



LACROSSE
VICTORIA

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Images Courtesy of Alex Fagan Lax Pics



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

Position	Director	Attendance	Tenure
Chairperson	Jessica Symonds	12/12	2020 - 2022 (Chair September 2020)
Deputy Chairperson	Damian Raper	11/12	2019 - 2021
Acting Director of Finance	Anne Hodder	12/12	2020 - 2021
Secretary	Ben Stone	9/9	April 2020 - 2022
Ordinary Director	Simon Atkins	11/12	2020 - 2022
Ordinary Director	Meredith Hodson	11/12	2019 - 2021
Ordinary Director	Elena Theinschnack	12/12	2020 - 2022
Appointed Director	Rebecca Chapman	9/9	April 2020 – 2022
Interim Chairperson	Theodora Kwas	8/8	2019 - 2020 (Resigned August 2020)
Interim General Manager	Michael Sholly	11/11	February 2020
General Manager	Sam Watson	1/1	January 2020

Audit and Risk Subcommittee

Chair: Anne Hodder

Marketing and Communications Advisory Group

Chair: Elena Theinschnack

Participation Advisory Group

Chair: Meredith Hodson

Commercial Advisory Group

Chair: Simon Atkins

People and Culture Advisory Group

Chair: Damian Raper



LIFE MEMBERS

Mr P Shappere 1925*
Mr W J Lampard 1925*
Mr G A Beech 1929*
Mr W B House 1929*
Mr T L Fulton 19--*
Mr H Balmer 1933*
Mr Joel Fox 19--*
Capt Fearon 19--*
Mr A E G Webb 1947*
Mr G Flood 1948*
Mr J L Beattie 1949*
Mr E L McIntyre 1951*
Mr I J Taylor 1956*
Mr R Coldstream 1960*
Mr C F Lansbury 1961*
Mr N R Jeffrey 1963*
Mr C G Middleton 1964*
Mr B Newgreen 1965*
Mrs Joy Parker 1966*
Mr R N Ponton Snr 1966*
Mr F D Hogarth 1967*
Mrs D Pearson 1968*
Mr H Volk 1968*
Mrs M Carpenter 1969*
Mr M Taylor 1971*
Mrs S Taylor 1971
Mrs M Cheevers 1973*
Mr T Allington 1975*
Mr R G Holden 1976*
Mr H D Miller 1977
Mr W L Gray 1978*
Mr G F Tillotson 1979*
Mr K R Waite 1980*
Mr D W Fox 1981
Mr L W Taylor 1982*
Mr P A Humphreys 1983*

Mr A F Chiron 1984
Ms D Appleby 1985
Mrs K Kendall 1985*
Mr J Clayfield 1985*
Mrs V Parker-White 1985
Mrs M Weatherhill 1985
Mr B Moore 1986
Mr R E Jackson 1987
Mrs J Jackson 1989
Mrs V Orr 1991
Mr D V Trainor 1991
Mr F Durham 1992*
Mrs N Williamson 1992*
Mr R D Morgan 1993
Ms S Gandy 1993
Mrs J Clerk 1994
Mr R M Russell 1994*
Mr R Clerk 1995
Mr R L Speakman 1995
Mr E A Nicholls 1996
Mr R E Pettit 1997*
Mr J W Daw 1999
Mr G F Sharpe 2000
Mr A J Inglis 2001
Ms S Maher 2001
Mr A H Gandy 2002*
Mr N D McDonald 2003
Mr J A Harris 2004
Mr G J Lee 2005
Ms K Palmer 2006
Mr D G Ross 2006
Mr P Mollison 2008
Mr L Goding 2009*
Mr A Black 2010
Mr F Stewart 2012
Mr J Nolan 2014
Mr D Joy 2017



CHAIR REPORT

Board Chair Jess Symonds

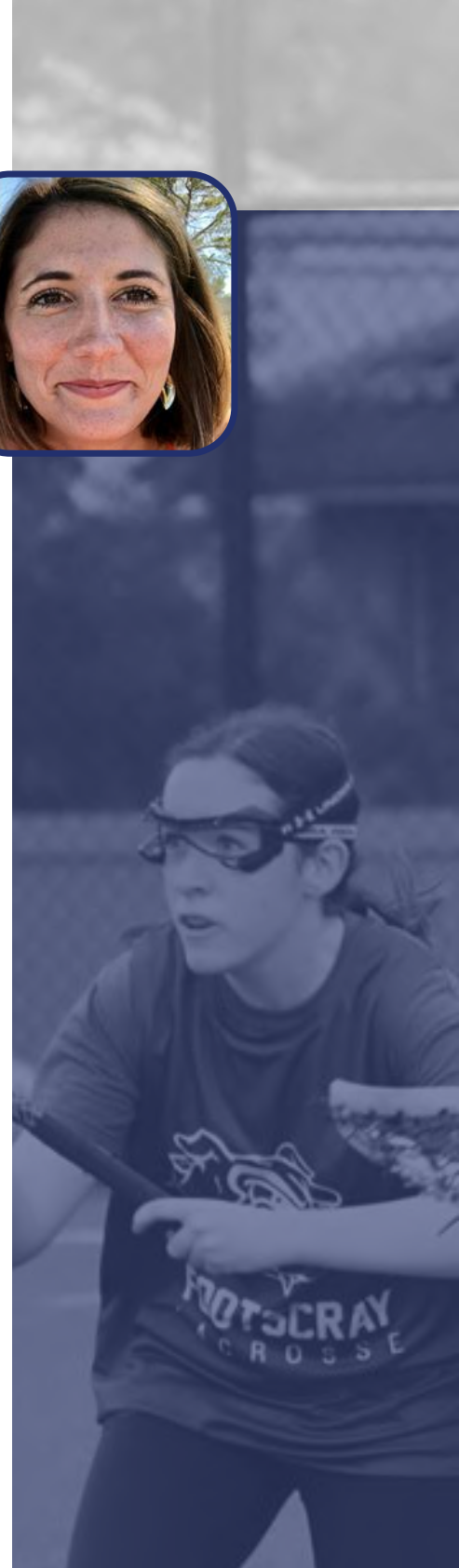


As we are all well aware, 2020 was a challenging year. It seems strange to be penning an annual report for Lacrosse Victoria in a year where we were unable to fixture a season. But even with only minimal minutes on the field, as an organisation we have been able to achieve some great feats and have fronted some incredible challenges, all of which have meant we stand here in 2021 looking forward to a bright future.

I officially took on the Chair role in October 2020, from Theodora Kwas. Theo jumped headfirst into the role in interim, unaware of what lay ahead. Theo guided the organisation diligently and I extend our heartfelt thanks to her for her efforts and wish her the best of luck as she focuses on her 2022 world cup campaign.

In 2020, we officially welcomed Michael Sholly as Lacrosse Victoria General Manager. Michael is a highly successful sports executive who specialises in strategic planning and leadership. Michael brings with him a wealth of experience; from department head of St Kevin's College, CEO of the Victorian Amateur Football Association, and interim CEO of VicSport, all of which will be integral as we work to grow our game. With the help of the Job Keeper government subsidy, we were also able to retain all staff members in 2020. We look forward to seeing our staff develop over the coming years under Michael's leadership.

Sadly, at the end of 2020 we received the resignation of Maureen Austin who has been with the organisation for 17 years. Maureen has been incredibly committed to the organisation and has a deep knowledge of the intricacies of Lacrosse in Victoria which will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best as she ventures into retirement and thank her for her dedication to our sport.

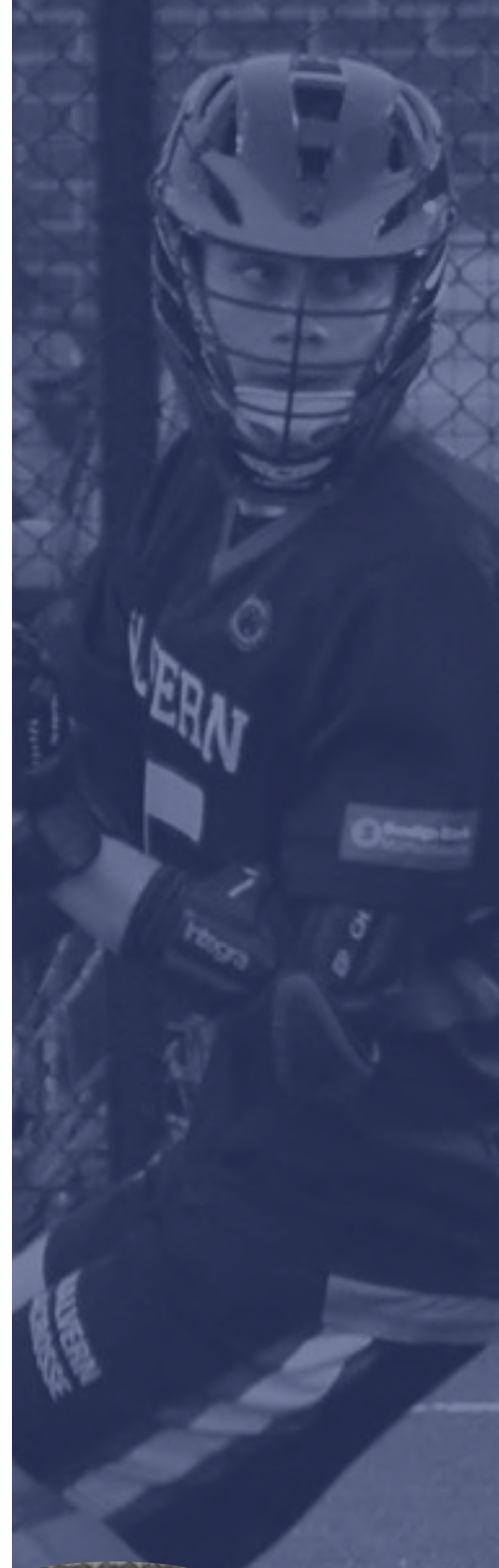


In 2020, with Michael's guidance the organisation was able to secure our largest ever grant from Sport and Recreation Victoria to ensure the financial stability of the organisation during the pandemic. This came about through the hard work of the office and in particular Maureen Austin and Michael whom we extend our thanks. We were also able to secure a number of smaller grants that assisted us in our ability to support our clubs and not charge membership fees for 2020. This decision was presented to the board after the hard work of Finance Director Anne Hodder and was made unanimously.

Throughout 2020, the board met via Zoom, on some occasions multiple times a month to manage sensitive decisions. I thank the board for handling this adjustment so diligently and volunteering their time. It was a period of great adaptation for the staff who also moved to remote work. The Triball lacrosse school program was moved to an online initiative by staff member Kristen. It was great to see many players engage socially across the various challenges to win individual and club prizes. The DIY lacrosse sticks were particularly ingenious!

Over the year, Lacrosse Victoria have worked closely with Australia Lacrosse Association and the other states associations. I believe our working relationships have grown and been hardened because of the unusual circumstances we found ourselves in. We look forward to building on these positive relationships moving forward and to seeing national events being reinstated so we can build our high-performance programs.

Approaching the end of the first lockdown we formed the return to play committee with members of the lacrosse community coming together over zoom to discuss a road map back to play. These groups are always vital in allowing the organisation to understand the concerns and experiences of individuals and clubs but were even more valuable through COVID.



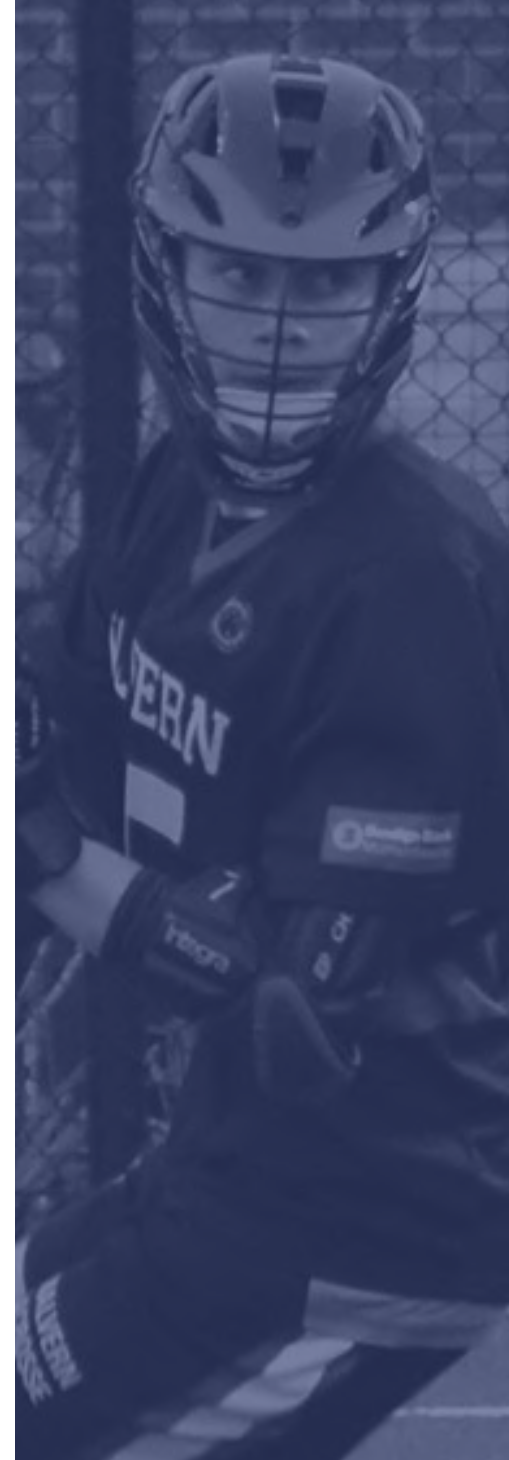
Sean Aaron worked tirelessly to ensure a safe and inviting environment for our lacrosse community, however the season was cancelled when we were thrown into a second lockdown with only a few club trainings under the belt. I look forward to seeing more committees and forums in the future and encourage all members to ensure they throw their hat in the ring and contribute to the conversations that form the basis of much of the operations decision making.

A great highlight came at the end of the year when we saw over 440 junior lacrosse players take to the field to compete in the 6v6 junior competition prior to Christmas. Lacrosse Victoria were able to host this tournament free of charge for our clubs and we were also able to gift players a water bottle to thank them for their participation. I headed out to Altona to watch the last day of the boy's competition in the sun. It was a strange mix of joy and relief to finally see our game being played again. Kids across Victoria in particular had a really challenging year, it was so rewarding to see them back out on the field playing in their club colours with their teammates, with friends and family cheering them on.

I extend my thanks to the lacrosse community who have rallied together over a tough year. I am all too aware of the blood sweat and tears that goes into running a club, often by significant individual efforts. As we turn a corner into a COVID normal world, be kind and patient with each other.

Looking forward to seeing lacrosse go from strength to strength.

Jess Symonds
LV Chair



GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Interim General Manager Michael Sholly



In most Australian's lives, 2020 was like no other. Within a short period during March our lives were turned upside down with a global Pandemic and Victoria declared a state of emergency. With the Lacrosse Victoria (LV) administration in a transitional phase, I was appointed as Interim General Manager to replace Sam Watson who had departed to pursue other opportunities.

Immediately restrictions were imposed, and all competitions suspended. This was not just a lacrosse issue but all sports in the state of Victoria were shut down. There were glimpses of opportunities; however, when the second wave of cases caused another lockdown during July, we were left with no alternative but to cancel the regular season.

As a result, the Federal Government initiated the Jobkeeper scheme which provided some comfort to the staff who were able to continue their roles on a limited schedule. The motivation for a sports administrator is to plan events and see these come to fruition through competition. As we were living in an ever-changing environment, the staff were optimistically planning in the hope that we could go back on the playing fields and compete. It was an extremely disheartening time for all.

As an organisation we applied for as many funding opportunities that were available. These included various business grants along with those available to State Sporting Associations. As a result of these, Lacrosse Victoria was able to remain active and prepare ourselves for any opportunities that were presented.

A huge success story was from a grant we received from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV), which allowed our junior players to play in a 6v6 competition during November and December. Never has lacrosse ventured into the spring/summer season but remaining agile gave us the opportunity to seize on this.

More detail is provided in the Competitions Report, but this competition was brought about through the team's efforts at Lacrosse Victoria. Maureen Austin diligently spied all funding opportunities and led the application. LV Competitions Officer, Sean Aaron led the logistical management and was ably assisted by LV Development Officer, Matthew Keogh.



I would like to thank all the clubs who eagerly gathered their players and participate in this tournament. Over 440 junior players participated over the course of the program. We were also delighted to be able to zone the matches at three venues, Hawthorn Hockey Club, MCC Beaumaris and the Altona and Newport Ladies Lacrosse Clubs, who, without their support, we would never have been able to be hold this competition.

Prior to the Covid pandemic we conducted a senior 6v6 competition with 10 teams participating. This competition was conducted to provide feedback to the World Lacrosse Association for their application as an exhibition sport at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

As a result of support from various grants we were able to achieve a surplus of \$25,248. This is an excellent result considering the circumstances. A great result for 2020 but we must recognise the ongoing financial issues facing the sport.

It is anticipated that participation in all sports in Victoria will be reduced in 2021 and beyond. The task of getting players back to your club will, no doubt, be a difficult task. We are hopeful that the junior competition conducted at the end of last year will provide the juniors with the motivation to return.

We will again be conducting the senior 6 v 6 competition in pre-season 2021 and we are confident that this competition will again provide an opportunity for players to return to the clubs prior to the field competition commencing.

The Board has worked cohesively during the year, and I would like to thank Interim Chair Theadora Kwas who led the organisation so admirably. Jess Symonds took over the position in December and her enthusiasm for the sport is unquestioned. Thanks also to all the directors for their support.

Finally, to the staff for their unrelenting commitment to the sport. My appointment was completed during a turbulent period and I thank the staff for their support when decisions being made were affecting their livelihood.

I look forward to working with the Board and the clubs in ensuring a successful return to their clubs in the upcoming season.

Michael Sholly
Interim General Manager



SEASON REPORT

On the 24 March 2020, the Lacrosse Victoria (LV) Board came to the decision to cancel all lacrosse activities until Sunday 31 May and postponing the regular season to weekend of June 13 and 14. This decision was made based on the State & Federal restrictions enforced due to Covid-19 and additional information provided by health agencies.

On 1 May, LV established the Return to Play Advisory Group whose aim was to ensure that a proactive approach is undertaken towards the recommencement of lacrosse activities across the state and to ensure maximum participation and advise the LV board of their findings. The first topics the group focused on were the recommencement of club training (under possible restrictions) and the recommencement of season with possibility of making changes to the season format.

As the state lockdown continued longer than anticipated the regular season did not commence on the June 13 and 14 weekend. The State Government announced the easing of restrictions on 14 June. In accordance with this announcement LV declared on 26 June that the 2020 Junior season will commence on July 11 and 12 and the Senior season will begin on July 25 and 26.

On 30 June the Victorian State Government announced lockdowns across ten different Melbourne postcodes, some of which effected LV member clubs. Consequently, the LV Board postponed the 2020 start dates for both junior and senior seasons on July 3. The start date for Junior competition was pushed back two weeks to commence on the weekend of July 25 and 26, and Senior competition put back a week to commence on the first weekend of August.

On July 7, Premier Daniel Andrews announced that metropolitan Melbourne and the Shire of Mitchell would re-enter lockdown from July 9, for 6 weeks. With a lack of preparation time available to clubs and the likelihood of major restrictions still being in place for the rest of the year, the LV Board advised with great disappointment that the official 2020 regular field season was cancelled for both the seniors and juniors. LV continued to work to identify and facilitate participation opportunities for members based on restrictions from the government. Some participation opportunities included social media contests, skill drill videos and once restrictions allowed the Junior 6v6 competition.



2020 TIMELINE

MAR 16

State of Emergency Declared

MAR 24

Season Postponed to June 13 & 14

MAY 1

Return To Play Advisory Group Established

JUN 13

Regular Season Not Started Due To Lockdown

JUN 14

Restrictions Ease

JUN 26

Announced Junior Season Commencing July 11 & Senior Season July 25

JUN 30

Lockdowns across 10 Melbourne Postcodes

JUL 3

Start Dates For Season Postponed

JUL 7

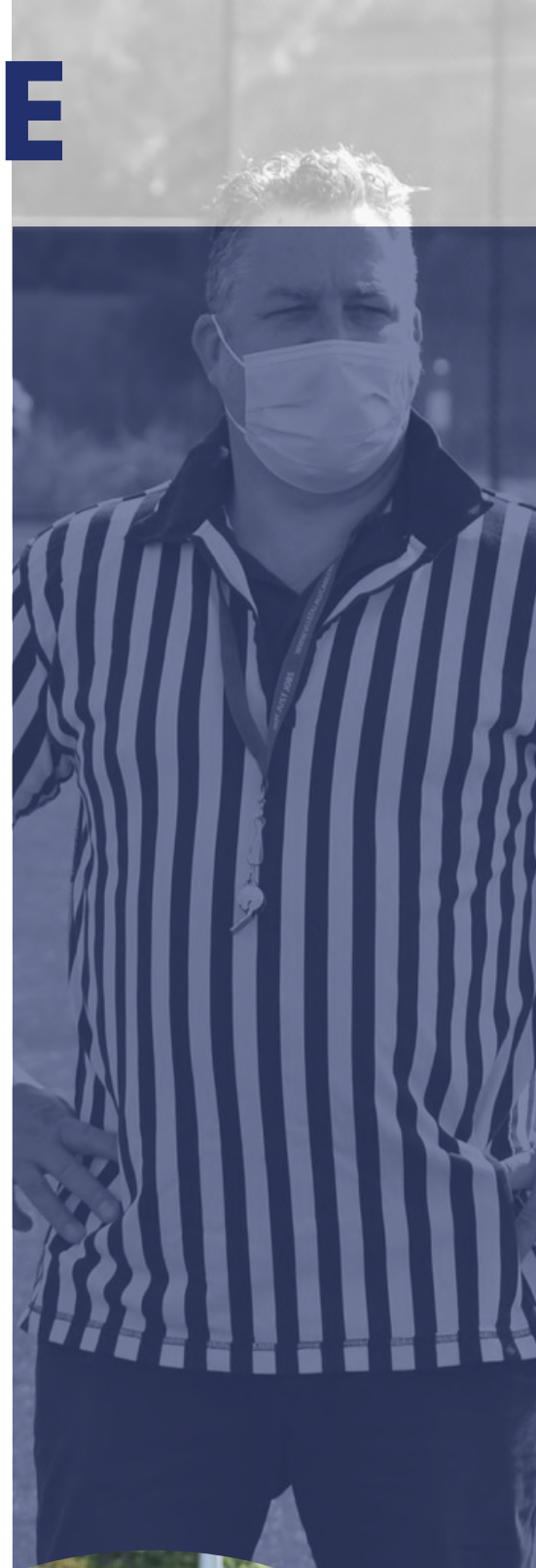
Lockdown Announced For Melbourne For 6 Weeks

JUL 10

Official 2020 Field Season Cancelled

NOV 21

Lacrosse Returns In Victoria With The Junior 6v6



COMPETITION RESULTS

State League Men

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

State League Women

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Division 1 Men

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

A Grade Women

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Division 2 Men

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

B Grade

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Division 3 Men

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Under 17 Boys

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Under 17 Girls

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Under 15 Boys

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Under 15 Girls

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Under 13 Boys

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Under 13 Girls

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Under 11 Boys Lightning Carnival

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Indoor

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Nell Rawlins Award

Not awarded due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Past Presidents' Award

Not awarded due to COVID-19 Pandemic



SENIOR 6V6

Taking place over four evenings from Saturday 1 February through until Saturday 22 February Lacrosse Victoria's inaugural 6v6 competition gave participants the opportunity to dust off their sticks. Each week provided a variety of playing conditions from the very wet to picture perfect and everything in between.

Utilising World Lacrosse's 6v6 rules, which have been submitted as part of a bid to see lacrosse in the Olympics, teams played in non-competitive, friendly matches where both the intensity and sportsmanship were at a high level. Seventy-two players from six teams were involved in the Men's division with Camberwell, Caulfield, Chadstone, Malvern and MCC representing the Victorian club contingent as well as the Australian Men's National Team taking part. On the Women's side four teams were made up of 40 players from Camberwell, Footscray, Newport & Williamstown Women.

Surveyed participants found the new format to be extremely enjoyable to play due to its fast pace, and the relaxed yet still competitive matches, with much excitement being had by spectators.

LV would like to give special thanks to MCC Lacrosse for their great hospitality and assistance with setup, John Barlow for the creation of the timers & all participants, officials & scorers for being involved in a very new but successful program.



SENIOR 6V6



Credit: Alex Fagan Lax Pics

JUNIOR 6V6

Due to the unprecedented events of 2020 both the Senior & Junior field seasons were cancelled. As government restrictions began to ease, Lacrosse Victoria (LV) were given the opportunity to provide a modified competition for junior members free of charge.

The modified competition took place during November and December and utilised modified rules based on World Lacrosse's 6v6 rules. A total of 43 teams across the junior boys' and girls' divisions participated. To accommodate more participants under the Victorian Government restrictions, divisions were adjusted to U19, U16, U13 and U11, which allowed for more juniors to participate.

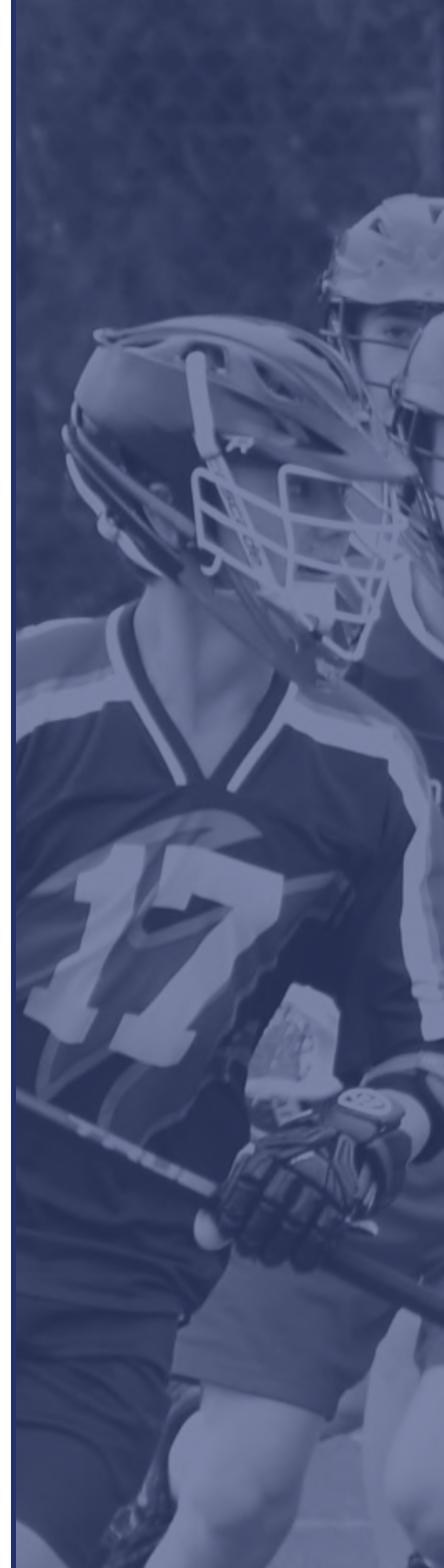
Over the five weeks over 440 players participated, which in turn helped LV achieve extra goals within the Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) 6v6 funding grant. The grant goal was to have just 4 junior teams, with approximately 40 players participate and instead there were 43 teams and over 440 players. Three venues were utilised for the competition, with special thanks going to Altona, Newport and MCC who always had volunteers ready to help set up & Hawthorn Hockey Club for allowing the use of the facilities.

Support from Australian Lacrosse Referee Association (ALRA) was also appreciated with men's and women's officials mentoring club officials each week and lending their experience to teach the rules to the club officials.

On the final week all participants, coaches, officials & volunteers were presented with a Lacrosse Victoria drink bottle and a selected member from each team receiving a coach's award also received a \$30 voucher donated from lacrossegear.com.au

This was a hugely successful event and consideration will be given to maximizing participation at all levels utilising the 6v6 rules.

Matt Keogh
Participation Officer



JUNIOR 6V6



Credit: Alex Fagan Lax Pics

STATE TEAM RESULTS

Senior Mens' Nationals

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Senior Womens' Nationals

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

U18 Mens' Nationals

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

U18 Womens' Nationals

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

U15 Boys' Nationals

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

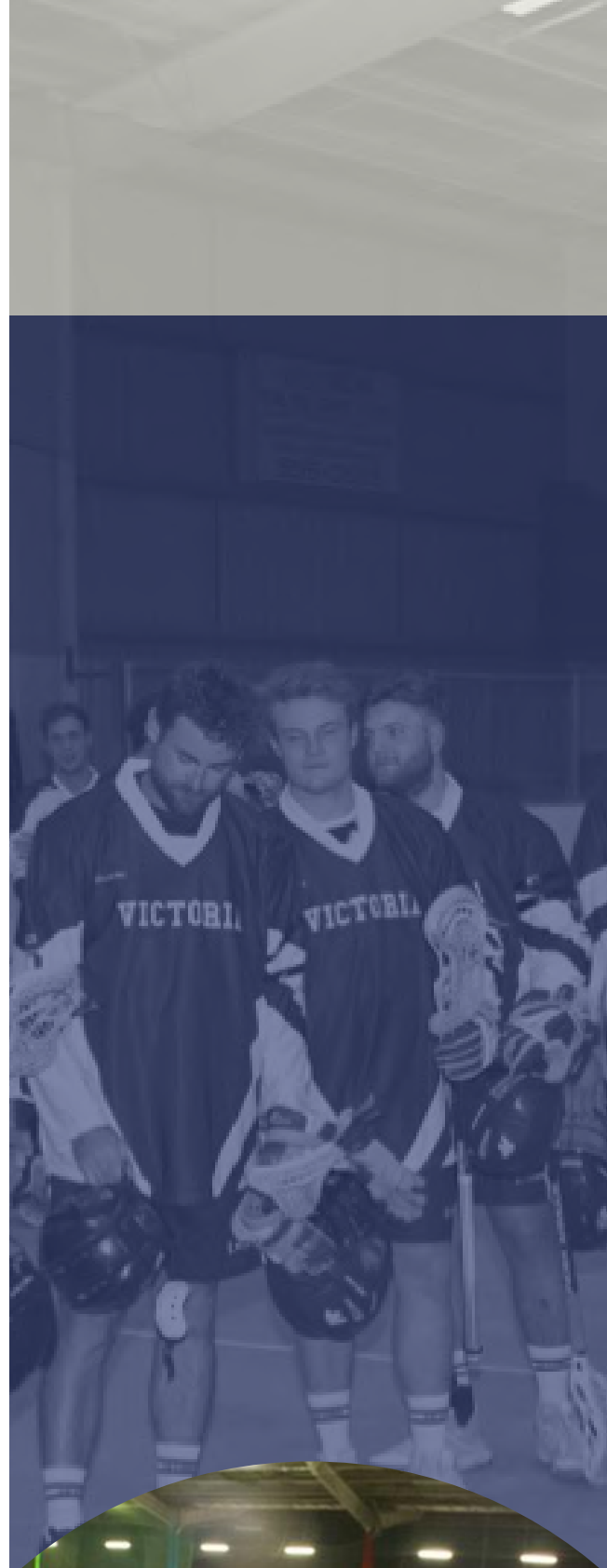
U15 Girls' Nationals

Not held due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Indoor Nationals

Championship Game - 9 February 2020

Western Australia 9 def Victoria 8



INDOOR NATIONALS

Jai Arambatzis - Eltham

Nathan Bell - Eltham

Tyson Black - Storm

Aaron Currie - Malvern

Scott Filliponi - Chadstone

Brendan Freeman - Eltham

Caleb Hall - Eltham

Dan Hall - Eltham

Shannon Halliwell - Eltham

Tony Joseph - Malvern

Campbell MacKinnon - Altona

Lachlan MacKinnon - Altona

Lachlan McDonald - Altona

Chris Moffat - Eltham

Keith Nyberg - Eltham

Tim Ratje - Eltham

Tyler Reynolds - Eltham

Darren Ricketts - Brunswick

Lachlan Ross - Eltham

Blake Watson - Footscray

Alternates:

Jasper Hanna-Roberts - Altona

Duncan Hillier - Eltham

Dan Mentiplay - MCC

Staff:

Greg Mollison - Coach

Travis Black - Assistant Coach

Keith Nyberg - Assistant Coach

Brad Currie - Manager



INDOOR NATIONALS



Credit: Edwin Niczynski Photography



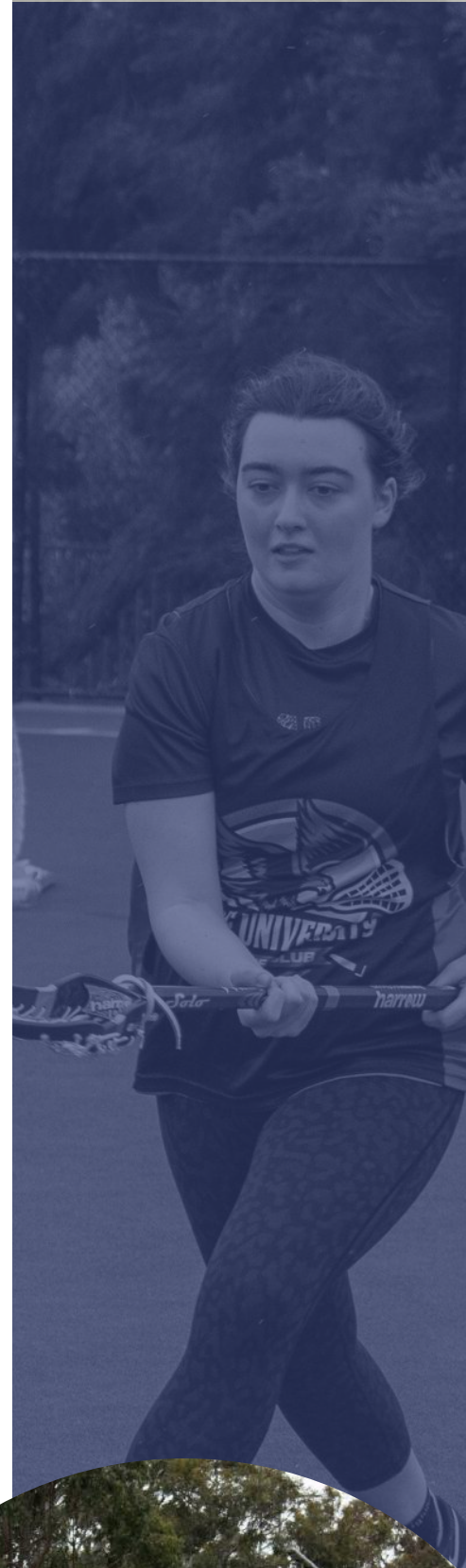
SOUTHERN SHIELD

The Southern Shield Lacrosse is an annual student-only lacrosse 5s competition held in Victoria and 2020 was the second time this event has occurred. Conducted at Hawthorn Hockey Club on Saturday 5 December, contested by four universities being Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), La Trobe University, Melbourne University and Victoria University. Congratulations to RMIT for winning the Southern Shield.

To ensure an approved COVID-safe plan was in place, Lacrosse Victoria hosted the event. Two staff members from Lacrosse Victoria were present at the event, Matt Keogh (Participation Officer) and Sean Aaron (Operations Officer) as well as Nick Anthony (UniLax).

As for all sports in Victoria, 2020 was a very disrupted year and the University Lacrosse League was abandoned after only two weeks of competition at the beginning of semester one due to the pandemic. Overall, the university lacrosse clubs appeared to have recruited well at orientation week in 2020 and most excitingly Monash University had a strong inaugural recruitment drive. With the easing of restrictions in Victoria, the club presidents/captains requested the Southern Shield event to have at least one event in 2020 and regroup ahead of 2021.

Of the six Melbourne metropolitan universities which now have a lacrosse program, four were able to enter a team. This was one less team than the inaugural event held in October 2019 as Swinburne University did not approve any student club activities. This was unfortunate because Swinburne is one of the largest university lacrosse clubs in terms of membership. Monash had a high proportion of international students who have returned home and was newly formed at the beginning of 2020 so was unable to form a team. Nevertheless the teams did a great job of pulling together players on relatively short notice.

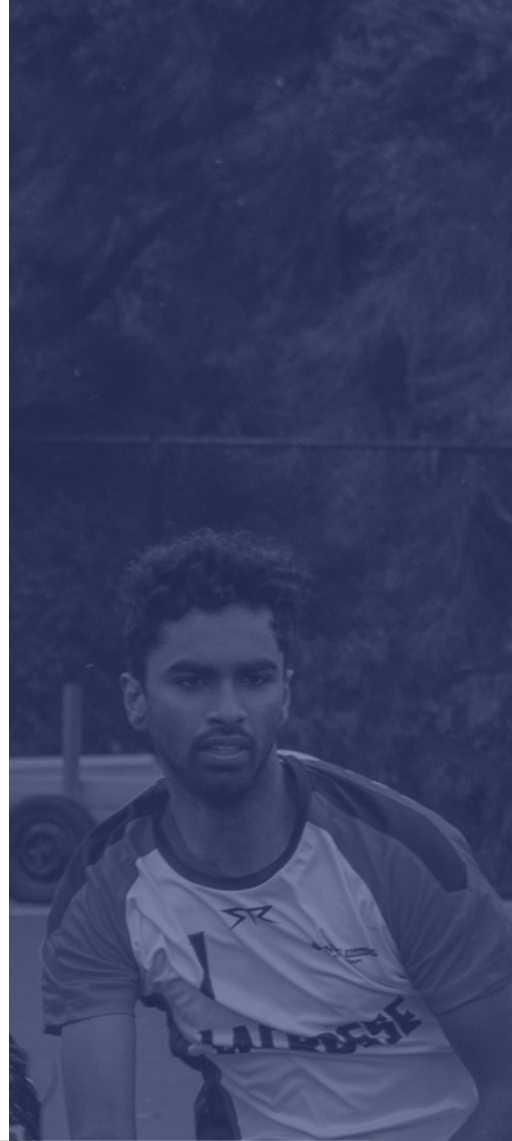


The tournament featured two round robin matches before one round of finals. Two matches were played concurrently and matches consisted of two 10 minute halves. Originally scheduled for three round robin matches, the third round of round robin play was abandoned due to impending storm conditions to achieve an earlier finish. This did not impact the finalists because the preceding results had already determined the finalists. With RMIT taking out top honours defeating La Trobe in the Grand Final.

The final standings were:

1. RMIT
2. La Trobe University
3. Melbourne University
4. Victoria University

A massive thank you to Kylie Bloodworth of UniSport Australia for her efforts in making this event happen via efforts coordinating with the university sports departments who are all navigating the uncertainties of emerging from strict COVID-restrictions.



VICTORIAN LACROSSE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

The Victorian Lacrosse Foundation was established in May 1999 to support the sport of lacrosse in Victoria, specifically in the areas of junior development, administration and publicity and promotion of the game.

The Foundation is charged with the responsibility of raising, holding and administering a trust fund, which has an initial target of \$1 million. Recent changes to the Trust Deed permit some distributions from the Foundation prior to the Fund reaching the target. Once the target is reached, the fund earnings will be fully available to support projects in the above areas.

Accounts for the Victorian Lacrosse Foundation for the year ending 30 th June 2020 have been completed and lodged with the Auditor for ultimate presentation to Lacrosse Victoria Inc. Thanks are due again to our Auditors Noel Melville & Associates for the oversight of the Annual Accounts.

The Accounts show accumulated funds at 30 June 2020 of \$ 182,192, the total at 30 June 2019 was \$ 177,602 (This amount has increased to approximately \$183,100 at the current time.)



This year 2020 will be remembered as the Covid 19 year, where in Victoria at least there was no formal field lacrosse season. There was also minimal activity within the funds of the Foundation. That activity which did take place was due to those regular contributors who are building significant totals by giving annually. Stalwarts Noel McDonald and Graeme Fox come to mind in that regard. Incidentally those contributors are also generally taking advantage of the tax break on offer by contributing through our long term partnership with the Australian Sports Foundation. The Vic Lacrosse Foundation Trustees are really appreciative of the ongoing support from the Victorian lacrosse community.

Notwithstanding the somewhat negative impact of the Covid virus and very low interest rates, the accumulated funds are edging closer to a significant milestone, which is \$ 200,000. Still a long way to go to the magic million dollar target, but as legendary investor Warren Buffet famously said, "someone is sitting in the shade today, because people planted trees a long time ago." Our tree is growing steadily, and is in good health !!

Trustees in office at the present time include Anne Hodder (LV Representative), Sue Gandy, Doug Fox, Rob Speakman and Ferg Stewart. Ross Melville continues to provide invaluable support as Honorary Auditor.

For The Trustees
Fergus Stewart
February 2021



