



# A

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS  
OF THE ALTONA HOCKEY CLUB

# 2021-22

# ANNUAL REPORT

# PRESIDENT'S YEAR IN REVIEW

This year has been an historically important year for the hockey club in many ways, returning for our first full season after two abandoned seasons in a row - the first time in over 70 years - and also celebrating our 90th Anniversary as a hockey club. Founded in 1932 as the Altona Baptist Hockey Club and entering a single men's team, it was great during the season to reflect on how far we have come to be the large, diverse and successful family club that we are today. One of the standouts of the year was the 90th anniversary function which featured two panels of members regaling the audience with stories going back through the decades all the way to the 1940's thanks to Life Member Frank Ranger (also celebrating his 90th year).

As you will see echoed many times through this Annual Report - it was great to be back on the pitch for a full season in 2022. The focus really shifted back to the pitch and our members playing hockey, improving, having fun and competing. We returned to almost identical numbers to 2021 thanks to the great work of the Board and Volunteers, particularly Tiff Bartlett leading the junior section of the club, and all of the coaches involved in creating a positive environment.

There were many highlights of the year which will be outlined in this document, some of my personal highlights:

- Two Altona juniors, Cooper Burns & Connor Otterbach representing Australia together in the U21 Burras at the Sultan of Johor Cup.
- Cooper taking out the Fin McNab Award to be Altona's first Premier League Best and Fairest winner since Justine Cooke in 2006, and first male winner since Darren Duff in 1994.
- The finals campaign including our first ever Premier League home final in front of a huge crowd, with the men making a run to the Prelim, the Women's Metro winning the Premiership and our Men's Metro & Pennant teams all featuring.
- Pride Cup being one of the biggest days on the calendar with a big crowd, members from across the club asking to be involved and the incredible atmosphere created by both our members & the clubs we played against.
- The Senior Men & Women both winning the Indoor Victorian Club Championships on the same night at the brand new facility at Parkville.
- The Facility Development progress, meeting and engaging with local Parliament Members Tim Watts & Jill Hennessy, the Mayor of Hobsons Bay Peter Hemphill, our local Councillors Daria Kellander and Tony Briffa, as well as local council officers. The development is progressing well and an extremely important project for the club.
- At both ends of the age spectrum - huge Hookin2Hockey numbers for the 8-week program at the start of the year led by Andrew Scanlon, and then at the end of the year, the launch of a 10-week Walking Hockey program for the 50+ age group, led by Prue Phillips and supported by a Hobsons Bay City Council Grant.

As a Board, one of our biggest goals for this year was to return to some sort of normality for hockey, and this also meant with our full offering of teams and services on the pitch. With the inertia of regular hockey broken, it was a large administrative effort to get this in place and to have a successful year. We spent a lot of time at the start of the year ensuring that we had all roles and tasks at the club clearly laid out with both an accountable and a responsible party. This was a worthwhile exercise, and also helped to highlight some large risks and gaps in our volunteer force that we are working to fill. So if you are reading this and considering helping out - please reach out to myself or any board member, as a volunteer run organisation we rely on the help and support of our community.

The other main element that work highlighted is that we have over 80 people who regularly volunteer their time week in, week out to run the club. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those people, in particular the Board for their work over the year in returning to hockey. And thank you to the wider AHC community in their efforts this year on and off the pitch in making the club what it is.

Go A's.

**ALEX TYRRELL**

# THE ALTONA HOCKEY CLUB BOARD

The Altona Hockey Club Board of Management is elected in accordance with the Constitution to control and manage the club in the best interests of our members.

In 2022 the board consisted of 8 representatives for the full year, with Benn Henderson stepping down during the year.

**ALEX TYRRELL**  
PRESIDENT

**TAYLAH BRENNAN**  
VICE- PRESIDENT

**PETER DOLENC**  
SECRETARY

**KIERAN SYMONS**  
TREASURER

**TYSON PRIDDLE**  
SENIOR HOCKEY OPERATIONS

**TIFF BARTLETT**  
JUNIOR HOCKEY OPERATIONS

**JO WHITFORD**  
SPONSORSHIP

**TRACEY DRAKE**  
MEMBERSHIP PATHWAYS

## SECRETARIAT REPORT

### PETER DOLENC

Whilst the focus and enthusiasm has understandably been around returning to the playing field, the board has continued to work diligently, behind the scenes, so that all members can participate in a range of club activities and initiatives in a meaningful way.

We held 10 monthly board meetings across the course of the year, in addition to the AGM and January planning session. The board has continued the practice of meeting face to face each quarter, then virtually in the other months (6 times), which makes it possible for more board members to attend when their schedules conflict.

Board member attendance over the year : A. Tyrrell (8), T. Brennan (5), T Drake (7), T Bartlett (8), P Dolenc (10), K Symons (8), J Whitford (9), T Priddle (5), B Henderson (5)

Midway through the year, Benn Henderson resigned from his board position. Additionally, Tracey Drake and Tyson Priddle are stepping down from their board roles at the AGM. The board thanks Benn, Tracey and Tyson for their commitment and contribution. Of special note is Tracey Drake's legacy of continuous service, including 17 years as Treasurer.

We now have 4 open positions and encourage all members who feel that they can contribute to the ongoing management of the club to carefully consider nominating for a board role. Each board member oversees one or more individual portfolios and look for ways to engage with volunteers to provide support for the operational aspects of the club that they are most interested in. As Alex has noted, we have a large and enthusiastic volunteer base that supports a wide range of critical activity. There are many ways each of us can contribute - that is what is terrific about being a community club.

Administrative outcomes throughout the past year included:

- The January planning session, led by Alex. The focus here being on volunteer engagement and board portfolio clarification and accountability.
- Changes to our Restricted Club licence - with HBCC support, we are now able to extend our bar operations to year-round, rather than April to October. This gives us flexibility to support club functions over the summer months without the need for temporary license extensions.
- We were reaccredited as A Good Sports Club in July.
- Policy revisions continued throughout the course of the year. We updated our Injury Prevention, Privacy, Code of Conduct, and Board Cod of Conduct policies to ensure that they reflected HV/ HA and community standards. Both our National and State bodies are undertaking wide ranging policy reviews and revisions that reflect community expectations - AHC is ensuring alignment with these national expectations.

Over the coming months, members can expect to see additional Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training to support our continuing need for appropriately accredited bar staff, along with a call for additional Member Protection Officers to support member interests.

# MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

The Membership Summary for 2022 shows a very consistent number across all areas compared to 2021 member numbers. This is overall a positive result, while the aim is to grow each year, 2022 saw participation in sport and hockey decline overall in Victoria. It should be noted that while similar to 2021 and a slight reduction on 2019 numbers, we are quite a way off 2018 junior numbers (216).

Member Type	2021			2022		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Junior - Hin2H	41	34	75	37	22	59
Junior - Under 8/Intra-club	5	2	7	5	4	9
Junior - Under 10	7	11	18	12	12	24
Junior - Under 12	15	10	25	16	10	26
Junior - Under 14	14	13	27	9	9	18
Junior - Under 16	7	8	15	14	16	30
Junior - Under 18	13	4	17	8	13	21
Subtotal	102	82	184	101	86	187
Senior	76	60	136	82	58	140
Mid-Week / Masters	8		8	5		5
Subtotal	84	60	144	87	58	145
Social Members	3	3	6	3	3	6
Coterie Members	12	8	20	12	8	20
Life Members	12	6	18	5	5	10
Subtotal	27	17	44	20	16	36
TOTAL	213	159	372	208	160	368

Note: Members are counted only once, ie:

- Intraclub/Hin2H participants are counted as Hin2H only
- Junior/Senior players are counted as juniors only
- Masters/Seniors players are counted as seniors only
- Social & Coterie members do not include playing members or life members



# JUNIORS

## TIFF BARTLETT

WE ARE A PROUD  
**LEVEL 3  
GOOD  
SPORTS  
CLUB.**



This year our junior sub-committee consisted of Ben Guy, Tiff Bartlett, Naish McDonald, Kristen Orange, Andrew Meiers, Leanne Meiers and Thomas Myrskylainen.

Andrew Scanlon headed our Hin2H team again this year. They ran a week of roadshows involving over 500 kids from local schools. We had a fantastic turn out at our 'come & try' sessions, and from that, we had 70 kids register for Hin2H. This year, HV encouraged clubs to provide 2 sessions a week which may have contributed to the large increase in participants.

From these Hin2H sessions we had a good number of players progress into our U10 teams, and our stick 2 hockey program which we ran over term 2 and term 3.

A big thank you to Andrew Scanlon for all his hard work in running the roadshows, Hin2H & S2H sessions again this year, as well as Nick Myrskylainen, Lauren Winship and all the other coaches who volunteered their time.

Still feeling some effects of covid, we had to merge our U14 boys and girls teams into a mixed team due to low numbers. Luckily we retained all our other teams. Our U12 girls finished 4th, unfortunately they lost in a close game in the semi final.

We introduced Monday night skills sessions for the U12 & U14 age groups to brush up on their skills after a lack of hockey in the previous 2 years of covid.

A huge thanks to Naish McDonald for all his time and hard work putting these sessions together.

We continued to have a strong number of state and JSC representatives, both players, coaches, team managers and umpires.

We finished the season with presentation night at the club for the first time since 2019. It was a great turn out and a great atmosphere, so good to see things getting back to normal.

A big thank you to all the coaches and team managers for all the work they put in this year, as well as all the parents who volunteered for canteen and BBQ.



Pictured: Melissa Damnics (manager), Kate Lavers, Olivia Anderson, Albee Damnics & Peter Sykes (coach) with the U18 Girls Wildcats team

It was great to see an increasing number of junior umpires and ball kids. We really appreciate your contributions and hope you all continue in the coming years.

# JUNIOR AWARDS

U18 Mixed NW	Most Consistent	Most Improved	Coaches Award	Steph Gracie Award
	Ari Stiefel	Mia Fynney	Olivia Anderson	Tristen Lee
U16 Boys Shield B	Best & Fairest	Best & Fairest	Most Improved	Steph Gracie Award
	Fletcher Guy	Jacob Yacono	Hamilton Woodman	Lucas Meiers
U16 Girls Shield B	Best & Fairest	Runner Up	Coaches Award	Steph Gracie Award
	Taylah Fynney	Rachael Kenny	Sarah Fulton	Annabella Orange
U14 Mixed NW	Best & Fairest	Runner Up	Most Improved	Steph Gracie Award
	Lachlan Marshall	William Prismall	Eloise Burrett	Leila Galloway
U12 Boys Pennant NW	Best & Fairest	Best Back	Back Forward	Steph Gracie Award
	Aidan Whiteoak-Doloughan	Eoin Cronin	Thomas Galea	Aidan Whiteoak-Doloughan
U12 Girls Pennant	Best & Fairest	Runner Up	Coaches Award	Steph Gracie Award
	Madeline Young	Safiyah Zeinou	Eloise Marshall	Astrid Larsen
Best Junior Clubpeople	Claudia Beamish & Josie Erbsland			

# SENIORS

## TYSON PRIDDLE

After 2-3 disrupted years, it was fantastic to see a full season go ahead in 2022. We were lucky to witness many senior sides play finals capped off by Metro 1 North ladies waiting 3 years for the opportunity to go back-to-back from the 2019 Premiership!

Throughout the season, I got to witness first hand many talented juniors make the step up to play seniors throughout the grades. Combined with our welcoming senior players, our Pennant and Metro coaches Steve Ritchie, Tim Symons, Leanne Ivory and Toby Langdon did an amazing job organising selections, training sessions and coaching on game days in what are difficult grades managing the expectations of experienced players, combined with players moving up and down the grades and providing juniors the opportunity to experience senior hockey. Thanks also to our match day managers who are often "volunteered" into these positions!

Kristen Orange, along with Nathan McDonald. Thanks for your umpire coordination, we all know that games don't go ahead without them and you've done very well juggling all the commitments across metropolitan Melbourne and even managing to accommodate many last minute opposition club requests.

Thanks to Morris Burgess and Kevin Brennan who once again put their hand up to support with data entry and reporting, this process shows that Altona continues to lead the way with governance and ensuring a professional operation as HV continues to move to digital processes.

Thanks also must go to the PL team managers, tech bench officials, ballkids and other PL match day volunteers who allow our top grade athletes the opportunity to focus on what they do best. It was exciting to see from afar state, international and regional competitions go ahead after a few years absence, most recently witnessing Connor Otterbach and Cooper Burns to homegrown junior players competing in Hockey One with HC Melbourne and Sultan of Johor Cup with the Burras, showing that our junior committee and junior coaches are doing some fantastic work and with the right dedication and commitment, our local players have a pathway from hook into hockey through to international hockey without the need to move from Hobsons Bay.

The Premier League squads must be congratulated for showing great leadership through difficult periods over the past three years, dealing with many scheduling changes, remote and solo training sessions. Zac Hawes had the opportunity to lead the squad to finals for the first time since 2017, ultimately going down to the eventual premiers. We look forward to the continued growth in this squad, adapting to different playing styles and becoming regular finals contenders. Thanks also to Heath McDonald who put his hand up, alongside Steve McDonald and Ben Guy to manage the Mens PLR group right on season commencement.

Although not making finals, the Women's Premier League squad fought out many contests and played some fantastic hockey throughout 2022 with many of the young players getting exposed and playing a large chunk of minutes due to injury to some of our veterans. The board will continue to focus on recruiting more women's players to play our great game, right throughout our grades. Many of our past players returned this year, I hope this continues in 2023, along with any daughters, sisters, cousins and friends that can be dragged along to play with us! Thank you to Merryn and, Steph for supporting Ben. Your knowledge, calm demeanour and guidance is invaluable to the group with such a wide demographic within the women's PLR group.

I want to pay special mention to Ben Newell who has spent over 20 years playing premier league, coaching mens premier league and womens premier league for Altona hockey club. Ben, your commitment to this club won't be forgotten and you've brought many ideas and enthusiasm at much needed difficult times in the past two decades. The WPL group are now in fantastic hands with Danielle Schubach, who combined with Steph Young and Merryn provide a mix of educational and hockey experience that will hopefully develop our next generation of Hockeyroos and Premier League stars.

Ben, don't be a stranger, hopefully we can get back together in the lower grades for a hit and giggle! Thank you also to the board, in particular Alex for support throughout the past few years. I'll be stepping down from board duties and general hockey commitments to enjoy my daughter's activities and be a spectator. I look forward to watching the club continue to grow on and off the ground.

See you all in 2023!



# SENIOR AWARDS



Pictured: Naish McDonald & Peter Wroblewski with their awards

Teams	Best & Fairest	Runner Up
Women's Premier League	Danielle Schubach & Bronte Kerley	Lauren Winship
Women's Premier League Reserves	Beth Samson	Emily Wardeiner
WPL Squad Most Improved	Beth Samson	
Men's Premier League	Cooper Burns	Ben Hooppell
Men's Premier League Reserves	Naish McDonald	Peter Wroblewski
MPL Squad Most Improved	Harry Gill	
Men's Pennant B	Matthew McCann	Jarryd Otterbach
Women's Pennant C	Leanne Ivory	Sam Parker
Men's Pennant D	Brian Melville	Pablo Bianchi
Women's Metro	Renee Cooke	Emily Wdowik
Men's Metro	Ian Bartlett & Shane Williams	Grant Cooke
Tommy Thompson Award	Beth Samson	
Cyril Turner Award	Stephen Ritchie	



# WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE



Pictured: The Women's Premier League team in their Pride Cup uniform

## MERRYN BRENNAN

Season 2022 was another challenging season for our group. We were hoping the Covid issues were behind us, and people would be jumping out of their skin to get back to community sport.

Unfortunately for us our numbers remained fairly low, resulting in the the need to use double-up players too frequently. While this possibly halted a push to play finals I feel we were once again able to inject another good healthy year of experience into our playing group.

We had 5 women making their WPL debut and a good handful of juniors playing lots of games in the Reserves.

Many thanks need to be given to Barry Fox and Marco De Muri for their off field support again this season. We also welcomed Mitch Burns into the WPLR group as an Assistant Coach making life easier for me.

The biggest thanks of all must go to Ben Newell for his continued service to our club in coaching both our MPL and WPL over a long period of time. His time and commitment has been invaluable.

This year he welcomed Steph Young back into the group as an Assistant Coach, and with the help of Danni Schubach I believe he leaves us in a very good position going forward.



# WOMEN'S PENNANT & METRO



Pictured: The Premiership winning Women's Metro team

## LEANNE IVORY

The Women's Pennant and Metro 2022 pre-season began with training sessions run by Toby Langdon who ran our trainings throughout the season. The turnouts to training have been by far the largest we've had in many years which made for helpful and enjoyable sessions. It was also wonderful having some juniors and some new players join us for our training's too, hopefully those players will take to the seniors field in the next few years.

Women's Pennant C ended the season 10th on the ladder with only one win and two draws. The team had just began to hit their stride with a more consistent team towards the end of the season. Despite the disappointing results the team played well each game and were continually encouraging and supportive of every player on the field. The improvements made by players individually and as a team were phenomenal and next year should see more wins on the board.

Women's Metro took out the flag and brought it home for the club again after their win in 2019! Finishing third on the ladder they were a strong team to come up against. They won their semi-final against Caroline Springs at home, taking the girls to the preliminary final against RMIT. This game they lost in a penalty shoot out but RMIT had played an illegal player and the result was overturned which led to the team playing in the grand final against Sunshine. The well oiled team was too strong for Sunshine winning 3-0.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped out during the season, players who doubled up or played positions they weren't familiar with, the people helping to run the benches, the umpires and the behind the scenes people who ultimately helped ensure an opportunity to win the flag for the Metro girls.

To all of the players well done on an enjoyable season and hope to see you all back in 2023 for what we hope will be another successful year.

# MEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

## ZAC HAWES

It certainly has been a welcome relief to be able to complete a full season. We finished in a similar position as to when the 2021 season was ground to a halt.

In completing this season, we were able to gain some sort of understanding of our improvement and growth. Where we fit in this Premier League Competition. What has occurred is that the group has come to understand that it wants more and that we are more than capable of matching it with the considered top tier.



Pictured: Cooper Burns celebrates a goal during the first home PL final

2022 was a season of firsts for this group.

- Learning to put teams away. This ruthlessness is still a work in progress. The feeling of these kind of victories was certainly new to the group and welcomed.
- Qualifying Final win against the Season Minor Premiers was simply inspirational.
- Preliminary Final defeat at the hands of the eventual winners.

The message of taking it one game at a time resonates with this season. Every game has its own importance on the outcome of the season. (Finishing 5th) Did this hurt us? We will never really know. We, experienced an incredible finals run. A finals exposure that will serve the group positively for years to come.

There were many examples throughout the season where the group was challenged with unavailability's and injuries. This really was a strong characteristic of the group when faced with adversity. We were able to pull together and consistently put out strong performances with a hardened resilience.

Harry Gill who awarded "The most Improved for Season 2022" is one of the big reasons why we were able to improve our standing in this competition.

Heath McDonald stood up to take on the role of MPLR coach for Season 2022. Not an easy task by any means. I know am certainly very grateful for his time and effort. As a club we are very lucky to have a person like Heath.

I want to make mention of Ben Hooppell who had an incredible season and was a true inspiration right throughout the final series. We have incredible player in Connor Otterbach who just recently was rewarded with the honour of Captaincy of the Australian U/21 group that played in the Sultan of Johor Cup. Connor's star continues to rise, and we are all privileged to be a part of the journey.

And Cooper Burns, wow what a season. Your growth and leadership development throughout the 2022 season is a testament your hard work ethic and desire to be the best you can be. The awards of the Highest Goal scorer and Fin McNab are truly well deserved. We are so lucky to be involved with a player of your stature.

I would like to make mention of the enthusiastic support I am lucky to get from the leaders of this group. Harry Dolenc and Andrew Scanlon thank you so much for the consistent support and positive energy. I also want to thank Kellie Roadley for her ongoing love and support.

Bring on 2023.



# MEN'S METRO & PENNANT

## STEPHEN RITCHIE

For all the uncertainty in the lead up to season 2022 it unfolded as a remarkably positive one for the AHC lower grade men's sides. After completing one of the best pre-seasons in recent history, the season arrived with much anticipation and a degree of fitness and skill not seen in many years.



Pictured: Mens Pennant B at the conclusion of their Grand Final

We maintained strong numbers at training throughout the year and were rewarded with all three sides making an appearance in September — easily the strongest all round result in my time involved with these teams.

Pennant B had a magnificent year and were unlucky on the day not to take top prize, going down in a shootout on grand final day v KBH Brumbies. The side benefited from the return of crowd favourite Matt McCann and club legend Tyson Priddle in 2022 with Macca eventually taking out the B&F (despite missing half the season with a broken hand). The energy and drive from the group was fantastic all year, led from the front by Hamish Hudson & Brendan Prentice. Some impressive achievements for the year include: Jarryd Otterbach (B&F runner-up) leading goal scorer for the competition and the team not losing a home game for the year. While the final result wasn't what we wanted (or deserved) the group should be very proud of what they achieved this year and the bright prospects for season 2023.

Pennant D forged a path deep into finals after narrowly scraping into the top four. As always, the 4's were at the mercy of the grades above and below them and while there were weeks with little to no bench, managed to always stay in the contest. Brendan Slaven took the group under his wing and guided them weekly with strong support from Harry Meiers and Richard Samuels (sometimes on the field but often on the sidelines — particularly in finals). Brian Melville was exceptional in the net, taking out the B&F for the second year running while also keeping for PB for the majority of the year including a prelim final shootout that will go down in history. Argentinean import Pablo Bianchi was a welcome addition to PD this year and his performances were noted by his team mates, taking home runner-up B&F. Lucas Meiers and Cale Samuels were impressive throughout and will no doubt set their sights higher up the grades next season.

Metro B were unceremoniously bundled out in week one of finals despite being our safest bet to take out the flag in season 2022. Ian 'Bones' Bartlett picked up where he left off with support from stalwart Grant 'Cookie' Cooke and quickly asserted the side as a top 4 contender. Returning to the side was the ageless Shane Williams who tied with Bones for the B&F. With experience in over-supply, Bones may have struggled to get in a word at half time over the helpful advice being dished out from the likes of Peter 'Symo' Symons and Peter 'PB' Byrne. Newcomer Jason Page was a welcome addition along with Declan Whitford in his debut senior year.

Huge thanks go to Tim Symons for all his efforts in season 2022 getting these teams on the park each week. A big thanks for those that assisted with coaching and team managing throughout the year and of course the board and club at large for allowing us to get out there each week.

# INCLUSION

BRONTE KERLEY



Our first full season in a couple of years and we went all out with our inclusion events in 2022!

We kicked off the year with a staple in the AHC inclusion calendar, the Hockey Victoria Standout Cup. We had one team compete this year, showing our support of LGBTIQ+ youth feeling safe and included in the hockey community. Thank you to all who participated and to Kerrie Myyrylainen for supporting the players.

For Women's Round all the PL/PLR squads pulled on pink socks for their and the Women's Premier League Squad hosted a delicious bake stall. We also asked members to send through messages of appreciation for the important women in their lives. We had some really lovely messages shared over instagram, showcasing how many incredible women we have supporting our club.

Our Premier League Men's squad dedicated the Men's Health Round to raising funds for the Man Cave charity. Man Cave runs programs facilitating healthy masculinity for young men and creates a safe space for vulnerable discussions. The MPL/R squad put on their first ever bake stall, blue themed of-course, which was a huge hit!

Next up, we had our Pride Cup round. A round where we take time to listen and learn about how we can be a welcoming community for LGBTIQ+ members and celebrate everyone for who they are at the AHC.

In the lead up we ran some inclusion sessions with our junior teams, where there were lots of fantastic discussions around how we can make sure all of our teammates feel safe, valued and free to have fun playing hockey. On the day itself we had some junior teams wearing rainbow socks and our Premier League squads wearing the AHC Pride strip.

We had lots going on off the field, a huge rainbow clad crowd came down to support and to top the day off, we had the Rainbow Reverse Shuffle in the evening. Thank you to everyone for supporting on the day, thank you to all the players who helped out with the stalls and special thanks to Kayla Williams, Bella Sotelo and Tim Symons for helping to organise the day!



Pictured: Kayla Williams and some of her junior team at one the Pride Cup Inclusion workshops

We have also begun to bring in some initiatives in the access space for hockey at our club.

Prue Phillips has headed up our Walking Hockey series for over 50s with the support of a Hobson's Bay Make it Happen grant. The program has been a massive success with huge participation numbers every week! Thanks for all your hard work here Prue!

We are also working with Scope, Footscray Hockey Club and Hockey Victoria to develop a hockey format for persons with multiple and complex disabilities. Watch this space during the off-season as we aim to run a trial program early next year!



# INDOOR HOCKEY

Altona continues to be one of the strongest Indoor Hockey clubs in Victoria, with great results at the Indoor Club Championships in February at the new facility in Parkville.

The results:

- Senior Women Champions
- Senior Men Champions
- U18 Boys Runner-Up
- U16 Boys Champions



Pictured: The Mens & Women's Indoor Premiership teams

In addition, we have had many players and officials make both State and National level representation (all listed on page 20 of this report).

Thank you to Kerrie Myrrylainen, Ben Guy and Steve McDonald for their continued organisation and support of Indoor Hockey which has seen us reach this level of success.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### ALEX TYRRELL

A focus on celebrating our members through Social Media, providing high quality weekly updates to members via the Snakepit Messenger newsletter, engaging with local newspapers, and quality photography meant that we held and enhanced our reputation as one of the most well followed hockey clubs online.

This year in communications, Caleb Scanlon was looking after the portfolio to begin the year but stepped down when moving into a new job (congratulations!), this did mean that we had a gap with no portfolio leader for communications for the year. This meant a large workload as we continue to search for volunteers to help in this area.

Our main platforms and engagement by the numbers:

- Website - 10,787 visits for the year.
- Newsletter - 1,267 subscribers, 38,574 emails sent for the year across 45 newsletters, unique opens of 16,153.
- Facebook - 1,264 followers, organic reach of 26,701 unique accounts for the year, plus a paid reach of 21,684.
- Instagram - 2,059 followers and organic reach of 8,107 unique accounts for the year.
- Twitter - 963 followers and 20,815 impressions for the year.
- Hobsons Bay Star Weekly - 6 feature articles

Highlights

- The most engaged post via Facebook was announcing Connor & Cooper both selected in the Australian U21 side
- The most engaged post via Instagram was Pat Phillips scoring the winning goal in the home MPL Elimination Final.
- To Promote Hookin2Hockey we used paid posts to reach over 20,000 local people on FB, in addition to hundreds of high quality postcards, and using Hobsons Bay designated Promotional Signage space to advertise via a Real Estate signboard.



# MEMBER PATHWAYS PROJECT

## TRACEY DRAKE

In July 2022 we launched an exciting project to encourage and better support our members to participate in all aspects of hockey — playing, coaching, umpiring, administering, and supporting.

Improving member experience and opportunities to participate are key priorities in the AHC strategic plan 2021-2024. The project will enable these priorities by:

- Exploring what our members might need to participate fully in club life.
- Promoting the reasons why members might want to join or get more involved.
- Adding the supports which make participation easy for new and existing members.
- Building tools to help the AHC Board keep track of participation and fill critical gaps.

An expression of interest for project volunteers was conducted throughout July and August 2022, which attracted members with an exceptional range of skills and experience to the team including Camilla Briggs, David Burns, Greg Drake, and Jo Whitford. Further opportunities exist for interested members to contribute.

The early stages of planning and research have involved sharing project details with Hockey Victoria to understand if similar work is underway across the club network or more broadly, and where we might learn from existing participation and member development models.

The team has also begun speaking with members about their experiences at the club. A mini-focus group was held with U10 parents in September which provided great insights as to how we might make newcomers feel at ease, navigate the new environment, and help them connect with other people more quickly. Many more sessions like this are planned with members across the club over the coming months.

Research will continue over summer with the aim to begin testing small changes to improve member experience at the beginning of next season, while detailed member pathways and supporting tools and processes are expected to be developed and delivered throughout season 2023.

We look forward to sharing the outcomes as this important work progresses.



Pictured: Tim Sheahan umpiring the 2022 Premier League Grand Final

# FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

## DAVID BURNS

The 2022/23 Hobsons Bay City Council draft budget was released in April. It was disappointing to see that there had been no allowance made in the Capital budget to address the redevelopment of our pavilion and facilities.

A meeting was arranged between AHC representatives, HBCC officers and relevant councillors. At the meeting the council confirmed the approach to the redevelopment of our facility.

The redevelopment of the Altona Hockey Club (AHC) pavilion is an important project, strategically supported by Council's Sports Facility Needs Analysis as a medium-term priority. The work will also be coupled with construction of a training pitch (ideally a suitable size to accommodate Hockey 5s) at the site to ensure delivery of key improvement items across the entire reserve.

Over the 2022/23 financial year scoping and conceptual design work will take place on this project.

The indicative timeline for this project is:

- 2022/23 - Scoping, Conceptual Design
- 2023/24 - Detailed Design/Construction Commencing
- 2024/25 - Construction
- 2025/26 - Final Construction Year

HBCC will engage with AHC throughout 2022/23 as this scoping and conceptual design work occurs and the project moves forward to construction in following years.

AHC President, Alex Tyrrell, and I met with the Federal member for Gellibrand, Tim Watts, to inform him of the importance of the project to the club's continued development. Alex also corresponded with State MPs, Jill Hennessy and Melissa Horne. This type of advocacy keeps our representatives informed of club activity and opens up other potential funding options to complete the project.

This is the most important infrastructure project for the club and we will continue to engage with HBCC officers to achieve the best result for our members and supporters.



Pictured: The Altona Hockey Club facility on Sugar Gum Drive in Altona

# FACILITIES OPERATIONS & SOCIAL

## TAYLAH BRENNAN

### SOCIAL

This year we kicked off the social calendar with a landmark event - our 90th Anniversary celebration. Later in the season we had our Rainbow Reverse Shuffle event that tied in with our Pride Cup round. For the season close, we had Doggo Day and the always-popular Trivia Night. The post-season saw the return of our Senior Vote Count, and in November we will close things out with the much-anticipated \$2000 Draw.

After two years of very limited social activities with the club, it was fantastic to see a high level of engagement with the social functions this year. The 90th Anniversary celebration in particular brought in a really diverse crowd and provided some interesting history and conversation for newer club members.

It was great to also see a stronger junior presence at functions this year, a trend we hope to continue next year. In 2023 we will aim to finalise the initial planning of all events as soon as the fixture is released and publish a social calendar for the season, allowing members to plan for functions early and further grow participation.

### FACILITY OPERATIONS

2022 saw us back in full swing after a couple of rough years due to the covid pandemic. We were able to get a working bee completed in March giving the rooms and grounds a nice tidy up before commencing the 2022 season.

Maintenance works on the pitch took place preseason with the team from Tuff Turf coming out and fixing a few of the seams that needed some attention on the pitch.

During the season the council installed a new double sink in our kitchen, bringing our sink up to standards and making canteen duty clean up and prep a little easier.

A big thank you to the following people for getting us through the season, your continued volunteering efforts really assist the club to get through each week.

- Kerrie Myyrylainen - Uniform shop management and club cleaner
- Tess Nalder - Canteen Manager
- Merryn Brennan - Bar Manager

These are vital roles that need a mountain of work week in and week out, and we appreciate all of the continued effort you put in.



Pictured: Life Members at the 90th Anniversary Celebratory Function



Pictured: One of the happy attendees of Doggo Day



# LIFE MEMBERS

At the 2021 Annual General Meeting we proudly inducted two life members to the Altona Hockey Club via unanimous vote.

Congratulations **Kellie Roadley** and **David Burns** who were awarded life membership for their long and important contributions to the AHC.

Kellie has been involved since birth following her parents into the club, playing continuously from 1979 to 2011, serving on the Board on multiple occasions and has been the Men's SL1/PL Team Manager for the past 20 years.

David began playing in the mid-1970's, and after some time away he returned in 1990 and has been an active member ever since, across almost all areas of the club. Winning premierships, coaching and contributing as an administrator, including 6 years as Chairman.

Both were recognised with Legend Status in the decade 1991 - 2000, are past Cyril Turner Award Winners and continue to contribute strongly to this day.



Pictured: David Burns accepting his Life Membership



Pictured: Kellie Roadley in her long time role as MPL Team Manager

## ALTONA HOCKEY CLUB LIFE MEMBERS

J.K.Grant	R.Stewart
L.Fleming	V.Smith
J.Studley	R.J.Ford
W.Smith	C.Turner
K.O'Shannessey	D.Smith
F.T.Ranger	C.Brennan
P.Challis	P.Byrne
E.Phillips	J.Bartlett
A.Roadley	B.Forrester
B.Smith	P.Shields
I.Bartlett	P.Symons
K.Symons	M.Brennan
M.Burgess	K. Roadley
D. Burns	

# PERFECT HARMONY COTERIE

Perfect Harmony was formed in 2014 as the pre-eminent supporter group of the Altona Hockey Club to help with our ambitious facility development plans. Since the start of 2020, the focus of the Coterie Group to assist with coaching.

We recognise coaching an area of critical importance in competing in Premier League, as well as continuing to develop juniors and helping us to thrive as a club.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following Coterie Club members who supported us in 2022:

Tracey Drake	Bronwyn Kelly	Peter Dolenc
Linda Samson	Tyson Priddle	Steve Campbell
Ross Schubach	Morris Burgess	Kevin Brennan
Merryn Brennan	Peter Symons	Brian Fanning
Emma Aitken	David Burns	Tianie Grunwald
Robert Burns	Mike Whitford	Judy Patterson
Phil Patterson	Rod Johnson	Leanne Meiers
Marc Richardson	Danielle Schubach	Alex Tyrrell



# STATE & NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

We are proud of all of our representative players, from Regional with the Western Wildcats through to HC Melbourne, State and National Representation across playing, coaching and officiating.

Each year we are fortunate to have these high calibre players, coaches and officials working with us, and we are proud of our record in developing individuals who go on to represent our club at higher levels. Below are our State & National representatives in 2022.



Pictured: Connor Otterbach represented HC Melbourne this year

Connor Otterbach	Australian U21 Captain, Melbourne HC, Victorian U21 Captain
Cooper Burns	Australian U21, Australian Indoor, Victorian U21, HC Melbourne, Premier League All-Star team, Colin Batch Award for leading goalscorer, and the Fin McNab Award for Premier League Best & Fairest
Matthew Barnett	Canadian National Team
Greg Drake	USA Women's Head Coach
Andrew Scanlon	Australian Indoor
Heath McDonald	Australian Indoor
Zoe Parliamentas	Australian Indoor
Harry Bradbury	Australia U21 Indoor, U18 Victorian
Corey O'Neil	Australia U21 Indoor
Lauren Winship	Australian Over 35's Shadow Squad, Victoria over 35s
Molly Klix	Australian U21 Country
Tim Sheahan	International, Hockey One, PL Grand Final Umpire
Ben Newell	Coach U18 Victoria
Ben Guy	Asst Coach U18 Victoria
Naish McDonald	Asst Coach U13 Victoria - national champions
Nye Roberts	U21 Victorian team
Peter Byrne	Over 65 Victorian team
Peter Symons	Over 65 Victorian team
Toby Langdon	Over 45 Victorian team - national champions
Riely Kenny	U18 Victoria
Jacob Yacono	U16 SSV, HC Melbourne Futures
Fletcher Guy	U16 SSV, HC Melbourne Futures
Riely Kenny	U18 Victorian team & U18 Indoor Victoria Train-On



# SPONSORSHIP

## JO WHITFORD

Altona Hockey Club proudly acknowledges our sponsors this year, many of whom have been partnering with the club consistently over several years. We thank you for your generous financial contribution this year which assists us greatly with managing the facilities upkeep, administrative costs and keeping member fees low.

Becoming a corporate sponsor offers the opportunity for local businesses to promote to the members through online publicity channels and have a visual presence in the clubroom and on the ground. Both Silver and Gold corporate packages were available, along with a new offering of the Community Directory.

### PREMIER PARTNER

This year Burbank continued as the Premier Partner of Altona HC, entering the final year of a multi-year sponsorship. We farewell Burbank early next year and gratefully acknowledge their support and partnership of many years, not only by their generous sponsorship of the club but also their involvement as playing members and their presence at numerous functions and events.



We are extremely grateful to all our gold, silver and bronze corporate sponsors this year. The following local businesses partnered with Altona HC over the last twelve months.

### GOLD SPONSORS



Burlin Electrical and Mechanical is run by club player Ben Burriss and continues to be a corporate partner over numerous years.



Barlow McEwan Tribe

Barlow McEwan Tribe remains one of the clubs longest continuous sponsors and itself is Altona's oldest estate agency.



Altona Sports Club took up gold sponsorship this year and again hosted the clubs' 2022 Senior Presentation Night in October.

### SILVER SPONSOR



Mail Plus Altona joined as a new sponsor this year and is headed by David Burns, life member of the Altona Hockey Club.

### BRONZE SPONSOR



Building designers A.R Meiers Designs is headed by club player Andrew Meiers and is a corporate sponsor over '21-'22.

This year Altona HC launched the Community Directory as an avenue for local businesses to promote their services to members and guests. This was introduced in response to the slow return to normal business operations in the most recent two years from the COVID pandemic. We welcomed two local businesses to this year for a two-year sponsorship: Zoo Studio, pet photography and Seddon Digital, website design.

The club also received funds for the sponsorship of junior players this year. We would like to thank Altona Podiatry Centre and Strive Fitness for their individual sponsorship.

We are always keen to engage with perspective or returning sponsors and offer various options to promote local business to our members and guests at the club. For more information please contact Jo Whitford: [sponsorship@altonahc.org.au](mailto:sponsorship@altonahc.org.au)

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

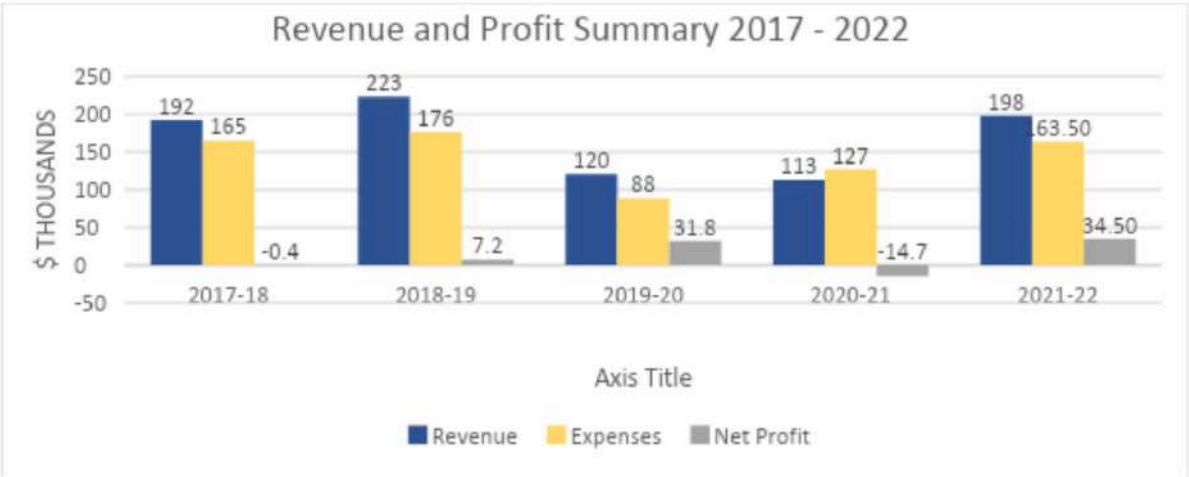
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

## Overview

The financial year 2021-22 saw a return towards pre-pandemic operations. A significant effort placed into fundraising and sponsor relations returned well, lifting the end of year performance well above the conservative budget set to break even.

The club recorded a profit of \$34691.20 after accounting for depreciation. As a result, the financial position of the club is stable enough to make a full contribution of \$24000 to the sinking fund. We will need to keep an eye on the current economic circumstances, however the robust position left at end of year will allow us to ride out most short-term events.

Below is an indication of our basic income, expenses, and profit compared to previous years (Chart: Revenue and Profit Summary 2017-2022) and a breakdown of our basic income and expense streams (Chart: Income and Expense 2021-22).



## Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

Cash Balance at the end of financial year was \$225,122. A strong position covering our reserves fund for Pitch Replacement, Coaching and leaving approximately three and a quarter months of expenses.

With a healthy balance at the end of year, no funds were withdrawn from the coaching fund for the year 2021-22. However, generous contributions will enable us to continue to invest in player development, high quality coaching and supports in the future.

The table below indicates the change in the reserve funds over the financial year

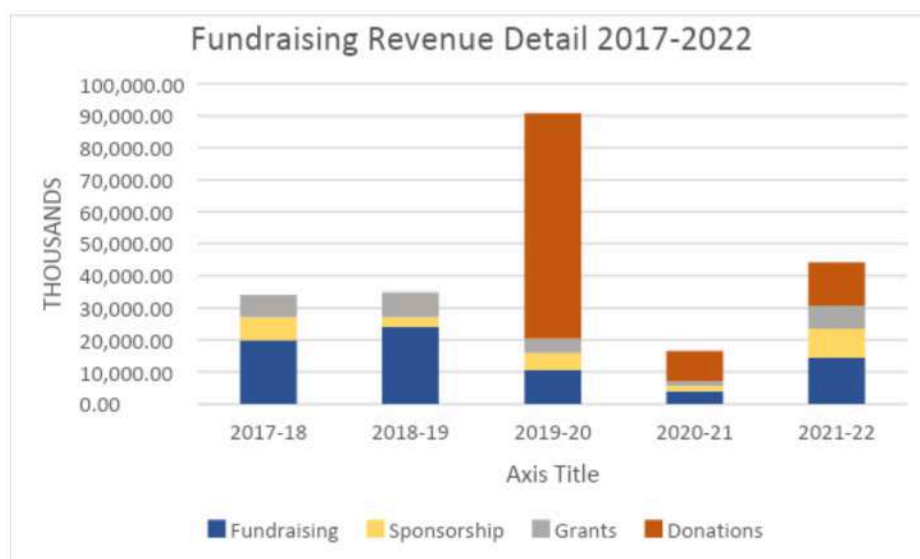
Reserves - Ground Replacement		Reserved - Coaching Fund	
<b>Starting Balance: First Oct 2021</b>	\$128,679.00	<b>Starting Balance: First Oct 2021</b>	\$13,910.00
<b>New Deposits</b>	\$24,000.00	<b>ASF Project Deposits</b>	\$9,575.37
<b>Funds used</b>	\$0.00	<b>Funds used</b>	\$0.00
<b>Interest Paid</b>	\$150.28	<b>Interest paid</b>	(n/a)
<b>Ending Balance: 30 Sep 2022</b>	\$152,829.28	<b>Ending Balance: 30 Sep 2022</b>	\$23,485.37

## Income Summary (Profit and Loss)

The result for 2021-22 was a profit of \$34,691 after asset depreciation of \$15,199. This compared to an original budgeted profit of \$1,929, set conservatively in the post-pandemic uncertainty around member numbers and fundraising performance. This can be attributed to the success of sponsorship acquirement, excellent fundraising returns and recovery of owed debts. It is important to note however, that due to expenses timed with the end of financial year, not having a presentation night at the end of the 2020-21 season and sizable recovered debts from facilities hire in 2020-21 (approx. \$7,000), this level of profit is unlikely to be sustainable.

### Fundraising Summary

The results of fundraising in 2021-22 are shown below. The large donation in 2019-20 was the lump sum from the Australian Sports Foundation resulting from a change in their process. These donations are now transferred monthly to the club.





### Fundraising Summary (cont'd)

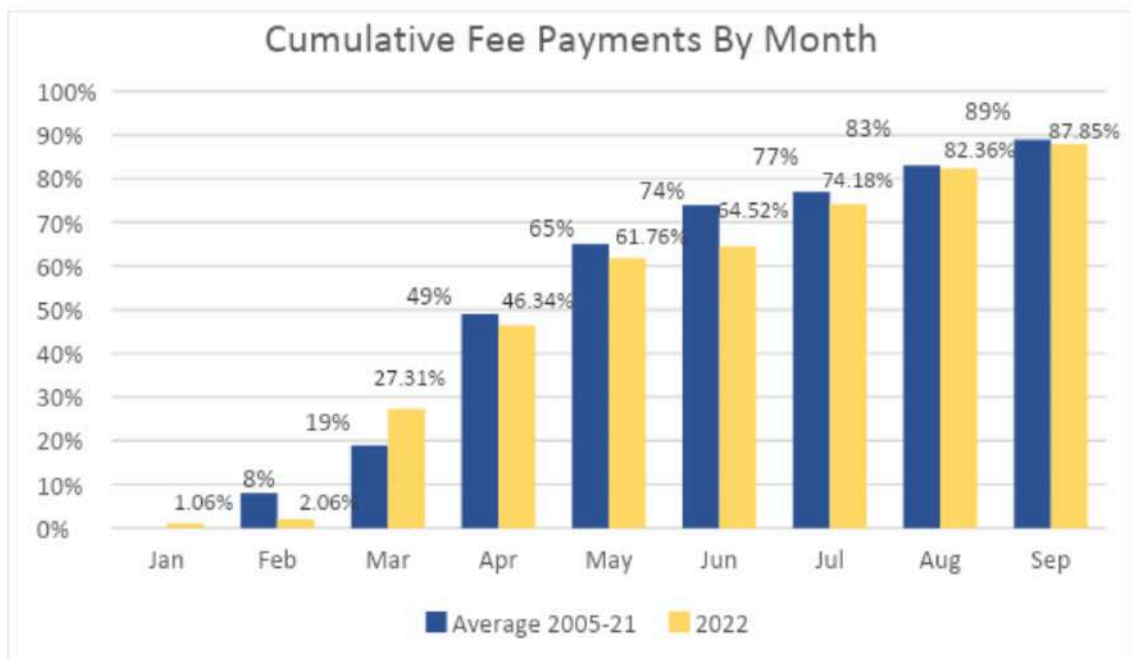
Further detail on this years fundraising activities are provided below.

2021-22 Function / Fundraiser	Revenue	Outlays	Profit
Freddo Fundraiser	\$4,200.00	\$5,317.50	(-) \$1,117.50
Pride Cup	\$2,926.00		\$2,926.00
Trivia Night	\$2,155.00		\$2,155.00
Other	\$1,642.18	\$1,003.87	\$638.31
Rainbow Shuffle	\$960.00	\$277.55	\$682.45
Bake Sales	\$592.90		\$592.90
My Cause Trivia Night	\$518.95		\$518.95
<b>Total (ex GST)</b>	<b>\$14,487.30</b>	<b>\$7,735.28</b>	<b>\$6,752.02</b>

### Membership Fees

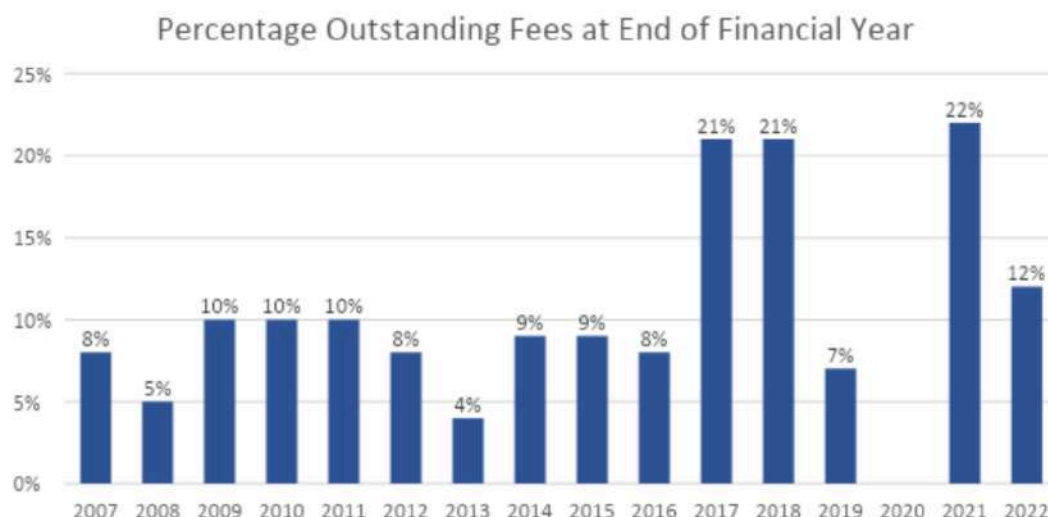
The Club collected \$84,375 in winter membership fees in 2021-22, with \$11,673 outstanding at the end of financial year, some of which has been recovered already in the start of 2022-23.

Early in the year many payments were made by members without the need for encouragement, and as seen in the chart below (Chart: Cumulative Fee Payments by Month), dropped off through the middle of the year due to a drop in communication from the treasury. Heavy follow ups late in the year resulted in recovery approximately in line with the club average over past years, however with more consistent messaging, the fee recovery this year could have been better.



### Membership Fees (cont'd)

The percentage owing at end of year approximates a trend towards normal levels seen in the past. At 12%, a further lowering could be achieved. This excludes fee waivers applied to members who played less than three games for the season. (Chart: Percentage Outstanding Fees at End of Financial Year)



Below is a summary of the 2022 Membership Fees:

2022 Membership Fees	
Winter Membership fees collected in 2022	\$84,375.17
Overpayments (Credits to be Issue in 2023)	\$3,235.00
Outstanding at 30th Sep 2022	\$11,673.00
Estimated Recoverable in 2022	\$11,673.00
Total written off as bad debt in 2022	\$1,237.50

### **Financial statements**

Based on a total revenue of \$198,434 in 2021-22, AHC is classified as a tier one incorporated association under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (the Act). Tier one associations do not need to have their financial statements externally reviewed or audited.

In accordance with the Act, I hereby present to the membership the financial statements (at Appendix 2) which give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the Altona Hockey Club Incorporated for 2020-21.

**KIERAN SYMONS**  
TREASURER  
ALTONA HOCKEY CLUB

# **APPENDIX 1**

## **2021 - 2024 STRATEGY**



# 2021-2024 Strategy



## The bigger picture

### Our Purpose

Create a safe place for our community to come and always be welcome

### Who we serve

Our present and past members, guests, the sport of hockey and the Hobson's Bay community

### Our Vision

To lead Victorian hockey in sustainable competition and community engagement

### Our Values

Inclusion  
Excellence  
Professionalism  
Pride  
Wellbeing  
Spirit

### Our Mission

Amplify our club's sustainable future success by:

- **Fostering** the growth and development of the sport of hockey
- **Investing** in the ongoing development of our members and our club
- **Inspiring** and creating positive community impact

## Our Values:

### Inclusion

We are a social, family friendly, community-based sporting club, welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

### Excellence

We strive for continuous development and improvement in all areas of hockey and community contribution.

### Professionalism

We are well organized and show leadership in all facets of our club

### Pride

We celebrate our past and present achievements.  
Our future is shaped by our long and proud history of success

### Wellbeing

We promote good sportsmanship, friendly competition and a healthy and safe environment

### Spirit

We respond to challenges with positive intent.  
We work together to overcome adversity.

Altona Hockey Club: 2021-2024 Strategy

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## Our Strategic Priorities

### Foster

#### Hockey Victoria and Hobsons Bay City Council Partnerships

- Maintain a strong relationship with HV through the promotion, support and deployment of their overall strategy within our zone.
- Leverage HV initiatives to create beneficial impact to AHC
- Actively strengthen our HBCC relationship to underpin our facility development

#### Increase community awareness and reach

- Raise public awareness of hockey and the AHC to the non-hockey community within our catchment zone.
- Build awareness and engagement through advertising and promotion of our club to attract new members/supporters.

#### Expand opportunities to participate

- Create more ways for all members of our community to participate at all levels and abilities

*Fostering the growth and development of the sport of hockey*

Altona Hockey Club: 2021-2024 Strategy

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# Our Strategic Priorities

## Invest

### Attracting

- Attraction of new players to our club to ensure a sustainable hockey competition
- Engage in community outreach to actively recruit new junior players
- Devote specific attention to increase female participation and retention at all ages.
- Leverage the strength of our club culture to encourage new playing members

### Member Experience

- Build pride, connection and engagement across our membership base and alumni to improve retention.
- Includes onboarding of new members, ongoing engagement of existing and past members in all areas of club activities and opportunities to participate.

### Pathways

- Actively enable members to realise their own hockey aspirations as players (at all levels, ages, abilities), coaches, umpires, officials, administrators, volunteers and supporters.

### Facility Development

- Work with HBCC to ensure the successful funding and completion of our clubrooms upgrade.
- Maintain awareness and planning of requirements to ensure our playing facilities enable us to play and host elite level games.

### Governance

- Increase our reputation with stakeholders, HV and HBCC through demonstration of strong governance and fiscal responsibility.

*Investing in the ongoing development of our members and our club*

Altona Hockey Club: 2021-2024 Strategy

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# Our Strategic Priorities

## Inspire

### Raising the bar

- Set and maintain high standards as a community club, by seeking out accreditations, certifications and partnerships that exceed what is expected of us, and demonstrates our commitment to positive community impact

### Be a place that the community wants to use

- Increase the awareness of, and bring more people to our place
- Create a positive community place and expand the utilization of the current facility beyond hockey operations – increase non-operational revenue generation.

*Inspiring and creating positive community impact*

Altona Hockey Club: 2021-2024 Strategy

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# Critical success factors



In order to lead Victorian hockey in sustainable competition and community engagement, we need to show that we can:

- Maintain our Premier League status
- Demonstrate on-field success – regular finals appearances across all grades
- Complete our facility redevelopment
- Grow our playing membership base
- Grow female participation to sustain our women's/ girls' competitions across all levels
- Recruit, develop and retain volunteers with appropriate skills.
- Demonstrate strong working partnerships with HV, HBCC, other clubs from the Western suburbs and Regional Victoria.
- Develop strong working partnerships with schools and community groups within our catchment zone
- Develop our junior members into future leaders of the club, both in hockey-specific and administrative roles.
- Increase and maintain funding from alternative revenue sources
- Continue to demonstrate prudent financial management.

# Required capabilities



To deliver on our strategic priorities, we need to be able to attract and retain people who have the skills and abilities to:

- Influence decision making with local government and Hockey Victoria
- Successfully partner with HBCC on all aspects of facility development
- Directly connect with non-hockey community groups
- Create and maintain diverse communication channels and community engagement.
- Support expanded participation and facility utilisation activities
- Define, develop and implement member attraction, experience, and pathway programs
- Maintain strong governance and financial discipline
- Identify appropriate certifications, accreditations and partnerships that the club should hold or acquire



ALTONA HOCKEY CLUB, INC.  
SUGARGUM DRIVE, ALTONA, 3018  
[WWW.ALTONAHC.ORG.AU](http://WWW.ALTONAHC.ORG.AU)

The Altona Hockey Club acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our club sits and pays respect to Elders past and present.

2021-22 AHC ANNUAL REPORT  
COURTESY OF WESTSIDE DIGITAL.

