

Cover design - Thank you to Emmaline Shand

Hockey Geelong Mission Statement

"To be a successful, respected and leading Association in the sport of hockey"



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Office Bearers 2023 - 2024

Executive Committee

President:	Graeme Dent
Vice president:	Vacant
Secretary:	Nette Williams
Treasurer:	Cassandra Calder
Committee:	Emmaline Shand
	Gillian Armstead
	Peter Taylor (Sharks Chairperson)
	Claire Barnes
	Deb O'Shannessy
	Renton Chappell (invited guest)
Umpires' Co-ordinators	Pearce Frost & Tom Molyneux
Match committee convenor	Matthew Krusic-Golub
Other positions:	
Communications	Claire Barnes
Grounds	"Palm Life" and committee
Auditor	Nunan Financial
Public Officer	Nette Williams

Life Members

Recipient	Year Awarded	Recipient	Year Awarded
Jan Adams	1989	Charlie Martin	2008
Alan Barnes (deceased)	1989	Brett Bingham	2009
Claire Barnes, OAM	1989	Peter Climpson	2009
Joy Bromley	1989	Rick Burns (deceased)	2011
Ronda Collings (deceased)	1989	Greg Stephenson	2012
Jean Jansen	1989	David Fitzgerald	2013
Clarrie Love (deceased)	1989	Alan Climpson	2013
Lyn Tout	1989	Terry Moore	2014
Sheryl Mackie	1989	Kelli Caldow	2016
Margaret Murray (deceased)	1989	Wendy Climpson	2016
Jim Urquhart (deceased)	1989	Leanne Basham	2017
Debbie O'Shannessy	1989	Rachael Frost	2017
Noel Patchett	1989	Shane Walters	2018
Helen Sandwith	1989	Scott Walters	2018
Jim Kirk (deceased)	1990	Lisa Walters	2019
lan Sayers	1990	Peter Smith	2022
John Stephenson (deceased)	1994	Pam Sutton	2022
David Burns (deceased)	2007	Chris Thompson	2023
Lynette Williams	2007	Andrew Crowley	2023
Peter Kolsch	2007	Greg McGrane	2023
Peter O'Reilly (deceased)	2007	Peter Stuart	2023
Graeme Dent	2008	Emmaline Shand	2024
Gillian Armstead	2008	Joe Crosbie, OAM	2024

Sponsors of the GHA and the Sharks

























President's Report

Sporting clubs are always busy by their very nature so to say a great deal has occurred is a presumption. The year commenced with Alan Climpson elected as President and after a short time he stepped down. The executive fully supported Alan during this time and I was duly elected, and it has been an honor and privilege to take the role.

On 21st May we witnessed the formal announcement from the State Government of the redevelopment of Stead Park which will involve a new pavilion and a new surface for the Jim Kirk pitch as well as a new pitch, lighting and seating at Torquay. This was a glorious day, and we thank the State Government sincerely for their gift and legacy to our sport in our region. This is the biggest ever investment in Geelong hockey. As more details are released, we shall inform our community.

The Men Vic League 1 team won their grand final and are now eligible for promotion to Premier League for next season. In front of a huge Geelong crowd who travelled to support them, the team left it to the last three minutes to edge in front. This was a remarkable achievement as they lost the majority of their team after relegation at the end of 2023. Blair Chalmers has done a great job and there is much to look forward to.

The canteen has always been central to Stead Park and we welcomed Dimpy as our canteen manager. Her friendliness and special dishes made her a valuable member. The curries and pasta dishes were a favorite on the way home for many people. For the weekly operation of the canteen, we must thank Deb O'Shannessy, Nette Williams and Peter Taylor for their tireless work. All three volunteered their time to ensure there was a variety of food and beverages for your consumption.

The sponsors were a major part of our season, and we sincerely thank all those listed on the previous page.

A major announcement this year was our partnership with the Doncaster Hockey Club in England. This partnership will encourage players and teams to travel to England and we hope to receive the same from them. This partnership gives the GHA a point of difference which is vital in these competitive sporting times. We have Gus McKinnon and Liam Murphy travelling there in January to play games for Doncaster. We wish them well.

We commenced this year with a long list of goals, and it is satisfying that we have achieved the majority. It was pleasing to see Corio Hockey Club reform and celebrate their 50th anniversary. The hard work of Abby and Daniel Smith allowed them to field a full team in Division 2 with clear plans to expand in 2025. The past and present players of Corio hockey Club funded a beautiful meeting table for the association and for that we are truly appreciative.

Saints Hockey Club also celebrated their 50th anniversary and they were awarded the President's Trophy for being the premier club within the GHA. Congratulations must go to Nicole Alonso and her team for a fine year.

The atmosphere of the club rooms was very positive throughout the season. We had the Mothers' Day drawing competition which the mothers loved, as well as the Olympic drawings by the children whose art work was added to the clubrooms. It was so pleasing to see the children involved and having fun. This year the GHA held their first Life Members' Lunch on a day they could watch the Sharks play at home. We value our Life Members, and it was tremendous to dine with so many. We thank Deb O'Shannessy for organising the lunch.

Our GHA Grand Final Day was held in the worst possible weather and yet it did not deter the teams, officials and spectators from assembling at Stead Park. We got through the day and must congratulate all of the participating teams who are mentioned in detail elsewhere in the annual report. A special thank you to Emmaline Shand for leading and organising our Grand Final Day. Her attention to detail and ability to ensure everything went smoothly was appreciated by all. Emmaline contributed so much and was ably supported by her father Terry who was brilliant behind the microphone.

Recognising those who has given much of themselves for the benefit of the GHA are always noted and this year we granted Life Membership to Emmaline Shand and Joe Crosbie. Emmaline for her work over many years in various roles, and to Joe for his role of being treasurer. The Hall of Fame received three new inductees in Chris Armstead, Deb O'Shannessy and Glenn O'Shannessy (the first mother and son). All are worthy inductees, and we congratulate them and recognise their efforts.

Our flagship are the Sharks teams, and we thank Peter Taylor as Chair and Gillian Armsted as Vice Chair for leading this section. The senior and junior sides have all performed well and there was always great excitement around them. We must sincerely thank Tammy Hansford who is stepping down from coach of the women's first team. She has performed at the highest level and has nurtured so many players over the years with her expertise, wisdom and tactical IQ. We wish Tammy the best for her future.

The local competition has been in good hands and we thank all of the office bearers of Torquay, Newtown, Saints, Corio, Geelong Jaguars and Kardinia for their work and ensuring that training and matches are played in the right spirit.

The achievements of the year do not happen in isolation, and I must thank those who have given their time to the GHA executive. Nette Williams in her role as Secretary has performed her duties to the highest level. Her attention to detail and diligence has enabled the smooth running of the association. Cass Calder as Treasurer has worked hard to ensure the monies are collected and paid in a timely manner. We thank Cass for her financial wisdom in ensuring we are still in a good financial position. Deb O'Shannessy has contributed in many areas, leading the greater connection with the Life Members. Inviting them to toss the coin before a Sharks' game has been a success.

Gillian Armstead has worn many hats and her contribution in our meetings has been significant. She has an eye for detail and her crucial thinking skills have been much valued. Claire Barnes has again worked tirelessly in so many areas and we thank her for her work in competition and match committees as well as Hookin2Hockey, the website and socials, the list goes on. Thank you sincerely Claire for your work. Peter Taylor has the role of Chair of the Sharks and because of that role, sits on the executive. Peter has been such a positive voice for all things hockey and his willingness to open and close as well as being available during the week when needed, has been significant. Emmaline Shand has been a major contributor with pitch bookings, art design and her support of the redevelopment has been noteworthy. We also had the pleasure of Renton Chappell attending as a regular guest and we acknowledge his many contributions.

The summer season shall be in full swing at the time of publication, and we thank the organisers for leading this. Summer hockey is a great time of year and is very well supported. Thank you all.

The final point I wish to make is regarding our future as a sport in our region. With the redevelopment we shall be presented with excellent facilities at Stead Park and Torquay. While that is great, it does present us with the opportunity to advance our game immeasurably. The facilities shall provide us with opportunities we have never had before, and we need to be ready and able to capitalise on them. We need to open our facilities to the public and see beyond our own community. A commercial kitchen allows us to have meals of a high standard often and the question is "what does that look like"? The association has been run like a family-owned corner business. We now have to see it as a medium size business and with that comes the skills required. These are serious issues we need to address. How it is done, is by all of us having input. Our greatest resource is our community. Get on board.

In closing I wish to thank all of the GHA community for a great and noteworthy season. We have much to look forward to next year.

I wish you all a restful time over the summer break.

Graeme Dent

President



Announcement of funding for Stead Park Redevelopment

What's been achieved and what is in progress

These are not in order of priority.

	Working bee conducted - huge amount of work done with lots of club contributions		
✓	Website updates		
✓	 Information is current "News" on the front page First nations statement added Club pages Hookin2 hockey program and locations visited Humans of hockey Geelong Previous club list Calendar of events (ongoing updates) New website design in progress Some updated design features added 		
√	 Noticeboards Clubrooms list of executive and contacts Hockey Victoria special rounds Emergency contacts posters Local members list Sharks committee positions 		
✓	Past clubs posted		
~	Council lease compliance completed		
√	Canteen compliance approval successfully completed		
✓	Canteen compliance approval successfully completed		
✓	Honour boards update including a new honour board for Torquay		
✓	Life Member photos – 17 have been framed and hung		
✓	Acknowledgement of Claire Barnes OAM, photo in the clubrooms		
✓	Monthly volunteer acknowledgement – changed to volunteer award to accommodate more acknowledgment of volunteers Large meeting table donated by Corio hockey club members		
\checkmark			

\checkmark	Dog signage and notification to community
1	Dogs permitted into Stead Park but not on pitches and have to be on leads
•	Cass Calder as Treasurer and bookkeeper appointed
×	Planning day - HV and GHA conducted
<u>▼</u> √	Doncaster HC UK and GHA communication and plan - Gus McKinnon and Liam Murphy to travel to the UK in January 2025.
	Community Engagement - via posters and social media
• •	Strategic plan reviewed and republished on website
<u> </u>	Business Cards – community invited to display business cards in clubrooms
	Life Member lunch conducted in July 2024
• •	Tutoring offered and advertised
v	Inaugural Sharks women's and men's Premier League teams names on display boards
v	Corio club returns to the men's competition
▼	Introduction of can recycling bins and container deposit scheme
 ✓ 	Free First Aid course offered and attended by participants from the hockey community on the 10 th April 2024
<u> </u>	Code of conduct sign near canteen
<u> </u>	Bar named and sign up for the "John Zele Bar" & Recognition of Palm Life support
• •	Poster in shops in the region "Play Hockey" displaying a QR code
▼	Grant application submitted for school holiday programs - notified in May 2024 – Unsuccessful
✓	Player video " Why I Play Hockey"
✓	Appointment of canteen manager
	New facilities announcement with the Minister 21 May 2024, Alan, Graeme and others.
· √	Geelong Hockey "By the Numbers Poster"
	New canteen stove installed

	Meeting with Jason La Rocca HV regional representative
\checkmark	
\checkmark	Fence banner for Ella George and other sponsors
√	Clubrooms used by external groups over the year
\checkmark	School holiday 2 day program conducted July 2024 and one day in September. Run by Sharks players
✓	Increase in sponsorship and fence signage
√	Schools' competitions conducted and ongoing in August and October
√	LEC committee formed and conducted the first meeting
✓	New scoreboard controllers for both pitches
✓	Volunteer to do maintenance jobs in place
✓	Life Members and Hall of Fame members selected and awarded
✓	All clubs offered a meal after training sessions and funded by the GHA
✓	"Read the Play" session conducted for Under 16 age group
✓	Umpire "Thank you" lunch on Grand Final day
√	Forum discussion with GHA members and interested people
\checkmark	Annual reports all available on website
\checkmark	Grand Final day complete and a very successful day
\checkmark	All abilities use of Stead Park undertaken for cricket & hockey.
✓	Umpire support was completed with payment and support of Pearce Frost and Tom Molyneux.
\checkmark	Geelong Regional Hockey Academy sessions conducted in October 2023 and 2024
✓	Support of local clubs- supported club days with fixturing, canteen manager reducing club commitment to canteen duty. Team entry fees remained the same U8 and U10 competition at Stead Park
✓	Regular School hockey program at Stead Park

Items listed and in progress

1	Website upgrade is ongoing but in progress
2	Facility hire sign in and on the external wall of the clubrooms
3	Orange Door Domestic Violence
4	Corporate Cup
5	Canteen fines
6	Canteen offers of jobs to juniors
7	NSW Hockey connection Glebe HC
8	City of Geelong – Update the Geelong Hockey sign on fence on Melbourne road
9	Naming end of goal ends of Pitch 2
10	Volunteer of the Year
11	Long term goals from planning day
12	Corporate Cup planning
13	Pride Cup activities

Secretary's Report

After an absence of a few years from the Secretary role, which was preceded by 17 years as Secretary, I took the role on again. I was pending retirement in early 2024, so it seemed like I could contribute to hockey again. How I managed to fit in the Secretary role and working full time I have no idea....

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Graeme Dent for taking on the President role after Alan Climpson resigned. Graeme's drive and passion for this role and the connections is hard to even comprehend. Graeme leads by example, and it has been very rewarding working with him.

I would like to thank the previous executive committee and the hockey community, so it is vital that information is shared. Thank you for taking on these club roles so efficiently.

Thanks to Emmaline Shand for her assistance when I was Secretary and committee for putting in place documents and storage of documents, so that I could easily access them and knew what had been put in place.

To the club contacts - you are the link between the away to monitor and respond to "admin" emails and to Claire Barnes for her efficiency in posting information on the website.

The Secretary role;

- provides an important and essential link between the Clubs and the committee
- responds to emails (club queries, Hockey Victoria and general "admin" requests)
- ensures correspondence and information from various sources is distributed in a timely manner
- records and distributes meeting minutes
- assists with grant applications and relevant paperwork
- maintains the information on the clubroom noticeboards
- attends Hockey Victoria meetings where required
- organise the annual working bee

I have also been helping with the weekly shopping trips for the canteen and on occasions opening the facility for the schools' competitions.

This season the committee has achieved a huge amount, and this is due to the people on the committee and a number of others that have "pitched" in to help out - often just offering their help. I thank you all and it has been a pleasure working with Graeme Dent, and the other committee members.

Nette Williams

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

I'm pleased to share an update on the association's finances for the year. We've been working hard to grow our community, and our numbers reflect the positive impact this is having across the board.

- Strong Financial Position: We're in a solid financial position with no debt after paying off our Bendigo Bank loan. This leaves us in great shape to keep investing in our members and facilities.
- Steady Growth in Income: Our income has increased by approximately 20% this year, largely thanks to higher pitch usage, successful events, and strong canteen sales. The canteen alone contributed an estimated \$68,000 in income, with a modest profit overall. The canteen's performance changes throughout the year, with quieter times during the summer season balanced out by stronger results in the winter season. Overall, it continues to play an important role in supporting the association's finances. We've also seen valuable contributions from the Geelong Regional Hockey Academy, which has been fantastic in supporting our junior player development.
- Investing in Our Future: This year, we've increased our focus on supporting player and volunteer development through additional funding and resources. These efforts are aimed at building a strong foundation for the future of our association.
- Navigating Rising Costs: Like many organisations, we've seen costs go up in areas like electricity, gas, and facility maintenance. For now, we're focused on maintaining our current facilities while we look forward to our new facility coming soon. Canteen and event expenses have also increased but are well balanced by the additional income they've generated.
- Looking Ahead: We're committed to building a strong, inclusive community that brings together hockey players, families, and volunteers. Our focus is on supporting skill development, keeping our facilities accessible, and planning for sustainable growth to ensure the association continues to thrive and connect everyone involved. At the same time, we're continuing to improve efficiencies across the board to maintain strong financials and ensure long-term stability.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions and support. Your involvement genuinely makes a difference and is a key driver in our success as a community.

Cassandra Calder Treasurer

Vale

Merv Crowley Craig 'Hooka" O'Reilly Pam Oliveiro Carolyn McGrane



Merv Crowley passed away November 2023

Merv will be remembered by many for his umpiring and his commitment to the Geelong Hockey Club as well as the GHA over many years. Merv's daughter Deb O'Shannessy and grandson Glenn O'Shannessy and Glenn's daughter Luka are playing members of the GHA.

Craig "Hooka" O'Reilly passed away April 2024.

The Geelong Hockey community was saddened to hear of the passing of Craig "Hooka" O'Reilly. Craig was a long-standing player and member of the Corio Hockey Club and for many years a regular at Sharks games. He was a very talented player commencing playing for Corio as a 15 year old while still at school. He possessed skill and determination, scoring many goals in crucial games. As a forward he was feared by all defenders and always played in a fair manner. In a time before representative hockey, the local game was of a high standard with many teams participating. Hooka rose above all others in a very strong side.

He was married to Ali who is a long-standing playing member of our association. To Ali and their two sons, Jamie and Aaron, we send our sincere condolences.

Hooka was aged 60. We all hope he is resting in peace.

Pam Oliveiro passed away May 2024

Pam played for the Newtown City Hockey Club and commenced in 1984 and continued playing until 2016. She always had a smile on her face and was a much loved and valued member of the club. Her father Roland Oliveiro also helped create the Geelong Men's Hockey Club.

Carolyn McGrane passed away August 2024

Carolyn passed away unexpectedly on 4th August 2024 at home. She had a long connection with local hockey playing with Geelong, Corio, and Saints Hockey Club over many years. There was a well-attended funeral followed by a large group commemorating Carolyn's life at Stead Park.

She leaves her husband Greg "Grubby", daughter Olivia and son Darcy. Sister to Greg Hope and Dianne Gardner, who also played hockey in Geelong. The hockey community have lost a great person.

Communications Pillar

Aims and Activities

The aims of the Communications Pillar include:

- to provide easily accessible information to members to facilitate the conduct of the Association competitions and programs
- to communicate with members and keep them informed about the activities of the Association and the opportunities available to them
- to communicate with the general public who are not part of the hockey community, with a view to promoting the Geelong Hockey Association and what we can offer

Geelong Hockey Association members have been kept informed of the activities of the community during 2024 via:

- Website posts and information updates
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Email through the Revolutionise Sport platform

Website Activities

- Information about news, upcoming events and member activities is posted on the website, allowing members to check in and see what's happening in the Association.
- Information regarding awards, Life members etc. is updated periodically to maintain an accurate record for the Association.
- Information regarding the competitions is updated as required each season.

We are in the process of obtaining a new/ rebuilt website for the Geelong Hockey Association, which will modernise the look of the website and hopefully improve the ease of accessing information.

Facebook and Instagram

In addition to the website, Facebook and Instagram are used to communicate with our members and with the Geelong community generally.

Facebook remains the GHA platform with the most followers – 1119 which is an increase of 6% since January 2024. Our audience ranges mostly 25 to 54 years of age, with slightly more women than men – 54.6% vs 45.4%.

Facebook posts regularly have a reach of 500 to 800 with more popular posts reaching over 1000 accounts. Popular posts with a reach of 800 or more have included information about:

- Volunteer recognition awards
- Hockey Geelong Sharks skills programs
- Hockey Geelong Sharks team performances
- Junior and Senior Country Championships
- Team selections and tournaments for regional (Wildcats), State and National competitions
- Monday Social hockey
- GHA educational programs Huddle Up
- Grand Finals

Instagram use is also increasing, with 529 followers; an increase of 9%. As expected, the majority of these users are in the 18 to 34 age group, with 39.8% women and 60.2% men. Most Instagram posts reach between 400 to 880 accounts, with a similar pattern of interest in the topics mentioned above.

Thanks to members who have provided photos for use in our communications. These always generate more interest.

The amount of time allocated for managing these communications has increased to approximately 6 hours per month, but in busy periods is often more than this.

Emails through Revolutionise Sport

Email sent to members through the Revolutionise Sport system are used occasionally. More frequent use of this medium can help to reach all GHA registered members, coaches, managers and umpires.

Contact with local media

Match results have been reported to the Geelong Advertiser for publication.

Claire Barnes Communication Pillar Chair

Membership Pillar

We were allocated two weeks of Hockey Roadshows supported by Hockey Victoria and these were well used, with 9 schools accepting the invitation to host a hockey program in Term 1.

Hockey Victoria supplied the primary coach (Rachel Moon) for all the school sessions. The GHA clubs then provided an assistant coach, which was funded by the Geelong Hockey Association using sponsorship obtained from *TAP Mortgage Solutions*. We are very grateful to have had this funding to enable the GHA programs to continue for the whole year.

After the HV supported Roadshows, Hockey Victoria staff again contacted the local primary schools with an offer from the Geelong Hockey Association to provide subsequent Roadshow sessions in Terms 2, 3 and 4 at a time which suited the school. The offer received responses from 13 schools indicating interest in hosting further hockey programs. Follow up with these schools resulted in programs provided across the year in 11 schools.

Cooperation with Hockey Victoria has also seen the GHA receive requests to provide Sporting Schools hockey programs in 7 schools, funded by the Australian Sports Commission. These programs usually run for 4 to 5 weeks, and the GHA receives income via Hockey Victoria for providing the coaches to run the program. This cooperation with Hockey Victoria is very pleasing and much appreciated, allowing us to provide local information to participants.

Participating schools during the year included Hamlyn Banks PS, Montpellier PS, Clairvaux Catholic School, Lisieux Catholic School, Roslyn PS, Manifold Heights PS, Little River PS, Torquay Coast PS, Bellbrae PS, Drysdale PS, Lara Lake PS, Covenant College, Nelson Park School, St Leonards PS, Grovedale West PS, Shelford PS, Meredith PS, Wangala PS, Torquay College, Northern Bay College, Holy Spirit PS, Queenscliff PS, Ceres PS, Chilwell PS, Belmont PS, South Geelong PS, Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College, Aireys Inlet PS, St Aloysius School. We even ran a session at Club Armstrong (residential community centre) at their request.

Thanks to the participating coaches (23 people):

- Alex Birrell, Kelli Caldow, Sam Jackway, Macy Kooloos, Darcy Larkins (Saints)
- Tom Griffin, Stephen Krusic-Golub (Geelong)
- Claire Barnes, Deb Barnett, Harry Bradbury, Dominic Crowley, Rachel Moon, Prabha Ramanathan, Emily West (Newtown)
- Deb O'Shannessy, Kath Forsyth, Avert Forsyth de Ruijter (Torquay)
- Angus Ayerbe, Jack Burke (HG Sharks)
- Matt Barnett, Tanya Dawson, Graeme Dent, Bec Thomson

	2021	2022	2023	2024
HV Roadshows schools visited	5	12	12	9
GHA Roadshows schools visited	6	16	12	15
Sporting Schools programs	6 (partial	6	3	7
conducted	cancellations)			
Total schools visited	17	34	27	31
Total students participating	2357	6081	3359	4805
GHA Coaches involved	5+	15	17	23
Hookin2Hockey programs	9	7	6	7
Clubs with Hookin2Hockey programs	4	5	5	4
Hookin2Hockey Registrations	58	75	38	37
New members	390	330	173	256
Total members at end of winter	747	775	748	736
season				
Total members at 31 December	833	906	814	855
				(28/10/24)
Income (Sponsorship & Sporting	\$3648.75	\$8390.67	\$5000	\$5000
Schools)			+ \$2137.66	+ \$7559.76
Expenditure	\$3908.75	\$7959.80	\$6026	\$8465
Surplus/ loss	-\$260.00	\$430.87	\$1111.66	+\$4094.76

Although some clubs have expressed a preference to run programs in Term 4, it has been more difficult to find volunteers at this time.

Claire Barnes

Membership Pillar Co-Ordinator

Grounds and Facility

The annual club working bee was very well attended with in excess of 30 people. The list of jobs had been distributed prior and people asked to bring the equipment they needed to do the job. The GHA had a large dumpster at the gate which was full at the end of the day. A huge amount was achieved and the place looked very clean and tidy and ready for the Winter competition.

The lawn and garden area continues to be maintained on a regular basis by Chris Armstead, with help from Palm Life. This is certainly appreciated as the lawn always looks in good shape. Cleaning of the clubrooms has been undertaken by Graeme Dent and Peter Taylor on a regular basis, with help on occasions, from other committee members.

The Sharks players carried out a pre and post Grand Final clean of the clubrooms and surrounds, as they were unable to attend the earlier working bee. The whole concrete area in front of the clubrooms and the Murray shelter area was professionally cleaned by *K Craft Coatings* (Kelvin Steiner) and we thank them for doing this.

Can recycling has commenced in a big way at Stead Park. Thank you to Nick Ayerbe for fabricating the can baskets and weekly emptying the baskets and bins around the grounds. Nick does a regular run to the recycling centre and has raised over \$700 since commencing in June 2024. That is in excess of 7000 cans and plastic bottles.

Nick was acknowledged with the gift of a voucher on Grand final day for his work.

Canteen Operations

The GHA canteen is vital for our finances and allows us to subsidise the team entries for local clubs. This means we need to ensure we get the manager correct and have a great deal of volunteer labor. The canteen had a very successful season. Our new canteen manager was Dimpy Kalia who settled into her role immediately and availed herself to our community. Dimpy worked on Saturdays commencing cooking the egg and bacon muffins from 7.00am, sold out by 9.00am, and serving and cooking until early evening. Dimpy then was on duty on Sundays before the first game and well after the last one. She also served our valued customers on Friday nights when required.

Dimpy went beyond her role description, cooking curries and pastas dishes that were quickly consumed. Many in our community picked up curry or pasta to take home. One person, not to be revealed, often took some home and then claimed he cooked it!

Dimpy was also on hand to cook for special events, and we appreciate her efforts in feeding the Saints Hockey Club as well as the Sharks.

We held our first Annual Life Members Lunch and Dimpy prepared a magnificent menu that was enjoyed by all in attendance. We marveled at the variety and standard of her cooking.

We sincerely thank Dimpy for her efforts in the canteen. She made it her business to get to know the names of many people. The little kids especially enjoyed seeing Dimpy. She was central in making the clubrooms an inviting and friendly place for so many to enjoy.

There were three special people who contributed to the operations of the canteen. Nette Williams and Deb O'Shannessy completed the shopping each and every Friday to ensure all stock was on hand. This required several hours of their time, and they should be duly recognised. It was pure luck that Deb had a van and it was full each Friday. The third person was Peter Taylor who stocktaked and supplied the list to Deb and Nette to include in their weekly shopping trip. Again, a pure volunteer who gave freely of his time for the benefit of the association. His eye for a bargain is renowned, buying several hundred Gatorades was a sight to behold. We have only just got to the end of that purchase.

We were ably assisted by the many club volunteers, and we need to thank each and every one of you. You were punctual and keen to serve with a smile. It was a great chance for our members to meet you. You added to the volunteer base that is at the heart of so much of what we do as an association. The canteen has made a significant profit this year and it is due to the work of Nette, Deb and Peter as well as all the volunteers. Well done all.

Graeme Dent

Participating Clubs

Corio Hockey Club Geelong Jaguar's Hockey Club Geelong Saints Hockey Club Kardinia International College Newtown City Hockey Club Torquay Hockey Club Sharks Hockey Club

President's Trophy

Saints Hockey Club

Life Membership Awards

Joe Crosbie, and Emmaline Shand

Hall of Fame Inductees

Chris Armstead, Deb O'Shannessy and Glenn O'Shannessy

Most Improved Umpire Award

Brian Collis

Most Improved Umpire - Junior award Zoey Sykes

Volunteer acknowledgement

Stacey Climpson - photography Gavin van der Meer - JCC co-ordination Nick Ayerbe - recycling cans & bottles Greg Smith - new score board controllers Andie Hatton - Goal keeping clinics and "This Girl Can" program Georgie van Beek- Monday night "back to hockey "sessions.

John Stephenson Memorial Trophy

The **John Stephenson** Memorial Trophy is presented on an annual basis to a Junior member from the Hockey Geelong. The Award has been created to perpetuate the memory of John Stephenson and his love of hockey, along with his unselfish commitment to the interest and benefit of Geelong hockey.

Details of the Award are:

The trophy is awarded to one junior member from any age group who demonstrates a variety of qualities and achievements, including dedication, consistent effort and achievement and sportsmanship on and off the field.

Award recipients

Awaru recipier	115
2023	Mai Lorenzen
2022	Tucker Kooloos
2020 & 2021	No award due to COVID19
2019	Tom Charleson
2018	Olivia Jenkins
2017	Gabrielle Sutton
2016	Jonah McKinnon
2015	Sean Fitzgerald
2014	Liam Kerr-Nelson
2013	Luke Hatton
2012	Leo Fitzgerald
2011	Harry Dolenc
2010	Josh Climpson
2009	Liam Williamson
2008	Jackson Moore
2007	Tegan Purser
2006	Max Treloar
2005	Scott O'Reilly
2004	Emmaline Moore
2003	Leigh Niblock
2002	Andrew Taylor
2001	Daniel Taylor
2000	Jay Burns
1999	Lisa Taylor
1998	Jay Burns
1997	Tyson Priddle

The 2024 Recipient is Anya Dreyer

Details of Anya's hockey achievements DOB 19 September 2008

Arrived in Australia from South Africa early in 2021. Anya attended the Sharks trials in February 2021 and was selected into the U14 Sharks team.

Anya began playing with Newtown in 2021 and has played 30 junior games and 2 senior games with Newtown city hockey club.

2021

- Sharks Under 14 team
- U13 Western Metro Wildcats player named Best and Fairest player of the tournament.
- Newtown City HC Played in the Under 14

COVID impacted the remainder of the 2021 season

2022

- Under 15 Western Metro Wildcats player named Runner-up Best and Fairest
- Under 15 Geelong Junior Country championship team
- Under 14 Hockey Victoria Under 14 Sheild B (12 games)
- As a 13 year old played in the Women's Vic League 1 reserves (7 games) and Women's Vic League 1 (3 games)
- Newtown City HC played in the under 14 and under 17 teams
- Footscray HC Played Indoor Hockey for the under 15 girls Group

2023

- Newtown City Hockey Club under 17 team
- Under 16 Hockey Victoria girls Shield A Sharks player (12 games)
- As a 14 year old (turned 15 in September 2023) played Sharks women's Premier League reserves (13 games) and occasionally women's Premier League (3 games)
- Under 16 player in the Geelong Junior Country championship team
- Newtown City HC Played some matches for the under 17
- Footscray Played Indoor for the under 16 girls
- Hockey Victoria Selected for the Victoria under 15 Indoor Girls Team Tournament was in January 2024

2024

- Under 16 Western Metro Wildcats player
- Under 16 Geelong Junior Country championship team
- Under 16 Hockey Victoria Shield player for Sharks
- Assisted with coaching of Belmont High School girls' hockey team
- Coached at the Sharks 2 day school holiday program various aged children
- Selected in the Victorian Women's Country team (15 years old)

Anya plays the game with passion and is assertive. She has had some hockey related injuries over time, but she still attends training and supports the teams on game day.

Vic League 1 Women Best and Fairest "Murray Medal"

Murray Medal and Kirk Medal

In 2001 two Perpetual trophies were created by Hockey Geelong's executive committee to be presented to the players voted Best & Fairest from the women's (Murray medal) and men's (Kirk medal) State League teams.

The perpetual trophies were named the Murray Medal and the Kirk Medal.

Naming of these two prestigious trophies is dedicated to two Hockey Geelong life members, Margaret Murray and Jim Kirk, who have both made immense contributions to hockey in Geelong and the wider hockey community.

2024 recipient is Emma Hatton (WVL1)

Murray Medal Women's Vic League 1 and Premier League

Past recipients Murray Medal

2023	Alice Arnold (WPL)
2022	Emma Hatton (WVL1)
2020 & 202	21 No award COVID 19
2019	Eliza Flanagan (WVL1)
2018	Morgan Gould (WPL)
2017	Eliza Flanagan (WVL1)
2016	Tatiana Rouch (WVL1)
2015	Tatiana Rouch (WVL1)
2014	Emma Hatton (WVL1)
2013	Emma Hatton (WVL1)
2012	Alison Kooloos (SL3)
2011	Alison Kooloos (SL3)
2010	Madison Storr (SL3)
2009	Alison O'Reilly (SL3)
2008	Jay Burns (SL3)
2007	Jay Burns (SL3)
2006	Susan Medley (SL2)
2005	Jay Burns (SL2)
2004	Alison O'Reilly (SL2)
2003	Tracey Brooks (SL2)
2002	Jay Burns (SL2)
2001	Susan Howe (SL3)

Vic League 1 Men Best and Fairest "Kirk Medal"

2024 recipient is James Thompson (MVL1)

Kirk Medal Men's Vic League 1 and Premier League

Past recipients			
Kirk Medal	2023	Jack Chadwick (MPL)	
	2022	Benjamin Champion (MPL)	
	2020 & 2021 No award COVID19		
	2019	Jack Chadwick (MVL1)	
	2018	Greg Hutchison (MVL1)	
	2017	Greg Hutchison (MVL1)	
	2016	Greg Hutchison (MVL1)	
	2015	Greg Hutchison (MVL1)	
	2014	William Jackson (MVL1)	
	2013	Matthew Shuttleworth (UK player)	
	2012	Andrew Taylor & Mark Hanley	
	2011	Gre& Mark Jackson (SL2)	
	2010	Greg Hutchison (SL2)	
	2009	Greg Hutchison (SL3)	
	2008	Mark Jackson (SL3)	
	2007	Greg Hutchison (SL2)	
	2006	Greg Hutchison (SL2)	
	2005	Simon Babb (SL2)	
	2004	Darren Dalton (SL3)	
	2003	Grant Downie (SL2)	
	2002	Darren Dalton (SL2)	
	2001	Shane Walters (SL3)	

Participating Club Reports



Corio Hockey Club

Corio Hockey Club re-launched in season 2024 with a single Men's Division 2 team. After making the Grand Final in 2023 with a team made up of Corio players and Golden Plains players, the decision was made to go ahead in 2024 as standalone Corio Hockey Team. A new committee was formed and positions filled. President: Geoff Carlisle. Vice President Dan Smith. Secretary Abby Smith. Treasurer Brian Collis. It had been 2 years since we had a working committee, and it was so exciting to be planning fundraising events and setting up this new venture. Foremost in our minds was that 2024 was to be the 50th year of Corio Hockey and one we wanted to use to reconnect past and present players with a new vision for the team as we moved forward.

Encouraging players to commit to the team was one hurdle that was quickly overcome as we went from an initial registration pool of eight players to a total of 28 by the midpoint of the season. As it turned out, we needed every one of these players throughout the season as injuries struck and players' family/work commitments impacted on our capacity to field a team. Nonetheless, we never once played short and more often than not, we had 2 or 3 on the bench. Ultimately, our season finished in a preliminary final loss. However, even that disappointment had a silver lining as it was noted that our final team had so many young players that would be better for the experience for many years to come.

The success of our season was measured and toasted at the CHC 50th reunion and presentation night. What we saw on that occasion was a room filled with old faces mixing with a new breed of Corio Hockey converts, each with their families making up the next generation of success for this club. Together, on this night Our "Hall of Fame" members were announced in both Men's and Women's and our much loved novelty awards were immortalized in the naming of each trophy in honour of players who featured most prominently over the years. This included Gillian Armstead, Jimmy Bunting, Warren Harding (twice!), George Palicko, Warren Fitzgerald (twice!), Ricky Burns (twice!) and Leanne Basham.

2024 Winter season awards were as follows-

- Rising Star Ayush Singh
- Leading Goal Scorer Declan Zele
- Runner up Best & Fairest Jackson Moore
- Best & Fairest Jesse Allthorpe
- Club Person Abby Smith

We are so proud of each and every one of our members and could not have done it without them this year. 2025 season is filled with promise. Primarily we want to launch a Women's Division 2 team and hopefully have some junior players to filter into both our Men's and Women's programmes. We continue to fundraise to support these teams and look ahead to a bright future for the club.

Geoff Carlisle

President

Corio 50th Year celebrations



Club President Geoff Carlisle and Secretary Abby Smith



Geelong Hockey Club

Committee

The Geelong Hockey Club elected a committee of 11 people (5 men and 7 women) at our AGM in February 2024, up 2 members from the previous

year. For the first time in a number of years, the role of secretary was filled. The committee met monthly during the year.

Membership

As of the 10th of November 2024, the Geelong Hockey Club has 142 Hockey Victoria registered players and volunteers, comprising 71 (50%) male and 71 (50%) female registrants. 56% of all registrations were for players competing in the 2024 winter competition, with the remaining 42% of registrants participating in the summer hockey competition only.

Our oldest member is 67 and our youngest 6 years old, with an average age of 27 yrs. 95 of these members were 18 years or under, making up 67% of our club's membership. 33% of club members are over 35 years of age. Most members reside in the greater Geelong region, with members hailing from as far afield as Weatherboard (NW of Ballarat).

Teams

Geelong Hockey Club entered teams in both the Summer 2023-24 and Winter 2024 (3 junior and 4 senior) competitions.

Junior Teams

In 2024, Geelong HC entered both Under 8 and Under 10 teams. These kids were again coached by Tom Griffin. Our junior players played all of their winter hockey games at Stead Park which resulted in a huge improvement in their skills throughout the course of the year.

Our Under 14 team were playing their second season in the Under 14 competition in 2024, playing against teams from Kardinia, Newtown and Torquay. Under the guidance of coach Daniel Glenn, this team improved on their 2023 results, winning their way into the 2024 Grand Final, where they beat the undefeated team from Kardinia to win the flag. This team has been a relatively stable group of players, but with some now having turned 14, there is no certainty that this team will continue to play as a group in 2025.

Geelong Hockey Club did not enter an Under 17 team in 2024.

Senior Teams

Geelong HC entered 2 women's and 2 men's teams into the senior competition, one team in each of the senior divisions.

The Division 2 played an outstanding final series, making their way into the Grand Final which they ultimately lost 3-4 to Torquay HC.

Umpiring

Geelong HC made an improved contribution to the ranks of umpires in the 2024 season, with Daniel Glenn and Damien St Pierre regularly umpiring games throughout the year. Regrettably, we had no senior women undertake any umpiring in 2024.

Finance

Geelong HC finds itself in a sound financial position. Bunnings BBQ fundraisers continue to be a good source of fundraising revenue for the club. Despite ongoing cost of living pressures, Geelong HC maintained membership fees at the same level as 2023.

Event

2024 again saw good attendance at social events. The annual Trivia Night was a great success, raising more money than expected. Pizza nights and a hit out at the ten pin bowling added to social events. Feedback from member surveys indicated that non-hockey related social events are an important part of the fabric of the club.

The club returned to a format of separate presentation nights for the junior and senior players. The junior presentation night was held at Stead Park and culminated in an adults vs kids hockey match which was a lot of fun. The senior presentation night returned to a more formal event held at the Kardinia Park, including a sit down meal and a traditional vote count. Feedback from this event was very positive.

Culture

Throughout 2024, the committee of the Geelong HC has continued to drive a strong focus on building a positive club culture, with an emphasis on enjoyment and participation, irrespective of ability or results. We aim to ensure that each and every player who joins our club participates as they are able, and that they are supported to do this in a respectful, collegial and friendly environment.

Feedback from club member surveys indicates that this focus on club culture is producing a very positive club experience for those choosing to play their hockey with Geelong HC. Good club culture is not accidental... it is deliberately constructed. The committee of Geelong HC will continue to focus effort in this area into 2025 and beyond.

Chris Medlin

President

- president@geelonghockeyclub.com
- www.facebook.com/GeelongHockeyClub
- Www.instagram.com/geelonghockeyclub
- www.geelonghockeyclub.com

KARDINIA HERATIONA COLLECE

Kardinia International College Hockey Club

2024 was a successful season for Kardinia as we entered 7 teams into all junior age groups, making up about 30% of the junior competition played at Stead Park.

- 2 teams in under 8 coached by Winter Zumpe, Scarlett Madner and Kashvi Shetty
- 1 team in under 10 coached by Aaden Tanaka
- 1 team in under 12 coached by Charlie Watson
- 1 team in under 14 coached by Jack Burke
- 2 teams in under 17 coached by Emma Hatton and Ashlee Craig

Several teams made the finals, of which 2 played off in the Grand Finals. The Under 10 team finished top of the ladder and were Minor Premiers. The Under 12 team fought valiantly but lost to Newtown in the Preliminary final 5 – 0. The Under 14 team came runners up to Geelong Jaguars 1 - 0. The Under 17 White team lost to Torquay 4 – 2 in the semi-final and the Under 17 Blue team defeated Torquay 2 – 0 to take out the flag.

Throughout the season we had 19 players choose to regularly play in more than one age group in order to get more experience and basically just to play more hockey!

The players trained eagerly each week and over the course of the season their improvement was enormous. Many of our Kardinia students represented the GHA in the Sharks teams in the Hockey Victoria competition in both juniors and seniors. We had 26 players in the Junior Sharks teams: 5 in the under 14 girls; 8 in the under 14 boys; 6 in the under 16 girls; and 7 in the under 16 boys.

Congratulations to the following KIC players who won Sharks awards:

- Lucas Kelly and Harry Sheedy who were awarded the equal Best and Fairest for under 16 boys.
- Noah Arnold who was awarded the Coaches Award for U14 boys.
- Markus Kelly who was the recipient of the Team Spirit award for under 14 boys.
- Eliza Vague who won the Best and Fairest for under 16 girls.

Kardinia had several students playing in the Senior Sharks teams:

- Eliza Vague Senior Women Vic League 1. Eliza was awarded the Coaches Award for this team.
- Oliver Ayerbe Senior Men Vic League 1.
- Charlotte Cleeland Senior Women Vic League 1 Reserves.
- Charlie Watson Senior Men Vic League 1 Reserves. Charlie was awarded the Coaches Award for this team.
- Lucas Kelly Senior Men Pennant C, along with fill-ins Harry Julian and Markus Kelly.

We also had 28 Kardinia players take part in the Geelong teams in the Junior Country Championships earlier in the season, and the following players represented the Western Wildcats at the Junior State Championships – Charlotte Cleeland, Eliza Vague, Lucas Kelly, Charlie Watson and Oli Ayerbe.

Many of our young players attended both skills clinics held at Stead Park in the June and September school holidays, and this demonstrates that our players are always striving to improve.

We have a large presence in the summer hockey competition again this year. In mid-October we entered teams into all age groups, and they have begun the season with some enthusiastic play and quite a few wins. The half-field competition is a very popular one and the players have a fun time trying out new skills in a more relaxed atmosphere.

A huge thank you should go to Kane Maloney for assisting in the organization of the teams again in 2024 and the encouraging and friendly manner he brings to hockey every weekend. Thank you to all the coaches who guide our players and ensure that they are enjoying their chosen sport. A big thank you also, to our team managers. They do a great job looking after the players and bringing together the parents as well. Thank you to all our families - Kardinia hockey would not exist without your support. You have all contributed to the lovely community feel that Kardinia hockey has had for many years now. Our students not only play hockey, they absolutely LOVE to play hockey! We are very grateful that for nearly 30 years we have been able to be a part of engendering this love of the best sport in the world in so many Kardinia Students.

Gillian Armstead

Hockey Co-Ordinator



Newtown City Hockey Club

Overall, the 2024 season was a successful one for the Newtown City Hockey Club, although there were both highlights and disappointments.

Highlights included:

- Continuing success in recruiting new members to the club, with 58 new or returning members during the year. 72% of these were welcomed into the junior age groups.
- The continuing work of members in the area of recruitment is much appreciated, with regular participation in School Hockey Roadshows, Hookin2Hockey programs and Come and Try sessions conducted during the year.
- 31 children were registered for Hookin2Hockey and 21 of these went on to join a team.
- Three holiday programs were conducted during the season for younger members, with total attendance of 73 participants.
- The relocation of the GHA U8 and U10 competitions to Stead Park meant some reorganisation for the club, and we were pleased to enter a team in the Stead Park competition.
- We were particularly pleased to be able to maintain a competition at Lloyd Reserve, with four teams playing each week, albeit a mix of U8 and U10 players in the same team. This allowed us to provide the convenience and the environment which our members have indicated they like.
- Some on-field success with Premierships and Runners Up finishes in the U10 Lloyd Reserve and the U12 competitions.
- Congratulations to Natasha Wilkinson GHA Division 2 Women's Best and Fairest for 2024.
- Club members umpired regularly for junior and senior matches, and some interschool competitions, with some appointed to finals matches.
- 34 members participated in Hockey Geelong Sharks junior and senior teams.
- 22 members participated in Regional or State hockey teams and programs.
- Stage 2 of the Lloyd Reserve Pavilion Project has commenced, with further funding provided by the tenant clubs and the City of Greater Geelong. This will allow increased use of the pavilion for club social events and use by external organisations.

Disappointments included:

• a reduction in the overall number of members and in the number of teams entered. We were especially disappointed not to be able to maintain two teams in the men's competition despite significant efforts to ensure adequate numbers

• irregular availability of some members, which meant that despite having plenty of players on paper for some competitions, we could not count on being able to enter more teams. Conflicting commitments with Melbourne based clubs is one of the factors affecting this situation

Newtown Hockey Club looks forward to 2025 and further efforts to provide a sustainable club, and an enjoyable and welcoming experience for members and families.

Claire Barnes, OAM President

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Saints Hockey Club



Saints Hockey Club had a very successful 2024 for our 50th year!

We started the year with 103 members and ended with 146 at the time of writing this report. We initially had 2 men's, 2 women's and an under 8 team. After some recruiting and hard work, we were able to field 3 men's teams, 2 women's and an Under 8s and Under 10s.

We had some amazing celebrations for our 50th year with merchandise sharing our community spirit, Colour Run, a 50th Anniversary celebration, Retro round which saw our club don some shirt designs from 1974! Our Presentation Night acknowledged the amazing achievements of Karen Kolsch who played her 50th year of hockey in 2024. We also acknowledged Women and Men's Health rounds. Our year culminated with our Junior and Senior Presentation events where we celebrated the players who make our club possible!

We also had some extremely challenging times in 2024 which impacted our club and Saints Family immensely. At times the grief, loss and stresses on our club members and their families was overwhelming. We came together and continue to support our club members and families who were impacted by grief, loss and health issues. It takes a village, and our village has certainly shown that we are strong. We thank all who showed their support and generosity in any way.

We ended 2023 winning the Geelong Hockey Association's Presidents Trophy and completed 2024 being acknowledged with the same award. We are grateful for the amazing efforts and support of our committee members, our sponsors, coaches, players and families who, without them, none of this would be possible.

Our coaches in 2024, Shane Walters, Kellie Caldow, Callum Lewis, John Alonso and Ryan Werner, we were able to again welcome new and returning players to our club. Subsequently we had our men's and women's senior lists expand again meaning we had a healthy list of players to choose from for our Div 1 and Div 2 teams.

The Senior season was especially successful for our Div 1 Women who won the club's first ever Division 1 grand final. Saints Black Men also made the grand final however lost in an amazing game bringing home silver! Our Div 2 Red women unfortunately could not make the finals, and we had our Div 2 Men fight until the end however missed out on grand-final day, losing in the semi.

With a change of location this season, new junior players arrived at Saints and as a result we fielded an Under 8s and Under 10s. Starting with 5 players in 2023, we had two full teams in 2024 and are now looking at the prospect of having too many for our summer teams. This is a great problem to have!

With the support of our 13 committee members, our club is sitting in a positive financial position. Financially we were successful in receiving a government grant to support Juniors and Women in Hockey, thanks to Lyndal Reading (grants coordinator). With the financial support from Bellarine Hockey Club in 2023, we continued to develop our juniors and support our coaches further. The club is financially stable and look forward to improving our overall position in our 51st year.

The umpires again went above and beyond in 2024, and we again thank them for their ongoing support, skills and commitment to the game we all love.

We thank the Geelong Hockey Association for their continued support, especially this year when we experienced the highs and lows of life and sport.

Nicole Alonso

President

















Celebrating 50 years of Gerlong Sounts Hockey Club





Torquay Hockey Club

At our AGM in November 2023, the Torquay Hockey Club elected a dedicated committee of nine members, comprising five women and four men. Their leadership has been instrumental in guiding our club over the past year.

As of October 2024, the Torquay Hockey Club has 163 registered players and volunteers registered with Hockey Victoria. Our member numbers have remained steady over the last few years.

We are actively managing financial pressures while attempting to limit increasing membership fees. This is a challenge that we will continue to manage as we approach the 2025 season.

<u>Juniors</u>

This year, Torquay entered teams in all junior competitions except for U/8's, welcoming new players particularly in the U/10 and U/12 age groups. A key challenge for the club is the retention of girls, particularly in the U/14 and U/17 age groups. The options available to girls in the age group are limited and, in many cases, doesn't suit them.

Our U/14 team often relied on younger players due to low numbers, while our U/17 team achieved commendable success as runners-up.

Our juniors had the exciting opportunity to serve as game day ambassadors for HC Melbourne, where they met the players and ran out with them at the start of the game, participated in field activities, and enjoyed half time games. This was a great experience for our junior players and will no doubt contribute to their ongoing enthusiasm for hockey.



<u>Seniors</u>

For the first time, Torquay fielded three women's teams. Although this was challenging as we only had just enough players, this was positive in terms of expanding the competition and provide more playing opportunities. Our Division 2 women's teams both performed well, facing each other in the grand final, while our Division 1 team secured the runners-up position.



Initially, we entered three men's teams, but due to injuries and changes in player availability, we consolidated to two teams midway through the season. We appreciate the committee's support during this transition. Both our Division 1 and Division 2 men's teams were successful in the grand finals.

Umpiring

We extend our gratitude to all umpires for their commitment throughout the season. Our club is focused on supporting new umpires, with juniors actively umpiring younger age groups.

Diversity and Inclusion

This year, we made significant advances in supporting diversity and inclusion initiatives. We sponsored "Player of the Match" awards during key rounds and participated in the Pride Cup. These initiatives reflect our commitment to fostering a welcoming club culture, and we aim to strengthen these values further in 2025.

Torquay hockey pitch

Torquay Hockey Club is working closely with the Surf Coast Shire on the construction of a synthetic pitch in Torquay. The project is being managed by the Surf Coast Shire and is anticipated to commence construction phase in early 2025. This is an exciting opportunity for the club as it will provide the ability for our members to participate in the sport locally.

We would like to thank the Hockey Geelong Committee for the efforts to strive to improve the experience for clubs and players.

Sarah Storen

President

Match Committee

- · Chairperson Match Committee Matthew Krusic-Golub
- · Competition Registrar/ Results Claire Barnes
- · Umpires Committee Co-Convenors Pearce Frost and Tom Molyneux

• Committee members – One person from each club: John Alonso (Saints), Geoff Carlisle (Corio), Kane Maloney (Kardinia), Sarah Storen (Torquay).

Competition Committee

Competition Committee Chairperson: Matthew Krusic-Golub

Committee members: Shannon Calder, John Alonso, Nicole Alonso, Kane Maloney, Geoff Carlisle, Amber Reilley, David Wyld, Dominic Crowley, Claire Barnes, Andrew Crowley, Sarah Storen, Gillian Armstead.

Winter Competition Report

The 2024 season continued to be affected by the post-COVID slump in participation, with team entries in both juniors and seniors remaining relatively static in relation to the 2023 season apart from the Under 10 competition. In 2024, the competition committee voted to move the Under 8 and Under 10s from Lloyd Reserve to Stead Park to give our youngest players exposure to playing on the synthetic pitches. Following this decision, Newtown elected to also run a separate U10 competition at Lloyd Reserve, resulting in a total of nine Under 10 teams, with five playing at Stead Park and four Newtown teams playing at Lloyd reserve. We hope the increased participation at this level will continue into future years.

In juniors, the number of teams in the other age categories remained the same as 2023, apart from Under 14, which dropped from five to four teams. Overall, the junior competition had 25 teams entered from five clubs. This is an increase in number of teams of 19%, though it was entirely due to the dual Under 10 competitions. Outside of that, the number of junior teams entered remained static for 2024.

The senior competitions began the season with the same number of teams as 2023 (19), though after the combination of the two Torquay Division 2 Men's teams into a single team partway through the season, ended the season with one team fewer than 2023. The men's competition also saw the return of the Corio Hockey Club, who fielded a Division 2 side, effectively replacing last year's Golden Plains entry.

With no Sharks team in 2024, the Division 1 Women's Competition was down to four sides (one each from Torquay, Geelong, Saints and Newtown again). However, in Division 2, team numbers were bolstered to five with the addition of a second Torquay side. This resulted in the net number of Women's teams remaining the same as 2023 with nine teams in total from the four clubs mentioned.

In the men's competition, we had planned to run separate Division 1 and Division 2 competitions this year, however with the late withdrawal of a Division 1 side due to limited player numbers, we were once

again forced to start the season with a combined Men's competition. This year, the competition committee elected to defer decisions regarding the format of the latter part of the season and the finals until after round 10, when most sides had played each other once. The competition committee met at this time and voted to have the top five teams on the ladder become Division 1 and the lower four teams become Division 2.

This decision was based on goal difference and overall results showing a clear divide in performance between the top five and lower four teams. This resulted in both Saints Red and Newtown Falcons sides both being promoted into Division 1. Finals were determined to be run in the usual top four format. Once again, the limited number of teams in each competition resulted in most senior teams reaching the finals. On Grand Final day, Torquay were the stand-out club, fielding a team in every senior competition, winning three of the four matches and even making the women's Div 2 final an all - Torquay affair.

Congratulations to all the teams and all the players who participated during 2024 and especially to the Premiers and Runners Up. Extra special thanks to our umpires and volunteers who make this competition possible.

Priorities for the GHA Competition Committee in 2025 include forward planning to steer the competition through the major changes that will be brought by both the opening of the Torquay pitch and the redevelopment at Stead Park, streamlining and increasing the transparency of the finals dispensation process and considering alternative finals formats (such as playoffs) that may be more suited to competitions with few teams participating.

Winter Season	2024
U8	4
U10	9 (5 Stead Park, 4 Lloyd Reserve)
U12	4
U14	4
U17	4
Total Junior teams	25
Clubs with Junior teams	5
D1M	5
D2M	4
D1W	4
D2W	5
Total Senior teams	18
Clubs with Senior teams	6
Total number of clubs	6 (not counting HG sharks as they didn't play local comp)
Total members at end of winter	???
season	

Matt Krusic-Golub

Competition Chairperson

Winter Competition - Junior Results

Under 10 Mixed.

2024 winter season saw two competitions run for the Under 10 competition- one at Stead Park and one at Lloyd Reserve.

Stead Park Competition

Final Ladder

CLUB	WINS	DRAWS	GF	GA	POINTS	GD
KARDINIA	10	0	70	23	30	47
GEELONG	6	3	45	33	21	12
TORQUAY	5	2	35	43	17	-8
NEWTOWN STRIKERS	5	1	33	42	16	-9
SAINTS	1	0	21	63	3	-42

Premiers Kardinia Runner-Up Geelong Jaguars

Lloyd Reserve Competition

Final Ladder

CLUB	WINS	DRAWS	GF	GA	POINTS	GD
NEWTOWN REBELS	10	2	71	42	32	29
NEWTOWN SPIRIT	10	1	67	41	31	26
NEWTOWN DYNAMOS	7	1	54	60	22	-6
NEWTOWN ROCKETS	1	0	27	76	3	-49

Premiers Newtown Rebels Runner-Up Newtown Spirit

Ladder position at the end of the season is the final results for Premiers and runners up.

Winter Competition - Junior Results Under 12 Mixed

Final Ladder

CLUB	WINS	DRAWS	GF	GA	POINTS	GD
NEWTOWN STRIKERS	14	1	65	5	43	60
NEWTOWN SPIRIT	10	1	42	16	31	26
KARDINIA	4	0	15	50	12	-35
TORQUAY	1	0	9	60	3	-51

Premiers	Newtown Strikers
Runner-Up	Newtown Spirit

Score: 3-2

Under 14 Mixed

Final Ladder

CLUB	WINS	DRAWS	GF	GA	POINTS	GD
KARDINIA	13	1	91	19	40	72
GEELONG	9	1	74	34	28	40
NEWTOWN STRIKERS	2	2	29	75	8	-46
TORQUAY	1	2	16	82	5	-66

Premiers Geelong Jaguars Runner-Up Kardinia Score: 1-0

Winter Competition - Junior Results Under 17 Mixed "Barnes Shield"

Final Ladder

CLUB	WINS	DRAWS	GF	GA	POINTS	GD
KARDINIA BLUE	8	1	41	36	25	5
TORQUAY	8	0	42	19	24	23
NEWTOWN STRIKERS	7	1	30	44	22	-14
KARDINIA WHITE	4	0	33	67	12	-34

Premiers	Kardinia Blue
Runner-Up	Torquay

Score: 2-0

Winter Competition - Senior Results

Division 2 Women

Final Ladder

CLUB	WINS	DRAWS	GF	GA	POINTS	GOAL DIFF
TORQUAY TORNADOES	11	0	58	16	33	42
TORQUAY	7	4	54	25	25	29
GEELONG	5	2	32	55	17	-23
NEWTOWN	5	1	34	37	16	-3
SAINTS	1	3	20	63	6	-43

Premiers -Torquay Tornadoes Runner - Up Torquay

Score: 4-1

2024 Best and Fairest	Natasha Wilkinson (Newtown Strikers)
Player of the Grand Final	Amber Bowey (Torquay)

Winter Competition - Senior Results Division 1 Women

Final Ladder

						GOAL
CLUB	WINS	DRAWS	GF	GA	POINTS	DIFF
TORQUAY	15	1	84	26	46	58
GEELONG	7	4	28	31	25	-3
SAINTS	3	8	39	57	17	-18
NEWTOWN	2	2	26	63	8	-37

Premiers - Saints Black Runner- Up Torquay

Score:3-2

2024 Best and Fairest	Danita Eastman (Torquay)
Player of the Grand Final	Olivia Jenkins (Torquay)

Division 2 men

Final Ladder

						GOAL
CLUB	WINS	DRAWS	GF	GA	POINTS	DIFF
TORQUAY	7	1	57	61	22	-4
CORIO	6	1	34	61	19	-27
SAINTS WHITE	5	3	33	58	18	-25
GEELONG WHITE	5	1	29	56	16	-27
TORQUAY TORNADOES	3	0	31	35	9	-4

Premiers - Torquay Runner - Up Geelong White

Score: 4-3

2024 Best and Fairest	Nathan Harper (Torquay)
Player of the Grand Final	Mitch Gourley (Geelong White)

Winter Competition - Senior Results

Division 1 Men

Final Ladder

CLUB	WINS	DRAWS	GF	GA	POINTS	GOAL DIFF	BYES	WIN RATIO
SAINTS BLACK	13	2	77	20	41	57	1	87.5
SAINTS RED	9	3	49	33	30	16	2	70
TORQUAY	9	2	64	35	29	29	2	66.7
GEELONG BLUE	7	0	39	44	21	-5	1	43.8
NEWTOWN FALCONS	5	1	27	47	16	-20	2	36.7

Premiers - Torquay Runner - Up Saints Black

Score: 4-1

2024 Best and Fairest Player of the Grand Final Liam Murphy (Torquay) Liam Kerr- Nelson (Torquay)

Summer Competition

Hockey Geelong Summer Competition 2023/24

The summer season again saw members take advantage of the reduced costs of participation as there were no match fees charged by the GHA. The Hockey Victoria Summer Levy at the reduced level also provided an incentive to new members to join and have some fun with hockey. 66 players who had not played in the winter season registered for the summer season.

Unfortunately, the Friday Family competition only received two entries and was cancelled.

Competition	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams		
Under 8 Mixed		4	2	1	0	2	5	4	4
Under 10	5	8	6	5	4	4	4	4	4
/Under 11									
Mixed									
Under 12 /	5	7	8	6	5	4	6	5	4
Under 13									
Mixed									
Under 14 /	10	5	6	8	5	5	5	6	8
Under 15									
Mixed									
Under 17	7	4	4	4	6	6	5	5	4
Mixed						(1			
						withdrawn			
						after rd 2)			
Senior Mixed	15	17	15	18	13	8	10	13	13
Masters Mixed	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	6	6
Friday Family	11	12	7	6	4	0	5	4	0
Total teams	57	61	52	52	41	33	44	47	43

Thanks to all those who played, and to the team managers, coaches and umpires for their contributions.

Thanks to Andrea Hatton who took on the role of Competition Convenor to oversee all the competitions in the summer of 23/24.

Claire Barnes

Umpire's Report

The winter season for 2024 has proved a successful year for umpiring in Geelong, with increased numbers of umpires gaining their formal accreditation (many for the first time) through Hockey Australia's accrediting pathways. A big focus for us as Umpires' Coordinators this year has been to foster a team mentality within what is fundamentally the 'third team' in any game of hockey - this has been pleasing to see both on and off the field, and in our view has increased the sense of teamwork and collaboration when difficult decisions need to be made on the pitch. We have implemented pre-season and pre-finals briefings for umpires and their skills development, a simplified rostering process, and additional channels for surveying and regular communication with umpires. Importantly, we continue to work with clubs and the association to set strong standards for acceptable behaviour, in an effort to ensure that umpiring is a safe and enjoyable undertaking.

We will continue to encourage more people, especially juniors, to join in this valuable way of participating in hockey - if you are interested in trying your hand at umpiring over Summer or getting involved for the next Winter season, please don't hesitate to reach out.

In addition, the following improvements were made:

- The Winter season saw enough umpires filling the weekly roster to avoid having to roster clubs
- There were never any games without rostered umpires although at time this proved difficult given other commitments.
- A huge reduction in umpire/player abuse. On occasions cards were required but there were no red cards or suspensions in the local competition.
- 26 umpires were utilised over the season (all umpiring a minimum of one game).
- Five juniors umpired which is great for the future
- Approximately ten new umpires in 2024

Goals over the off season and leading into next year, are to get all of our umpires qualified in the foundation support (community) accreditation and a number of umpires for Foundation Lead (Level 1)

It is our plan in a few years to highly suggest/enforce that all umpires have community accreditation before being able to umpire our senior competitions. Those wanting to move onto representative level should consider Foundation Lead (Level 1) accreditation.

Award winners this year were: Brian Collis - most improved umpire Zoe Sykes - most improved junior umpire (new award this year which will continue into the future)

Yours in hockey,

Pearce Frost and Tom Molyneux

Hockey Geelong Umpire Coordinators

Grand Final Umpires

The Association would like to thank the umpires for their work. We couldn't play hockey without them!

U12 - Charlie Maloney, Nate Harding
U14 - Dominic Crowley, Prabha Ramanathan
U17 - Daniel Glenn, Pearce Frost
Division 2 women - Brian Collis, Fionn Zele
Division 2 men - John Larkins, Pearce Frost
Division 1 women - Tom Molyneux, Zoey Sykes
Division 1 men - Tom Molyneux, Tucker Kooloos

Umpires were presented with a Hockey Geelong commemorative umpire coin after each game.



Victorian and Australian Team Representatives

Season 2024 saw a large number of players - juniors, seniors and masters - from Geelong participated in State, School representative teams, Masters, Country XI, Australian Country, Australian master's team's, zone championships and indoor teams.

The list is extensive, and all concerned should be congratulated for their efforts and in the case of juniors, the contributions made by parents.

Congratulations to all Hockey Geelong players who represented Victoria and Australia in 2024.

Australian Hockey5s Team (Oman) 24-31 Jan 2024 Liam Kerr Nelson

Australian Masters Teams at World Cup and Trans-Tasman Challenge

45+ men Tom Griffin, Steve Macumber, Glenn O'Shannessy, Andrew Purcell
45+ women Georgina Sayer
50+ women Rosana Gonzalez
55+ women Alison O'Reilly
60+ men Andrew Crowley and Phil Frost

Australian Junior Under 21 Squad 2025 Indoor World Cup

Victorian Team Harry Bradbury and Kade Leigh

Hockey Australia Indoor Championships Canberra Jan 2024

Victorian Teams U13 girls Isabella Bradbury, Matilda Gordon U15 girls Ava Doolan, Anya Dreyer and Shadow player Zoey Sykes U15 boys Ashton Schram Seniors Harry Leigh, Harry Bradbury, Kade Leigh, Zoe Klopak, Odile Roberts

2023 Youth International Gryphon Cup played in Perth
 CCA boys – Jye Walters, CCA Girls Mai Lorenzen and Anya Dreyer
 BCA girls Ava Doolan, Indi Long, Aimee van der Meer, Ruby Moon, Eliot Thompson

School Sports Victoria

Under 12 - Audrey Cleeland Under 15 - Charlotte Baker, Zoey Sykes, Bella Bradbury (emergency) Under 15 boys - Will Burch

Hockey Victoria under 14 Academy

Bella Bradbury, Will Burch, Charlie White, Zac Wingert, Jacob Young

Hockey Victoria under 16 Academy

Ashton Schram, Ava Doolan, Anya Dreyer, Mai Lorenzen, Zoey Sykes, Elliot Thompson, Eliza Vague and Charlotte Baker

Hockey Victoria under 18 Academy

Zoe Klopak, Oliver Ayerbe, Fletcher Guy, Oskar Hayes, Tucker Kooloos, Jye Walters

Former Geelong players at under 18 Nationals Ashton Schram, Fletcher Guy, Oskar Hayes, Zoe Klopak

Hockey Victoria Under 14 teams

Jacob Young Development team - Zac Wingert and Will Burch

Hockey Victoria Under 16 teams

Ashton Schram Development team - Charlotte Baker, Mai Lorenzen and Zoey Sykes

Hockey Victoria under 18 teams

Tucker Kooloos Development team - Oliver Ayerbe and Jye Walters

Hockey Victoria under 21 team

Brayden Caldow and Kade Leigh (Silver medal)

Hockey Victoria Indoor State Teams

Under 21 men - Harry Bradbury, Harry Leigh Under 21 women - train on Ava Doolan Under 16 girls - Anya Dreyer Under 16 boys - Ashton Schram, Jye Walters Under 14 girls - Audrey Cleeland, Bella Bradbury

Australian Country Men's and Women's tour to Thailand 2024

Sophie Collins, Olivia Jenkins, Kahlua Smart, Jake Whitford, Jayden Schram, Ewan Wightman, Brayden Caldow, Lachlan Hansford, Liam Kerr-Nelson, Cale Rout. Women's Coach Tammy Hansford

Australian Women's Country (Touring Hong Kong/Singapore April 2025):

Caitie Philpott, Kahlua Smart, Alice Arnold, Sophie Collings, Emma Hatton, Chelsie Hird, Ashlee Craig Manager Gillian Armstead, Coach Tammy Hansford

Western Metro Wildcats

Under 12 - Audrey Cleeland (Gold Medal)

Under 14 - Bella Bradbury, Ivy Renouf, Will Burch, Jacob Young, Charlie White, Zac Wingert Under 16 - Charlotte Baker, Isabel Baker, Charlotte Cleeland, Ava Doolan, Anya Dreyer, Mai Lorenzen, Ruby Moon, Eliza Vague, Sury Burch, Ashton Schram Under 18 - Amber Quick, Ava Doolan, Grace Milne, Mai Lorenzen, Peri Saunders, Oliver Ayerbe, Tucker Kooloos, Jye Walters and Charlie Watson. Coach girls U18 - Fionn Zele

South West Eagles - Hamish Flett *Central Metro Flames* - Lindy Bass (U14) Aimee van der Meer and Amelia Shell (U16) *North West Tigers* - Zoey Sykes (U16)

Hockey Victoria teams at Australian Masters - women

34+ Jane Young
40+ Cas Calder
50+ Rosana Gonzalez, Kath Forsyth, Marieke de Ruitjer, Tammy Hansford (injured)
55+ Alison O'Reilly
Lyn Tout GHA Life Member Assistant coach 65+ and playing coach 70+ (both Silver medals)

Hockey Victoria teams at Australian Masters - men

40+ Div 1 Steve Macumber (playing coach) Tom Griffin, Andrew Purcell - Gold Medal 45+ Glenn O'Shannessy - Gold Medal 55+ Div 2 Stewart Humphries, Warren Harding (Captain) Neil Davenport, Justin Nelson - Bronze Medal 60+ Phil Frost, Andrew Crowley - Silver medal

Hockey Club Melbourne

Kade Leigh senior men Futures 17's squad Tucker Kooloos Futures Squad 17's Train On: Anya Dreyer



Australian Country Championships Victorian Representatives

Hockey Victoria Country team - Geelong men's players

Ewan Gonzales Wightman, Jayden Gulson, Luke Hatton, Nathan McBain, Cale Rout, Jake Whitford, Jye Walters, Liam Kerr-Nelson Former Geelong players - Lachie Hansford, Jayden Schram, Coach Paul Schram Finished 4th

Hockey Victoria Country team - Geelong women's players

Alice Arnold, Sophie Collins, Ashlee Craig, Anya Dreyer, Emma Hatton, Chelsie Herd, Caitie Philpott, Kahlua Smart, Rhea Sutton, Emma Robertson (played for SA) Coach Tammy Hansford, Manager Gillian Armstead Bronze medal

Victorian Country Teams - Geelong participants in Australian Country Championships, August 2024, Goulburn, NSW



Back row (L-R) Jayden Gulson, Cale Rout, Nathan McBain, Jake Whitford, Chelsie Herd, Sophie Collins, Ash Craig, Luke Hatton

Front row (L-R) Anya Dreyer, Rhea Sutton, Cattie Philpott, Emma Robertson, Alice Arnold, Kahlua Smart, Emma Hatton



Victorian Country Captains (L-R) Co-Captain Alice Arnold, Cale Rout, Co-Captain Emma Hatton

Master's over 40 men

(L-R) Coach and Player of the tournament Steve Macumber, Captain - Andrew Purcell, Top goal scorer - Tom Griffin *Gold medallists*

Master's Women



(L-R) 35's Jane Young, 55's Alison O'Reilly (Bronze medal), 40's Cass Calder

Other awards

Congratulations to the Sharks players and coaches who were recognised at the Hockey Victoria awards night.

These teams and coaches were voted on by coaches of teams of the respective grades.

Men's Vic League 1 team of the year Luke Hatton, Jimmy Thompson, Ben Huf, Jayden Gulson Coach Blair Chalmers

Women's Vic League 1 team of the year Alice Arnold, Anya Dreyer, Kahlua Smart Coach Tammy Hansford

Hockey Victoria Community coach of the year finalist - Tammy Hansford

Hockey Victoria Community administrator of the year finalist - Graeme Dent



(L-R)- Anya Dreyer, Kahlua Smart, Alice Arnold, Tammy Hansford, James Thompson and Ben Huf

Hockey Victoria Competition



The Geelong Sharks experienced an exhilarating season filled with fierce competition, standout performances, and moments of resilience. With both the men's and women's teams aspiring for promotion into Premier League, the Sharks showed significant growth and determination.

Key Highlights:

Strong Start: The season kicked off with a series of impressive wins from the VIC League 1 men's and women's teams, showcasing their skill and teamwork, whilst the reserves and the Pennant C teams all made a splash onto the big stage with many juniors and new players making their debut.

• Star Performers: we had several players who were nominated in the Vic League 1 teams of the year. These include: Men - Luke Hatton, Jimmy Thompson, Ben Huf, Jayden Gulson and Coach Blair Chalmers

Women - Alice Arnold, Anya Dreyer, Kahlua Smart and Coach Tammy Hansford

- Finals Push: As the season ended, both Vic League 1 teams and well as the Pennant C men made a strong push for the finals, culminating in an exhilarating final stretch where every game mattered. Their hard work and dedication paid off, securing playoff spots for both men's squads whilst the women unfortunately went down in the preliminary final. The PC men lost their grand final whilst the VL1 men were victorious in theirs.
- **Community Engagement:** The Sharks strengthened their ties with the local hockey community by assisting with the coaching at clinics that fostered playing skills and enthusiasm for the sport amongst the young attendees.

As the 2024 season concludes, we mark a significant milestone in our club's history. With great ambition, we aimed to elevate the GHA Sharks. Despite dealing with relegation from Premier League at the end of 2023, we achieved our goal of competing in the finals. After relegation, our club's true character emerged through resilience, determination, and unwavering support for one another. This journey brought increased investments in various aspects of our club, including administration, coaching, finances, and player development. Although our women remain in VL1, the men have been promoted to Premier League and the 2025 season is going to be an exciting one.

Building a Stronger Future:

The lessons learned this season will serve as building blocks for a brighter future. We believe that by staying united, supporting one another, and remaining committed to our vision, we will emerge from this experience stronger and better prepared. The journey back to the Premier League will have its challenges, but we remain optimistic. Unity and ongoing investment in both the Premier League and grassroots programs are essential for our club's growth.

Acknowledging Our Heroes:

In both triumph and adversity, it's crucial to recognize those who drive our success. Special thanks go to our coaching staff, Head Coaches Blair Chalmers and Tammy Hansford, for their dedication and leadership. They were ably supported by Dan Sheedy, Steve Macumber, Glenn O'Shannessy and Gillian Armstead. I also extend my gratitude to the Sharks Committee members: Gillian Armstead (Vice Chairperson). Gillian has provided valuable advice and guidance to me in my role, thank you Gillian for your support. In addition, Mark Suntjens (Treasurer), Nette Williams (Secretary), Andie Hatton (Men's co-ordinator), Ash Craig (Women's co-ordinator), and committee members Kirsty Ayerbe, Rachael Frost, Ailish Seaton, Carly Storr. All these people's tireless efforts have been instrumental in our operations. Thanks to Ailish Seaton and social committee for their fundraising efforts and fun events throughout the year. The fundraising figure was significantly higher than it has been for a number of years.

Thank you also to Pearce Frost for his efforts with umpiring and rostering umpires for Sharks home games for seniors and juniors.

Empowering Our Youth:

I sincerely appreciate the Junior Group, ably led by Nette Williams, which included team managers, coaches, and everyone involved in supporting our junior teams. This season, we continued to nurture young talent by entering teams in Hockey Victoria's junior competitions, fielding boys and girl' teams in the U14 and U16 divisions. With three junior teams making the finals, it's exciting to see our young Sharks develop. We also conducted clinics to introduce and nurture youth talent in our region. Several of the Junior Sharks were also training and playing with the Seniors and we encourage this to continue into next season. A special thank you to the coaching staff: Dan Sheedy, Oliver Ayerbe, Greg Walton, Kurt Wingert,

Jack Burke, Bree Lewis and Ailish Seaton. Your dedication has been vital to our junior program's success. Our young players have benefited greatly from the guidance of passionate coaches who instil valuable skills alongside of life lessons.

Financial Report and Sponsorship

Our financial report for the season shows growth after a deficit in 2023, primarily due to increased fundraising, junior development, and community engagement. We effectively managed these challenges and are grateful for the ongoing support from the GHA.

A big thank you to the Sponsors that support the Sharks and the GHA. Without you the Sharks would not be in the financial position they are currently in.

A Call to Unity and Perseverance:

As we reflect on this season, I emphasize the importance of unity. Together, we can overcome challenges, learn from setbacks, and build a legacy of success for future generations of GHA Sharks members to uphold. I am grateful to every member of our club - players, coaches, volunteers, and supporters. Your dedication and belief in the Sharks have been the driving force behind our achievements and resilience.

Peter Taylor

Chairperson Hockey Geelong Sharks

Hockey Victoria Competition	Senior final ladder positions
Men's Vic League 1	3 rd Premiers
Men's Vic League 1 reserves	2 nd
Men's Pennant C	4 th

Women's Vic League 1	3 rd
Women's Vic League 1 reserves	8^{th}



The Sharks seniors introduced an indigenous design playing shirt in 2024.



Designed by Asha Huf (Business name *Sisterly by Asha*, Warrnambool)

The artwork is based on the story of hockey in Geelong and how it evolved, leading to the formation of various associations and the establishment of the Sharks in 2001.

Jim Urquhart, who founded the Geelong Men's Hockey Club in 1954, is represented as the central meeting place, symbolized by a U shape. The next connecting meeting places represent Jim and Roland Oliveiro, who also helped create the Geelong Men's Hockey Club. Around each of their meeting places are U-shaped symbols representing the students from Gordon Technical College, who first entered a team in the Victorian Hockey Association.

The surrounding meeting places represent members of the Geelong Men's Hockey Club who helped form the Geelong District Association. Each of these meeting places has U symbols to represent players from all clubs. These symbols are not gender-specific, reflecting the inclusivity of all divisions.

The meeting places are connected with journey lines, symbolizing the travel and connection within the community. This creates an almost figure-8 effect, signifying how the club's members create opportunities stemming from the inaugural members who helped establish the club and association as we know it today.

Hockey Victoria Competition

Women's Vic League 1

The Winter 2024 season was a very successful and rewarding year for the Geelong Sharks Women's Squad as we competed in the Vic League 1 competition. This season provided the opportunity for our players to consolidate the skills and knowledge they acquired during their Premier League journey last year, and also provided the avenue for many junior players to embark on their senior hockey journey. It was also great to see many new senior and junior players join the Sharks Women's Squad for the 2024 season.

It was a great honour and privilege to have been given to opportunity to coach such a talented group of players and work alongside the club's new 2024 coaching/management personnel.

We commenced our journey with preseason trainings and League Cup games. We won our first League Cup game which put us into the Premier League Cup competition. Our Premier League Cup campaign was cut short due to forfeits and games not being played. Thankfully we were able to organise a practise game against WestVic which provided us with some more match practise prior to the commencement of round 1. During preseason the players worked hard on fitness, game structures, set plays and individual/team development. We were fortunate enough to welcome many new faces (both management and players), all of whom certainly complimented and benefited the women's squad.

The season overall was a rewarding and successful one. The firsts finished 3rd on the ladder but unfortunately lost the 2nd elimination final (only 1 game away from a grand final). A great achievement to make finals and be in the top 4. The reserves finished 8th on the ladder and came home strong at the end of the season. We played some very high level hockey and it was positive to watch the Sharks players being competitive and improving throughout the season.

The culture and vibe amongst our playing group was very healthy. It was easy to develop a strong cohesion within the teams and build an overall understanding of the squad's purpose and goals. Together, with the coaching team, we worked hard to develop the skills of the team as a whole, and also individually with each player. It is great to see so many juniors also coming through the Sharks pathway.

Results for the season were:

Firsts - 16 wins, 3 draw and 5 losses (we were the highest goal scoring team for the competition with 88 goals). 26 players took the pitch throughout the season.

Reserves - 5 wins, 3 draws and 10 losses. 30 players played in the ressies team throughout the season.

Congratulations

We have had a very successful year with many players achieving selection in representative teams - Victorian Country (Bronze Medallists) Tammy Hansford Coach and Gillian Armstead Manager

Australian Women's Country (Touring Hong Kong/Singapore April 2025): Caitie Philpott, Kahlua Smart, Alice Arnold, Sophie Collings, Emma Hatton, Chelsie Hird, Ashlee Craig, Manager Gillian Armstead, Coach Tammy Hansford

Award winners:

Vic League 1 B&F - Emma Hatton, MVP - Kahlua Smart Coaches Award - Eliza Vague

Vic League 1 reserves B&F - Emma Robertson, MVP - Briana Lewis, Coaches Award - Maddie Burt

Thank you

I would like to say a huge thank you to the following people for their assistance, support and guidance throughout the 2024 season:

Gillian Armstead – Reserves Coach – an exceptional support to both myself and all the players. Gillian's knowledge/encouragement/guidance and support has been greatly appreciated. She has been a huge asset to the Geelong Sharks management group and continues to inspire and encourage all players. Many thanks must also go to Gillian's husband, Chris, for his support at all trainings and games.

Toby & Amanda Vague – Firsts Team Managers/Physio/Tech Official – an amazing dedicated, organised and hard working management couple who always showed empathy and support to the players. We loved having them both in the dugout or tech bench every game.

Carly Storr – Reserves Manager – did a brilliant job of managing the team each Saturday and being a great support to all the players and Gillian. We all loved the lollies supplied each week.

Ashlee Craig – Women's Co-Ordinator – Craigy is highly organised, professional, supportive and very friendly. She has once again done a power of work behind the scenes – we would be lost without her! Executive Committee – on behalf of the management group and all the players thank you for all the work you do to provide the opportunity for us to do what we love – enjoy the game of hockey!

Leadership Group - Emma Hatton, Kelsey Ratcliffe, Alice Arnold and Ailish Seaton & Briana Lewis – a talented group who have led the teams exceptionally well at both trainings and games. Wonderful role models who display the culture and values of our club, whilst also demonstrating amazing hockey skills and leadership on the pitch!

Player Group - the dedication and commitment from the playing group was a testament to the desire to want to improve/develop and be the best hockey players they could. The camaraderie and bond on and off the field was a highlight of the season.

2025 will see the women playing in Vic League 1 again - a season where the players can continue to consolidate all the skills and knowledge they have acquired and have a successful and enjoyable season ahead.

Wishing everyone a safe, happy and relaxing off season! Cheers,

Tammy Hansford

Head women's coach

Women's Vic League 1 Reserves

In 2024, the Reserves women had a team list of 31 over the course of the season but had 24 regular players, 5 of whom also played in the firsts. 15 of our players have an affiliation with a local club, which is great as this will continue to help strengthen the local competition. 9 of our team are still able to play at under 18 level and 7 of those can still play under 16s, so we had quite a young playing group.

Although it took us 7 rounds to get our first win, the team continued to improve throughout the season. In the 2^{nd} half of the season our results were better and we dragged an initial 4 - 0 loss to MCC back to a 2-0 loss, an 8-0 loss to MUHC back to 5-1, we turned a 6-1 loss to TEMs into a 3-2 win, a 2-2 draw with West Vic into a 2 - 0 win and a 2 - 0 win over Latrobe into a 5 - 0 win. We scored 24 goals for the season, 17 of which were scored in the 2^{nd} half of the season.

The girls were keen to learn and improve and their fantastic numbers at training each week demonstrated this. Not only did they learn and grow as players, but we had fun doing so.

Our best and fairest votes are as follows:

5th one of our young guns – Ella Morgan. This was her first full season playing seniors and she played in a vitally important playing position, showing enormous improvement throughout the season and coped well with the pressure.

4th Hailey Wyld. She always gave her all on the field and ran all game. She moved from mid field to striker and back again seamlessly. Her drive upfront set up quite a few goal scoring opportunities for us.

3^{rd,} Bree Lewis – we call her The General for her expert guidance on the backline and her big loud voice. She had a big job this year with a brand new goalkeeper behind her and plenty of young players in front of her. Her guidance was accurate and timely and we all appreciated it.

2nd Ali O'Reilly bought so much to our team this year. Her cool, calm demeanor when under pressure was a joy to watch. Along with her ability to manufacture penalty corners out of nothing as well as to get a goal shot away, Ali is a dynamic and dangerous player all over the field.

Winner: Emma Robertson – our little energizer bunny who could play in defence or through the midfield. Don't let her size fool you – she is strong and covers a lot of territory every game.

The MVP award goes to someone who has a commanding presence on the field, is not afraid to direct the play and delivers her messages in a loud, clear voice. She plays her defensive role very well and inspires the players around her to play strong hockey. She loves playing hockey and her cheerful disposition and infectious laugh is always appreciated. Congratulations to Bree Lewis.

My coaches award goes to a player who rarely missed a training session or a game, she took on several new playing positions, asked lots of questions about what was required of her and gave them her best. She was always prepared, always had a smile on her face and was focused and determined every week. She even played with a broken toe! Congratulations to Maddie Burt.

Bree Lewis and Ailish Seaton made up our leadership team and they both displayed great leadership qualities as captains. They were leaders both on and off the field and worked well with all the players, ensuring that everyone felt welcome and a part of the team.

I would like to thank Carly Storr for managing our team so well and for the endless supply of lollies. She didn't skip a beat as far as HV administration went and for that, I am very grateful.

I hope that all of our players will return next year as there is much more we can achieve.

Gillian Armstead Reserves coach

Hockey Victoria Competition Men's Vic League 1

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge how welcoming the Geelong Sharks and the broader Geelong Hockey community have been towards me. I have enjoyed the season and, more importantly, the people. The season started with a specifically designed hockey focused pre-season. The fitness was geared towards aerobic and speed endurance fitness. In addition, we used this period to work on core skills and to gain a shared understanding of how important core skills are for the team.

It was our fitness levels that we developed in the pre-season that afforded us some wins early in the season, when we didn't really play that well. We hadn't embedded our style of play and to be fair, it was always going to take a while before players started to understand their roles and responsibilities as well as the principles we were seeking to apply.

The goal at the start of the year was to get promoted to Premier League. We were on track to do this during the season by finishing top of the table. We had a couple of matches that were tight, resulting in a few draws and a couple of losses. Mid-season was a real test of character for the team, and they responded well when it was apparent we needed to win the League to progress to the Premier League.

There were a lot of great moments during the season; I just wish to highlight three:

- An away round match against Mentone when we had 9 players not available. This resulted in a draw (1-1) and both teams had the opportunity to win in the last 2 minutes with penalty corners. This demonstrated to me that the players that were brought in understood the structure we played. This is largely due to Dan Sheedy adopting the structure in Reserves, thank you Dan.
- 2. The Finals match, once again, against Mentone. Quite possibly the highest quality game of the season. When Mentone drew level in the fourth quarter, and had all the momentum, our guys defaulted to "chopping wood and carrying water" and wrestled the momentum back for the win.
- 3. No surprise, the Grand Final figures. I feel we had Old Xaverians measure for the whole match, even though the final result was 2-1. We could have won that match by 5 or 6 goals. The team implemented all the experiences, knowledge and principles acquired throughout the season for this one result. Well done to each member of that team.

I also wish to acknowledge the 30+ players that were used in Vic League 1 this year. Everyone did a great job, and it is a credit to the club to have that kind of depth. In addition, thank you to Kelli, Andie, Peter and the other executives and volunteers that often go unnoticed in the outstanding work they do. We now have new challenges entering the 2025 season, that being Premier League. I am excited by the challenge as I know the playing group is as well. Regards,

Blair Chalmers, Head Coach



The Premiership team and the Sharks supporters



Men's Vic League 1 Reserves

I don't think many people at the start of the year would have predicted that the Reserves would have made the Grand Final this season.... including myself! Credit must go to the playing group, who created a great culture of being positive and supportive all season which contributed to our success.

The age of the playing group ranged from as young as 13 up to the explosive pace of a certain 46-yearold! Seven players from this group played at least one game for the VL1 team during the season, which was great experience for a number of these players and the whole purpose of this development squad. Although disappointed we lost the Grand-Final the Reserves team had a very successful season.

A huge thank you to Richard, Murphy & Macca for stepping in to help with training and match day when I was absent due to work. Also, a huge thank you to Andie who, behind the scenes, worked endlessly all season to chase up players to get three teams on the pitch each weekend.

Coaches Award:

Charlie 'Wato' Watson - Playing 18 games this season in the Reserves, he scored 4 goals including a goal in the semi-final against Old Xav's. He regularly attended training, working hard (often in the background) on his skills. His development over the course of the season has been wonderful to watch. His positioning, ball control and work rate, particularly when reverse pressing as a striker, stood out in several games.

A junior member of the team, on a couple of occasions Charlie was thrown into the back line and did an outstanding job when the team needed someone to fill this position. He is a quiet and a polite individual who is renowned for thanking the coaches at the end of each training session and for wearing a bucket hat and robot sunglasses after each game.

Most Valued Player (Awarded by the team):

Richard 'Shelvo" Shelverton. Playing 14 games this season, Richard had a calm & mature head amongst the younger playing group. He had a very consistent season and could always be relied upon (particularly in defence). He is known for his ability to strip the ball from strikers and midfielders. He was such a team player that he even took a red card and a one match suspension for the team! (Don't ask why) Richard was the captain & leader of the Reserves team.

Best & Fairest:

Richard 'Shelvo" Shelverton. What more can I say about this player....he's a really nice fella, he likes long walks along the beach, he cut off his long locks during the season!

Dan Sheedy Coach

Pennant C

The Hockey Geelong Sharks Pennant C team had a fantastic season, making it to the semi-finals, where they were narrowly defeated in shootouts by a team with a significantly larger squad, rotating up to 40 players throughout the season.

Despite this, the Sharks were incredibly close to achieving their goal of promotion. The team competed week in, week out, often with minimal bench strength, and sometimes only having a few players available to take the field.

The team consistently displayed the club's core values, particularly resilience and inspiration, even when short on numbers. They produced some great hockey, which was exciting for fans to watch. There was great development across the squad, with juniors mixing with more experienced players, which made for a well-balanced and dynamic team.

Coached by Steve Macumber and Glen O'Shannessy, and managed by Peter, the Sharks had an outstanding year on the field, even though they narrowly missed out on a Grand Final spot. Overall, it was a highly successful season for the team.

Peter Taylor Manager

Hockey Victoria Competition - Senior

Coaches and managers

Men

Vic League 1

Coach - Blair Chalmers Manager - Andie Hatton & Kelli Caldow

Vic League 1 Reserves

Coach - Dan Sheedy Manager - Kelli Caldow & Andie Hatton

Pennant C

Coach - Steve Macumber and Glenn O'Shannessy Manager - Peter Taylor

Women

Women's Premier League

Coach - Tammy Hansford Assistant coach - Gillian Armstead Manager - Toby and Amanda Vague

Women's Premier League Reserves

Coach - Gillian Armstead Manager - Carly Storr

Sharks Senior Teams Awards

Women's Vic League 1

Best and Fairest "Murray Medal" Most Valuable Player Coach's Award

Women's Vic League 1 Reserves

Best & Fairest "Williams Medal" Most Valuable Player Coach's Award

Men's Vic League 1

Best and Fairest "Kirk Medal" Most Valuable Player Coaches Award

Men's Vic League 1 Reserves

Best & Fairest "Dent Shield" Most Valuable Player Coach's Award

Men's Pennant C

Best & Fairest "Shane Walters Shield" Most Valuable Player Coach's Award

Mark Jackson Best Male Club person Emmaline Shand Best Female Club Person Emma Hatton Kahlua Smart Eliza Vague

Emma Robertson Briana Lewis Maddie Burt

James Thompson James Thompson James Thompson & Reece Shand

> Richard Shelverton Richard Shelverton Charlie Watson

Grant Downie Steve Macumber Jesse Althorpe

Andie Hatton Ailish Seaton

Hockey Victoria Master's 2024 Winter Competition

Teams entered

Men's Masters 50+ A - final ladder position 5th

The men's masters competed in the 50+ A division over the Winter season. Finishing in 5th position on the ladder.

The team consisted of 22 players with 13 of those playing in more than of five games for the season. Warren Harding again, did a great job of organising this team.

Women's 35+ BCN - final ladder position 1st (Minor Premiers) and Premiers

The Geelong women's master's team is back after a decent hiatus, from before the pre COVID era. We greatly appreciate the assistance from the Ballarat ladies in getting it up and running, we could not have done it without their help.

We started the season with the aim to have good fun, crazy car rides and making sure all members had fun, no matter their skill. All of us had the common love of hockey and when it came down to it, we all understood enjoyment of the game is our priority.

With a solid season, we managed a pretty good score card and found ourselves in a battle to the death vs Footscray in the Grand Final. Going down to shoot-outs, some amazing keeping (from both teams) had us at 0-0 after seven. Bash (Leanne Basham) decided it was time to end the pain (or possibly wanted one of the cupcakes Carol brought) and managed to convert.

Thank you to Palm Life for their sponsorship of the women's masters. We had an amazing year and are hoping to build to two teams next year. If you are keen to join us please let me know.

Georgie van Beek Co-Ordinator



The Premiers



Team photo during the season

2024 Junior Sharks Co-Ordinator Report

It was another successful year for the four Junior Sharks teams with the under 14 girls Premiers in Pennant NW and the under 14 boys finishing runner up in Pennant NW. The under 16 boys were third and unfortunately lost their first final after the trip to Bendigo. Although not winning a game for the season, the under 16 girls who played in Shield A, were every competitive and enjoyed their season.

It is always a bit of a gamble as to what grade the teams should be entered in, as juniors tend to go through a three year cycle where they have strong teams and then players progress to the older grades and younger ones come in. The under 14 girls will have 6 of their current players progress to under 16 in 2025. The under 14 girls grade commenced with only 5 teams, but hockey Victoria then reshuffled the grades and gave the Pennant NW a couple more, therefore a better competition.

A big part of the junior Sharks success must be attributed to the coaches and managers. This season we were fortunate to have very dedicated coaches and managers to work with the juniors. Commencing in February with trials, it was evident that the Sharks juniors were going to learn a lot and be very competitive throughout the season. I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by such dedicated people, which certainly makes my job as Co-ordinator a lot easier.

Under 16 girls Shield team was coached by Greg Walton. Greg returned to a role with the Sharks after a period of time coaching elsewhere. He was assisted by Gavin van der Meer who also managed the team and found players and undertook all those manager type roles very efficiently.

Under 16 boys Pennant NW saw Dan Sheedy move into the coaching role, after 2023 coaching the U14 boys. He was assisted by Ollie Ayerbe and a new manager in Michelle Harding. Michelle did a great job after being thrown in the deep end.....a steep learning curve for her.

Under 14 girls Pennant NW were well coached by Brianna Lewis and Ailish Seaton, both senior Sharks players who took on this roll after some coercing. Brett Cleeland was a very efficient manager and he also helped with the administration of Team App for juniors. Every training session seemed like they we learning, training hard and having fun.

Under 14 boys Pennant NW were co-coached by Kurt Wingert and Jack Burke. They worked really well together, and the players improved over the season and were very competitive. Yvette Wingert and Kane Maloney managed these teams. My thanks to all.

At the start of the season, we had a Junior Sharks dinner which was well attended and gave the players, coaches and managers an opportunity to socialise. Both the Under 14 teams and Under 16 boys' team also enjoyed dinner the week before their first finals. These events were well supported and a great group of parents helped significantly in cooking serving and cleaning up. We are all fortunate to have such great "helpers".

The GHA also hosted a *Read the Play* session which the Under 16 players attended and hopefully learnt from and felt supported. Thank you to Emmaline Shand for organising this session.

I was overseas for the Presentation night and the parent group, along with Peter Taylor as Sharks Chairperson, organised what I heard was a great night. Congratulations to all the trophy recipients; I imagine selecting some of these players was difficult. Again, I thank all those involved and especially Yvette Wingert for organising the food.

Thank you to Gavin van der Meer for his incredible work to get 6 teams in the Junior Country Championships - well done Gavin.

A number of the juniors have been selected in Victorian State teams which is a credit to them, and I hope they go further at that level.

Finally, to those juniors moving out of the under 16 age groups... it has been a pleasure having you in the junior Sharks, some of you for 5 or so years... so I wish you all the best for your future hockey endeavours and look forward to seeing you progress to the senior Sharks group and future Premier League players.

Nette Williams

Junior Co-Ordinator

2024 Junior Sharks Coaches, Managers and awards

Under 16 Boys - Pennant NW

Coach - Dan Sheedy Assistant Coach - Oliver Ayerbe Managers - Michelle and Rhyce Harding Harry Sheedy & Lucas Kelly Hamish Flett

Under 16 Girls - Shield

Coach - Greg Walton Assistant Coach - Gavin van der Meer Manager - Gavin van der Meer Eliza Vague Ruby Moon

Under 14 Boys - Pennant NW

Coach - Kurt Wingert Assistant Coach - Jack Burke Managers - Yvette Wingert & Kane Maloney Zac Wingert Noah Arnold Markus Kelly

Under 14 Girls – Pennant NW

Coach - Briana Lewis Assistant coach - Ailish Seaton Manager - Brett Cleeland

Best and Fairest Coaches Award Team Spirit

Ivy Renouf **Grace Harper** Amber Steiner

Best and Fairest Coach's Award

Best and Fairest

Coach's Award

Team Spirit

Best and Fairest

Coach's Award

2024 Junior Hockey Geelong Sharks Teams

Hockey Victoria Junior Competition final ladder positions

Under 16 Boys Pennant NW

Final Ladder position 3rd

Under 16 Girls Shield

Final ladder position 10th

Under 14 Boys Pennant NW

Final ladder position 1st

Runner up

Under 14 Girls Pennant NW

Final ladder position 1st

Premiers



Junior Sharks Coaches' Reports

Under 16 Girls Shield

Congratulations to Ruby (Moon) as Captain and Anya (Dreyer) as Vice-Captain.

In review, this season was a learning experience for the majority of the Geelong U16 girls' team. They fought hard and won more than 50% of the 50/50 battles, creating chances with long runs along both the left and right wings. If Geelong had scored when they entered the attacking 25 metres then the score line and the season may have been a different story.

At this level of competition, all teams have good/great goal keepers. Geelong's goal keepers, both Charlotte and Ella played well. Keeping the goal tally to a minimum against highly talented attacks with many scoring opportunities.

Geelong's defence worked hard all season, led by Ruby. Winter cleared the ball out of the defensive area to the side line. Her improvement over season was remarkable. Amelia playing half and then later in the season, full back, making many great saves. Madison and Charlotte played as half backs, tagging the opposition' outside runners and high forwards.

Moving Izzy from Mid to CHB, allowed her to play with more consistency and strengthen Geelong's backline.

Macy came into the team for the last six games to help out when player numbers were a concern. She played mainly as a defensive wing. This also strengthened the defence in the later part of the season.

In review, Geelong's Mids ; Anya, Eliza, Ruby and Aimee, all played well. They fought hard and won many 50/50 battles, creating chances with long runs.

Congratulations to both Anya and Charlotte B on playing for Victoria during the season.

As the season went on, the team's two attacking wings improved, Kashvi and Phoebe learnt to read the play, close down the opposition's backwards passing and created many opportunities in front of goal. When Phoebe went overseas, the team potentially lost some winnable games.

Losing Clemmi and Zita early in the season, reduced the number of dangerous forwards and limited the team's goal scoring capacity.

Every team needs a player who is the Heart and Soul of the team. Geelong was lucky this season with two players being the Heart and Soul of the team.

Ruby was the soul of the team. She played everywhere, leading by example, encouraging the other players around her and stepping back into defence when the backline needed help. As Captain, she led the training on Tuesday nights and led by example on game nights.

As a Coach, I vote for the best five players each round. Ruby was in the best five for every round this season. Super consistent. Congratulations to Ruby, who received the Coach's award.

Eliza was the heart of the team. She also played everywhere. Her long runs with the ball bought the crowd to its feet. Eliza worked hard to bring other players into the game especially Phoebe and Kashvi as the high forwards. Eliza missed one game for the season. She was in the best five for 13 rounds. When the game was in the balance, I asked Eliza to give a short heart felt motivation speech at half time. Congratulations to Eliza, who is this year's Best and Fairest.

After the first round of the season, one supporter from the side lines said "Brunswick had players who could read the game, run hard, make good position and pass the ball with accuracy. Geelong will definitely learn from this game and improve." Over the season, the team has certainly learnt and improved. In the later part of the season, playing with minimum numbers, Geelong lost to Camberwell 0 - 1, TEM 0 - 2, Waverley (2) 0 - 1 and drew with KBH 0 - 0.

As Coach, I would like to thank the team's manager, Gavin. Gavin did a brilliant job. I have had good team managers over my time at Geelong as Coach but Gavin was great. From checking player availability to assistant Coach and timekeeper, he also trained with the girls when the numbers were low at training. A big thank you for 110% effort.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Geelong Sharks for asking me to be Coach of the U16 Girls in 2024. It was pleasure.

Greg Walton Coach

Under 14 Girls Pennant NW

This season has been a remarkable journey for our Under 14 girls' team, marked by outstanding progress, dedication, and team spirit. From the very first training session, the girls were enthusiastic and eager to learn, displaying a passion for the game that only grew stronger throughout the season. We have seen significant individual and collective growth, with players constantly striving to improve their skills, confidence, and understanding of the game. Their hard work and commitment have not only led to impressive results on the field but also fostered a positive, inclusive, and supportive team culture. As we look ahead, it is essential that the club continues to nurture and support this group, ensuring they have the resources and encouragement to build on this foundation for future success.

We were fortunate to have strong attendance at training sessions throughout the year, with a consistent turnout from the players. However, one challenge we faced was the limited time available during our hour-long training sessions. Many of our players were coming directly from other club commitments, which sometimes made it difficult to fully execute the planned training programs. While we remained flexible and adapted as best we could, there were occasions when we couldn't cover all aspects of the session in the time allotted. The back-to-back training sessions also presented a challenge for Ailish and me, as it meant we would often miss the beginning of our own senior training sessions. While this wasn't ideal, we were able to manage it given that the women's senior training on Tuesdays tends to be more casual and flexible. This allowed us to focus on our responsibilities with the Under 14 girls without it having a major impact on our involvement with the senior team. Nevertheless, balancing both commitments was not always easy, and at times, we had to adjust our priorities to ensure the girls' training remained as effective and supportive as possible.

Selecting the team each week was relatively straightforward, as we had a consistent number of players available. However, finding the right positions for everyone proved to be more challenging. Many players, and their parents, expressed a strong desire to play in the forward half, which created some pressure to balance these preferences with the needs of the team. I aimed to give players opportunities to explore various positions, as I believe this variety is essential for well-rounded development at a young age. However, with the high demand for forward roles, it wasn't always possible to provide this experience every week. Balancing these aspirations with the team's overall structure required careful planning and flexibility.

Fridays, of course, were the biggest commitment, especially when we had away games. Often, we would leave Geelong at 5pm and not return until after 10pm, which made for long and exhausting evenings. This was particularly challenging when we had a 12:30pm Seniors' game in Melbourne the following day. While these travel schedules are largely unavoidable, the significant time commitment required on Fridays has been a major factor in my own decision not to play in the Sunday local Geelong competition in 2025.

Looking ahead, I would like to see an increase in the external support available, both for me as a coach and for the junior players. As a fairly new coach, I'm eager to continue developing my own knowledge and skills, which will in turn help enhance the development of the players. Further resources, coaching workshops, or mentorship would be invaluable in supporting this growth. Additionally, I would love to see stronger connections between the junior and senior teams. Having the opportunity for the younger players to learn from and interact with the senior players would be incredibly inspiring for them. It would not only provide valuable learning experiences but also foster a sense of unity within the club.

Briana Lewis

Coach

Under 16 Boys Pennant NW

The 2024 hockey season saw the Boys U16 team win 8 out of 13 games, finishing 3rd on the ladder. Having only 12 goals scored against them for the entire year, this team had the best defence in the competition. This was highlighted in their losing semi-final when they were under the pump in defence the entire game and managed to hold Northwest Lightning goalless until the final 2 minutes of the game. This playing group improved remarkably throughout the season and in particular games possessed the ball well. Consistency and goal scoring were our biggest challenges for the year. However, overall the U16 boys had a successful season. A key part of this season was that a number of these boys also played in various men's senior teams, which really helped to strengthen their individual games and the U16 teams' overall performance.

Players:

- The captain of the team: Lucas 'The Skipper' Kelly.
- The Vice Captain: Surry 'Soul Taking' Burch.
- Harry 'The back stick specialist' Julian.
- Pep 'The Round 14 ripper deflection goal master'.
- Luke 'Cool as a cucumber' Harper.
- Monty 'Toothpick stick' Bowmann.
- Noah 'Size 14 shoe BFG' Skendos.
- Aaden 'Turbo...tuck and roll' Tanaka.
- Hamish "locked himself in the team bus "Flett.
- Oli 'you won't get the ball off me' Sunt-Jens.
- Jude 'I'm at the wrong ground' Tannahill.
- Harry 'The tackling King 'Sheedy.
- Brandon 'How low can you go hockey position" Firth
- Nate 'The chick loving & thumb sucking' Harding.

Best & Fairest Award:

The U16 boys vote count was an extremely close count that went down to the <u>last round</u> and <u>last votes</u> of the night to declare <u>joint Winners</u> of the Best & Fairest.

The first joint winner:

• Scored 1 goal and played 10 games this season, this defensive mid fielder never gives up, giving 100% to every tackle and contest. He is quick and closes the space between himself and opposition at lighting speed.

• Given the huge task at the start of the season, to lead this group of players, this young man took on the challenge and excelled in this position. Reliable and leading in games by example he earnt the respect of his team and the coach.

Joint winner of the 2024 U16 Best & Fairest: Lucas Kelly.

The second joint winner:

- Is a defensive mid fielder who played 10 games and Scored 15 goals (2nd in the overall competition).
- A key player for the team, who's ability to strip the ball from the opposition and then carry the ball to set up the strikers was uplifting for the group.
- I could tell you a hundred more traits about this player, but I will say one thing. This player's good looks & sporting abilities must be genetic.

Joint winner of the 2024 U16 Best & Fairest: Harry Sheedy.

Runners up Best & Fairest

- Playing as a Striker & Attacking midfielder, he scored 8 goals (7th for the entire competition).
- This season this player really matured and stepped up as a senior player in the team, he has become more motivated, more team focused and a genuine goal scorer. I have really enjoyed witnessing this development over the last couple of years.
- He has also played majority of the season with the senior men's sharks' team & was at one stage renowned for his mallet haircut.

2024 U16 Runners UP Best & Fairest: Nate Harding.

Coach's award:

• This award goes to a player who was new to the sharks this year, they played 10 games and have just got better and better with every game. This player has developed exponentially this season. His ability to now run into the correct position, receive the ball and deliver has been wonderful to watch as a coach. Paying attention at training, taking feedback and instructions on board and always looking to improve, earnt this player not just a regular attacking midfielder role in the U16's team, it also saw him asked to play in the men's senior sharks' team on a couple of occasions this year and the feedback from many senior players from these games were very positive. I look forward to watching the hockey career of this energetic player.

The couch's award goes to: Hamish Flett.

<u>Thank you's</u>

- Nette for coordinating all the junior programs...it's a big task.
- Oli for assistant coaching in my absence due to work.

- Michelle & Rhyce for all their hard work managing the team (You did an unreal job).
- Parents for supporting their son's and the team.
- Most importantly the boys in the team (including Noah, Zac, Campbell, Atticus & Angus for filling in).

Dan Sheedy

Coach

Under 14 Boys Pennant N

Hockey Geelong U14 Boys had a fantastic 2024 season competing in the Hockey Victoria U14 Boys Pennant NW division.

Season overview: The team finished the season as minor premiers with 34 points, a win ratio of 87% (11 wins / 1 draw / 1 loss from 13 played), and a goal difference of 28 (53 goals for / 25 goals against). Additionally, the team was well represented in the division goal scorers with 3 players in the top 20 - Zac Wingert rank 1 (30 goals), Liam Dargue rank 7 (12 goals), and Jacob Dargue rank 18 (6 goals). The season game highlight was a tough fought win against Northwest Lightning on an extremely cold, wet, and windy night in Bendigo - it was a thrilling come from behind win in the second half. The team also participated in the Victoria Junior Country Championships which was held early in the season, they had a slow start in that tournament but improved rapidly across the weekend - it was a fantastic event for the group to gel and develop quickly, and really set them up as a group early on for the remainder of the season.

Finals overview: The first final was a tough fought contest against Brunswick, with the boys holding out in front of a home crowd at Stead Park to claim an exciting and well-deserved win and a spot in the grand final against Northwest Lightening. The earlier in-season contest between Geelong and Lightening had been close and of high quality, and the grand final played out similarly. It was a tense battle from the outset, with Geelong taking the ascendancy and lead early on, and Lightening then striking back strongly in the second half and go ahead by a goal. The game was headed towards a Lightening win in regular time, until Geelong's persistence resulted in a last-gasp goal to tie things up with only seconds remaining and which forced a shoot-out. Lightening prevailed in the shoot-out to claim the premiership. The Geelong boys were obviously extremely disappointed but could hold their heads high as they were beaten by a very strong side on the night and had shown significant growth across the season.

Reflection: The team was an enthusiastic, engaging, and respectful group of boys that were a pleasure to coach. The team responded best to simple game plan and instruction, and their best hockey resulted when they brought sustained effort and intensity around that plan and worked as a team. Areas of opportunity for the team to further develop would include consistency of effort (within games and week to week), holding structure, defensive accountability, and continuing to work on enhancing fundamental ball skills and control. Overall, the group should be proud of their efforts in 2024 and how they represented Hockey Geelong Sharks.

Other player recognitions: In addition to the team's success in 2024, there were some wonderful individual player achievements in representative hockey. Charlie White and Zac Wingert were both selected in the U14 Wildcats team that participated in the U14 Junior State Championships held in Bendigo. Both were also selected in the Hockey Victoria U14 Academy, with Zac subsequently selected into the U14 Development side and participated in the U14 Australian Nationals held in Perth. Congratulations to both boys for their achievements in 2024.

Thanks: Many thanks to all those that supported the team throughout the year, including co-coach Jack Bourke, joint team managers Yvette Wingert / Kane Maloney, and all player parents. Additional thanks to Hockey Geelong Sharks and the Association for their ongoing support of junior hockey and enabling a pathway for local players to participate in the Hockey Victoria competitions outside of Geelong.

Kurt Wingert

Coach

Usage of Stead Park

This season we received just over 100 additional booking requests for groups outside regular times.

Predominately Kardinia International College used the field for their school program during Term 2 as well as the VSSSA Western Metro and Geelong region school hockey (June through October). Northern Bay College and Matthew Flinders also attended Stead Park as part of their school sport offerings.

The pitch was further utilised by the 2024 Vic Country teams and other hockey coaching academies.

We are pleased to be able to offer this to those who wish to use the pitch in our down times.

The clubrooms have also been utilised by association members for private events.

The GHA committees extend it thanks to those who assisted in opening up the ground, clubrooms and engaged with new players, continuing to make Stead Park a welcoming place to be.

Bookings for the clubrooms and pitches are available "on line" and this is a great assistance to tracking usage and also ensuring no clash of requests.

Emmaline Shand

Events

Junior Country Championships

The 2024 Hockey Victoria Junior Country Championships (JCC) were held over the weekend of May 18 & 19. Following on from resurgent interest in the Junior Country Championships over the previous 2 years, the Geelong Hockey Association was represented, once again, by 6 junior teams across the U14, U16 and U18 boys' and girls' competitions.

The JCC is organised by Hockey Victoria to showcase regional Victoria's most talented junior players. The Geelong Hockey Association teams played in a round robin style event against teams from other Victorian Regional Associations with approximately 5 or 6 matches over the weekend, including pool matches and finals. Hockey Victoria reported that a record 48 teams competed in the 6 divisions, with 141 matches played across the three host venues.

2024 Junior Country Championship locations: Under14 - Venue - Essendon Hockey Centre Under 16 - Venue - Greensborough Hockey Centre Under 18 - Venue - Melbourne Sports Centre Parkville

Player Fees were maintained as low as possible at \$90 per player to cover tournament costs including team entry and loan of the brand-new GHA uniform shirts, purchased with generous support from the former Bellarine Hockey Club and the GHA.

The new uniform shirts (alternate coloured set as well) will last for many years and confirm a strong and consistent GHA identity for every representative team.

Every team needs Coaches and Managers, and we are very grateful for the support received from the volunteers who took on those roles, as well as a number of GHA members who umpired during the competition and the parents who helped to distribute and recover uniforms. (In appreciation, the GHA was able to provide fee discounts for players whose parents volunteered as team officials for the JCC weekend.)

Each playing group had a least 2 or more group training sessions to prepare for the tournament and we are grateful for our volunteer coaches for putting in the time to prepare the teams for the competition.

81 players represented GHA in the 6 Geelong Hockey Association teams, with all teams placing in the top 4 of their respective divisions. What an amazing result. The players, coaches and team managers should all be very proud of the team's achievements for the weekend.

Final placings were as follows;Under 14 girlsGold medalUnder 16 girlsSilver medalUnder 18 girls3rd placeUnder 14 boys3rd place

Under 18 boys3rd placeUnder 16 boys4th place

A very busy weekend and a huge thanks to all of our JCC families for such an enjoyable weekend.

Gavin Van der Meer Co-Ordinator

Senior Country Weekend

No Geelong teams competed in the 2024 Senior Country Weekend.

Monday Night Hockey - "Mediocre Monday"

Monday hockey has re started in the summer months, fortnightly till Christmas and then weekly in January. It's a great way to dust off the old unused stick (please get a new mouthguard... for everyone's sake).

Mondays is more social and aims to be welcoming for those starting hockey or coming back after a period off and give them the start to build up to local hockey. It has also become a social outlet for those wanting some exercise and needing to escape the house in the off season.

Everyone is welcome to come join.

Georgie van Beek Co-ordinator

The Geelong Regional Hockey Academy

The Geelong Regional Hockey Academy ran for the 2nd year in October 2024. Over 90 players from regional Victoria took part over 3 Sunday mornings for a total of 9 hours. Age groups ranged from under 12 to under 17. Players came from Corangamite (14), Ballarat (23), Geelong (45), South West Hockey (Warrnambool) (8) and Wimmera (5).

They were all given an Academy T shirt in GHA colours, designed by Charlotte Armstead, which they loved.

Facilitators included: Harry Dolenc (Altona), Jack Chadwick (West Vic), Liam Kerr-Nelson (Altona), Kelsey Ratcliffe (Geelong), Sophie Collings (Geelong), Andrew Scanlon (HCM), Health MacDonald (Altona), Mattie Barnett (Altona), Josh D'Arcy (Footscray), Kahlua Smart (Geelong), Brayden Caldow (Geelong), Benjamin Champion (Geelong), Josh Sly (West Vic), James Thompson (Geelong), Nath McBain, (Geelong), Molly Klix (Altona), Jye Walters (Footscray), Em Shand (Geelong), Reece Shand (Geelong), Kade Leigh (HCM), Ewan Wightman (Geelong) and Tammy Hansford (Geelong).

The players enjoyed learning from a talented group of coaches and were thrilled to see some of them (Andrew and Kade) on TV one day playing for HCM and then coaching them the next day at Stead Park.

The coaches enjoyed working with all the young and enthusiastic players.

The program included advanced skills such as overheads or drag flicks, whilst also stressing the importance of basic skills along with footwork and ball control. We also included hints and tips as to what to expect at trials, so we hope that lots of these young players go to Melbourne to attend HV trials for state teams. In 2023 we were pleased to be able to offer four players who were selected in HV state teams, a small financial gift to help with the high costs of being in a state team.

Thank you to all the coaches, along with many parents who helped out shifting goals or collecting balls during the sessions.

Thanks also to Chris Armstead, Tammy Hansford, Em Shand and Graeme Dent for assisting with logistics or serving in the canteen at each session.

Gillian Armstead Co-Ordinator

Holiday Clinics

The Hockey Geelong Sharks ran 2 holiday clinics this year, one in the June school holiday and the other in the September school holidays.

June holidays – 2 clinics (10.00am – 2.30pm each day) where players could choose to take part both days or just one day. 49 players took part in the sessions, with 23 choosing 1 day and 26 choosing two days. The number of players that took part in each age group included: Under 8 – 7; Under 10 – 7; Under 12 – 12; Under 14 & 17 – 19; GK - 4

Facilitators: Anya Dreyer, Charlotte Armstead, Eliza Vague, Fionn Zele, Grace Milne, Jack Burke, Jake Whitford, Liv McGrane, Maddie Alexander, Matt Bald, Max Ferrier, Nath McBain, Will Seymour, Jesse Althorpe.

September holidays – a 1day clinic (9.00am – 3.00pm, with under 8 and under 10 players finishing at 12noon). 32 players from under 8 to under 17, including 2 goal keepers. The number of players that took part in each age group included: Under 8 – 8; Under 10 – 4; Under 12 – 10; Under 14 & 17 – 10.

Facilitators included: Nath McBain, Anya Dreyer, Ava Doolan, Charlotte Armstead, Jesse Althorpe. These clinics were popular with all age groups and I recommend that we run them again in April and June in 2025.

Gillian Armstead Organiser

The Diwali and Bandi Chhor Diwas Hockey Cup

The Diwali and Bandi Chhor Diwas Hockey Cup 2024 is in its 7th year this year and Craigieburn Hockey Club did a fantastic job of hosting the event. This is an annual community event where we celebrate the 'Festival of Lights' through hockey. They had juniors, senior men and women competing, along with multiple teams from different clubs. Free food was served, there was music, cultural performances and kids' activities. 'More hockey' was a team of women from over 6 different clubs, including Hockey Geelong. It was about friends getting together for a hit of hockey, some good curry and also, a free sporting event. The average age was more like master's but throw in youngin's in Macy Kooloos, Ella Morgan (day 2 - Best player in a Grand Final) and Piper Pickford, and we came away with the win in the last few minutes, 3-2 against the Craigieburn Falcons. It was a lot of fun and great preparation for those going to Pan Pacs and also the World Cup in New Zealand.

Alison Kooloos

"This Girl Can" sessions

During 2023, with the assistance of Charlie Martin, Hockey Geelong Sharks secured a grant from State Government to the value of \$5000 to increase hockey participation within the female population.

Prior to the 2023 summer season, at short notice 3 sessions were run to link players into the upcoming season. All primary and secondary schools in the Geelong region were contacted, as well as local hockey clubs. Although marketed at all ages, we attracted mostly juniors Under 8 and under 10 players. In the following weeks it was great to see new faces taking part in the local competition and junior teams, having players come and report in of their game results and how they had played was fantastic.

"This Girl Can", a more structured fortnightly program of six sessions was planned for May, June July and August in 2023. This focused on a judgment free and friendly environment for all females to participate at their ability. We had a range of young females relatively new to hockey, those re engaging after a time away from hockey and a couple of mums of players giving it a try. Due to the grant, there was no cost to attend, and the sessions ran fortnightly. The time of 5.30pm to 6.30pm prior to the Mediocre Monday sessions was in the hope of players staying on to participate in those sessions.

I have since been contacted by participants looking to get involved with the 2024/25 summer season and we are looking forward to seeing some new faces at Stead Park.

The coaches, all present and past Hockey Geelong Sharks players, brought great knowledge and enthusiasm, keen to share their skills with each group. Each session had a focus on a set of skills, while being active and having fun. The coaches are to be congratulated on being flexible with the delivery of the program to ensure it met the skill level of the participants each session.

Although, attendance wasn't large numbers, those who took part where vocal in the value of such a program to build their confidence to join regular competition.

We believe this could be the start of a range of programs that could be offered to attract new players and build skills to improve the GHA competition.

Goal Keeper Clinics

Every fortnight a group of dedicated goal keepers met, trained and shared knowledge to improve their skills. Rain hail or shine, they arrived and worked on their skills. The first group ran between 6.00pm to 7.30pm focusing on beginner and intermediate skill level, followed by the more advanced group 7.30pm to 9.00pm.

Registration was via a google form link, the flyer having been shared with all local GHA clubs, Ballarat Hockey Association clubs and the Werribee Hockey club.

The goalkeeper clinics were separate training sessions for the Hockey Geelong senior goal keepers, to ensure their training needs were met, separate to their main Tuesday and Thursday group sessions. Blair Chalmers was integral in coaching and sharing his knowledge with the senior group each fortnight, while the senior keepers instructed the beginner and intermediate groups in the earlier sessions. The group of Benjamin Champion, Chris Love, Brayden Caldow and Alice Arnold all helped work intensely with the keepers. Both groups averaged around 8 keepers at any given session, with some attending all sessions and others when they could.

With a wide range of ages and abilities, straight forward knowledge was shared about how to get into the protective gear. Being able to ask questions and get support from a group of other goal keepers, as well as coaching advanced techniques and analysis of form, was a huge benefit for these young keepers. Along with the skill development, the social connections and rapport between the group members were great to see.

To cover any costs incurred, a fee of \$100 for 12 sessions, or \$10 per session was implemented for those participating, but not coaching.

Future recommendations would be to look at marketing and follow-up with clubs to broaden the participant group. The cost of the sessions may need to be reviewed to look at potential income streams to support the Sharks future plans and educational programs.

The purchase of some new equipment and balls would be beneficial.

Recommendations on developing more comprehensive training options for the region's hockey community over the coming years.

- Continue goal keeping fortnightly sessions
- Develop striker training
- Implement skill sessions
- Run more Come and Try sessions
- Commence some coach development programs utilising Blair Chalmers skills and experience.
- Umpiring upskilling program with Premier League game opportunities.

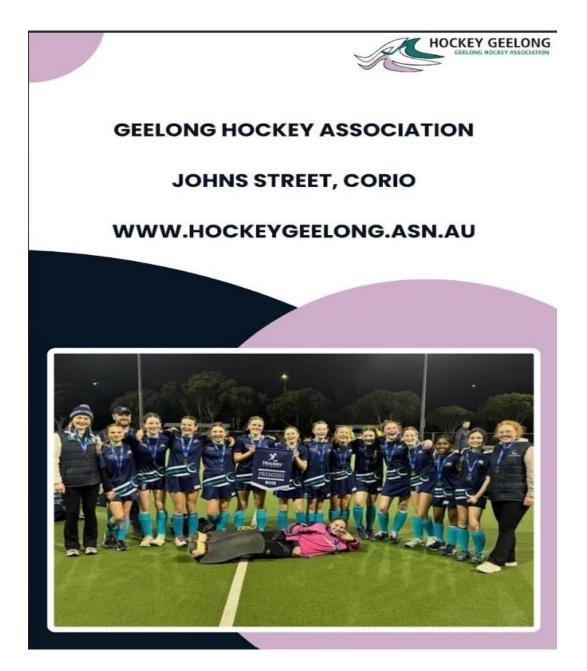
Recommendation details have been made to the GHA committee for consideration

Andie Hatton Co-Ordinator

OFFICE BEARERS 2020 - 2023

Office	2023	2022	2021	2020
President	E. Shand	P. Stuart	A. Climpson	A. Climpson
Senior Vice President	A.Climpson	A. Climpson	E. Shand	T. Moore
Junior Vice president	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
Secretary	W.Climpson	Vacant	P. Stuart	P. Stuart
Treasurer	C.Calder	I. Sayers	I. Sayers	I. Sayers
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant	J. Crosbie	J. Crosbie	J. Crosbie
Competition Convenor	A.Climpson	A. Climpson	A. Climpson	A. Climpson
Summer Competition Convenor	A.Hatton	C. Barnes	C. Barnes	C. Barnes
Players Registrar- Juniors	C.Barnes	C. Barnes	C. Barnes	C. Barnes
Umpires Convenor	P.Frost	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
Disputes Convenor	A.Climpson	A. Climpson	A. Climpson	A. Climpson
Groundsman	Volunteers	Vacant	G. Burns	G. Burns
Public Officer	W.Climpson	P. Stuart	P. Stuart	P. Stuart
Canteen Operations	A.Hatton	P. Stuart	J. Climpson	J. Climpson

Report prepared by Lynette Williams November 2024



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