunteers/trainers, our broader Nipper Program participants and their families and the broader community. Our Starfish Nippers and their parents/carers are a valued part of our club.

<sup>7</sup> Starfish Nippers was started in 2011 by volunteers from Anglesea SLSC and has now been adopted by over 20 surf life saving clubs across Australia.

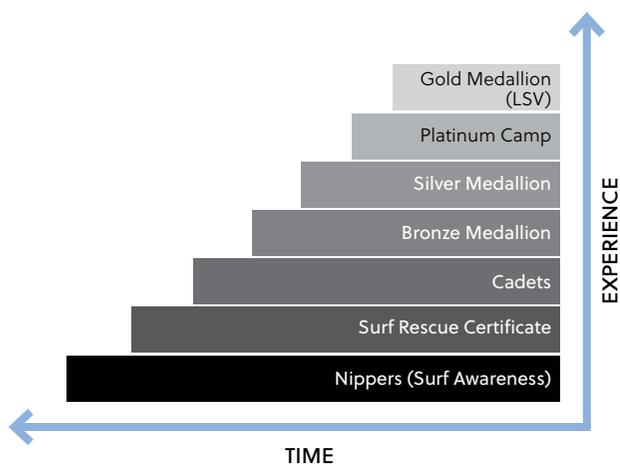


## Investing in our Future...

# Building Life Saving Capability and Increasing Active Member Capacity



Our education programs are centered on the development of life saving capability - with the ultimate goal of increasing our capacity to effectively patrol the beach. Our education programs take a building block approach – building capability (and leadership) as experience permits. Our programs are the largest operating in Victoria and follow the LSV competency development framework. Our education programs comprise:



A summary of the season 2022/23 number of participants and competencies developed includes:

**Nippers (Surf Awareness)** – 650 participants (including Starfish Nippers) – building the experience and resilience of our youngest members. Program operates from Under 7 – 9 (Point Nepean) to Under 10 – 13 (Portsea Back Beach). Skills developed include both beach-based activities (beach games, sprint, long run and beach flags), water-based activities (wade, swim, boards) and theory.

**Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC)** – 90 participants – builds upon skills developed in nippers such as advanced rescue techniques (tube and board), CPR and basic first aid. Importantly, the SRC certification allows monitored participation in patrols.

**Cadets** – 60 participants – reinforces skills learnt through the SRC program and provides additional leadership development activities.

**Bronze Medallion (Full-Time and Part-Time)** – 105 participants – intensive live-in camp building upon skills learnt through SRC/Cadets and includes open water rescues, reading & navigating surf conditions and first aid certification.

**Silver Medallion** – 40 participants – intensive live-in camp building on the Bronze Medallion program and incorporating IRB Crew as well as advanced resuscitation and advanced first aid certifications.

**Platinum Camp** – 10 participants – intensive live-in camp building on Silver Medallion program incorporating search & rescue techniques and night scenarios. Our club is 1 of only 2 clubs to run a program of this nature in Victoria.

**Gold Medallion** – participants determined by LSV based on capacity and capability.

Our ability to operate these programs is highly dependent on volunteers – which are entirely sourced through our membership. For example, to operate our nipper program, we require up to 100 Age Managers/ Parent Helpers and over 70 instructors/water safety personnel. In addition, we rely upon set-up/pack-down crews, medical personnel and administrative personnel to allow for the efficient and effective running of the program. Our SRC and Cadets programs both require up to 30 volunteers, whilst our Bronze Medallion program requires over 40 volunteers. For our advanced programs, our Silver Medallion program requires 24 volunteers and our Platinum Camp requires 8 volunteers in order to be run safely.

We cannot exist without the efforts of our volunteer personnel. Our club has been built on the efforts of our volunteers and this forms a large part of who we are and what we do.



# Case Study

## United Energy Portsea Nippers Program

Our commitment to volunteering and the success it breeds has been recognised by our outgoing Junior Development Director, Brett Croft who states:

"The 2022/23 season saw our largest ever cohort undertake the United Energy Nipper Program with 650 excited participants hitting the water with determination to learn all important surf life saving skills from some of our most experienced members and a large number of our best and brightest younger members. Our program is undoubtedly the leading program of its nature and it can only occur with the dedication and support of a large number of volunteer personnel. Through this volunteer support, our Nippers are able to learn valuable surf life saving skills which will keep them safe and ultimately equip them well as they grow and develop into the next generation of life savers on the Portsea back beach."



Brett Croft

Recognition of our volunteers is also reflected in the views of Nipper parents who understand and support of the role of our volunteers to deliver a successful and enjoyable experience<sup>8</sup>:

"I was extremely impressed as a first-time parent at the effort that the club puts into the program and am very grateful to all the volunteers and staff that make the program a success."

"Our family had an amazing time this year. Coaches, parents, kids.....it was such a joyous atmosphere."

"Massive thank you to the committee and volunteers that make this happen - valuable life skills and provide opportunities for summer friendship groups."

<sup>8</sup> 100% of survey respondents intend to return to the program next year.





## A Greater Responsibility...

### The United Energy Portsea Centre of Excellence (CoE)



The CoE was born through the idea that we had a greater responsibility to our community. Recent LSV drowning statistics have seen a significant increase in drownings across the state – with the National 2021/22 Drowning Report<sup>9</sup> containing some disturbing figures with an overall increase of 24% in drownings (over the 10-year average period). The two age groups that increased the most by percentage in the report were the 10-14 years (up 75%) and the 65-74 years (up 70%). Anecdotal stories of “near misses” at the Portsea back beach from Grandparents looking after primary aged school kids (when their parents went back to work over summer) encouraged us to focus on the expansion of our Nipper Program and the bespoke education of both age groups.



### Schools Program



The Schools Program was developed by the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club with the objective of increasing surf awareness of primary aged school children. Working closely with LSV, our aim for the program is to eliminate drownings on the Mornington Peninsula by educating primary aged school children on the risks of the marine environment and using acquired knowledge to make better choices when at the beach. The program involves both theory and practical experiences and is led by club member Henry Kiss and has utilized appropriately qualified club members from a variety of Mornington Peninsula clubs. We see participation in the Schools Program as having a “ripple effect” across families and friendship groups and we expect it to drive increased participation in all Mornington Peninsula based Nipper programs. Over 300 children participated in the 2022/23 season and feedback received has all been extremely positive. Our stated goal is to increase participation in the 2023/24 season to over 500 primary school aged children.

The CoE has quickly become a satellite provider of LSV programs focusing on Peninsula-based schools (and community groups) thereby freeing up LSV resources to concentrate efforts on other regions. This commitment has been recognised with the Schools Program being selected as a finalist in the LSV 2022/23 Awards of Excellence.



<sup>9</sup> [RLS\\_NationalDrowningReport2022\\_SPG\\_LR.pdf \(royallife saving.com.au\)](#)

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## Snippers



Snippers is a senior nippers program developed by the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club and aimed at Nipper Grandparents and was run over 3 days at the club and at Portsea Pier. Participants learnt practical and valuable skills such as basic first aid techniques, undertaking rescues using “everyday” items and understanding the impact that the weather has on beach conditions. The Snippers program has been added to the training calendar for next summer and participation is expected to increase from 10 to 20 candidates for the 2023/24 season.

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## Frankston High school Life Saving Education Program



In conjunction with Frankston High School, the club has run a series of annual education programs (including residential programs) to facilitate the development of surf life saving skills for students. In particular, our programs support the delivery of a VET program which up-skills participants surf life saving skills and knowledge whilst at the same time, allowing them to obtain a VET certification at the completion of the program. We also run ARTFA (Advanced Resuscitation Techniques and First Aid certification) courses at Frankston High School to provide skills and qualifications to the students at a heavily discounted cost. In addition, heavily subsidized membership offerings allow participants to become valued club members, maximise the use of club facilities and join patrols to protect the beach going public using the Portsea back beach during the patrol season.

This commitment has been recognised with the Frankston High School Life Saving Education Program being selected as a finalist in the LSV 2022/23 Awards of Excellence.

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## Other Community Education programs



Other community education programs conducted through the CoE include:

- Somers Primary School “Inspire” Life Saving Elective
- Attendance at the Sorrento Men’s Shed (with 24 men participating in non-accredited CPR activities)
- Non-accredited CPR and Defibrillator familiarization for community groups

With the support of our members, the club has also installed three (3) defibrillators into the community. These defibrillators have been installed near the Portsea Pier, the new campsite at Point Nepean and outside the radio room at the clubhouse. These installations, together with non-accredited CPR awareness increases the ability of the community to respond to situations requiring CPR related first aid.

## Building Resilience...

### Mental Health Workshop



During the season, the club hosted a Mental Health Matters workshop run by the Emergency Services Foundation (ESF), a not-for-profit organisation that aims to address shared emergency sector wide mental health challenges. The broader community was invited to attend the workshop and in addition to a large number of our own members, we had participants from Peninsula Search and Rescue and the Sorrento SES.

The workshop shed light on the importance of mental health awareness within our community. As lifesavers, we are taught to identify risks and how to respond. We raise our hand if we are struggling in the surf to signal for help. The workshop highlighted that it is equally important that we learn tools to identify if someone is struggling with mental health issues and how to reach out if we need help ourselves.

During the workshop, mental fitness was discussed and how mental health can vary day to day depending on experiences and environmental factors. Attendees shared stories with one another and this highlighted the power of sharing. Outcomes from the workshop highlighted the need to lean on one another, the power of hope and the need to create an open and encouraging environment at club. We intend to run more workshops at the club in the future to raise awareness of the importance of looking after our collective mental health.

## Protecting our Members...

### Respectful Relationships Policy



We are committed to ensuring that we operate in an environment where people are treated in a respectful manner at all times. In addition to the refinement of our values, we have developed a Respectful Relationships Policy which states that we will not tolerate bullying, harassment or discrimination under any circumstance. The policy allows for an effective procedure for complaints against any non-adherence with the principles of this policy. Matters will be referred to our appointed Member Protection Officers and, in extreme cases, to the Club Judiciary Panel. During the 2022/23 season, three matters were referred to our Member Protection Officers, resulting in either no action, a formal warning or suspension of membership.

### Child Safe Standards



Our affiliation with LSV includes a provision that we rely upon the policies that are published by LSV<sup>10</sup>. These policies include all relevant Child Safe Standards. This means that all adult, parent and guardian members attending and/or interacting with children in any club activity are required to hold a current Working With Children Check ("WWCC"). This includes age managers or parent helpers for Nippers, instructors and examiners on SRC, Cadets as well as our Bronze Medallion, Silver Medallion & Platinum Programs, re-qualification offerings & training events, volunteers for all club events such as the Pier to Perignon & Portsea Swim Classic, as well as all active patrolling members. The policy extends to all categories of membership. Under LSV Policies, there are no exceptions to the WWCC requirement.



Mental health workshop

<sup>10</sup> As an affiliated member of Life Saving Victoria ("LSV"), we adhere to a variety of policies published by them (including those originally published by Surf Life Saving Australia ("SLSA")). Such policies include the SLSA Inclusion and Diversity Statement and those designed to manage the way we interact with our members (including member protection, child safe and dispute resolution policies).

## Enhancing Economic Prosperity...



The club seeks to foster economic activity across the Mornington Peninsula area - from providing life saving services at the Portsea back beach, through to the running of events that enhance the economic prosperity of retailers and service providers across the region.

## Portsea Swim Classic

The Portsea Swim Classic ("PSC") is Victoria's second largest open water swim. Now in its 37th continuous year (and the only major Victorian open water swim to be uninterrupted by COVID), the PSC saw a record number of competitors swim in 500m, 1.5km or 2.5km events.



## Portsea Pier to Perignon

The Portsea Pier to Perignon (P2P"), now in its 35th year, is a highly contested 4km event which attracted a record 980 swimmers in the 2022/23 season.



## Portsea Bay to Surf Run

The Portsea Bay to Surf ("B2S") run was held for the second time in the 2022/23 season. Quickly building a loyal following, 577 runners competed across the 4.5km or 9km event.



# Part Three Environmental



## Protecting Our Environment...

### Measuring our Carbon Footprint

During the 2022/23 season, the club – with the generous support of EY – undertook a project to identify, measure and report the club’s carbon footprint as measured through our Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions (May 2021 to April 2022). We believe that it is important for us to understand the impact that we have on the environment and consider ways in which this impact can be reduced. A project of this nature is a first for surf life saving clubs in Australia and provides a template for all other clubs to follow.

The project team undertook the assessment in three stages:

1. Establishing our emissions boundary
2. Identifying relevant emission factors
3. Identifying our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emission inventories

Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions are defined as:

**Scope 1 Emissions** – direct emissions from operations owned or controlled by the club

**Scope 2 Emissions** – purchased electricity

**Scope 3 Emissions** – covers 15 different emission categories including purchased goods and services, capital goods, fuel and energy related activities not included in Scope 1 or 2 emissions, upstream transportation & distribution, waste generated, business travel, employee commuting, upstream leased assets, downstream transportation and distribution, processing of sold products, end of life treatment for sold products, downstream leased assets, franchises and operation of investments. Not all of these emission categories are relevant given the nature of our operations.

A summary of our season 2021/22 emissions data calculated by the project team is as follows:

SCOPE	Total kg.CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Contribution
Scope 1	25,141	5.7%
Scope 2	72,465	16.5%
Scope 3, Category 1 - Purchased goods and services	246,056	56.0%
Scope 3, Category 2 - Capital goods	2,058	0.5%
Scope 3, Category 3 - Fuel and energy related activities	7,969	1.8%
Scope 3, Category 4 - Upstream transportation and distribution	2,044	0.5%
Scope 3, Category 5 - Waste generated in operations	8,672	2.0%
Scope 3, Category 6 - Business travel	37,555	8.5%
Scope 3, Category 7 - Employee commuting	20,265	4.6%
Scope 3, Category 9 - Downstream transportation and distribution	15,051	3.4%
Scope 3, Category 12 - End of life treatment of sold products	2,015	0.5%
<b>Total GHG emissions (kgs CO<sub>2</sub>-e)</b>	<b>439,290</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Working Towards Net Zero



Having now understood our emissions profile, the club will work to substantially reduce our greenhouse gas emissions inventory and work towards the ambition of net zero emissions in Scope 1 & 2 and preferably Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions by 2030.

To promote ourselves as being net zero/carbon neutral (Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions), we would need to register and enter into a license agreement through Climate Active and seek third party verification of our greenhouse gas emission inventory. If seeking this verification in future years, the greenhouse gas emissions inventory described above will need to be updated within the Climate Active inventory spreadsheets and the boundary setting process would also need to be updated to reflect any changes to operations/activities. Abatement activities would need to be undertaken and/or carbon offsets would need to be purchased to cover all Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions to achieve net zero status at the time.

## Why is Net Zero Important?



As an organisation which operates in and is inextricably linked to the marine environment, we have a responsibility to operate in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner. Working towards net zero emissions by 2030 reflects this responsibility and our commitment. Further, our members expectations on our impact on the environment is changing in line with their own assessments and performance and we believe that it is the right thing to do.

The path to 2030 will involve operational and financial commitments being made by the club.

Achieving net zero emissions could be achieved through the following activities:

- Reduced consumption of goods and services
- Introduction of renewable energy technology (principally solar and/or wind powered electricity generation)
- Responsible management of waste
- Adoption of battery technologies for ATVs and IRBs (amongst other items)<sup>11</sup>
- Obtaining government grants/private sponsorships to fund abatement activities

The cost of achieving net zero will vary based on the abatement activities to be undertaken and the market cost of any credits that may need to be purchased. Funding sources for these activities will be considered as necessary as activities are considered in line with our ambitions.

<sup>11</sup> Battery technologies for this equipment has yet to have been implemented on a commercial basis. The club is working with LSV and other clubs to assess the viability of such equipment within a surf club environment

# Moving Forward...

We have already begun small scale initiatives to reduce our impact on the environment. Whilst these efforts are important, we do recognise that we still have a lot to do:

## Beach Clean Up



One of our big focuses for the 2022/23 season was a continued effort to ensure our beach is clean. Our Sustainability sub-committee, in conjunction with our Patrol Captains, undertook several beach clean-ups during the season. The main items of rubbish that were collected were cans and plastic food containers – serving as an important reminder that we need to encourage all beach goers to take all of their rubbish home with them (to dispose of correctly) at the end of each beach day.

## Reducing Waste/Recycling



Managing our waste and promoting recycling activities has been a focus of our Operational Committee in recent years. Activities have been implemented to separate waste (and recyclable products) and our waste provider has been contracted to ensure that waste and recyclable materials are appropriately treated post collection.

## Modern Slavery



Whilst the Modern Slavery Act does not directly apply to the club, we have committed to ensure that our supply chains are free from modern slavery – whether or not the supply chain activity is undertaken in Australia or overseas.

The club has engaged with its merchandise supply chain providers who have all represented that there are not aware of any instances of modern slavery within their own supply chains which produce goods (or services) for our benefit.

## Environmentally Sensitive Fuels



A new initiative in the 2022/23 season implemented by the Sustainability sub-committee jointly led by Tom Nelson and Finn Nicholas was the introduction of fully synthetic bio marine outboard two stroke oil. This oil is fully biodegradable, low smoke, clean burning oil with less environmental impact than conventional 2 stroke motor oils. We now run this oil in all of our IRBs to ensure our impact is reduced to protect the marine environment.

An aerial photograph of a beach scene. In the foreground, several surfers are riding waves in the turquoise ocean. The middle ground shows a sandy beach crowded with people, many with umbrellas. In the background, a modern building with a dark facade is built into a cliffside. The sky is clear and blue.

# Part Four Governance

# Strong Leadership and Governance

We are committed to the highest standards of governance within the club. This is reflected through our values based decision-making processes adopted and the assessment of skills/competencies required in key positions of responsibility. All Committee positions are subject to approval by active members each year at the Annual General Meeting.

Our aspirations for the club are set out in our strategy, which is updated on an annual basis. This strategy sets our immediate and longer-term goals for the club and these are actioned through the Committee, the Operational Committee or various topic related sub-committees.

Our leadership structure is set out as follows:

As with our education programs, roles on Committees/ Sub-Committees are purely voluntary. Succession planning is at the heart of our Committee/Sub-Committee structure and seeks to provide experience to club members with the capability and the capacity to assume increased responsibilities within the club.

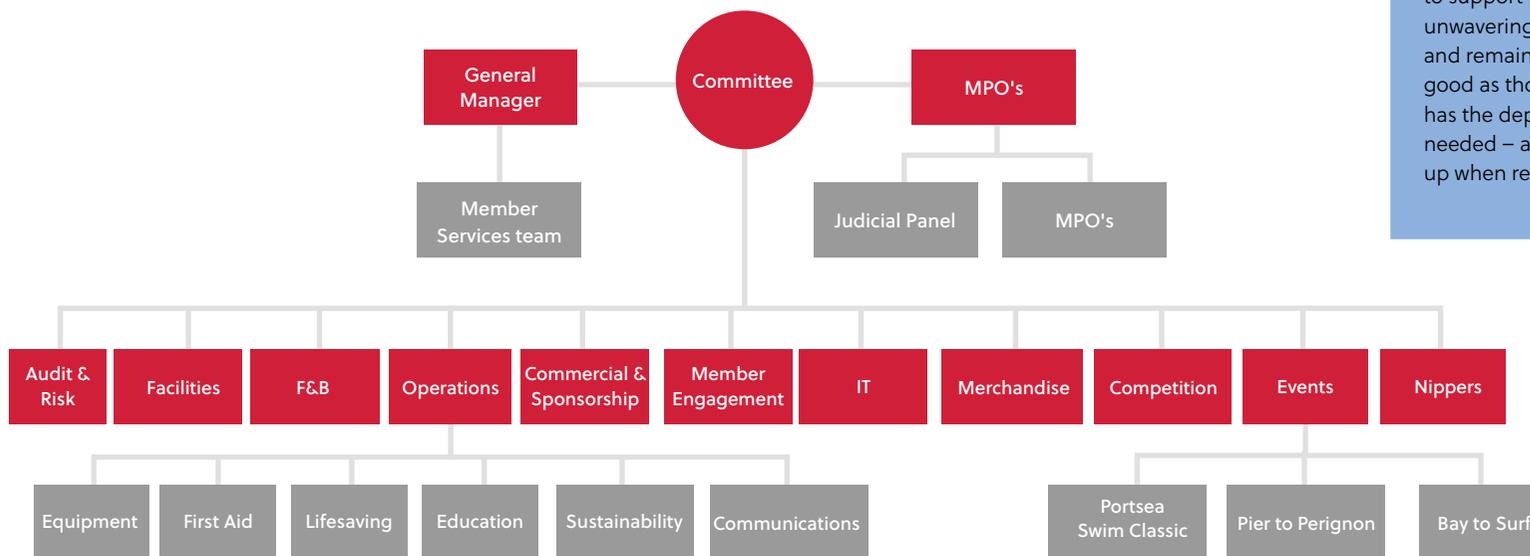
Our governance arrangements are best summarised by our current President, Matt Mahon who says:

"The club has grown significantly in recent years and as a result, we have been required to ensure that our governance practices remain appropriate and fit for purpose for a member-based organisation of our size. In recent years, as our club operations have become more complex, we have seen the need to expand our team and appoint a full-time General Manager (Rod Leonard) and a full-time F&B Manager (Sally Mead). These individuals have added a lot to our club and they are ably supported by full-time or part-time assistants.

We are fortunate to be able to draw upon many talented individuals that exist within our membership to deal with issues as they arise and to also be able to broaden the skills and competencies of the Committee as well as its supporting Sub-Committees. I am continually amazed at how the members who choose to support us in these roles undertake their roles with unwavering enthusiasm and passion. We were built on and remain a volunteer-based club and we are only as good as those who choose to support us. No other club has the depth or breadth of support to call upon as needed – and I am proud as to how our members step-up when required."



Matt Mahon



## Contacts

For further information, please contact:

**Matthew Mahon**

President

[matthew.mahon@portseasurf.com.au](mailto:matthew.mahon@portseasurf.com.au)

**Brett Croft**

Vice - President & ESG Report Sponsor

[brett.croft@portseasurf.com.au](mailto:brett.croft@portseasurf.com.au)

**Holly Hart**

ESG Director

[holly.hart@portseasurf.com.au](mailto:holly.hart@portseasurf.com.au)

**Tom Nelson**

Sustainability Committee Co-Leader

[tom.nelson@portseasurf.com.au](mailto:tom.nelson@portseasurf.com.au)

**Finn Nicholas**

Sustainability Committee Co-Leader

[finn.nicholas@portseasurf.com.au](mailto:finn.nicholas@portseasurf.com.au)

with thanks to ...



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