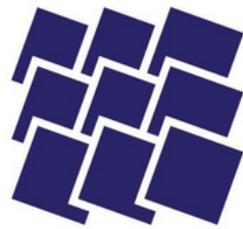




2022 - 2023



**REGIONAL  
SPORT  
VICTORIA**

# Annual Report

[www.regionalsportvictoria.org.au](http://www.regionalsportvictoria.org.au)  
[@RegionalSprtVic](https://www.instagram.com/RegionalSprtVic)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

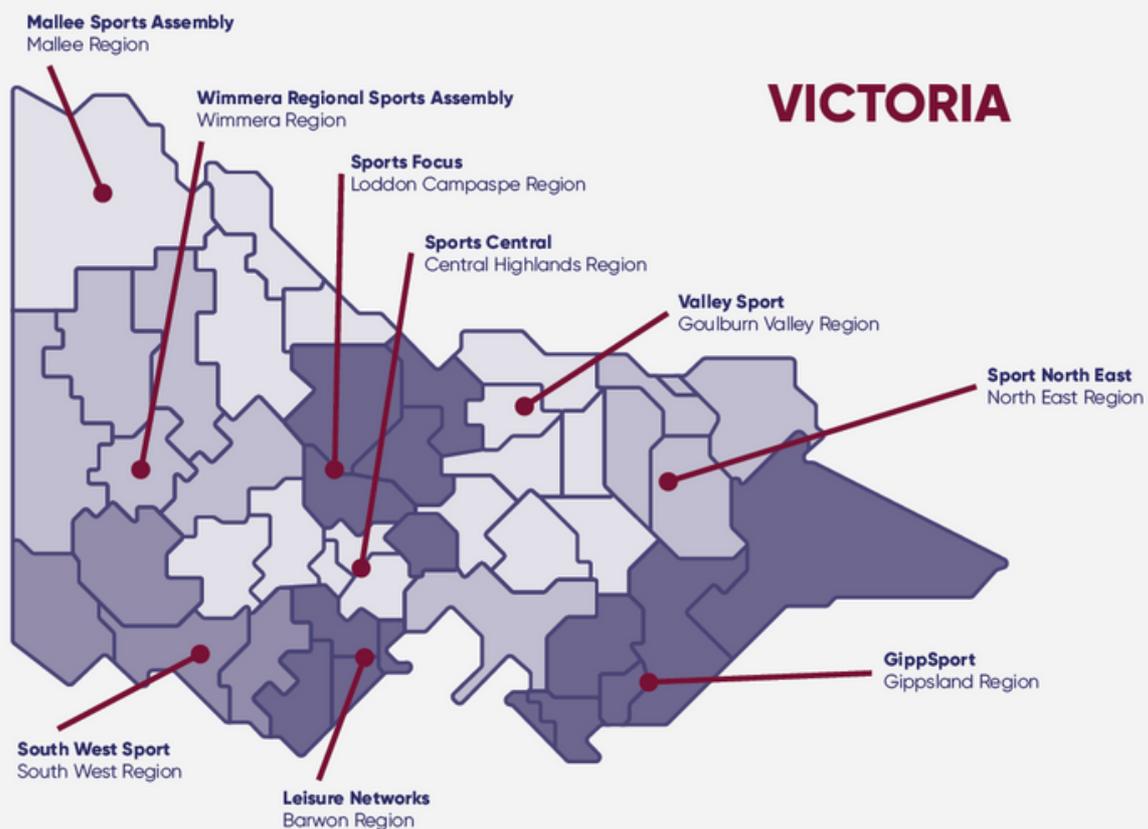
Regional Sport Victoria proudly acknowledges Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's first peoples and that this country was never ceded. We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to regional and rural Victorian life and how this enriches us. We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards the equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.

# ABOUT US

Regional Sport Victoria is the peak body for sport and active recreation across regional and rural Victoria. Through collaboration with our nine members, the Regional Sports Assemblies, our reach across regional Victoria is without peer. As a collective, the Regional Sports Assemblies service 48 local government authorities, covering a population of over 1.45 million rural and regional Victorians across 8,500 community sport and recreation clubs.



# OUR VISION

Our vision is to build a stronger regional Victoria through sport and active recreation.

## OUR NETWORK

Our Network is comprised of experienced sports industry professionals who have a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities faced by regional communities in accessing sport and recreation opportunities, with extensive expertise in developing and implementing programs that promote participation and inclusion.



# OUR PARTNERS

Our partners can benefit from our extensive experience, knowledge, and networks in the sports industry, and can be confident in the success of their sports projects and programs, to achieve joint goals and advance initiatives.



## OUR EXPERTISE

1

Program Design and Delivery

2

Stakeholder Engagement

3

Volunteer Support

4

Utilising sport as a vehicle for social change

# OUR BOARD



**Dan Poynton**

Chair



**Carissa Harris**

Deputy Chair  
(Commenced  
March 2023)



**David Quinn**

Treasurer /  
Director  
(Treasurer to  
March 2023)



**Carmel Mackay**

Secretary  
(Concluded  
March 2023)



**Michael Flynn**

Director  
(Concluded  
March 2023)



**Brooke Connolly**

Director



**Rick Bell**

Director

Following a Constitution change at the 1 March 2023 Annual General Meeting, the standalone position of Treasurer was deemed no longer be required following the appointment of the General Manager. The provision of the ability for the Executive Officer to fulfil the requirements of Secretary was adopted.

# OUR STAFF



**Meghan Mayman**

Executive Officer



**Sarah Wheadon**

Manager  
Member Services

RSV wishes to recognise the contribution of the following contractors to the efficient and high quality operations of our organisation:

- Sports Accounting Australia – Jeremy Gleeson and Nataleigh Gleeson
- My Sport Live – Andrew Weiss





# CHAIR'S REPORT

On behalf of the Regional Sport Victoria (RSV) Board and staff team, we are pleased to present our 2022-23 Annual Report.

After a number of very disruptive years, during the last 12 months - while not absolute business as usual as a result of the Regional Victorian floods - we welcomed a sense of normality in the workplace and with our external facing partners.

While there have indeed still been challenges, RSV's way of working has enabled us to strengthen our connection with our members the Regional Sports Assembly's and our key partners.

This annual report provides solid evidence that we are heading on the right course. We are delighted with our collaborative approach to working where we are now capitalising on the complementary strengths of our enthusiastic and highly capable RSV staff and the broader RSA network.

RSV leads the network for Victoria's Regional Sports Assemblies and since 2018 the Executives of each of the RSAs with RSV have been working together to identify ways in which the network can work more effectively together.

This initiative has been supported by Sport & Recreation Victoria as key sponsor along with VicHealth.

The main objective of the initiative is to increase the impact of the RSV network as a collective and within each RSA's region respectively. While every region is unique and has its own challenges, there is common ground for the RSV network in terms of their objectives - and because of this, there is an opportunity for the network to collaborate, share knowledge and learnings, and advocate as one voice where deemed appropriate.

In terms of our full year financial result, 2022- 2023 was a challenging year for RSV to manage responsibly due to the ongoing challenge of the external funding environment. As a positive, our income was as budgeted and is reflective of the strength of the relationships we have with our core funders and the support they extend to RSV, not just financially but also for the work we do - we are forever grateful for this.

Some of our operating costs were reduced through some tough decision making, reducing expenses to the minimum possible without impacting delivery. These operational cost savings were offset by the investment we made into the regional Flood Recovery program utilising some of our cash reserves as well as some unexpected costs associated with specialist fees and support costs throughout the year. The net effect of all of this being that we are reporting a total deficit from continuing operations for the year of \$35k. This is a pleasing result given the overall operating environment and is a testament to how our Executive Officer and Board of RSV have worked well together to navigate our way through this period.

It was an honour and privilege to be reappointed as RSVs Chair in March this year, following our delayed AGM. Excitingly RSV welcomed our first independent Directors to the Board, Carissa Harris (Associate Principal with MI Global Partners, previously Senior Event Director with Cricket Australia) & Rick Bell (Project Director with Waypoint, previously Head of AFL Victoria). Their appointments demonstrate the continued maturation of RSV and have brought a wealth of skills and knowledge to our organisation. They have enthusiastically kicked off their Directorship with us, and we look forward to their continued contribution to our organisation in years to come.



We also farewelled & thanked Carmel McKay and Michael Flynn who both ended their terms on the RSV Board. Carmel & Michael have both been long standing Board members whose commitment and dedication to the organisation has been exceptional. We thank them for their contributions and pleasingly they're not lost to the network and we look forward to continuing to work with them over coming years.

At this year's upcoming AGM, due to time commitments and increased leadership responsibilities we will farewell Brooke Connolly after an excellent contribution to the RSV Board. Brooke's strengths are a deep understanding of community, particularly the locally led, participant-centred approach which is positively influencing the way that RSV works. We thank Brooke for her contribution.

I would like to thank all the members for their time, input and valuable contributions over the last 12 months. Your passion and commitment towards RSV is never taken for granted.

I would like to make a special acknowledgement to our Executive Officer Meghan and the passionate staff we've had working with us over the year. We continue to build momentum, executing clearly on our developing strategy, focusing on impact always with eye on the future, and Meghan has enthusiastically and passionately led this work.

Thank you.

**Dan Poynton**  
**Regional Sport Victoria, Chair**



# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The role of sport in regional Victoria is more than wins and losses. It brings us together. The role of RSV is no different – the genesis of our organisation was to bring the Regional Sports Assemblies (RSA) together to reduce barriers and increase collaboration across the Network of nine organisations.

A core function of RSV has always been and will continue to be to build capacity and support our members. In 2022/23 we achieved this through a range of initiatives including:

- Network Meetings, which:
  - Help to foster support, collaboration and coordination amongst Executive Officers;
  - Focus on strategic thinking;
  - Create opportunities to connect with SRV and VicHealth.
- Professional development:
  - RSV is committed to developing the professional capacity of the collective team of more than 55 staff across RSV and RSAs. The PD program is intended to compliment the PD offered by RSAs and sessions and content provided within the shared Microsoft Teams channel has been identified through discussions with Executive Officers, funding partners, input from a working group of RSA program staff and understanding of future sector issues and opportunities for RSA.
  - 2022/23 sessions included:
    - Accidental Counsellor Training;
    - Improving Cultural Diversity (with CMSport);
    - Supporting RSA to grow inclusive sport (with Special Olympics Australia).
- Negotiated Shared Services in areas where support is needed.
- Access to programs supporting the needs of RSA's and its own members.

## Programs

Some program highlights over the year have included:

We are immensely proud to have supported grassroots clubs with the challenges of the significant flood event across regional Victoria commencing in October 2022 with the creation of the **Community Sport Flood Recovery Project**. RSV with eight of nine members formed a collaborative strategy to provide support. This involved a shared online platform to provide a central point of information and the ability to engage a 'surge workforce' from other RSAs should a region have had significant requests at any one time. It assisted to support staff who were interacting with volunteers impacted by the floods and potentially experiencing distress and provided Accidental Counsellor training for participating staff across the Network. This work was recognised by achieving finalist status at the 2022 Victorian Sport Awards within the *Leasexpress* Sport Initiative of the Year category.

Following on from the successful launch of the **Stride into Sport** initiative ahead of the 2022/2023 Summer season, we adapted the program to reboot it for this winter. The second iteration of this has been extremely successful and has had significant buy in from State Sporting Associations wanting to be part of the program. This has included 15 SSA's promoting participation at all levels within regional clubs and communities. We have also had major interest across our own social media channels and through mainstream media connections – culminating in feature articles about the program published in the Herald Sun as well as across a number of regional mastheads in print and online. This has us well placed to prepare for an even bigger version of the campaign through Summer 2023/2024.

Regional Sport Victoria has partnered with Volunteering Victoria and Vicsport to create sporting club focused resources for club volunteers – **Thrive with support**. These resources aim to support and assist sporting clubs in their strategies and practices around volunteers.

The 'Preventing Violence Through Sport (PVTS) project – **Change Makers**' which is supported by the Victorian Government, is being rolled out across the state in conjunction with Football Victoria and Victoria University. The aim of the project is simple – to empower football clubs to achieve FV's target of 50% participation of women across all areas of football.

## Advocacy

RSV plays a significant role in advocating for sport and active recreation in regional Victoria. This advocacy takes on different forms – including serving on advisory groups and public consultations to help inform policy, and conversations with stakeholders to inform the unique challenges, barriers and opportunities to sport delivery in regional Victoria. RSV also supported eight Regional Sports Assemblies in the review of the Sport and Recreation Victoria funded program, *Together More Active*, to demonstrate the outcomes and impact of their work.

Representation on advisory groups/consultations has taken place utilising the expertise across the Network. I'd like to thank the RSA representatives that have assisted to represent the interests of our community. RSV has provided advocacy on the following advisory groups across 2022/23:

- Youth Aquatic Accreditation Program Advisory Group (Sport and Recreation Victoria) – Karen Ferguson, GippSport
- Consultation, Victoria's first Wellbeing Plan (Mental Health and Wellbeing Promotion Office, Department of Health) – Marc Tims, South West Sport
- Sport Volunteers Project Taskforce (Vicsport, Volunteering Victoria & RSV) – Kerry Strauch, Sport North East & Dan Poynton, GippSport
- Flood Working Group (Sport and Recreation Victoria) – Meghan Mayman, RSV
- National Sport Participation Strategy Project Steering Group (Australian Sports Commission) – Meghan Mayman, RSV
- Victorian Sport Awards Judging Panel (Vicsport and Sport and Recreation Victoria) – Meghan Mayman, RSV
- Ministerial Community Sport Roundtable (Minister for Community Sport, Ros Spence MP) – Meghan Mayman, RSV
- Get Active Kids Voucher Program Reference Group (Sport and Recreation Victoria) – Meghan Mayman, RSV



## **Governance**

The Board has reviewed the Constitution and resolved that the tabled changes to the Constitution be proposed to the Members. Primarily, the focus was on changes to Office Bearers given the shift from being an operational to strategic board and the employment of a paid staff member. I thank the members for their unanimous support of these amendments.

## **Appreciation**

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our major funding partners Sport and Recreation Victoria and VicHealth – without their contribution we would not have been able to take this step forward in establishing our organisational and governance structures.

To our Chair Dan Poynton and Directors, thank you for your leadership, advice and support. I would like to commend Sarah Wheadon's work as Manager – Member Services to provide exceptional support to our members; Andrew Weiss of My Sport Live for his dedication and skill to communicating RSV's messages; and Jeremy Gleeson and Nataleigh Gleeson of Sports Accounting Australia for their expertise to streamline RSV's accounting and bookkeeping functions; and Consultants Gillian Manson (Thrive with Support and Fair Access Roadshow) and Tony Francis (Community Sport Flood Recovery Project) for their expertise to support to deliver high-quality projects for our community.

To our members, the Regional Sports Assemblies, I'd like to thank you for your support of RSV as we grow and try new approaches to supporting our community.

Thank you.

**Meghan Mayman**

**Regional Sport Victoria, Executive Officer**

# Acknowledgements

Regional Sport Victoria would like to acknowledge the financial support provided by the Victorian Government and VicHealth.



The ongoing support and collaboration with our Members is appreciated. We acknowledge your contribution to building a stronger regional Victoria through sport and active recreation.





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