

## **2020 Victorian International Optimist Presidents Report**

We have had a very busy year at VIODA in 2019. Many initiatives, events and challenges and increased performance results and a record number of sailors travelling to interstate and international regattas. Bringing home many good results!

### **2020 Nationals – VIODA strongly involved with organizing**

State Associations have to support AIODA on the ground to organize the Nationals when hosted in the home State. This requires efforts especially when the venue changes 6 months before the Nationals kick off.

### **2020 Australian Optimist Teams Racing Champions**

Record number of teams entered in the 2020 Musto Nationals Team Racing. 5 teams, 20 sailors (from very experience sailors to young sailors just starting racing in Open fleet):

- Liam Stevens, Morgan Williamson, Henri Levenspiel, Eda Philip - The VIC New Generation
- India Sinclair, Natalie Gleeson, Rosie Oxley, Lottie Griffith - The VIC Girls
- Jorja Mahoney, Sam Henderson, Callum Simmons, Sarah Goss - The VIC Youngsters
- Tana Deyell, Hayley Archer, Hugo Vandame, Zou Schemmel - The VIC Challengers
- Matty Goss, Philip Cripsey, Riley Cantwell and Aidan Simmons - The VIC Top Guns

We were thrilled to have the Victorian team of Aidan Simmons, Riley Cantwell, Matty Goss, and Phillip Cripsey become the 2020 Optimist Teams Racing National Champions. 2 years in a row, Victoria wins the national title. This is outstanding!! We are proud of our sailors!

Well done to the runner-up team Hayley Archer, Tana Deyell, Hugo Vandame, Zou Schemmel (not officially ranked as one of the members is not an Australian sailor).

### **2020 Australian Championship results**

Open Championship (irrespective of Gender or country)

Well done to the VIC sailors in the top 20:

- 4th - Matty Goss (SYC/RBYC)
- 7th - Aidan Simmons (IHYC/RGYC)
- 11th - Philip Cripsey (ASC/RBYC)
- 17th - Tana Deyell (RBYC)
- 20th - Riley Cantwell (RGYC)

A great achievement! Victoria have not had that many sailors in the top 20 for some time!

Perpetual Trophies – OziOpti Club Championship Cup won by Royal Brighton Yacht Club. Congratulations to Matty Goss, Phil Cripsey, Tana Deyell, Hugo Vandame and Zou Schemmel (member since Dec 2019)

### **2020 Australian Optimist Sailing Selection at the Nationals**

Congratulations to all the sailors who have made Australian teams for 2020 including:

#### **Worlds Team (2 of 5) – Lake Garda (Italy)**

Aidan Simmons

Matty Goss

#### **Europeans Team (1 of 4) – XXX (Estonia)**

Tana Deyell

Note: Philip Cripsey did not take the offer

#### **Asians & Oceania Team (1 of 10) – XXX (Sri Lanka)**

Riley Cantwell

Note: Hugo Vandame did not take the offer

#### **North America Championship Team (0 of 4)**

#### **Senior Development Team (1 of 12) – (XXXX)**

Liam Stevens

#### **Junior Development Team (0 of 10) – Noumea (New Caledonia)**

Note: Callum Simmons, Sam Henderson, Henri Levenspiel did not take the offer

#### **Girls Development Team (3 of 10) – USA West Coast Championship (Los Angeles)**

Jorja Mahoney

Natalie Gleason

Lottie Griffith

Note: Sarah Goss and Eda Philip did not take the offer

Having 15 sailors qualified in the Australian Optimist teams is a great achievement! Especially 2 sailors in the Worlds team. It demonstrates the good planning from VIODA and great work performed and led by VIODA head coach Sam Mackay for the past few years.

### **VIODA Touring Team**

This year we had made sailors travelling interstate and overseas to improve their fleet racing experience. The families have enjoyed travelling together and sharing the journey through junior sailing. The tours for the fleets this year have included:

- China Qingdao Championship – aimed at our Intermediate sailors - Liam Stevens, Harry Pilkington, Lottie Griffith, Dmitry Sorokin, India Sinclair, Morgan Williamson, Coach Sam Mackay, Team Manager Rachel Griffith. Another 3-year agreement was signed in 2019. August 2021 participation TBD.
- NZ Nationals – Record participation of VIC sailors: Final results (out of 141 in the open fleet): Matty Goss 13th, Philip Cripsey 14th, Tana Deyell 29th, Hamish Gilsenan 31st, Riley Cantwell 32nd, Hugo Vandame 41st, Cameron Berry 47th, Scarlett Zerbe 50th, Natalie Gleason 49th, Angelique Gleason 90th, Rosie 130th and Ellen Sampson 135th (who managed to finish 2 races in the top 10 but did not compete in many others due to her ankle injury)
- Singapore Nationals – Aidan Simmons 5<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> 12 years old), Philip Cripsey 10<sup>th</sup> and Callum Simmons 88<sup>th</sup> of 110. 3<sup>rd</sup> in Team racing.
- Good results also at the Asia & Oceania championships and Thailand regatta

### **VIODA Winter training**

Another successful year at Albert Park Sailing Club despite a rocky start (not enough water in the lake). RBYC was very kind to welcome the fleet at short notice for the first weekends.

Thank you to all the VIODA coaches for supporting this initiative.

We look forward to this year's training.

VIODA looking into a formula where the entire winter training will be charged rather than a pay per use formula. Easier to administer.

### **Various selections process**

- Nationals Team racing selection criteria – new in 2019
- Qingdao Team selection criteria – streamlined in 2019 (EOI sent to all eligible sailors and selection by committee incl. coach)
- VOST Team selection criteria – same as 2019 but regattas change (Schnapper Point instead Sail Melbourne).

### **Resources changes in 2019/2020**

- VIODA head coach: VIODA head coach Sam Mackay left in August. He has been very loyal to VIODA for several years; and a wonderful role model and the success of the Victorian fleet is a tribute to his dedication and talent as a coach.
- Tom Trotman replaced end of 2019 and we knew if would probably be for 6 months. He will be stepping down after the 2020 States and we are looking for a new Head coach.

- 2 VIODA committee members leaving – looking for IT, Com/Sponsor and High-performance racing/coaching SMEs

### **Other topics**

- New RIB (VIODA 1) purchased in Nov 2020 to replace aging RIB (VIODA 2) and the decision was made to keep the old one for OWS flexibility. A loan was generously provided by the Lavery family on the assumption it would be reimbursed with charters at the worlds (\$7,200 raised).
- OWS support cost increases in 2019 in order to break even during those events.
- 2021 Nationals – VIODA working on group boat transportation options – EOI to be sent soon + booking requirements when solution decided.
- Website changes in 2019 – company who built it and was supporting it stopped, engaged new company to host it, looking at new options. An IT SME to join or support the committee is strongly needed.

### **Sponsorship**

The committee has started to chase sponsorship support. The more we can find funds the more we will be able to subsidize training camps, expensive regatta (such as Hobart in 2019 and Perth in 2020) and other initiatives. Recent wins include:

- Bendigo Bank 4K (we have received 1K, additional 3K will be transferred into our account prior to June 30) thanks to Peter Lavery.
- Honda marine 3K, thanks to Xavier Vandame.

Currently chasing:

- Spirit of Tasmania - application for sponsorship has been submitted and is being considered (Peter)
- ANL – discussions in progress (Xavier)
- VOOST vitamins – initial contact (Xavier)

Many sailors aging out or having grown too much will leave a “little hole” this year but there is a good group of sailors coming up.

Thank you to the VIODA volunteer committee for 2019/20 for all your time and effort in helping the International Optimist class in Victoria. It has been a very busy but great year!

Xavier Vandame  
VIODA President 2019/2020