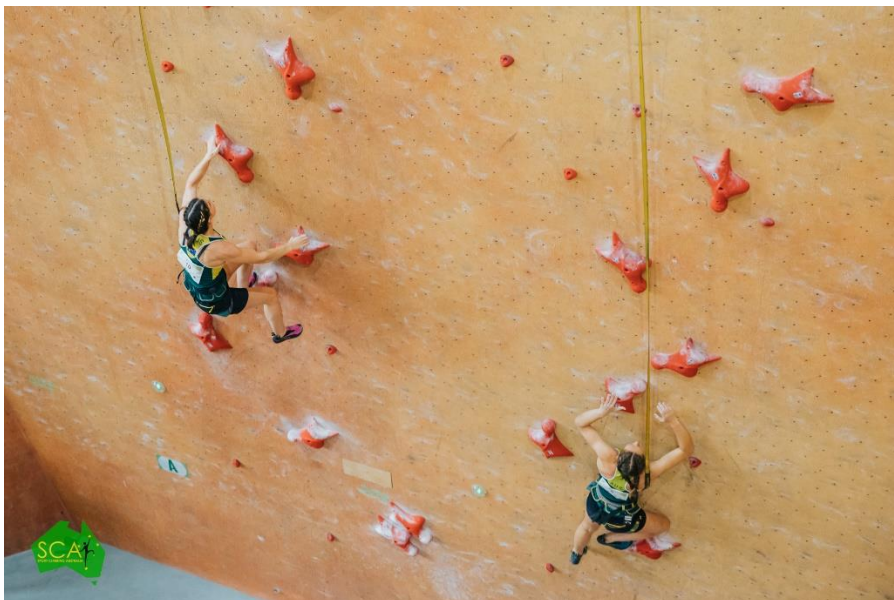




**SPORT
CLIMBING
AUSTRALIA**

Annual Report

2020





SPORT CLIMBING AUSTRALIA

1 Chairman's Note

2020 was a unique year for the world, for our sport and for our organisation. The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic led to a number of restrictions across all states, repetitive lockdowns and an ongoing uncertainty for all.

We had the chance to see a few state titles coming together at the beginning of the year and later during the year thanks to the hard work of our state associations and volunteers. Unfortunately, all our national events had to be cancelled and our athletes did not get the opportunity to participate in any National Championships.

On the global scene, the IFSC (International Federation of Sport Climbing) managed to hold a few World Cup events in Europe and North America, however attendance remained limited and the risk of running such events was questioned. Our athletes remained in Australia and did not participate in any events overseas.

Sport Climbing Australia worked really closely with the Oceania Council of Sport Climbing to organise the Oceania Championships of Sport Climbing. This key event was a selection event for the Olympic Games and the opportunity for athletes from Australia and New Zealand to earn a quota spot to Tokyo 2020(1). The event was postponed from

March to the end of the year and despite numerous challenges was finally held in Sydney on the 19 and 20th of December 2020.

Sport Climbing in Australia was at its best with the selection of one Australian female and one Australian male athlete for the upcoming Olympiad.

It is with sadness that only two athletes from New Zealand could participate in the event and we are looking forward to the next Oceania event with our friends from New Caledonia, New Zealand and Fiji.

I thank all our athletes, officials, coaches, sport administrators, parents and all those involved with our sport for their hard work, support and resilience throughout this difficult year.

We are all looking forward to 2021 and the coming years to further develop our Sport and showcase it to Australia.

Romain Thevenot
Chair



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2 Purpose

The activities of Sport Climbing Australia (SCA) are informed by our objects as they are stated in our constitution. The objects are as follows:

The Objects of the Company shall be to:

- adopt and exercise the Sporting Power as the national federation for the sport of Sport Climbing in Australia and act as the sole Australian affiliated member of IFSC in accordance with the Statutes and Regulations;
- conduct, encourage, promote, advance, control and manage all levels of Sport Climbing in Australia interdependently with Members and others;
- adopt, formulate, issue, interpret and amend Policies for the control and conduct of Sport Climbing in Australia;
- encourage the provision and development of appropriate facilities for participation in Sport Climbing;
- maintain and enhance standards, quality and reputation of Sport Climbing for the collective and mutual benefit and interests of members and Sport Climbing;
- promote the sport of Sport Climbing for commercial, government and public recognition and benefits;
- be the only body entitled to prepare and enter Australian teams in international Sport Climbing competitions;
- promote, control, manage and conduct Sport Climbing events, competitions and championships;
- have regard to the public interest in its operations; and
- undertake other actions or activities necessary, incidental or conducive to advance these Objects.



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3 Strategy

In 2018 the SCA board undertook a facilitated strategy workshop to review and develop our strategic plan. Prior to this workshop we sought feedback from our members on what we were doing well, what needed improving and what our focus areas should be for the future. From this we developed our strategic plan – On the way to the top 2018-2021, which we shared with the state boards and wider members when released.

We have the following strategic focus areas:

- Improving Internal and External Communication
- Diversifying Income Sources
- Achieving a National Training Centre & Events facility
- Capitalise on Olympic Inclusion
- Continual Governance Improvement
- Ensuring Sustainability

With plans and action items for each area, which we have been working on within our resources since that time.

You can find this plan on our website at the following [LINK](#). After the 2021 election, the new board will work on reviewing the strategic plan.



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4 Performance Measurements

We have been growing fast in the last few years.

- **Structure and Governance:** achieve a strong and performing governance structure and meet our requirements with ASIC and the ASC – ongoing requirement met
- **Finances:** a small financial reserve has been built up due to operating surpluses in recent years. The Federal Government JobKeeper allowance along with no International travel has helped to offset the loss of members due to limited events.
- **Visibility of the sport:** we saw an increase of the visibility in the media, mainly due to the Olympic inclusion. The SCA communication department performed well at the Oceania Championships & will work to make the most of the selection of two Australian to the Olympic games.
- **Staffing:** the ongoing support of an administrative officer has seen the smooth handling of our administration requirements, with support offered to member states around events and communications. We also added the role of Communications officer which has helped to build the profile of the sport and leverage the Olympic inclusion
- **Membership base, national and international events** will be addressed with more detail further in this report.
- **Coaching structure development:** a coaching structure change was made previously to support our growing national team. The implementation of this project has strengthened the capacity of the coaching team and we are further refining the calendar to support this work.
- **Coaching accreditation program:** a special subcommittee has done very valuable work in this area to develop training and accreditation programs for coaches across Australia. Limited resources have prevented further work to date but this will be a focus area for the future
- **Membership**

SCA membership numbers for 2020 were down on previous years, again due to Covid 19.

The first quarter saw 549 members nationally. The second quarter saw only 10 new memberships. This was due directly to Covid 19 and the national lockdown and gym closures. The third quarter saw the start of the recovery, particularly in Western Australia. It saw the first event post the lockdown which was in WA and saw 234 competitors. The fourth quarter saw over three hundred more memberships, with events returning in NSW and Queensland. The total SCA memberships for 2020 was 1067.



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5 Principal Activities

Our activities were mostly suspended in 2020 due the Covid 19 pandemic.

- **National Events**

The Covid 19 pandemic has dominated the international arena since March 2020. It is not only Sport Climbing that has been heavily impacted but all National and International Sports. For the second time in its history the Olympic Games, which were due to be held in Tokyo Japan in 2020, were postponed by one year to July 2021.

A training camp and test event for the Oceania Championships went ahead, but our other National Events and National Championships had to be postponed and then cancelled for the year 2020. We are grateful for the understanding of the facilities, volunteers and members this affected.

- **State Events**

We were able to hold some events before a national lockdown was enforced. The first event was the NSW/ACT Open Lead and Speed titles which were held at Sydney Indoor Climbing Gym, Villawood on the 8th and 9th of February. The Youth Lead titles were held on 15th February at Climbfitt Kirrawee. Both events were supported by Mountain Equipment and Sport Climbing NSW/ACT. The Open event was a total of 81 competitors and the Youth events 84 competitors. This was the first occasion that Climbfitt, Kirrawee hosted a state titles event and it was well received by all who attended.

The next event on the calendar was the WA lead titles on the 22nd February at City Summit. The event was supported by Sport Climbing WA, Summit climbing walls and Sea to Summit. They had 85 competitors across all categories.

The Victorian Lead titles were held on 29th February and the 1st March at Cliffhanger Climbing Gym. The event was supported by Sport Climbing Victoria and had a total of 122 competitors across all categories.

The Queensland Youth Boulder Titles were held on the 7th and 8th March. The event was supported by Sport Climbing Queensland and Core Climbing. They had 118 competitors. This was the last event held in Australia before the national lockdown came into effect.

The next event held was the WA State Boulder titles on 29th and 30th August. The event was supported by Sport Climbing WA, Sport Climbing Australia, Sea to Summit and Stax. It was the first opportunity for us as a sport to work under state Covid guidelines. The event ran very successfully and saw a total of 234 competitors, a good indicator that we were on the road to recovery.



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The NSW/ACT State Boulder titles were held at Sydney Indoor Climbing Gym, Villawood on the 12th to 15th of November. A lot of work was put into developing a Covid safe plan and ensuring the health and safety of all competitors, officials and spectators. There were 240 competitors and the event ran successfully with the support of SICG Villawood, Sport Climbing NSW/ACT, Sport Climbing Australia and major sponsor Mountain Equipment.

These were run in accordance with SCA competition policy. Due to travel restrictions each state event was organised by the State Board and all officials such as Head Route Setters and Jury Presidents appointed by the state board.



- **Oceania Combined Climbing Championships**

The Oceania Combined Climbing Championships (OCCC) were due to be held at Sydney Indoor Climbing Gym, Villawood on the 28th and 29th March. The event was postponed due to Covid 19. After much consultation with the IFSC, Sport Climbing Australia and Sport Climbing New Zealand the event was rescheduled to the latest possible date being 19th and 20th December.

The event was not without its problems created by Covid 19. Just days before the event was to commence there was an outbreak on the Northern Beaches of Sydney. Some competitors from Queensland decided not to travel to Sydney for the event. Some officials and organisers who were concerned that the event was close to Christmas returned home before and during the event with the full support of SCA, as the Covid 19 situation evolved.

SCA had a Covid safe plan in place, including replacements for officials and the event went ahead as scheduled. The event organisers, limited access to the facility and asked all competitors,



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spectators and officials to wear masks and this was complied with. The event was very successful even with its issues. Congratulations must go to both Oceania Mackenzie and Tom O'Halloran who secured Australia's first ever Olympic spots and to all athletes and officials for excellent displays of grace and resilience under constantly changing and very trying circumstances.



5.1 Australian Team

The Oceania 2020 team participated in a training camp at SICG Villawood immediately prior to the lockdown. This event also doubled as a test event for the combined and an opportunity for all the officials to work with the IFSC technical delegate and ensure the smooth running of the Oceania Championships.

The coaching team did its best to provide remote support to our athletes during the lockdown and aid in preparation for the Oceania Championships.

Other in person events were not possible given travel restrictions and we appreciate the support offered by facilities and state bodies to our team members.

5.2 Development of the sport

- Development plans were put on hold due to Covid and it was an opportunity for SCA to reset for the post Covid era.
- SCA took the opportunity to further develop its relationship with the facilities. We hosted multiple workshops via zoom for facilities in order to support them and help them where we could to navigate their way through the lockdowns and post lockdowns including reopening plans.



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6 Sport Climbing Australia Structure

6.1 SCA Board of Directors

From January to December 2020 the SCA board had the following members and had 11 official board meetings. The following is the attendance at those meetings.

Name	Period of appointment	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Romain Thevenot	Entire Year	NA	1	1	1	1	AGM	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paul Kinnane	Entire Year	NA	1	1	1	1	AGM	1	1	1	1	1	1
Naomi Cleary	Entire Year	NA	1	1	1	1	AGM	1	1	1	1	1	1
Roxy Perry	Entire Year	NA	0	1	1	1	AGM	1	1	0	0	0	0
Scott Braithwaite	Until April	NA	1	1	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ian Fullagar	Entire Year	NA	0	1	1	1	AGM	1	1	1	1	0	1
Campbell Harrison	Entire Year	NA	1	1	1	1	AGM	1	1	1	1	1	1

Romain Thevenot

Romain has been climbing since he was very young. He started his journey as a climber in the French alps and reached many submits over the years. His academic background is in engineering and he graduated with a master of mechanical engineering from the Ecole des Arts et Metiers in France. He moved to Australia to complete a second master of engineering at the University of Melbourne but soon began working in the climbing industry as a head route setter and then climbing facility manager. He became involved with running competitions in Australia in 2012. Along the years he played all different roles: belayer coordinator, route setter, competition



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organiser, head route setter, jury president. In 2014 he was part of the group that nurtured the idea of state organisations and then created Sport Climbing Victoria. He joined the board of Sport Climbing Australia in 2013. Romain was instrumental in the establishment of the current federated structure of SCA. While always being a director Romain has been acting as a CEO taking on many of the executive tasks required in the good running of the company.

Paul Kinnane

Paul has been a competitor and involved in official capacities in a range of sports, including motor sport (Formula Ford and rallying) in his youth, triathlon and cycling in the 1990's, before discovering climbing 15 years ago. Paul was a key member of the team that started Sports Climbing South Australia. He has 30 years experience in the IT industry with roles including software development, sales and being State Manager for a large, multi-national IT services company. He is also part owner of Beyond Bouldering, a bouldering gym scheduled to open in 2017. Paul has two children, who also compete with him in local lead and boulder events.

Naomi Cleary

Naomi initially came to sport climbing as a parent. She was one of the founding members of the Sport Climbing Victoria board and has been involved with the development of the sport at all levels. She has been involved with the organisation of a number of national level competitions as well as the ongoing work of developing the sport of climbing in Australia.

Naomi has professional experience in the property sector. She holds a Bachelor of Business Studies and is a CPA and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Naomi was elected to the board in October 2015.

Roxy Perry

Roxy has been competing in Australian climbing competitions since late 2009. She started her international climbing career in 2011, representing Australia at the World Youth Championships in Austria that year. Now, with the experience gained from more than 10 World Cups and Championships and a good few National Titles, Roxy strives to bring her comp knowledge to the SCA board and represent an athlete's point of view.

Roxy is a passionate coach and teaches the art of climbing to kids as young as 4 all the way to adults and elite individuals. Living, coaching and training in Tasmania, Roxy has influence on many up and coming athletes and is super excited about being on the forefront of our quickly developing sport.

Scott Braithwaite

Born in Brisbane, raised in northern NSW and now living and working in south east Queensland, Scotty is a passionate individual who, when he's not managing a climbing facility, can generally be found hanging out at super icy crags or packing his bags for obscure mountain objectives.

A family orientated man influenced by a childhood full of visits to wild places, he's driven to see communities grow and take up their potential. It's not surprising that he highly values the significance rock climbing as a sport and recreational activity can bring to a person's personal journey. Officially opening up his climbing account in 2007 with a dodgy roped climb at the infamous Kangaroo Point crag, Scotty has gone on to develop his love of climbing through getting



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involved in countless sport climbing competitions, taking on plenty of multi-pitch and multi-terrain epics and ticking off close to five thousand individual belay demos for climbers inside and out. Managing The Rock Indoor Climbing Gym in QLD for the past 8 years has allowed him interaction with a variety of fantastic climbers and industry experts which in turn has given him the opportunity to become well versed in many facets of climbing; actually correction, not well versed in his own ability to actually climb really hard routes – first to admit he still hasn't mastered that. By educating, coaching, facilitating and managing risk, he gets psyched on people of all abilities achieving what they use to only dream about. Known to some as The Enabler*, Scotty is not adverse to making bold decisions, owning mistakes with transparency and ultimately pushing hard towards a well respected objective. Although being a safe and dependable climbing partner out there on adventures, he does have a large streak of pioneering in his blood. So generally things don't progress as expected, however he'll guarantee you'll never be on your own. On paper, officially he's made his way through a stack of certificates and diplomas in all things ropes and people. Lastly he's keen, not naive, in seeing climbing take its rightful position in the sporting hall of fame, all whilst the recreational elements of climbing co- exists to inspire, lure dirt bags, provoke sandbagging and be enjoyed by a full gamut of skilled individuals.

Ian Fullagar

Ian Fullagar is a Sports Lawyer and has nearly 30 years' experience in legal practice having been admitted to practice in 1989.

Ian has very broad corporate and commercial legal experience and specialist expertise in sports law and public law. He has been listed in the 2010-2017 editions of Best lawyers for his experience in Sports Law and the 2016-2017 editions of Best Lawyers for his experience in Commercial Law. He was listed in Chambers Asia Pacific Guide 2017 as a Notable Practitioner in Australia for Sports Law. Ian has held many positions on government, commercial and not-for-profit boards both as a director and as company secretary. He is a life member of the Australian New Zealand Sports Law Association and is also a Vincent Fairfax Fellow.

Campbell Harrison

Campbell has been competing in Australian climbing competitions for a number of years. He has been climbing internationally in both youth and now Open categories and is one of the senior members of the Australian International Climbing Team. Campbell has joined the SCA board and brings a lot of experience to represent the athlete's point of view.



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6.2 SCA Administrative Staff

Executive Officer - John Bowen

John Bowen	24 September 2018 - current
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The role of executive officer was introduced in 2017. This is mainly an administrative position. The role includes:

- Answering general queries
- Communication with the member states and the individual members
- Assist the directors with tasks
- Assist with the preparation of national events
- Management of event registration and membership renewal
- Reporting on membership collected and registration fees collected
- Other projects

John initially became involved with Sport Climbing as a parent, when his two children started climbing and then competing. He has 20 years experience as a police officer, first in the Northern Territory and then NSW, and a degree in Emergency Management from CSU. John lives in the lower Blue Mountains in NSW. He has a part time position as a firefighter with his local station. He volunteers as a judge at climbing events when he can.

Communications Officer – Nicole Rowles

Nicole is an experienced reporter and presenter for the Nine Network, with almost a decade of experience as a journalist, writer and media specialist, and an extensive network of professional contacts across Australia. She has experience bringing climbing-related content to mainstream media attention through my work with Adventure Reels as a media advisor and speaker. She is now in the process of establishing her own business in media relations, publicity and production.



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6.3 Coaching Team 2020

In 2018 we implemented a new coaching structure to support the Australian Climbing Team and in 2020 it was intended to further develop this team. Unfortunately, the team was not able to travel due to Covid 19 during 2020 but the coaches were heavily involved with the athletes who competed in the OCCC.

- Duncan Brown – Coaching Director
- Will Hammersla – Open Team Coach
- Monique Forrestier - Assistant Open Team Coach
- Sophie Bell - Youth Team Coach
- Rob LeBreton - Assistant Youth Team Coach
- Sarah Yousef - Paraclimbing Team Coach
- Justine Walker – Team Physiotherapist
- Katie Kaminsky - Youth Team Physiotherapist

