



SPORT CLIMBING AUSTRALIA

Annual Report 2018





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1 Chairman's report

2017 was another year of big changes for our sport. Following on from ASC recognition in 2016, 2017 saw us implement the last of the structural changes to our organisation in order to change to a federated structure. ASIC completed the registration of the new company in January with the state bodies as our members.

We had three national competitions in 2017, Open Lead and Speed, National Youth and Open Boulder. The separation of Youth and Open events was a great success which was necessary due to the rapid growth of the sport. Due to this growth we have also begun to require selection by the state bodies for entry into the official categories at National events. We were very pleased with how this went and are extending this policy further in 2018.

2017 saw our largest ever Australian team attending international events, with outstanding results in Innsbruck and Noumea. Australia will be sending one athlete to the Youth Olympic Games in 2018 after qualification at Oceania and this will be a great practice run for Tokyo 2020.

With the support of the Olympic Solidarity Program, we were able to run a series of coaching and route-setting workshops with the international expert Tonde Katiyo. This is a major step for the

development of our officials in Australia and we hope to make it an ongoing program.

The hiring of our first employee has been a major step towards improving communication between SCA, our state bodies and our members. We look forward to growing our team as we grow our capabilities in increase the number of services we provide.

We worked for a year in the preparation of our first commercial partnership agreement and signed a multi-year commercial agreement with PSE. The aim of the partnership is the development of major climbing events and the hosting of international events in Australia, as well as the pursuit of sponsorship opportunities for the sport. We are very excited to see where this relationship will take us.

There has been development at all levels of the sport and we are looking forward to working with all actors of the climbing industry and the climbing community in 2018 and into the future for the growth and development of our great sport.

Romain Thevenot



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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

Our strategy for achieving our objects has been as follows:

- Implement good governance of the sport
- Continue to meet the requirements of the ASC
- Participate as a member of the AOC
- Sanction state title events
- Run National Events in conjunction with host state and facility where appropriate
- Develop and implement accreditation for Route Setters
- Develop and implement accreditation for Coaches
- Develop Commercial Agreements
- Research and apply for all available funding from Government and non-government sources
- Seek appropriate support for the development of climbing facilities
- Seek feedback on policies and update where appropriate
- Refine selection policies for the Australian Team
- Develop new policies where there is a need
- Select the Australian Team

In 2018, the SCA board is undertaking a strategy workshop with a facilitator to review and further develop our strategic plan. We will focus on medium and long term plans and prioritise our activities in order to most efficiently develop the sport. We will be contacting the state boards with a brief survey about strategic priorities and we look forward to hearing your feedback.



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4 Performance Measurements

We have been growing fast in the last two years. Until now our performance was measured with the following trackers:

- Structure and Governance: achieve a strong and performing governance structure and meet our requirements with ASIC and the ASC.
- Finances: stability was a priority and a need for growth of the annual income and profits to prepare for future projects and build a reserve
- Visibility of the sport: we saw an increase of the visibility in the media mainly due to the Olympic inclusion. The SCA communication department still needs to be developed.
- Staffing: having an employee was identified as a necessary step for the growth of the organisation in 2016 and we recruited our first part time employee in 2017
- Growth of membership base: our number of members slightly increased in 2017 and we will review our strategy to grow further
- Grow competitors at state and national competition: participation at national and state events increased for most events but not all
- International event performances: while we did not achieve any finals results in 2017 we note an overall improvement of the average performance and a major increase of the open participation in events
- Coaching structure development: a coaching structure change was necessary due to the increased size of our national team and the need to work on Olympic preparation. The structure was reviewed in 2017 and positions filled in early 2018

In April 2018 we will be running a strategic meeting to define our medium and long term plans. With this, new key performance trackers will be put in place.



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5 Principal Activities

Our principal activities fell under three broad categories:

- National Events
- Australian Team
- Development of the sport

5.1 National Events

In 2017, the first national event was the Open Lead and Speed Championships which was held at SICG Villawood. For this event we were supported by SCNSW/ACT. With 80 competitors in lead and 20 in speed this event was split from the Youth event for the first time. With the speed held on the Friday night and Lead on the Saturday the event attracted the interest of the Australian Olympic Committee who attended and videoed interviews with some of the competitors.

The next national event on the calendar was the Clif Bar Youth Climbing Championships. This massive event was supported by SCV and held in three venues over three days with 250 competitors. There were two full setting teams for the event as well as three teams of judges, belayers and volunteers. This was the first time we ran a three-discipline event with the aim to offer a combined ranking. This was a huge development opportunity for the officials involved and we look forward to implementing improvements to the event in 2018.

The third national event for 2017 was the Open Bouldering Championships. The event was hosted and managed by Nomad Bouldering Gym with the support of SCNSW/ACT. SCA sent officials to the event, but the day to day administrative burden was taken on by the host facility.

The growth of the sport was demonstrated by the introduction of a selection policy for the Open A category at Bouldering National Championships; marking a turning point for our national competition structure. This policy allows representation from each state in accordance with their size and prior year's performance. It required selection of the team by each state body. We are following through with this selection policy in 2018 for Open Lead and Open Boulder and already thinking about implementing a similar policy for National Youth in 2019.

Throughout the year we had state events running in 7 state and territories. These were run in accordance with SCA competition policy. When requested by the State Boards organising the events, SCA sent officials such as Head Route Setters and Jury Presidents to support the event and when possible train and assess officials. Our route setting committee and judging committees are commissioned to review our training and assessment schemes and provide recommendations to the board.



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5.2 Australian Team

In addition to developing a selection policy for the selection to national events, SCA has continued to refine the selection process for the national team at these events. With strong demand from our athletes to attend international events, it is increasingly important to select the team who will best represent Australia as well as gain experience on the international stage.

With the support of the selection committee, selection is made based on performance at national and international events.

Another major project for 2017 was the organisation of the team trip to the Youth World Championships in Innsbruck Austria. We sent a team of 19 athletes who were supported by the coaching team as well as their parents and guardians. This was the largest team ever sent to a YWC and the organisation of the event was ably coordinated by our team manager.

In addition to the Youth team, 2017 saw 12 Open athletes attending 11 World Cup events. This is looking to be an even greater number in 2018 and we expect the overall level of performance to increase.

We also sent a team of 38 athletes to the Oceania Championships in New Caledonia in October. This was also a qualification event for the Youth Olympic Games in 2018. We would like to congratulate Ned Middlehurst and Sarah Tetzlaff from New Zealand for their qualification. These athletes are then proposed to their National Olympic Committees for selection to the team for the event. Congratulations and good luck Ned!

We have also had another athlete become successfully selected by the IOC for an Olympic Solidarity Scholarship. This is aimed at supporting athletes with hopes for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Congratulations to Oceana Mackenzie.



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With the growing national team and the increasing level of participation at international events for both youth and open athletes, 2017 saw the review of the organisational structure of the coaching team. Towards the end of the year we advertised roles in the team and we were delighted with the quality of the candidates who applied. We have now appointed a much larger coaching team:

- High Performance Manager
- Coaching Director
- One coach per discipline
- One assistant coach
- One Physiotherapist

We are convinced that this new structure is much stronger and 2018 will see the implementation of more services from our coaching team to our athletes.



5.3 Development of the sport

During 2017 we continued to develop and implement accreditation for our Route Setters. This is at both state and national events and involves the assessment of head route setters and setters by someone with the appropriate higher level of qualification. As the sport develops further it is important that we have well trained route setters who are setting at our state and national events.



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The next step for this is developing training programs for our up and coming route setters so that we continue to raise the standards at our events as well as offering a valuable resource for the climbing facilities in Australia.

With the aim of developing the coaches and route setters in Australia, we brought Tonde Katiyo to Australia in 2017 with the support of the IOC solidarity program. He ran a series of workshops with route setters and coaches in Australia. They were as follows:

- **Advanced Route Setting** – this was hosted by Beyond Boulder in Adelaide where xx participants were able to develop their skills for setting in the commercial environment.
- **Competition Route Setting** – Tonde worked with the setting team for the Open Bouldering Championships to develop their skills for setting at the elite competition level.
- **Coaching** – two coaches from each state were invited to participate in a four-day workshop with both Tonde and the Australian National coaches. This workshop focussed on preparing athletes for competition as well as supporting them during competition and then reflection on results after the competition.
- **Route Setting for Coaching** – here route setters were able to focus on route setting with a specific coaching outcome in mind. The route setting team developed problems for the upcoming training camp which was run as a mock competition.
- **Training Camp for Youth and Open Team** – the team was able to work with the national coaches as well as Tonde for a training camp where they were able to benefit from his experience working with other international teams.

Overall 44 people were able to benefit from the experience of working with Tonde whilst he was here. The feedback from the participants in the courses was outstanding and we are planning to run a similar program in 2018.

In order to develop the sport further, SCA have developed a number of committees. These committees are made up of committed individuals who are working on a specific area of the sport. We have established the following committees who are at differing stages in their development:

- Route Setting and fairness committee
- Coaching Committee
- Selection Committee
- Athletes Committee
- Competition Policy and Judging Committee

As we develop further these committees will take on more influence and responsibilities for the management of the sport.

A large part of our work is the application for grants and funding from all available sources. In 2017 we were lucky to be able to secure funding from the AOC for the following programs:

- Coaching grant to support coaching of the Australian team



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- Equipment grant to purchase speed holds and cameras for judging
- Coaching grant to support training of two coaches per state at National Boulder

We are very aware that it is important not to rely on one off grants to support the day to day running of the business. For this reason, we seek to fund all recurring expenses from recurring income and develop ongoing programs to be on a break-even basis.

To diversify our reliance on member funds and grants, we have signed a commercial partnership with PSE events. This partnership covers the development of International Competitions and other major events in Australia. PSE will also be seeking sponsorship and support for SCA and the Australia team and is already working hard for us. We are excited to see the development of international events in Australia and are happy to support PSE who will be seeking the funding and venues for these events.





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6 Sport Climbing Australia Structure

6.1 SCA Board of Directors

From January to December 2017 the SCA board had the following members and had 12 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 – Current	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paul Kinnane	Entire Year – Current	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Naomi Cleary	Entire Year – Current	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Roxy Perry	Entire Year – Current	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1		1
Caitlin Horan	1 January – 31st March	1	1	1									
Scott Braithwaite	31st March 2017 – Current				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ian Fullagar	9 th May 2017 – Current						1	1	1	0	0	1	1
Nick Mennell	31st March 2017– 19/2/18				1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

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 summits 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 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.



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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 keen to be 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 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.

Caitlin Horan

I have been climbing since I was a teenager. I managed a climbing gym for 8 years, during this time I realised my passion was coaching. I have coached climbers in Canberra for 16 years and coached the Australian Youth Team in 2008. I am the head of a Physical Education department with a strong



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climbing program at a high school here in Canberra. I love climbing, coaching climbing, watching climbing, talking climbing, breathing climbing.

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 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.



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Nick Mennel

Nick Mennel is an engineer, programmer, software developer and project manager with over 30 years' experience working in the motorsport, automotive, aerospace & consumer spaces.

Nick is adept at business strategy, business management, financial control, software & hardware design and development. Having started as an Engineer with B.L. Cars in 1979, Nicks experience includes working with the likes of Westland Helicopters, Land Rover and Zip Industries.

This experience led to the founding of his own management consultancy business, Blue-Edge Technology Ltd in 2007, focusing on product innovation, design, development and business management.

Nicks wealth of experience includes the growth, from ground up, of a Midlands, UK, rugby union club. Working with the club, developing back-end membership administration systems, growing membership to over 4000, and becoming one of the top 24 clubs in the UK. In 5 years working with the club Nick held the positions of Director of Business, and subsequently Chairman of the Board.

6.2 SCA Administrative Staff

Executive Officer

Katariina Rahikainen	March 2017 – May 2017
Chris Hampton	October 2017 – current

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



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6.3 Coaching Team 2017

Will Hammersla – Head Coach

William Hammersla was born in America and has been climbing for nearly 20 years, beginning in the indoor gyms of England and transitioning to Australia in his youth. He has been a full time coach and route setter for the past 5 years as well as being heavily involved with Sport Climbing Australia, Sport Climbing Victoria, state and regional teams.

He currently resides in Melbourne and works with most of the gyms in Victoria and the nation to help provide climbers with technical and performance coaching, as well as competition and commercial route setting.

Kimo Kamo – Assistant Coach

Kim fell in love with rock climbing as a teenager in the early 90's and became an instructor in 1999.

Over the past 16 years she has coached climbers of all ages and abilities, created climbing programs, courses and workshops, and participated in state and national competitions as a competitor, official and coach.

She is excited to be joining Sport Climbing Australia's National Coaching staff and looks forward to supporting our top climbers as they strive to achieve their goals on the international stage.

We welcome Kim on board and look forward to her mentoring our crushers as part of a well rounded support crew.

Yvette Harrison – Team Manager

If you don't know me my name is Yvette Harrison and I'm from Victoria. For the past 4 years I've attended the Youth Championships with my son Campbell and the Australian Youth Team. I've been to Singapore, Canada and Noumea as a parent helper and last year assisted with team management in Norway and Italy. It is a privilege to support these young and talented Australians in their endeavor to be the best athletes they can be.





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6.4 2018 Coaching Team

For 2018 we will be operating under a new coaching structure. We have expanded our coaching team and have been delighted by the calibre of candidates who have applied for positions.

