

ANNUAL REPORT

2016/17



Contents

1	Welcome from our Chair
3	Executive Officer's Report
5	About Us
11-24	Annual Financial Report



Habitat

Protecting, restoring and enhancing where fish live so that our recreational fisheries can thrive

6



Access

Ensuring better access to fishing opportunities

7



Participation

Increasing participation in fishing and the benefits of recreational fishing

8



Best Practice Fisheries Management

Promoting best practice fisheries management and informed fishers

9



Organisation Excellence

Striving for organisational excellence, advocacy and building partnerships

10

Published by VRFish, October 2017.

VRFish
51 Yarra Street, Geelong Victoria 3220 Australia
Phone: +61 3 9397 6318
Email: info@vrfish.com.au
www.vrfish.com.au



An electronic copy of this document is available online at www.vrfish.com.au

Cover Photo: St Helens Boat Ramp, Geelong. VRFish property, by Michelle Wenner

Welcome from our Chair

Robert Loats

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2016/17 annual report of VRFish to our members. There are again many achievements that VRFish can be proud of and I would like to thank all members and subscribers for their ongoing support.



In reflection, the 2016-17 year was also a challenging year with staff turnover. We farewelled Dallas D'Silva who took up a senior position at the Victorian Fisheries Authority. He was instrumental during his time as General Manager in developing strong and effective relationships with across the recreational fishing sector and with our key stakeholders. I wish him all the best in his new role and his tireless contribution to VRFish.

I would like to thank my Deputy Chair, Steven Relf for maintaining VRFish as interim Executive Officer while the Board searched widely for a permanent replacement for Dallas D'Silva. Steven devoted countless voluntary hours in ensuring the anglers of the state and VRFish maintained a voice of reason and most importantly provided exceptional input with the appointment of Michael Burgess as our new Executive Officer.

I would like to note a warm welcome Michael who is already providing our Peak Body with new and refreshing approach regarding the important role of representing the fishers of Victoria. Michael has a fisheries management background, and most importantly is highly experienced in representing state based recreational fishers and in particular, also has great skills associated with modern communications. The other most important attribute is his passion for recreational fishing and implementing great outcomes for all fishers.

We also welcome Michelle Wenner back from parental leave. Her involvement will strengthen our ability to provide the necessary expertise to assist greatly in attending to strategic issues and ongoing involvement with our important role in representing fishers in Victoria.

VRFish relies heavily on the unpaid voluntary contribution from the State council appointed Board members and our valuable State Council members who are strategically located across Victoria. These committed and passionate volunteers contribute thousands of hours of their valuable time in promoting outcomes for the benefit of recreational fishers.

Many positive outcomes have been achieved over the year by VRFish and our members, which benefit all our states fishers.

These include supporting new boat ramps, boat ramp extensions and improvements, fishing platforms, enhanced fish stocking programs, maintaining access, promoting fish habitat enhancement, ongoing water for recreation, environmental flows, codes of conduct and promoting new and existing fishing opportunities.

Ongoing consultation and collaboration with state government agencies, particularly the Victorian Fisheries Authority continues to be a major part of our work. VRFish regularly generates submissions on a multitude of issues on behalf of Victorian fishers. This ensures the anglers voice is appropriately heard when decisions and outcomes that impact our current and future fishing experiences are being discussed. VRFish is proud to have achieved a new way forward by continuing to support our future young leaders and appointing several new future leaders to our State Council. We have made provisions for new ways to consult and engage with all Victorian fishers through our communications, surveys and social media. These are two very positive steps that will hopefully promote future constructive outcomes, enhanced decision-making processes and inclusivity.

Our close working relationship with the Boating Industry Association of Victoria Australia (BIAV) is providing early signs of much needed governance and funding improvement to boating facilities and infrastructure. The outputs by VRFish and the BIAV on this issue highlights that we have a comprehensive plan to reform and achieve better boating facilities for the future.

There is no doubt that in recent years, recreational fishers have expanded their thinking and what they believe is vital for sustaining future fisheries. Habitat is now seen as one of the most important components in ensuring viable fishing opportunities for the future. Whether it is freshwater or saltwater, habitat is seen as a fundamental contributor to how successful one actually is in catching a fish. VRFish released a special Fishing Lines magazine edition in Spring outlining the terrific work being undertaken by government, community and recreational fishers to restore and enhance our fish habitats. New funding was made available through the Victorian Government's Angler Riparian Partnership. I would like to thank everyone involved in these partnerships and encourage all fishers to get involved through making contact with their local Catchment Management Authorities. Along with our Executive Officer, I was on the steering committee for the Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan which promises to bring a strategic and integrated approach to improving our freshwater recreational fisheries.

VRFish worked closely with the North Central CMA to assist the implementation of the Lower Loddon-Gunbower Creek Native Fish Recovery Plan, including Victoria's first irrigation channel fish screen. My involvement in bi-annual Riparian Advisory Forums ensures recreational fishers views are considered in riparian issues and the roll out of the Riparian Action Plan. The other important issue that continues to be on our agenda is Riparian Leased Land and Riparian Crown Frontage and recreational fisher access.

I was fortunate to be invited to attend the Ministerial launch of the RFL funding component of the Port Phillip Bay shellfish reefs project at Albert Park in February. Hon. Minister Jaala Pulford spoke highly of the project that is a credit to our members at Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club. Their ongoing commitment and foresight with this project is a prime example of what dedicated anglers can achieve. It is also a role model that others should consider following as it has a potential to benefit many thousands of Victoria's fishers.

I attended the Murray Codference held at Shepparton and it was wonderful to see a large number of cod fishers, including several VRFish members in attendance. The forum was well organised by the Victorian Fisheries Authority who assembled an array fantastic key-note speakers. One issue of importance that needs progressing is an educational program regarding catch and release of Murray Cod, especially now that fishers have an obligation to release all cod outside the 55-75cm legal catch limits. Far too often we see Murray Cod being held out of the water too long, vertically, or with fish grippers for a photo. Unfortunately, this practice can lead to unnecessary fish mortality. VRFish will be working with fishers and the Victorian Fisheries Authority on increasing awareness and uptake of best practice handling and release techniques.

Promoting new fishing opportunities, particularly encouraging more families and children to take up fishing was a key focus this year, such as the first National Gone Fishing Day. I was also pleased to attend a special silver perch Family Fishing Lakes stocking launch at the Donald Angling Clubrooms I assisted Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Victoria Danielle Green to release 3000 silver perch were into the Foletti Lake. This is new initiative across thirteen waters is terrific boost for family fishing through providing year-round fishing for mums, dads and junior fishers. We are continuing to promote an overdue new fish management and stocking regime for Rocklands Reservoir, to include a summer native fish fishery. Since the implementation of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, Rocklands is now managed as a working reservoir with highly modified water management water regimes.

VRFish has completed another successful 12 months, while weathering some challenges. There continues to be a growing number of issues and opportunities that require attention to improve and sustain our recreational fishery which will form the basis of our next year's business plan. I'd encourage all fishers to subscribe to our e-news, connect with us on social media and engage in our conversations so that we can inform you of what is happening in your sector and how you can become more involved in our work.

Executive Officer's Report

Michael Burgess



Opportunities for Victorian recreational fishers and growth of our industry are at an all-time high. We are benefiting from unprecedented fish stocking, many improvement projects reinvesting our licence fees and additional funding by the Victorian Government to implement their *Target One Million* policy.

It is an exciting time to be involved in the recreational fishing sector as social and economic benefits are embraced by Government, industry and community. Recreational fishers' enthusiasm to become more involved in the management and stewardship of their favourite species and fishing locations through habitat restoration, promotion of best practice and citizen science is transitioning our sector towards co-management.

It is therefore prudent that VRFish continues to demonstrate its skills, expertise and capabilities as a professional Non-Government Organisation (NGO) who works in partnership in the co-management of our fishery and aquatic resources. At the same time, we must continue to provide and develop value propositions to all Victorian recreational fishers and non-fishers and meet their needs and aspirations for a vibrant and sustainable recreational fishing sector.

The 2016/17 financial year has been a challenge due to significant gaps in staffing. VRFish have only a small team of only 2.4 full-time equivalents. I began in the role of Executive Officer in February, our Senior Partnerships and Program Manager returned from maternity leave in March and our Communication Officer left in March to pursue new opportunities. This pressured timelines and forced the allocation of work to our volunteer members and Board of Directors. I am pleased to report that during the last quarter, substantial progress was made deliver upon our business plan deliverables, an opportunity to review organisational processes and develop our 2017/18 business plan.

VRFish's membership through our State Council is active in responding to consultation processes and pro-active in developing policy positions. This year we have improved the way our membership can develop local level proposals for consideration and endorsement at the State Council level. Our consultation strategy is diversifying with new tools available to identify issues, concerns and future recommendations to improve our recreational fisheries. VRFish will continue to provide well-reasoned advice that is based on best available information. Our organisation is now providing advice and leadership on a diverse range of contemporary fishery and access issues involving riparian and in-stream habitat, environmental water and flows, litter, post-release survival, marine seismic surveys, innovative communications, developing young future leaders, and so on.

Our communications have been significantly boosted over the year through access to licenced recreational fisher emails who opt in to receive our communications at the point of applying for or renewing licences. This has led to the enhancement our e-news which is now distributed to approximately 53,000 subscribers and has an excellent average open rate in excess of 30%. Directly reaching more recreational fishers has permitted VRFish to use new consultation tools and surveys, promote work that is improving recreational fishing and raise awareness about issues and best practice Further work in 2017/18 will be conducted to grow subscribers, increase frequency of e-news, evaluate format and content and segment content based on subscriber preferences. To support our strategic communications and content marketing we have commenced work on developing a new website.

The flagship marine habitat project, restoring Port Phillip Bay's lost shellfish reefs received additional funding through the Recreational Fishing Trust to scale up the project to larger areas after a successful pilot. We will continue to support our members Albert Park Angling and Yachting Club and their project partners The Nature Conservancy and the Victorian Fisheries Authority in the successful implementation and communication of phase 2. Meanwhile our inland fisheries and habitats are benefiting from partnerships on-ground projects with Catchment Management Authorities with our members clubs and associations, Native Fish Australia (VIC) and the Australian Trout Foundation. All these projects are testament to the vision and passion of grassroots recreational fishers who want to make a meaningful contribution to improving their fishery and build resilience against unfavourable environmental factors. VRFish will continue to support all fishers to improve habitat such as promoting the Angler Riparian Partnerships and advocating for funding and resources.

An increasing number and complexity of recreational fishers' aspirations and needs are not being met with our currently level of resourcing. This is requiring VRFish to work within set priorities and at a strategic level. For example, VRFish's consultation and feedback mechanisms confirm the lack of capacity and standard of our State's boating infrastructure as our sector's single most significant issue. Fishers are frustrated at long queues, experience 'ramp rage' and share with VRFish with their disappointment at poor launching and maintained facilities. I am deeply concerned of a trend that fishers choosing not to go fishing during peak times at their preferred locations because of ongoing negative experiences. We will continue to work with Government and advocate for the reforms required to meet Victorian recreational fisher's expectations. As outlined in our joint submission with the Boating Industry Association of Victoria (BIAV) we will continue to advocate for a single agency to oversee boating infrastructure and 100% return of boating fees to be invest back into boating infrastructure.

In conclusion, I would like to recognise efforts of VRFish's Board and State Council members for their commitment to the organisation and enduring passion to make fishing even better in Victoria. VRFish is a volunteer-based organisation and members are contributing thousands of hours of unpaid time. Our members are our direct link with 'grassroots' fishers who have established networks with their local fishing community and often juggle multiple roles with other organisations or fishing clubs. So much of this work is behind the scenes and often is not recognised through the final policy, project or on-ground works. I would like to personal thank all our members for their advocacy work at the local, regional and State level in providing pragmatic advice and solutions.

I am pleased to see recreational fishers are eager to increase their stewardship towards their fish and habitat.

About Us

The Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body Ltd ('VRFish') was founded in 1995 as the peak body advocating for and representing Victoria's recreational fishers. VRFish has a representative network of individual fishers and fishing clubs and associations across Victoria working collaboratively for the benefit of our recreational fisheries.

Through our grass-roots, representative network of fishers and the extensive collaborative relationships built with our partners, VRFish is ideally placed to take action and tackle the challenges facing our recreational fisheries on behalf of Victoria's 838,000 recreational fishers.

VRFish is ever-evolving so that we are well positioned and responsive to the needs of the our stakeholders. Whether's it's fish habitat, water security, fishing access and infrastructure or best practice, we work in partnership to make sure Victoria's fishing experiences continue to improve, be sustainable and are more enjoyable for all generations of Victorians.

OUR BOARD

VRFish is governed by a Board with a diverse set of business, policy, strategy, finance, information technology, administration and advocacy skills, together with a great wealth of passion and experience in fishing.

Board members during this period included:

Robert Loats, Chair
Steven Relf, Deputy Chair
Russell Conway
Franz Grasser
John Hotchin
Priya Cardinaletti
Rob Caune
Joy Sloan
Geoff Fisher

OUR STATE COUNCIL

Pivotal to the organisation is the strong regional State Council structure that is in place with representatives from across Victoria. The State Council provides a transparent and democratic forum for members to develop policies on recreational fishing issues. It meets 4 times per year and is comprised of more than 60 delegates from across Victoria. Our membership base is ever evolving and includes fishers from diverse cultural backgrounds.

OUR VISION

Enjoyable, responsible recreational fishing from healthy habitat supporting abundant fish populations and safe, ongoing access to fishing grounds.

OUR PRIORITIES

1. Improve **fish habitat**
2. Safe, easy and ongoing **access**
3. Increase **participation** and recognition of benefits
4. **Best practice fisheries management** and informed fishers



FISH HABITAT

PROTECTING, RESTORING & ENHANCING
WHERE FISH LIVE

OUR VISION

To improve fish habitat so that our recreational fisheries can thrive, through:

- Habitat protection, restoration and enhancement
- Co-management of natural resources
- Secure water allocations for recreational fishing
- Shared benefits for recreational fishing from environmental flows

VRFish recognises the absolute central role that habitat plays in ensuring the quality of our fisheries and fishing experiences. VRFish has continued to play an active role in this space, advocating and participating in projects and consultative forums to secure positive outcomes and on-ground works for habitat protection, restoration and enhancement.

2016/17 HIGHLIGHTS

- Supporting Phase 2 of Port Phillip Bay Shellfish Restoration Program
- Working in partnership with the North Central CMA on the Native Fish Recovery Plan (NCCMA Lower-Loddon Gunbower), including support for irrigation screens for the Gunbower
- Participation in Riparian Advisory Forums including supporting the statewide implementation of the Riparian Action Plan to accelerate on-ground riparian management works, complementing the riparian actions and policy in the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy.
- A 'heathy bay, healthy fish' poster on the importance of the Yarra River flows and water quality to maintain Port Phillip Bay fisheries was prepared
- VRFish represented recreational fishers on the Native Fish Report Card Steering Committee with Victoria Fisheries Authority, DELWP, Arthur Rylah Institute and CMA's. The project has identified representative rivers in each catchment that will be surveyed to monitor the current population of key native recreational fish.
- Supported Australian Trout Foundation's (ATF) Buckland River in-stream Habitat and Riparian Restoration project.



ACCESS

ENSURING BETTER ACCESS TO FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

OUR VISION

Safe, easy and ongoing access, through:

- Maintaining and extending access to fisheries
- Improved pier and land-based fishing opportunities
- Better boating infrastructure, governance and investment
- Safe harbours for ocean fishing

Ensuring better access and facilities so that all people, of all ages, background, demographics and ability can enjoy the range of fishing opportunities Victoria has to offer, is a high priority for VRFish.

2016/17 HIGHLIGHTS

- Parks Victoria's proposal and public consultation for on-water access at Devilbend Reservoir was the culmination of many years of advocacy by VRFish members and fishing clubs to improve freshwater fishing opportunities on the Mornington Peninsula. VRFish raised the need for canoe and kayaking launch facilities near the carpark and also supported an extension of the floating pontoon through the Better Fishing Facilities Grants.
- VRFish and Boating Industry Association Victoria (BIAV) compiled a joint submission for the Safe and Accessible Waterways Discussion Paper calling for one single agency to coordinate and managing boating infrastructure and the 100% return of boating registration fees to infrastructure.
- A long-standing access issue has been Dartmouth Pondage. VRFish represented recreational fishing interests on an Advisory Group is to determine options available to enable access and usage of Dartmouth Pondage for recreational fishing and other possible recreational purposes. The process will continue into 2017/18.
- VRFish continued its partnership with the Port of Melbourne through its "Steer Clear in the Rip" awareness campaign ensuring that anglers fishing for Kingfish in the Port Phillip Bay RIP to stay clear of the ships and stay safe.
- Funded upgrades to Rye Boat Ramp was strongly supported advocated to the Mornington Shire Council in partnership with the VFA, BIAV and local fishers.
- Funding applications for fish cleaning stations were supported for locations at the Bellarine Peninsula.
- The exciting potential of a world-class native fishery at Rockland Reservoir in the Grampians Region was strongly advocated for and the Victorian Fisheries Authority are currently undertaking further risk assessments around translocation and threats.
- Our member associations in the Northwest are promoting better fisher access to Tullaroop Reservoir via kayaks and or electric motor powered boats.

PRIORITY
AREA **3**



PARTICIPATION

INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN FISHING

OUR VISION

Increased participation and recognition of the benefits of recreational fishing, through:

- Promoting and growing participation amongst non-fishers, especially youth
- Affordable fishing opportunities
- Quality fishing experiences and catch rates
- Improved recognition and social and economic benefits
- Stronger fishing clubs and associations

Increasing the number of Victorians that go fishing, and sharing and instilling the love of fishing amongst those that fish in order to grow the enjoyment and benefits that flow from fishing, is a key element driving the work done by VRFish.

2016/17 HIGHLIGHTS

- VRFish supported the first National Gone Fishing Day through promotion with Victorian fishing clubs, community groups and supporting the National Campaign coordinated by the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation.
- Fishing clubs were encouraged to access funding through the Stronger Fishing Club grants to support the growth of their membership, purchase essential materials and engage in community outreach programs.
- Supported the extension of Family Fishing Lakes to silver perch in 13 waters.
- VRFish ran a young future leaders course for recreational fishers across in partnership with FRDC and the Victorian and NSW RFL trusts.





Best practice fishing for thresher sharks

- Use circle hooks
- Use heavy line and gear
- Keep the shark in the water
- Ensure shark recovery before release
- Know your limits

For further information on these points go to www.vrfish.com.au/threshers



BEST PRACTICE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROMOTING BEST PRACTICE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND INFORMED FISHERS

OUR VISION

Best practice fisheries management and informed fishers, through:

- Adoption of responsible fishing practices and behaviours
- Prioritised fish stocking
- Science-based and responsible fisheries regulation
- Greater investment into research, development and extension
- Legislative recognition of recreational fishing
- Improved aquatic pest management

Promoting best practice fisheries, evidence-based management and ensuring the fishing community are aware of their rights and obligations is central to the work we do.

2016/17 HIGHLIGHTS

- Introduction of 'opt in' service for fishers to receive VRFish communications at the point of RFL licence issue and renewal to strengthen our consultation base and facilitate two-way communication with Victorian's recreational fishing community.
- A suite of infographic and posters were produced on fishing for trout in hot weather, code of practice for fishing and camping in Murray River Red Gum Parks, avoiding Murray cod during the closed season, economic value of fishing in Victoria and promoting in fishing media, social media and boat shows.
- Two editions of the Fishing Lines magazine were produced focusing on fish habitat (Spring) and re-investment of recreational licence fees to improve fishing (Winter).
- Attendance at the Melbourne Boat Show with over 4,000 contacts and development of new display material.
- Growth in our social media channels reach and followers (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).
- VRFish members and associated clubs and associations were again involved in Vic Stock Meeting to shape the annual fishing stocking plan and priorities across Victoria.
- Input into policy and government consultation processes with the following: Trout regulatory changes; Ray protection; Pigi management plan; Eel management plan; Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan; Rock Lobster Tagging Program; Yarra River Management Plan.
- Work with the Victorian Fisheries Authority to establish a trial tagging system for southern rock lobster to help ascertain estimates of recreational catch.
- VRFish is supporting the National Carp Control Plan through engagement with Victorian fishers. Meetings were attended at the CSIRO Animal Health Lab regarding the carp virus and possible ways to introduce the virus into a riverine environment and the State Carp Control Director presented at our State Council Meeting in May to enable VRFish to develop a policy position on carp control and learn how recreational fishers can be involved in the program.

PRIORITY
AREA **5**



ORGANISATIONAL EXCELLENCE, ADVOCACY & PARTNERSHIPS

STRIVING FOR ORGANISATIONAL
EXCELLENCE, ADVOCACY & BUILDING
PARTNERSHIPS

OUR VISION

Continually striving for organisational excellence, through:

- Quality governance and organisational processes
- Greater accountability to stakeholders
- Improved recognition and support from recreational fishers
- Strategic and effective communications and engagement
- Strong and constructive relationships with Government and stakeholders

Our focus is squarely on being a high performing organisation that has a strong foundation built around our members and collaborative partnerships: an organisation which is accountable to and strongly advocates on behalf of our stakeholders.

2016/17 HIGHLIGHTS

- Commencement of new VRFish Strategic Plan 2016-21: 2016-17 saw the commencement of the new five-year VRFish Strategic Plan 2016-21. The new strategic plan was developed through a highly consultative and participatory process with Board and State Council members. The plan has underpinned the beginnings of a new direction and swathe of positive changes for VRFish, in addition to the range of key successes highlighted throughout this annual report.
- Appointment of new Executive Officer.
- New 5-year funding agreement (commenced 1 July 2016).
- Review commenced into VRFish branding and strategic communications.
- Office relocation planned for Geelong.



ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (SUMMARY) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017 DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report together with the financial report of the Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body ("the Company") for the year ended 30 June 2017, and the auditor's report thereon.

DIRECTORS

The directors of the Company, at any time during or since the financial period are:

Name

Rob Loats (Chair)
Steven Relf
John Hotchin
Franz Grasser
Russell Conway
Priya Cardinaletti
Joy Sloan
Geoff Fisher
Robert Caune

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

COMPANY SECRETARY

Michael Burgess.

COMPANY PARTICULARS

The registered office of the Company is: 10/158-170 Nelson Place, Williamstown VIC 3016.

The Victorian Recreational Peak Body Ltd ('VRFish') is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Australia and having its principal place of business at the address listed above.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

VRFish, the Victorian recreational fishing peak body, is the representative organisation for recreational fishers in Victoria. The principal activities is representing and advocating the interests of the 838,000 fishers located throughout Victoria.

OPERATING & FINANCIAL REVIEW

The operating profit for the period ended 30 June 2017 amounted to \$22,702 (2016: profit \$8,959).

EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the directors of the Company to affect significantly the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, of the state of affairs of the Company in the future financial years.

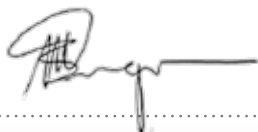
INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE OF OFFICERS

No indemnities have been given or agreed to be given or insurance premiums paid or agreed to be paid, during or since the end of the financial year, to any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the Company.

LEAD AUDITORS' INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

The lead auditor's independence declaration forms part of the directors' report for the period ended 30 June 2017. This financial report is made with a resolution of the directors.

Signed in accordance with the resolution of directors:



Michael Burgess
Director/ Executive Officer



Robert Loats
Director/ Chairperson

7th September 2017
Melbourne

STATEMENT OF PROFIT & LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Revenue			
Core funding		449,877	436,665
Project Income		-	21,418
Other Income		7,097	80,714
		<u>456,974</u>	<u>538,797</u>
Expenses			
Administration		22,052	7,114
Advertising & Marketing		33,821	30,538
Audit		5,500	5,530
Board & Meeting Expenses		19,334	19,841
Depreciation		1,672	2,109
Equipment Costs		2,204	4,237
Exhibitions & Conferences		10,041	7,228
Insurance		7,042	4,423
Motor Vehicle		2,859	1,564
Project Expenditure		19,919	80,078
Rent		24,570	16,140
Salary & Wages		233,692	286,975
State Council Expenses		24,741	28,973
Telecommunications		3,215	6,664
Travel		5,373	11,129
Other		18,237	17,295
		<u>434,272</u>	<u>529,838</u>
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>22,702</u>	<u>8,959</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year		<u>22,702</u>	<u>8,959</u>

The above Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements set out on pages 17 to 20.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	110,668	101,128
Trade and other receivables	4	-	17,494
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		110,668	118,622
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant & equipment	5	13,574	4,218
Intangible assets	6	682	682
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		14,256	4,900
TOTAL ASSETS		124,924	123,522
LIABILITIES			
Payables	7	492	492
Financial liabilities	8	(6,193)	(889)
Current tax liabilities	9	563	(809)
Provisions	10	12,326	29,694
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		7,188	28,488
TOTAL LIABILITIES		7,188	28,488
NET ASSETS		117,736	95,034
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		117,736	95,034
TOTAL EQUITY		117,736	95,034

The above Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements set out on pages 17 to 20.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	RESERVES	TOTAL EQUITY
2017	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance	95,034	-	95,034
Transfer to or from reserve	-	-	-
Comprehensive result for the period	22,702	-	22,702
CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2017	117,736	-	117,736

	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	RESERVES	TOTAL EQUITY
2016	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance	86,075	-	86,075
Transfer to or from reserve	-	-	-
Comprehensive result for the period	8,959	-	8,959
CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2016	95,034	-	95,034

The above Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements set out on pages 17 to 20.

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received from operations		517,192	597,114
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(499,806)	(567,253)
Interest received		3,182	3,760
Interest and other costs of finance		-	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	11	20,568	33,621
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for fixed assets		(11,208)	-
Net cash provided by investing activities		(11,208)	-
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of borrowings		-	-
Net cash provided by financing activities		-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents held		9,540	33,621
Cash at the beginning of the year		101,128	67,507
Cash at the end of the year	3	110,668	101,128

The above Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements set out on pages 17 to 20.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

NOTE 1: CORPORATE INFORMATION

The financial statements of the Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body Ltd ("the Company") for the year ended 30 June 2017 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the directors on 7th September 2017.

NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Act 2001.

Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The ability of the Company to continue as a going concern is dependent upon continuance of existing financial facilities and support from related parties. The Financial Report has been prepared on the basis of a going concern as the directors expect the Company to pay its debts as and when they become due.

(b) Functional and presentation currency

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Company's functional currency.

(c) Use of estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in any future periods affected.

(d) Impairment

(i) Financial assets

A financial asset is considered to be impaired if objective evidence indicates that one or more events have had a negative effect on the estimated future cash flows of that asset.

An impairment loss in respect of a financial asset measured at amortised cost is calculated as the difference between its carrying amount, and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the original effective interest rate. Individually significant financial assets are tested for impairment on an individual basis. The remaining financial assets are assessed collectively in groups that share similar credit risk characteristics.

All impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss. Any cumulative loss in respect of an available-for-sale financial asset recognised previously in equity is transferred to profit or loss.

(ii) Non-financial assets

The carrying amounts of the Company non-financial assets are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less costs to sell. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset.

Impairment losses recognised in prior periods are assessed at each reporting date for any indications that the loss has decreased or no longer exists. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the assets' carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment has been recognised.

(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and investments at call, net of bank overdrafts.

(f) Receivables

Receivables consist predominantly of debtors in relation to goods and services. A provision for doubtful receivables is made when there is objective evidence that the debts will not be collected. Bad debts are written off when identified.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(g) Property, plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Any property, plant and equipment donated to the Company or acquired for nominal cost are recognised at fair value at the date the Company obtains control of the assets.

Depreciation

Items of property, plant and equipment (other than land) are depreciated over their useful lives to the Company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Depreciation is calculated on a diminishing basis over the expected useful economic lives of the assets as follows:

Computer & IT Equipment	2-3 years
Office Equipment	3-5 years

(h) Payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Company prior to the end of financial period which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

(i) Employee benefits

Employee benefits comprise wages and salaries, annual, non-accumulating sick and long service leave, and contributions to superannuation plans.

Liabilities for wages and salaries expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in other payables in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date. Liabilities for annual leave in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date that are expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related services are recognised in the provision for annual leave. Both liabilities are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled and amounts expected to be settled after 12 months from the end of the reporting period are discounted. Liabilities for non-accumulating sick leave are recognised when the leave is taken and are measured at the rates paid or payable.

The liability for long service leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to anticipated future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currencies that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

The Company pays contributions to certain superannuation plans. Contributions are recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income when they are due. The company has no obligation to pay further contributions to these plans if the plans do not hold sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in current and prior periods.

(j) Leased assets and liabilities

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense in the income statement on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(k) Revenue

Grants Funding

Grants from third parties (other than contribution by owners) are recognised as income in the reporting period in which the entity gains control, economic benefits are probable and the amount of the funding can be measured reliably.

Interest Income

Interest income is recognised as it accrues.

(l) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular category they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs directly incurred in supporting the objects of the Company and include project management carried out by central administration.

Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

(m) Income Tax

The Company is a tax-exempt entity for the purposes of Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(n) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(n) Goods and Services Tax (GST) (continued)

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the balance sheet.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

(o) New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

The AASB has issued new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods. The application of these Accounting Standards and Australian Interpretations are not expected to have any significant impact on the Company's financial statements. Consequently, they have not been specifically identified here.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
BB-CMTA	81,458	39,519
BB-CMTA - Project Account	29,127	61,520
BB-CMTA - Junior Fishing Account	-	7
Petty Cash	82	82
	110,668	101,128
NOTE 4: TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Trade Debtors	-	6,494
Prepayments	-	11,000
	-	17,494
NOTE 5: PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
Plant & Equipment		
At Cost	31,728	20,700
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(18,154)	(16,482)
	13,574	4,218
NOTE 6: INTANGIBLE ASSETS		
Patents and Trademarks - at cost	682	682
	682	682
NOTE 7: PAYABLES		
Trade Creditors	-	-
Superannuation Payable	492	492
	492	492
NOTE 8: FINANCIAL LIABILITIES		
Visa Card - advance payment	(6,193)	(889)
	(6,193)	(889)
NOTE 9: CURRENT TAX LIABILITIES		
FBT Payable	1,048	1,048
GST Clearing	(623)	205
PAYG Withholding Payable	138	(691)
Salary Sacrifice	-	(1,371)
	563	(809)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017 (CONTINUED)**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
NOTE 10: PROVISIONS		
Annual Leave	12,326	29,693
	<u>12,326</u>	<u>29,693</u>

NOTE 11: RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Cash flows from operating activities

Surplus/(loss) for the period	22,702	8,959
Add: Depreciation for the year	1,672	2,109
(Increase)/decrease in trade & other receivables	17,494	5,006
Increase/(decrease) in trade & other payables	(21,300)	17,547
Net cash from operating activities	<u>20,568</u>	<u>33,621</u>

NOTE 12: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the directors of the Company to affect significantly the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, of the state of affairs of the Company in the future financial years.

NOTE 13: CONTINGENCIES & OTHER COMMITMENTS

The Company has entered into a lease agreement for a Photocopier. Future minimum rentals payable under non-cancellable operating leases as at the reporting date are:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Within one year	1,873	2,045
Later than one year and no later than five years	-	1,873
	<u>1,873</u>	<u>3,918</u>

The Company has a lease agreement for accommodation. Future minimum rentals payable under non-cancellable operating leases as at the reporting date are:

Within one year	-	-
-----------------	---	---

There are no other contingencies and other commitments as of 30 June 2017.

NOTE 14: RELATED PARTIES

The directors act in honorary capacity and receive no compensation for their services. There were no related party payments or transactions to any of the directors or related entities during the period.

NOTE 15: ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

The Company is dependent upon Recreational Fishing Licence revenue received by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) to ensure the continuance of its operations. The current funding agreement is from 01/07/2016 to 30/06/2020 and annual funding is based on submission of a business plan and budget by VRFish to DEDJTR.

DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION

The directors declare that in their opinion:

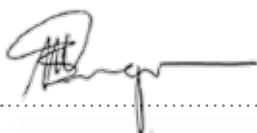
(a) the attached financial statements and notes thereto comply with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements

(b) The attached financial statements and notes thereto give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Company

(c) The attached financial statements and notes thereto are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*

(d) There are reasonable grounds to believe the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Michael Burgess
Director/ Executive Officer



Robert Loats
Director/ Chairperson

7th September 2017
Melbourne

**Independent auditor's report to the members of
VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD**

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT

OPINION

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body Limited (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Victorian Fishing Peak Body Limited, is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants ('the Code') that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT AND THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

LDAssurance
Chartered Accountants



Stephen O'Kane
Partner

Dated this 8th day of September 2017
250 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Auditor's independence declaration under to the directors under Section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001*

To: the directors of Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body Ltd:

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit for the financial period ended 30 June 2017 there has been:

- no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

LDASSURANCE
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



Stephen O'Kane
Partner

Dated this 8th day of September 2017
250 Collins Street, Melbourne.

help avoid catching

Murray cod during closed seasons



If you do accidentally catch a cod, keep it in the water and release it immediately.

Murray cod are a priority species under the Fisheries Act 1995 in recognition that they are the most iconic native freshwater fish in Victoria. Fishers, managers and scientists have worked hard to grow cod populations over the last 20 years by implementing good habitat, waterway and fisheries management strategies.

Between 1 September and 30 November each year cod go into breeding mode. It's at this time they are at their most vulnerable. Murray cod are protected in all Victorian waters, except for Lake Eildon during these months.

During the closed season, the cod guard their nests which makes them territorial, aggressive and easy to catch. Anglers should not be using fishing techniques that are likely to catch cod during this time.

All anglers can play an important role to help cod successfully spawn, recruit naturally and provide great cod fishing for the future.

During the closed season in known cod waters:



Do not deliberately target cod.



Use lures smaller than 80mm for species such as yellow belly.



Do not use surface lures.



Use small yabbies only for species such as yellow belly.



Do not use baits such as cheese, chicken, red meat and bardi grubs.



Use your past experience to determine your chances of encountering a cod and consider choosing another location to fish.

Report any illegal activities by calling 13 3474

www.vrfish.com.au