



A YEAR IN REVIEW

FY2016-17 was a year of changing up a gear for Outdoors Victoria (OV). The team completed a number of regular key activities as well as new initiatives for the Outdoors sector - which comprises education outdoors, nature based tourism firms and organisations, bush adventure therapists, and recreational activity clubs.



Charting Opportunities

In March 2017 Outdoors Victoria coordinated the successful **'Charting Opportunities in the Outdoors'** forum, linking up peaks/associations, government departments and agencies with a view to closer collaboration on future projects.

Education Outdoors Conference

OV proudly ran another successful event. The increasingly popular and largest conference across the country in CY2017 with over 400 attendees kindly hosted by LaTrobe University Bendigo. Events kicked off with OV's Outdoor Learning Symposium on the pre-conference events day, which featured some of the brightest minds from Scotland, Denmark and England as well from Singapore and across Australia.

Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors

In August 2016 Outdoors Victoria commenced work on reviewing the Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors, for the Department of Education and Training (DET). These safety guidelines cover both State and Catholic schools across Victoria

Outdoor Learning

In 2017 we introduced Outdoors Victoria's **'Professional Learning'** series for educators in the learning outdoors space.

As well, in co-operation with the six Early Learning, Primary and Secondary schools, Outdoors Victoria produced case studies on Outdoor Learning for the Department of Education to spread the word of the physical activity, wellbeing and academic benefits of education outdoors.

We project managed four authors to overhaul Cambridge Press's VCE Outdoor Education exam guide, with the Preface penned by the OV Chair, encouraging students to dive head first into a career in the Outdoors sector

Australian Adventure Activity Standards

Outdoors Victoria continued as Secretariat of the inaugural Australian Adventure Activity Standards, which by completion will have worked with 200 volunteer technical experts across the country

Nature-based Tourism

With the support of Parks Victoria, Outdoors Victoria hosted the second Nature Based Tourism Forum in 2016, which brought together organisations, peak bodies, government agencies and government departments in what is a unique networking and learning day for this part of the Outdoors sector.

Advocacy

Outdoors Victoria advocated widely across the community and in government for the important work **Bush Adventure Therapists** achieve with vulnerable young people through to seniors. We vigorously supported their Australian Association for Bush Adventure Therapy (AABAT)

We collaborated with other peak organisations in the sector to halt the path of the Marine Safety Act Amendments through State Parliament, following up with the Department of Economic Development Jobs Transport and Resources to re-draft the changes.

Affiliate Membership

OV designed and created a new 12 month Affiliate Membership structure, injecting further value for Affiliate Members.

Introduced Square (on site payment systems for conferences and forums) and Stripe (24/7 payment access via OV website for quick membership payments) and Receiptbank an internal payments system, boosting convenience for attendees and assisting the financial sustainability of OV and these events

Finance: A end of financial report for FY2017 (net surplus) and another summary is included for the proposed FY2018 budget (also a projected net surplus), both of which will be discussed at the Board meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The directors present this report on Outdoors Victoria Limited (ABN 78 158 927 872) for the financial year commenced 1 July 2016 and ended 30 June 2017. This report and the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with section 300B of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) for the information of our members and other stakeholders.

The purpose of the company is to support the development of Victoria's outdoor community, which includes outdoor and nature-based recreation, education, tourism, therapy and related sectors and activities. The strategic priorities of OV, as set out in our Strategic Plan 2016-2020, are to unify the sector, enhance its profile and credibility, increase outdoor participation, ensure organisational viability, and ensure OV is providing value to its members.

These priorities are described in more detail in OV's strategic plan, available at www.outdoorsofvictoria.org.au



Activities during 2016-17

During the reporting period, Outdoors Victoria undertook the activities described in "the year in review", and the following:

- Representation of the outdoors community at key events and forums, including VEAC review of public land, sport and recreation government forums, Australian Camps Association Biannual conference, AABAT national conference and other conferences
- Publication of communications to members and subscribers, including OV website, monthly e-newsletter, policy briefings, Facebook page and other incidental communications
- Working as the national Secretariat for the Australian Adventure Activity Standards project
- Advocacy for key policy priorities, including increased resources for parks management, key tracks and trails, education outdoors and other outdoor programming
- Participating in collaborative research projects of value to the outdoors community, including the Outdoor Youth Programs Research Alliance and the ULOADS project
- Hosting Education Outdoors 2017, the major conference for outdoors educators this year, with over 400 participants
- Hosting the Nature Based Tourism forum at NAB Arena in Melbourne
- Responding to government requests for information and participating on government advisory bodies on request
- Maintaining our office at Westerfolds Park, Templestowe, Victoria, including sub tenancies for four other recreational activity/ education outdoors bodies within this Outdoor Activity Hub
- Seeking funding for the above and other activities, and otherwise conducting our organisation to position it as a sustainable and trusted body for the outdoors community

Staff, resources and financial position

The Chief Executive Officer for the first three months of the reporting period was Mr Charles Berger. Charles and his staff, with support from the Board, set up several activities which were built upon by the new CEO, Andrew Knight, from December 2016, increasing the positive impact of a high functioning organisation.

Outdoors Victoria (OV) had a total of five staff (3.4 FTE) at the end of the reporting period.

OV measures its performance using a range of qualitative and quantitative measures, including those designed to gauge financial performance and sustainability; effectiveness and reach of communications and advocacy; the usefulness to our community of our events and publications; and successful outcomes in terms of policy, research and resource development.

OV has secured a \$100,000 funding agreement from Sport and Recreation Victoria for operations during 2017-18 and includes several new initiatives which will be communicated to all in the coming months.

OV receives funding from government grants, private sponsorships, event registrations and sponsorships, affiliate memberships, and rental of four sub-tenancies.

The company can report a surplus/net profit of \$45,342, with total equity of \$62,031 as of the end of the reporting period.

The directors are confident that Outdoors Victoria is in a sound financial position in the short- to medium-term, and are working to further diversify and strengthen revenue for the long-term.

Directors

The names of each director of Outdoors Victoria during any portion of the period covered by this report, and their attendance at meetings during their period of service, is as follows:

Name	Date appointed	End date	Meeting attendance (actual / eligible)
Scott Chapman (Outgoing Chair)	28 Jun 2012	7 Oct 2016	2 / 2
Mark Collard	27 Nov 2015	ongoing	4 / 6
Mark Dingle (In-coming Chair)	20 Feb 2015	ongoing	6 / 6
Amber Gardner	27 Apr 2016	ongoing	5 / 6
Anthony Hall	30 Oct 2013	ongoing	6 / 6
Steve McMurtrie	30 Oct 2013	ongoing	6 / 6
Peter Martin	8 Nov 2012	23 Jun 2017	5 / 6
Michael Naismith	30 Oct 2013	ongoing	5 / 6
Angela Rutter	27 Nov 2015	23 Jun 2017	5 / 6
Chris Towers	8 Nov 2012	23 Jun 2017	5 / 6

Each director is currently employed in a role of senior leadership within the outdoors community, and/or has held such a position for a significant period in their career, and/or has particular skills needed by Outdoors Victoria. Further details of each director are available at www.outdoorsvictoria.org.au.

In the event of Outdoors Victoria being wound up, each member is liable to contribute up to \$10.00 to the payment of the company's debts and liabilities, or a total amount of \$80.00 as of the date of this report.

Auditor's report

The auditor's report for the reporting period has been received and a link is provided on the OV website.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director

Director

**Outdoors
Victoria** 

PO Box 1010
Templestowe VIC 3106
Telephone: 03 8846 4100
Email: Info@outdoorsvictoria.org.au
www.outdoorsvictoria.org.au



Dated: 23 November 2017