



***Let's make
fishing
better, for***

***every
one.***

Annual Report 2017-18



**“We are fishers
supporting
fishers... providing
an independent,
unaffiliated political
voice. Making our
favourite pastime an
enjoyable one”**

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VRFish Chairman's Foreward

Rob Loats



I have pleasure in presenting this year's annual report that identifies the organisation is in sound financial shape. VRFish is continuing to operate successfully from regional Geelong and we have addressed a multitude of issues that arose, sometimes unexpected.

State Election

This year is of great importance as a state election will be held in November. This has provided VRFish an opportunity to consult with the fishers of the state and advocate many examples of what we suggest is needed in Victoria to enhance recreational fishing opportunities. Our election policy has been presented to all political parties and it's exciting to see we are gaining traction with a number of our objectives.

Recreational Fishing

Recreational fishing in Victoria is being recognised by fishers as excellent over the past year due to the multitude of fishing initiatives that continue to assist us all in enjoying getting out on the water and participating in fishing and/or enjoying a day out with the family. We must also commend the current government for providing a record funding pool to enhance the possibility of maintaining Victoria as the fishing state.

Access

While all this has been positive, other highly important issues facing recreational fishers are still being unnecessarily challenged. Access to camping, fishing and campfires are all on the radar of those that do not seem to contemplate or care about the values associated with passive activities. It has been clearly recognised that the stresses of every day life can be mitigated by going fishing, camping or sitting around a campfire and enjoying a lovely social time. Further to this there has also been recognition that providing water for recreation and community enjoyment reduces the potential for needing medical attention associated with stress.

The take home message for all agencies and authorities is, back off with your restrictive over management suggestions. Our Crown Land and frontages are not yours. They were set aside by our forefathers as areas where the public could enjoy the natural environment and most importantly participate in the recreational activity of their choice. Yes, our forefather's management vision was clearly correct. Public land inclusive management seems to have been lost in a fray of over management and public exclusion.

VRFish Promotions

On a more positive note VRFish has managed to have a number of highly important outcomes achieved. These include, but are not limited to, the stocking of Rocklands Reservoir with native fish, access to Dartmouth pondage, the phasing out of opera house nets, several habitat/access reinstatement projects including the Maribyrnong River, and strong input into fish stockings.

Other important advocacy issues include, Vic Roads Road Building habitat removal used as offsets for habitat replacement in suitable locations, better boating infrastructure, a new northern region native fish hatchery, water for Toolondo and the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline Lakes, and environmental water

Issues of Importance to Marine Fishers

One of the major issues this year has been the Commonwealth Government promoted future management of Southern Blue Fin Tuna. This issue created a lot of debate as it's a highly prized recreational fishery for thousands of Victorian fishers. Currently VRFish has a position paper on the future management of catch limits in Victoria and we will strongly debate and defend any potential changes to the current catch limit of two fish per day per fisher.

The Mako shark issue was also not supported by Victorian fishers and while we promoted for change to the VFA, the changes were not supported by fishers.

Catching Rays from land-based platforms was another issue that received an extra regulatory control due to some unscrupulous activity from a minority. VRFish, following consultation with fishers is still not convinced that the current regulatory controls are appropriate.

A new way forward

As VRFish has been successfully representing recreational fishers for close to twenty-five years the Board has conducted a review of the organisation. This along with our state council members changes have been recommended to make the organisation a more inclusive Peak Body.

While change for the future is often difficult to implement, the Board are fully committed to make the Peak Body more inclusive of all fishers. Recommendations include relaxing club member restrictions, association restrictions, general member restrictions, and/or potential corporate and other organisational changes. Currently following consultation with the State Council Membership, the Board have reviewed the constitution and we will be promoting these Draft changes for consideration and adoption at the VRFish Annual General Meeting.

Staff & Board

It is well recognised no organisation at Victorian level can operate successfully unless our EO and staff provide the necessary input into the day to day issues that are seemingly never ending. This year has been a very challenging year. I would personally like to pass on my appreciation for all the staff's efforts throughout the year. The year ahead looks more challenging, so please continue to work together and make our Peak Body the one stop fisher shop.

All members of the Board have had extra responsibilities this year with the review of our operational representative Peak Body high on the agenda. This has required some healthy debate and time to come up with the current draft proposal. Change for the future can be really difficult to implement at State level. As your Chairman please accept my appreciation for your support throughout the year.

Lastly many thanks to Deputy Chair Steven Relf for his expertise in Chairing all Finance Committee meetings and making sure our finances are being delivered within budget, and Russell Conway as Chair of the Communications Committee.

Stay safe on the water and only take the fish you need.

Executive Officer's Report

Mike Burgess



Recreational fishing in Victoria continues to grow and prosper through unprecedented funding delivered by the Victorian Government's Target One Million Policy coupled with Recreational Fishing Licence revenue.

It's been never more apparent that VRFish as an organisation needs to modernise to meet the current and future needs and aspirations of Victorian recreational fishers. I am pleased to report that during the 2017/18 financial year, the VRFish Board and its members have embraced the need for change to represent more recreational fishers, reflect the diversity of our fishing community and enhance our advocacy success. The start of our change agenda began with a rebranding process that delivered a new logo, mission statement and updated communications.

Our new mission statement, "Let's Make Fishing Better, for Everyone" acts both as a commitment and a driver for all our operations and values. It provides a clear message that VRFish is an independent peak body for our sector in which our advice and input is for the benefit of all Victorian fishers. To that point, I still find it remarkable there are factions within our sector that either do see the value of a strong and independent peak body for recreational fishing. This acts as the best possible motivation to continue to look at new and innovative ways to engage with our 838,00 strong fishing community and demonstrate our accountability.

As an example, we are utilising surveys as an engagement tool to help VRFish determine and validate objectively what are our sector's priorities and provide opportunities for all fishers, if they choose, to have their say. Our 'How to make fishing better' priority survey involving nearly 1900 responses was an overwhelming success with many applications of the results including as the foundation of our 2018 State Election Policy.

Our new content-based website launched in March has been purpose built as a platform to report back to our fishers and other stakeholders. What and why VRFish does and is achieving is intrinsically important to generate support by our fishers. Our e-news has been updated and moved in-house for both efficiency and flexibility and our submissions and policy documents are published online for all to see. Considering the need for strong and ongoing communications in March 2018 we also welcomed Holly Amos in the role of part time dedicated Communication Officer.

While our change agenda has been a focus, I can assure you our 'normal' work has not taken a back seat. In fact, this year has seen VRFish tick off two insurmountable advocacy issues. Firstly, the stocking of native fish into Rocklands Reservoir has been an issue VRFish

and its members had been advocating for close to 15 years. The stocking of Murray cod and golden perch by the Victorian Fisheries Authority this year has been applauded by our sector and will create a high-quality fishery and will provide tremendous economic and social benefits to the Grampians Region.

VRFish helped form the Victorian Alliance for Platypus Safe Yabby Nets to call for a ban of enclosed traps which kill our air-breathing wildlife. Prior to the Government announcing a ban we were able to gain the support of large retailers to take opera house nets off the shelves and also create awareness about the issues.

Access issues at both Dartmouth Pondage and Devilbend Reservoir has been a thorn for our sector and focus on ongoing advocacy. Thankfully this hard work and effort by many has come to fruition with partial on-water access at Devilbend and partial shore-based access at Dartmouth. While these are positive steps forward they are a case in point that re-gaining our fishing access is a difficult proposition but rest assured VRFish and our fishers will not give up until the job is complete.

Similarly, the same can be said about our broken recreational boating system which continues to pull our limited resources to take carriage of our fishers concerns. Our fishers are frustrated at long queues, fed up with sub-standard and unsafe infrastructure and are despondent at paying for parking and launch fees. While we have been able to support some upgrades this year these are merely band-aids masking system that doesn't and will not ever work. We will continue to advocate for a single agency to oversee boating infrastructure and a 100% return of boating licenses and fees back into boating infrastructure.

Our 2017/18 Annual Report covers some of the key achievements but doesn't reflect the sheer amount of work and diversity of that work our small team of 2.8 equivalent full-time employees undertakes. Nor does it reflect the tremendous amount of volunteer and advocacy work our 24 fishing associations (and their fishing clubs) and 20 unaffiliated members undertake in all corners of the State. Despite being a \$7.1 billion dollar industry and now over \$8.7 million dollars collected in Recreational Fishing Licences in 2016/17, VRFish still only receives just 5% of RFL funds. This constrains our ability to increase our capacity, be innovative, provide greater engagement and value to fishers and implement development programs for our sector. While our stakeholders, members and supporters need to

recognise our current limitations and the organisation is under-resourced what we do is of high quality, is world-class and is making fishing better in Victoria.

In July I was fortunate to be a recipient of a FRDC Bursary to attend the World Recreational Fishing Conference in Canada and participate in an associated Study Tour with fellow Australian future recreational fishing leaders. This first-hand experience and networking continues to act as inspiration on what other organisations similar to VRFish are structured and operate such as the Freshwater Society of British Columbia (Canada), Angling Trust (UK) and Sportvisserij Nederland (Netherlands). In Canada, there were similarities with our issues at home such as how climate change and environmental impacts are affecting trout and salmon (native fish), importance of fish habitat restoration, arresting the decline in fishing participation and how responsible sportfishing is supporting the conservation of the species, such as the white sturgeon.

In conclusion, I would like to recognise the efforts of VRFish's Board, State Council members and my staff for a stand-out operational year.

“

Our 'How to make fishing better' priority survey involving nearly 1900 responses was an overwhelming success with many applications of the results including as the foundation of our 2018 State Election Policy.

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About Us

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Let's make fishing better, for everyone.

WHO WE ARE

When decisions are made that affect our fisheries we advocate for recreational fishing interests. We love fishing, just like you. Whether it's fish habitat, water security and quality, fishing access and infrastructure or best practice, we aim to work in partnership to make sure Victoria's fishing experiences continue to improve, are sustainable and more enjoyable for all generations of Victorians.

Established in 1995 as the Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body, VRFish, we advocate for and represent Victoria's recreational fishers – a community which now exceeds 838, 000 individuals. VRFish are fishers supporting fishers.

We provide an independent, unaffiliated political voice to Government regarding areas which impact our favourite pastime – recreational fishing.

WHAT WE DO

To support the sustainable growth and development of recreational fishing, an industry now worth nearly \$2.3 billion, VRFish work to raise the profile of fishing as a recreational activity with significant social, cultural and economic benefits.

VRFish encourages all Victorian fishers to adopt responsible fishing practices and behaviours to ensure they not only follow the rules but to ensure the sustainability of our fisheries for future generations.

OUR PRIORITIES



HABITAT



WATER



PROMOTE



ACCESS



BEST
PRACTICE

Our Board Members



Rob Loats

Chairman

— Meetings attended - 4

Rob is a primary production business manager from rural Victoria. He has extensive experience of issues associated with natural resource and water management and skills associated with government and non-government state agency inputs and outputs.

Rob has provided long term representation for his local club as president and secretary, long term representation of two local angling associations as president and is a past member of the state Fisheries Co-Management Council. He has been on the Fisheries Revenue Allocation Committee (FRAC), is the current Chairman the Recreational Fishing Licence Working Group, member of the Murray Darling Basin Murray Cod Fishery Advisory Group, the North Central Catchment Management Authority Community Leaders Group and is the regional representative at both the North West and South West Victoria Fish Stock and Cons meetings. He is a current member of the DELWP Riparian Advisory Group and Life Member of the Mid Northern and Wimmera Angling Associations and Donald Angling Club. Rob's efforts have also earned him the National Mal Ramsay Lifetime Achievement Award 2012.

Rob has a very strong affinity in habitat protection and reinstatement, and as a member of the National Fish Habitat Network continues to promote the values of fish habitat and projects that protect and restore habitat in Rivers, Creeks, Wetlands and Water Storage Reservoirs, especially woody habitat.

Rob joined the VRFish Board to promote the interests of recreational fishers from regional Victoria and to apply his knowledge regarding strategic business directives, financial management and skills associated with responding to government policy directives to promote the best outcomes for recreational fishers.



Steven Relf

Deputy Chairman

— Meetings attended - 4

Steven brings a wealth of experience to the Board of VRFish and is experienced in dealing with a variety of complex issues, adding value to the organisation in an ever-changing environment. Now retired Steven has had over 26 years experience as a senior manager in local government. A member of the Dunlop Bayswater Angling Club (37years) and Club President for the last 18 years, Steven has a strong commitment to our rivers and streams and a desire to see them returned to their natural condition. Steven is the President of the Howqua Association Angling Clubs, and has been a delegate of VRFish for the last 18 years. Steven is the current deputy chair of VRFish and chair of the finance committee

Steven believes fishers need a strong peak body with the ability to influence the development of sound policy in relation to fisheries management. As a VRFish representative he is able to give back to the sport he has enjoyed for many years by being able to provide an advocacy role on behalf of all Victorian fishers.



Russell Conway

— Meetings attended - 4

Russell has been a keen and passionate recreational fisher for over 40 years. He enjoys fishing our quiet country streams and lakes chasing trout and native species just as much as the thrill of fishing for pelagic species around our magnificent coastline.

Russell is the President the Metropolitan Anglers Association, Chairman of RecFish Australia, past Chairman of VRFish and a life member of the Greensborough & District Angling Club. Russell provides recreational fishing industry expertise to the Board of the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation (FRDC), is a member of the FRDC Recfishing Research Committee and is also a member of the Australian Fish Names Committee. Russell's various roles have provided him with a good understanding of the diverse issues challenging recreational fishers and the importance of effective representation and advocacy to ensure we can all continue to enjoy fishing in the future.

Our Board Members



Franz Grasser

Meetings attended - 4

Professionally, Franz spent his career in various management roles in the energy sector. During this career, Franz commenced a journey of advocacy for the clean energy sector exposing him to the full range of challenges that advocacy organisations encounter.

The skills Franz brings to VRFish are based on this business and advocacy experience as well as his lifelong fishing experience. As the owner of a small business he also has knowledge of financial and general business matters but the main expertise that he brings to VRFish is the experience in advocacy and the leadership in business as well as decades of experience as a board member of advocacy organisations.

As an unaffiliated member of VRFish, Franz connects with fishers who are not part of formal fishing organisations. Franz joined VRFish and stood for election to the Board because of his love of fishing and the prospect that his input can make a positive contribution to sustaining recreational fishing into the future.



John Hotchin

Meetings attended - 3

John has been actively involved with VRFish since the beginning, he has actively participated in various subcommittees and brings a wealth of knowledge to the VRFish Board. He firmly believes in VRFish and strives to meet the goals set by the fishing community.

John is President of the Geelong Fly Fishing Club and Secretary/ Grants Officer of the Geelong and District Angling Clubs Association. He is a life member of the Geelong Sport and Game Fishing Club and Geelong and District Angling Clubs Association. For 30 years, he has actively promoted recreational fishing around the Geelong region through coordinating the Ron Nelson Memorial Junior Fishing Clinic on behalf of the Geelong and District Angling Clubs. John has also been very active in acquiring grants to improve recreational fishing opportunities around Geelong.



Geoff Fisher

Meetings attended - 4

Geoff started fishing on Brighton Jetty in Adelaide at age 4. He regularly fishes in Melbourne's bays for King George Whiting and Calamari but his favoured fishing is offshore for pelagic species such as Marlin, Tuna, Yellowtail Kingfish and Mako Sharks. The reason Geoff loves game fishing is because it's challenging, requires teamwork, motivation, energy, mateship, goal setting, patience, persistence, humility & tolerance.

His passion for these wonderful pelagic fish has resulted in a desire to preserve them for future generations has influenced his fishing and willingness to volunteer for Club and State Association roles. The reason Geoff loves game fishing is because it's challenging, requires teamwork, motivation, energy, mateship, goal setting, patience, persistence, humility & tolerance. Geoff has spent many years as a committee member of the Victorian Game Fishing Club and the Game Fishing Association of Victoria and as a result is acutely aware of the threats challenges to saltwater fishing.

Geoff's professional career was in IT with diverse roles from writing program code through to Senior Project Management roles.



Our State Council

Pivotal to the organisation is the strong regional State Council structure that is in place with representatives from across Victoria. VRFish provides a strategic and representative voice for the Victorian recreational fishing sector by utilising the expertise and experience of our members and engaging with the community to inform the development of policy and provide responses to Government that represent the views of Victorian recreational fishers. Our membership base is ever evolving and includes fishers from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Our membership structure includes affiliated member organisations and up to 20 individual fishers not part of a fishing association or club. Our member organisations are listed below.

Our Board Members



Joy Sloan

Meetings attended - 3

Joy Sloan has 30 years experience in Natural Resource Management and 12 years with Fisheries Victoria. Joy has a very strong understanding of issues facing recreational angling and knowledge of the inter-relationships between Natural Resource Management Agencies and how these agencies can benefit or impact recreational angling and anglers.

She brings to VRFish strength in building relationships, developing partnerships, negotiating collaborative outcomes, facilitating and organizing people, information and events, developing logic based evaluation and evidence based collecting processes, developing innovative ideas and creative problem solving.

Joy is a passionate advocate for recreational fishing and recreational fishers and has a strong commitment to aligning professional work ethics with personal values centered on integrity, collaboration, environmental and social stewardship and as a member of the VRFish board, she has the opportunity to continue to advocate for and provide advice to recreational anglers.



Kris Leckie

Meetings attended - 3

After completing the Young Future Leaders course in 2016, Kris became an unaffiliated member of VRFish and was elected to the board soon after in 2017. Kris enjoys all methods of angling and targets a wide range of species, but predominately spends most of his angling days chasing trout with a fly rod. Kris is a passionate conservationist with a particular interest in restoring riparian vegetation, re-instating fish habitat, and promoting responsible land management practices that actively improve the health of our waterways.

Professionally, Kris has many years of management experience and holds a tertiary qualification in Conservation and Land Management. He has been an active member of numerous groups and committees such as the Trout reference group, the Spotted Tree Frog recovery advisory committee, and the Fish Habitat and Flows Roundtable. Kris is a member of the VRFish communications committee and actively contributes to the VRFish social media platforms, assists in the development of interpretative and educational material, and feels extremely privileged to have the opportunity to represent and advocate for anglers across Victoria.

Rob Caune

Meetings attended - 1

Term concluded 28 October 2017

Priya Cardinaletti

Meetings attended - 1

Term concluded 28 October 2017

Marty Ellul

Meetings attended - 2

VRFish Member Organisations

- Albert Park Yachting and Angling Clubs Association
- Australian Anglers Association (Vic)
- Australian National Sportsfishing Association (Vic)
- Ballarat and Districts Anglers Association
- Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron
- Council of Victorian Fly Fishing Clubs
- Game Fishing Association of Victoria
- Geelong and District Angling Clubs Association
- Gippsland Angling Clubs Association
- Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs
- Fishcare Victoria
- Howqua Angling Clubs Fish Protection Society
- Metropolitan Angling Association
- Midland and North Central Angling Association
- Mid Northern Association of Angling Clubs
- Native Fish Australia (Vic)
- North East Angling Association
- SCUBA Divers Federation of Victoria
- South Gippsland Angling Clubs Association
- South West District Association of Angling Clubs
- Torquay Angling Club
- Victoria Chinese Angling Association
- Victorian Piscatorial Council
- Wimmera Anglers Association



Habitat and Water

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

Improved fish habitat will deliver better fishing outcomes for all Victorians. This is why VRFish continues to play a lead role in advocating and participating in projects and consultative forums to secure positive outcomes and on-ground works for habitat protection, restoration and enhancement. In particular, VRFish is promoting the role that recreational fishers can play in identifying areas that require works and ways we can lead and participate in these activities. Securing water allocations, particularly in the west of the State has been a topic of ongoing advocacy and promoting the benefits to our fishers of environmental water is ongoing.

2017/18 Highlights

- Supporting Albert Park Angling and Yachting Club with the Port Phillip Bay Living Shellfish Restoration Program and advocating for its expansion.
- Participation in the Cohuna Irrigation Screens Steering committee which has seen the construction and installation of Australia's first irrigation channel screen at Cohuna Number 3 Channel regulator, in the Cohuna Weir pool which will save thousands of native fish from being lost from our rivers into channels.
- Working in partnership with the North Central CMA on the Native Fish Recovery Plan (NCCMA) Lower-Loddon Gunbower, including the launch of the prospectus on Fish Migration Day.
- Advocated for more water for Toolondo and the benefits the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline provides our recreational fishing lakes in the region.
- Bay Fund Project funding application with OzFish Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy that would enable recreational fishers to monitor and restore fish habitat in Port Phillip Bay

- 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.
- VRFish represented recreational fishers on the Native Fish Report Card Steering Committee with Victorian Fisheries Authority, DELWP, Arthur Rylah Institute and CMA's. The project has collected the first year of data and produced an online data portal.
- Presentations at Fisher and Flows forum in Bendigo, Codference in Shepparton, Talk Wild Trout in Mansfield and Fish Habitat Forum in Myrtleford. Supported Fish Habitat Masterclass Workshop at Lake Boga.
- Participated in VEWH Environmental Water Forum, Glenelg-Hopkins CMA environmental water committee and gave evidence to the Parliamentary inquiry into environmental water.

Steavenson River Angler Riparian Partnership Project

On the 5th May 2018, more than 60 passionate anglers invested their time to improve fish habitat and the local fishery on the Steavenson River near Marysville by planting around 600 trees and shrubs. It all started with two anglers, Kris Leckie from VRFish and Adam Cox from the Australian Trout Foundation, contacting their local Catchment Management Authority to say that this 1km stretch of river needed some TLC. It was a sensational turn out with the support from VRFish, the Australian Trout Foundation, and Goulburn Broken CMA and all of the passionate volunteers.



Native Fish Forum Canberra

In August 2017, VRFish attended to the Murray Darling Basin Native Fish Forum, themed "Fish, Flows, Habitat and Heroes". The forum provided a fantastic opportunity to hear first-hand current science from a broad cross-section of Australia's leading scientists and change-makers on improving our fisheries in the MDB.



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

Access is arguably the biggest issue facing recreational fishers. Ensuring better access and facilities so that all people, of all ages, backgrounds, demographics and ability can enjoy the range of fishing opportunities Victoria has to offer, is a high priority for VRFish. The State's boating governance and funding system is broken and requires reform. The net result is many frustrated fishers and multitude of boat ramps requiring urgent remediation works.

Regrettably, there are many areas where either fishing is not permitted, restricted or not part of the fishing stocking program. VRFish and its members spend countless hours advocating for access and with some success reported in 2017/18. This success has been the culmination of countless hours of volunteer time and efforts from many angling clubs, community groups and local community 'champions'.

2017/18 Highlights

- After nearly 15 years of advocacy, the first batch of native fish were stocked into Rocklands Reservoir to begin creating a new world-class native fishery in the Grampians Region.
- A stalemate preventing fishing access at Dartmouth Pondage was resolved with the support of the Victorian Fisheries Authority to the delight of local anglers after many years of campaigning by VRFish.
- Successful on-water access campaign at Devilbend Reservoir with Parks Victoria permitting non-powered vessels on part on the reservoir, new canoe launching facilities as well as the extension of the floating pontoon.
- Protecting our rights to camp and have campfires through consultation with Parks Victoria on the River Red Gum Park Management Plan.
- Halted a 1000% increase in proposed fines on Crown Land Water Frontages.
- Supported the Metropolitan Angling Association campaign for new boating infrastructure on the Maribrynnong River which saw the completion of a feasibility study identifying a preferred site near Flemington Racecourse.



- Promoted the urgent need for works and upgrades at Rye Boat Ramp, Corinella Boat Ramp, Lake Bullen Merri and Kirks Point.
- Supported the Westernport Angling Club to protect its clubrooms and its designs for the Hastings Foreshore Precinct Plan.
- Engaged with DELWP planning process for Launching Way to ensure that this premier facility remains the best boat launching facility in the state.
- Supported Warrnambool fishers for the need of safe harbor at Warrnambool at a community forum and submission to council.
- Participation on the land and on-water committees for Lake Eppalock and Lake Eildon to plan for and improve fishing experiences and access.

- Dartmouth reopening





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.



2017/18 Highlights

- Conducted survey of nearly 1900 fishers to determine priorities for further investment and attention to make fishing better in Victoria.
- A new content-based website was launched in March 2018 to support our strategic communications and promotion of fishing in Victoria.
- VRFish supported the second National Gone Fishing Day through promotion with Victorian fishing clubs, community groups and supported the National Campaign coordinated by the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation. An interactive map of Gone Fishing Day events was developed and VRFish participated in a major event in Geelong run by Fishcare and local angling clubs.
- Ongoing promotion of Family Fishing Lakes as an affordable and enjoyable fishing experience for children and their families.
- Supported Goulburn-Murray Water's rejuvenation of facilities at Kimbolton Foreshore, Lake Eppalock to provide a better fishing experience and appeal for family groups.
- Developed a partnership with GoFish Nagambie event which will showcase the economic and social benefits of creating quality native fisheries.



Best Practice

Promoting Best Practice Fisheries Management & 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

VRFish provides leadership in promoting best practice behaviours and attitudes with our sector as well as helping the fishing community become aware of their rights and obligations. Recreational fishers strongly support sustainably managed fisheries and VRFish is involved in providing advice in the development of fisheries management plans and inputting consolidated views of our sector on a range of management issues. VRFish and our members play an integral role in shaping the annual inland fishing stocking program to maximise the benefits for all Victorian fishers and regional communities.

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VRFish provides leadership in promoting best practice behaviours and attitudes with our sector as well as helping the fishing community become aware of their rights and obligations.

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VRFish Priorities 04 continued

Best Practice



2017/18 Highlights

- Produced a re-designed and enhanced Code of Conduct for all Victorian fishers.
- Strategic input into the development of the Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan through roles on the stakeholder steering committee.
- Developed a specific handling and release campaign, Care for Cod, with the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Native Fish Australia.
- Brought fishers and fishery managers together to discuss solutions for our depleted sand flathead stocks in Port Phillip Bay.
- Helped form the Victorian Alliance for Platypus Safe Yabby nets to successfully advocate for the phase out of enclosed yabby traps, including opera house traps to protect wildlife through retailers and the Victorian Government.
- VRFish members and associated clubs and associations were again involved in Vic Stock meetings in August and September 2017 to shape the annual fishing stocking plan and priorities across Victoria.
- Input into policy and government consultation processes with the following: Port Phillip Bay commercial fishery, new trout regulatory changes, ray protection, pipi management plan, freshwater fisheries, abalone and rock lobster.
- Development of a policy for Southern bluefin tuna and carp.
- Support for, and awareness of, the National Carp Control Plan with fishers including involvement in regional stakeholder meetings and promotion of communication information sessions.

National Carp Control Plan

VRFish has been a strong advocate for ensuring delivery of the National Carp Control Plan (NCCP), including through representing recreational fishers on the Victorian Carp Stakeholder Reference Group and participation in community briefing sessions across Victoria. Throughout the past year, VRFish has utilised a number of communication channels to both build a better understanding of the threats of the carp on our native fish populations and health of our waterways, to support the extension of research findings and prevent misinformation around any potential carp control measures. In June 2018, VRFish wrote to Federal Agriculture Minister David Littleproud expressing concerns about a funding shortfall and requesting the allocated funds be set aside to safeguard the implementation of the NCCP.

Sand Flathead Focus Group

Sand flathead stocks in Port Phillip Bay have experienced persistent decline over the past 18 years. Motivated by ongoing concerns of recreational fishers and a desire to see the fishery better managed, VRFish advocated for the formation of a stakeholder meeting to discuss management options for the fishery. As a result, VRFish worked in partnership with the Victorian Fisheries Authority to deliver a focus group on 23rd May 2018, providing interested recreational sand flathead fishers with the opportunity to hear about current science on the sand flathead fishery and discuss their concerns and expectations for the fishery. Michelle Wenner from VRFish presented the results of a survey of fishers that was undertaken in March to April 2018 to better understand levels and drivers of sand flathead fishing satisfaction in Port Phillip Bay.



Let's make fishing better, for everyone.



RECREATIONAL FISHING CODE OF CONDUCT

VRFISH HAS DEVELOPED THIS CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RECREATIONAL BOAT, SHORE, RIVER, STREAM AND JETTY FISHERS IN VICTORIA.

Recreational fishers have a responsibility to look after fisheries resources for the benefit of the environment and future generations of fishers. This Code of Conduct provides guidelines to minimise conflicts on the water, demonstrate best practice for responsible fishing and result in a more enjoyable fishing experience for all.

1

Awareness of and compliance with fishing **REGULATIONS**.



6

Always seek **PERMISSION** when entering private property.



2

RESPECT the rights of other anglers and users.



7

Use **ESTABLISHED** access roads and tracks.



3

PROTECT and restore the environment and fish habitat.



8

ATTEND to your fishing gear and value your catch.



4

Carefully return **UNDERSIZED**, oversized, protected or unwanted catch back to the water.



9

EDUCATION - pass on your knowledge.



5

Fish species and other organisms must not be **RELOCATED**/transferred into other water bodies.



10

Respect Aboriginal sites, **CULTURE** and values.



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

We strive to be a high performing organisation that has a strong foundation built around our members and collaborative partnerships. With our limited resources we must leverage our success and achievement through the tireless advocacy of our volunteer membership and working in partnership with a range of other organisations. As the peak body for recreational fishing we continue to be open, transparent and accountable to maintain support from recreational fishers.

2017/18 Highlights

- Completed rebranding process and adopted new logo and mission statement of “Let’s Make Fishing Better for Everyone” introduced during 2017/18.
- Preparation and release of a State Election Policy platform which was compiled through member workshops and an online survey of nearly 1900 fishers.
- Development towards a new membership model and re-drafted Constitution to represent more fishers and meet the future needs of Victorian recreational fishers.
- Governance training for VRFish Board.
- Appointment of new Communications Officer in March 2018.
- Growth in our social media channels reach engagement and followers (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).
- Attendance at the Melbourne Boat Show to discuss with fishers our recent achievements, State Election policy and identify issues faced by our sector.



- Became a financial member of the national recreational fishing peak body, the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation, to better represent Victorian fishers on national issues such as Southern bluefin tuna and carp control.
- Participation in Statewide Recreational Roundtable meetings to report on VRFish operations and sectorial issues to Government and fishing stakeholders.

RFL Priorities Survey

During late 2017 over an 8-week period, VRFish conducted a survey of almost 1,900 recreational fishers about their priorities for improving recreational fisheries in Victoria and their overall fishing experience. The survey was conducted with the intent of consolidating the views of a growing and increasingly diverse recreational fishing sector, and using this information to guide VRFish's strategic planning, operations and advice back to Government. The survey results revealed that improving fish habitat is the key area that fishers want to see improvement and investment. This was followed by managing pest species, addressing the decline of fish stocks and teaching children about how to fish.

“

With our limited resources we must leverage our success and achievement through the tireless advocacy of our volunteer membership and working in partnership with a range of other organisations.

”



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS MAKING FISHING BETTER!

**To make fishing better for all Victorians,
VRFish has helped to deliver:**

- A native fish stocking program at Rocklands Reservoir to establish Victoria's next premier native fish fishery.
- *A return to fishing access at Dartmouth pondage.*
- Standing up for upgrades to boating infrastructure, including Rye Boat Ramp.
- *Enhanced Fishing Code of Conduct for all Victorian fishers.*
- Protecting our rights to camp and have campfires in River Red Gum Parks.
- *Saying no to a proposal for a private hydro plant on the Rubicon River.*
- A Care for Cod campaign with the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Native Fish Australia.
- *Bringing fishers and fishery managers together to discuss solutions for our depleted sand flathead stocks in Port Phillip Bay.*
- A Native Fish Recovery Plan for the Gunbower and Loddon Rivers with NCCMA, including Australia's first irrigation fish screen at Cohuna.
- *Halted a 1000% increase in fines on Crown Water Frontage.*
- A phase out of opera house traps to protect wildlife.



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AUSTRALIA

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www.vrfish.com.au

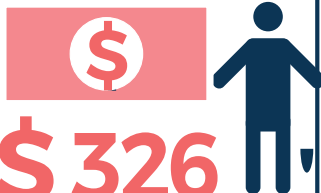
**Let's make
fishing
better, for
everyone.**

Let's make
fishing
better, for
everyone.

THE VALUE & BENEFITS OF FISHING


838,119
adult Victorians go fishing
every year

Average fisher spend


\$326
per trip


6.1 million
fishing trips
PER YEAR




on average, each fisher goes fishing

7.3 times per year




73%
prefer
bait fishing


34,000
jobs
supported
by rec fishing

\$7.1
billion
economic
contribution
to Victorian
economy



Health and Wellness benefits of fishing:

1. Fishing is a great way to spend quality time with family and friends
2. Fishing reduces stress and help you unwind
3. Fishing gets you outdoors
4. Fishing can improve your cardiovascular health
5. Fishing is a healthy lifestyle activity
6. Fishing increases your Vitamin D levels
7. Fishing promotes patience and self-fulfilment
8. Fish are a good source of protein and nutrition
9. Fishing lets you unplug from the digital world
10. Fishing supports conservation

Source: Economic Study of Recreational Fishing in Victoria (2015), undertaken by Ernst & Young and commissioned by VRFish.

Let's make
fishing
better, for
everyone.



VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL
FISHING PEAK BODY

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

To make fishing better for all Victorians, VRFish are currently working on:

- Advocating for governance reforms and new funding models to finally fix our boat ramps.
- Helping Victorian anglers have a say in the development of the National Carp Control Plan.
- *Asking for a fair and respectful compulsory buy-out of the Gippsland Lakes commercial net fishery.*
- *Continuing to promote fishing as a healthy and active activity for all Victorians with over \$7.1b in economic benefits.*
- Advocating for major investment into a habitat fund for on-ground fish habitat action to benefit our marine, estuarine and freshwater fisheries.
- Building capacity in our recreational fishing sector to coordinate and deliver education programs, on-ground work and training and leadership programs to meet current and future challenges.
- *Saying it's time to re-start our artificial reef and Fish Aggregation Device (FADs) program in Victoria.*
- *Advocating for better fishing opportunities and increased fishing access.*
- Gaining support for a new freshwater fish hatchery in Northern Victoria.
- *Promoting Victorian fishers as stewards of our Southern bluefin tuna fishery through the Tuna Champions program.*



VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL
FISHING PEAK BODY



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- Habitat
- Water
- Promote
- Access
- Best Practice

VRFISH PRIORITIES

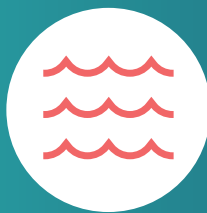
OUR PRIORITIES



Habitat

Improve fish habitat through protection, restoration and enhancement.

Steavenson River Tree Planting Day to restore healthy riparian habitat as part of the Angler Riparian Partnerships program.



Water

Secure water allocations for recreational fishing.

Advocated for more water for Toolondo and promoted the benefits the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline provides our recreational fishing lakes in the region.



Promote

Increase participation and promote benefits.

Conducted survey of nearly 1900 fishers to determine priorities for further investment and attention to make fishing better in Victoria.

Ongoing promotion of Family Fishing Lakes as an affordable and enjoyable fishing experience for children and their families.



Access

Safe, easy and ongoing access.

Fixing our boat ramps.

A return to fishing access at Dartmouth.



Best Practice

Best practice fisheries management and informed fishers.

Enhanced Fishing Code of Conduct for all Victorian fishers.

COMMUNICATION / SOCIAL



likes
7,350



followers
1,042



followers
952



subscribers
13



subscribers
50,631

24 Submissions
(2017-2018)

WHAT WE'VE DONE



To make fishing better for all Victorians, VRFish has helped to deliver:

1. A native fish stocking program at **Rocklands Reservoir** to establish Victoria's next premier native fish fishery.
2. A return to fishing access at **Dartmouth Pondage**.
3. Standing up for upgrades to boating infrastructure, including **Rye Boat Ramp**, **Corinella Boat Ramp**, **Lake Bullen Merri** and **Kirks Point** and a new facility on the **Maribyrnong River**.
4. Advocated for more water for **Lake Toolondo**.
5. Steavenson River Tree Planting Day at **Marysville** to restore healthy riparian habitat as part of the Angler Riparian Partnerships program.
6. A Native Fish Recovery Plan for the Gunbower and Loddon Rivers with the NCCMA, including Australia's first irrigation fish screen at **Cohuna**.
7. Saying no to a proposal for a private hydro plant on the **Rubicon River**.
8. Supporting Albert Park Angling and Yachting Club with the **Port Phillip Bay** Living Shellfish Restoration Program and advocating for its expansion.
9. Successful on-water access campaign at **Devilbend Reservoir** on the Mornington Peninsula.
10. Engaged with DELWP planning process for **Launching Way** to ensure that this premier facility remains the best in the state.
11. Supported Warrnambool fishers for the need of safe harbour at **Warrnambool** at a community forum and submission to council.
12. Participation on the land and on-water committees for **Lake Eppalock** and **Lake Eildon** to plan for and improve fishing experiences and access.
13. Protecting our Southern bluefin tuna recreational fishery through strong advocacy. (**Portland**)

VRFISH PRIORITIES SURVEY



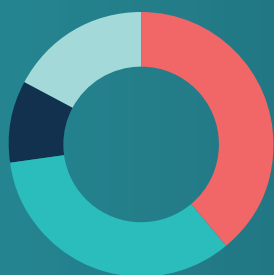
Fishing Access

- 32% From a Boat
- 27% Land-Based
- 41% Both Boat & Land-Based



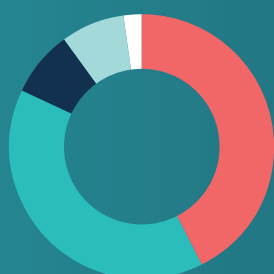
Ecosystem Fish

- 60% Marine Waters
- 39% Estuarine Waters
- 56% Inland Waters



Fisher Type

- 39% Active
- 34% Advanced
- 10% Committed
- 17% Casual

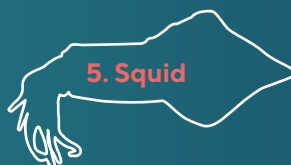


Fishing Satisfaction

Majority of fishers are satisfied with the quality of their fishing.

- 43% Somewhat Satisfied
- 40% Very Satisfied
- 8% Extremely Satisfied
- 8% Not so Satisfied
- 2% Not at all Satisfied

Species Targeted



Fishing Motivation



1. To be Outdoors



2. To Relax



3. To be with Friends & Family



4. For Food



5. For Competition & Sport



6. Fishing Club Activity

Priorities to improve fishing in Victoria



1. Restoring Fish Habitat



2. Increasing Fish Numbers



3. Enforcing fishing rules and regulations



4. Improving fishing facilities



5. Educating people about recreational fishing



6. Improving knowledge and science on fish and fishing

Looking forward, VRFish has launched an 8 point plan to make fishing better.

1

RESTORE FISH HABITAT

*Making Fishing Better Through
Better Habitat*

2

FIX OUR BOAT RAMPS

*BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE
GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING REFORMS*

3

SAVE OUR GIPPSLAND LAKES

*Fish Recovery Plan for
Gippsland Lakes*

4

SUPPORT A STRONGER VOICE FOR ALL FISHERS

*Recognising Fishing Industry
Peak Bodies*

5

MORE FISH, AND BETTER FISHING

Growing New Fishing Opportunities

6

INVEST IN OUR SECTOR

*Enhancing Our Recreational Fishing
Trust Account*

7

EMPOWER RECREATIONAL FISHERS

*Investing in Our People,
Our Sector*

8

PLAN FOR OUR FISHING FUTURE

Responsible Fisheries Management

VRFish

Financial Report

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

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VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report together with the financial report of Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body Ltd ("the Company") for the year ended 30 June 2018, and the auditor's report thereon.

DIRECTORS

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

Name

Rob Loats (Chair)
Steven Relf
John Hotchin
Franz Grasser
Russell Conway
Priya Cardinaletti (1 July to 28 October)
Joy Sloan
Geoff Fisher
Robert Caune (1 July to October)
Marty Ellul (from 28 October to 17 July)
Kris Leckie (from 28 October – current)

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: 51 Yarra Street, Geelong VIC 3220.

Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body Ltd ('VR Fish') 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 loss for the period ended 30 June 2018 amounted to \$1,355 (2017: profit \$22,702).

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, or the state of affairs of the Company in the future financial years.

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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 auditors' independence declaration forms part of the directors' report for the period ended 30 June 2018. This financial report is made with a resolution of the directors.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors:



Robert Loats

Director



Steven Relf

Director

5th September 2018
Melbourne

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
<hr/>			
Revenue			
Core funding		456,552	449,877
Other Income		1,660	7,097
		<hr/> 458,212	<hr/> 456,974
 Expenses			
Administration		19,001	22,052
Advertising & Marketing		14,563	33,821
Audit		5,500	5,500
Board & Meeting Expenses		24,152	19,334
Depreciation		6,563	1,672
Equipment Costs		2,603	2,204
Exhibitions & Conferences		3,196	10,041
Insurance		8,551	7,042
Motor Vehicle		-	2,859
Project Expenditure		6,009	19,919
Rent		17,573	24,570
Salary & Wages		291,027	233,692
State Council Expenses		19,049	24,741
Telecommunications		5,332	3,215
Travel		16,977	5,373
Other		19,471	18,237
		<hr/> 459,597	<hr/> 434,272
 Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		(1,355)	22,702
 Other comprehensive income		<hr/> -	<hr/> -
 Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year		<hr/> (1,355)	<hr/> 22,702

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	125,728	110,668
Trade and other receivables	4	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		125,728	110,668
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant & equipment	5	22,654	13,574
Intangible assets	6	682	682
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		23,336	14,256
TOTAL ASSETS		149,064	124,924
LIABILITIES			
Payables	7	12,529	492
Financial liabilities	8	(859)	(6,193)
Current tax liabilities	9	3,128	563
Provisions	10	17,885	12,326
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		32,683	7,188
TOTAL LIABILITIES		32,638	7,188
NET ASSETS		116,381	117,736
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		116,381	117,736
TOTAL EQUITY		116,381	117,736

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	RESERVES	TOTAL EQUITY
2018	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance	117,736	-	117,736
Transfer to or from reserve	-	-	-
Comprehensive result for the period	(1,355)	-	(1,355)
CLOSING BALANCE			
AT 30 JUNE 2018	116,381	-	116,381

	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			
AT 30 JUNE 2017	117,736	-	117,736

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received from operations		514,020	517,192
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(485,098)	(499,806)
Interest received		1,781	3,182
Interest and other costs of finance		-	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	11	<u>30,703</u>	<u>20,568</u>
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for fixed assets		(15,643)	(11,208)
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>(15,643)</u>	<u>(11,208)</u>
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of borrowings		-	-
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents held		15,060	9,540
Cash at the beginning of the year		<u>110,668</u>	<u>101,128</u>
Cash at the end of the year	3	<u>125,728</u>	<u>110,668</u>

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

NOTE 1: CORPORATE INFORMATION

The financial statements of the Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body Ltd (the "Company") for the year ended 30 June 2018 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the directors on September 2018.

Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body Ltd is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

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.

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(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.

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

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 yrs
Office Equipment	3-5 yrs

(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.

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(i) Employee benefits (continued)

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*.

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(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.

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.

NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
BB-CMTA	103,767	81,458
BB-CMTA - Project Account	29,961	29,127
Petty Cash	-	82
	125,728	110,668

NOTE 4: TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
	-	-

NOTE 5: PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Plant & Equipment		
At Cost	47,371	31,728
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(24,717)	(18,154)
	22,654	13,574

NOTE 6: INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Patents and Trademarks - at cost	682	682
	682	682

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
NOTE 7: PAYABLES		
Trade Creditors	-	-
Accrued wages	12,037	-
Superannuation Payable	492	492
	<u>12,529</u>	<u>492</u>

NOTE 8: FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

Visa Card – advance payment	(859)	(6,193)
	<u>(859)</u>	<u>(6,193)</u>

NOTE 9: CURRENT TAX LIABILITIES

FBT Payable	-	1,048
GST Clearing	(1,570)	(623)
PAYG Withholding Payable	4,698	138
	<u>3,128</u>	<u>563</u>

NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

Annual Leave	17,885	12,326
	<u>17,885</u>	<u>12,326</u>

NOTE 11: RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Cash flows from operating activities

Surplus/(loss) for the period	(1,355)	22,702
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Non-cash flows in profit from ordinary activities

Depreciation	6,563	1,672
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Changes in assets and liabilities

(Increase)/decrease in trade & other receivables	-	17,494
Increase/(decrease) in trade & other payables	25,495	(21,300)
Net cash from operating activities	<u>30,703</u>	<u>20,568</u>

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

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 operation of the Company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Company, in future financial years.

NOTE 13: CONTINGENCIES & OTHER COMMITMENTS

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

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Within one year	-	1,873
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,873</u>

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

Within one year	16,133	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	56,467	-
	<u>72,600</u>	

There are no other contingencies and other commitments as of 30 June 2018.

NOTE 14: RELATED PARTIES

The directors act in an honorary capacity and receive no compensation for their services. There were no related party payments or transactions to any of the director 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 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2020 and annual funding is determined based on submission of a business plan and budget by VRFish to DEDJTR.

VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LTD
ABN 47 068 111 624

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors declare that in their opinion:

- (a) The attached financial statements and notes thereto comply with 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.



Robert Loats

Director



Steven Relf

Director

Melbourne

Dated: 5 September 2018

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY LIMITED

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body Limited (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the director's declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Victorian Recreational 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 2018 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

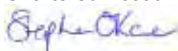
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that 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 1st day of October 2018
250 Collins Street, Melbourne.

LDAssurance

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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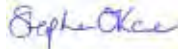
Auditor's independence declaration to under Section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001*

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 2018 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 1st day of October 2018
250 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



Who We Are

When decisions are made that affect our fisheries we advocate for recreational fishing interests. We love fishing, just like you. Whether it's fish habitat, water security and quality, fishing access and infrastructure or best practice, we aim to work in partnership to make sure Victoria's fishing experiences continue to improve, are sustainable and more enjoyable for all generations of Victorians.

Established in 1995 as the Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body, VRFish, we advocate for and represent Victoria's recreational fishers – a community which now exceeds 838,000 individuals. VRFish are fishers supporting fishers.

We provide an independent, unaffiliated political voice to Government regarding areas which impact our favourite pastime – recreational fishing.

VRFish provides a strategic and representative voice for the Victorian recreational fishing sector by utilising the expertise and experience of our members and engaging with the community to inform the development of policy and provide responses to Government that represent the views of Victorian recreational fishers.



– Paul Thomas GFD
Nagambie Angling Comp



– A Steavenson River
Planting Day

Habitat - Water - Promote - Access - Best Practice



VRFish encourages all Victorian fishers to adopt responsible fishing practices and behaviours to ensure they not only follow the rules but to ensure the sustainability of our fisheries for future generations.

www.vrfish.com.au



- Albert Park Yachting &
Angling Club



- Rocklands Reservoir
Stocking

**Let's make
fishing
better, for
everyone.**



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