

# Leopold Angling and Aquatic Club

## President Annual Report for 2025

Good evening members and guests, I have the honour of presenting my President Report to the membership tonight. Who would have thought we would be holding our first AGM in these clubrooms.

Since our last AGM the club had been busy building and moving into the new clubrooms. After moving in July 2024, we have barely had time to sit and reflect on the club's achievements.

We had our official opening of the Dennis More Rooms in September with many members attending on a wet and cold day. Nothing unusual for us. A great day had by all and a new era for our club.

Murray McLaren stepped down in September and had just finished his duties with fittingly his last task being the opening of the new clubrooms with Faye Burton, Kim and Gavin Johnson. Murray has tirelessly worked for the club for years and was one of the main drivers of starting this club. The club thanks you for your time and devotion to our club as a committee member and President. We know we can still count on you Murray.

I walked into the President role in October 2024 after Murray stood down and prepared for our busiest month.

November had several functions on with our club snapper comp, Our annual Snapper classic. Our first presentation night and our annual Christmas Party. So many people to thank. Andrew McLaughlin and the sub committee who once again provided a professional competition that is gathering momentum each year. To our sponsors who every year are happy to get on board. To the members who assist on the day and during the competition. To Ray Robertson and Colleen Howard and committee who organised the Presentation night and our club members who assisted. Colleen Howard, Jan Warren and Janine Bennett who organised the Christmas Party and raffle. Santa aka Craig Kitchen and Bruce Bennett who has made so many games for our kids.

The club went on holidays at the end of December knowing we had missed out on the grant for the solar from the City of Greater Geelong. A lot of work from Rod Warren for little reward. We thank you Rod for your time and effort in putting the submission together. I know the application was of good quality as the feedback stated so.

December and January saw us embark on the BBQ marathon with Bunnings. Thank you to Phil and Kerry Thorn, Jan and Rod Warren, Bruce and Janine for your tireless work in ensuring that the days ran smoothly. Of course, we couldn't do it without the regular volunteers who turn up in numbers to turn a snag, serve the hungry and generally have a

banter amongst ourselves and customers. A major fundraiser for the year that raised approximately \$8,000. Money the club would not have generally had.

January had us hiring the rooms out and for a function where once again our bar manager Ray Hobbs organised bar staff to assist on the day. Bringing in \$3000.00

We held a special general meeting to change our constitution to make the process of Life Membership nominations easier.

We purchased TVs and three laptops for the club through a grant from one of our great sponsors the Bendigo Bank.

The carpark was concreted further and thanks to Ben Kravowicz for his assistance.

February was a special month with the presentation of our inaugural Life Membership posthumously to our club patron and benefactor Dennis More it was accepted by Kim and Faye and Gavin. It is fitting Dennis is our first life member.

The club was represented for our first ANSA fishing comp in Portland. With Andrew McLaughlin, Ray Aqualina and Steve Parker representing us.

Fishing trip to Rocklands organised by Stefan Putrya with 25 members attending.

We also had a social day to acknowledge the anniversary of the passing of Dennis More. Thanks to Murray and his fish batter and frying skills.

The club has postponed a few comps due to weather but we held our Flathead Comp in March supporting the Latrobe University in their research of flathead in the Port and Corio Bays.

April was our Easter raffle and egg hunt for the kids thank you to Colleen and friends for your help.

We also ran our mixed bag comp well organised by Ray Robertson Ben Kravowicz, Darryl Carney, Elie Dargham.

The club has more water around the property thanks to Craig Trewin and members who assisted on the day.

The club has had a number of guest speakers over the year and hosted the women in fishing and boating. We have been involved with flathead research and Ozfish with assisting in making reefs for Corio Bay.

It was a very busy year and we couldn't have done it without the support of our members and committee.

I would like to thank the committee firstly the club secretary Rod Warren who filled the position when the previous secretary needed a spell. Rod brought a lot of professionalism

and Governance to our committee and meetings. Sadly, Rod and his wife Jan resigned in March and a void was left in our club.

We thank you both for your work and tireless commitment to the club. If your circumstances change you will be welcomed back to the committee any time. I asked our Vice President Pete Nowell to fill the position until the AGM. Pete has had a steep learning curve and is still feeling his way. Thank you, Pete, for stepping in when required and we will support you in continuing in this capacity. Pete has been there when I couldn't.

Tony Bond our treasurer for the last five years and continues to efficiently run the club finances. Tony is a stickler for receipts and processes and making sure the books balance right down to the cent. The club's finances are healthy, and we thank you Tony for ensuring the integrity of managing our money. I know Tony says he is looking for a replacement and if you want to learn now is the time to get involved and understand our finances.

Colleen Howard thank you for providing meals on Friday nights, a big commitment and she couldn't do this on her own. Thanks to Allie Bond, Bronwyn Lamb, Carmen Carew, Sharon Jones Michael and Vicki Bairimidis, Jan Warren, Janine Bennett, Chopsy. Elie Dargham, Rhonda Whitehead and countless others who have assisted and washed dishes.

Ray Robertson and his fishing committee Ben Kravowicz, Darryl Carney, Ray Aqualina, Elie Dargham and Andrew McLaughlin who deaded up the snapper comp. they run one of the best comps going and are getting more members involved.

Ray Hobbs, and his team Stephan Putrya, Daz Carney, Bruce Bennett, Tony Bond, Mark Schrueder, Simon Meadley and other who have served the members behind the bar. There is a lot involved with ordering and stocking of fridges and emptying of the cans at the recyclers, filling up the generator and fuel containers all this which go unheralded.

Ray does a lot for the club and was rewarded with his second club person of the year award for his supervising of the clubrooms build and weekly maintenance and improvements around the club.

The club doesn't clean itself and countless members have assisted on a Thursday morning to clean toilets vacuum and mow lawns.

Thanks to Mark Schrueder and Ian Nalder for all your work in keeping our lawn well maintained. Lindsay Oates for making coffee after the he has cleaned at the working bee. Phil and Kerry Thorne who are always reliable. Ray Hobbs and Tony Bond who seem to always have a project underway. The servery window is nearly done.

Steve Parker who has taken on the grants and submitted an application to Bendigo Bank.

Des Ryan for our newsletter and promotions of the club.

The club is in good hands and it has been a privilege to serve with members who are like minded and want the best for our club.

We still have a long way to go with fixing the power issue and car parking but we will get there in the end.

Thank you to my family who know I am passionate about our club and want to see it progress to the most prominent Fishing and Aquatic club in Victoria.

In closing I urge members to get involved and be part of this club. By helping on a Thursday or working bees and just generally coming down on a Friday you get a sense of pride of where we have come from and where we are going.

I have stood for re election as there is much more to be done and I will be proud to lead LAAC into the future and keep our club prominent known as a community minded club who are open to everyone and accepting of like minded people who love everything angling and aquatic or just want to be part of our club.

Thank You

Terry Whitehead

President of LAAC