



2015 Report

It is timely, in this review of 2015, to reflect on a couple of key events – happy and sad – that have punctuated the year. A happy highlight was Helen Smith’s appointment as a member of the Order of Australia in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List, which was an extremely well deserved recognition of a long dedication to our sport. At the other end of the emotional scale was the passing on 6 November of another OAM, Maestro Joseph D’Onofrio. Those who came into contact at any level with Joe will recognise the passion he held for fencing and fencers and he will be sadly missed. To acknowledge and remember the contribution and impact of Joseph on many of our member’s lives, the Victorian leg of the Tri-State Tournament series for our younger fencers has been named the **Joseph D’Onofrio Victoria Challenge** in his honour.

The composition of Fencing Victoria’s board was finalised after the Annual General Meeting in May. Geoff Webber was re-elected as President, and fellow Directors Robyn Hunter and Kayt Spano were returned. The work of Robyn in Communications and Kayt in Event Planning and acting as the liaison to the club membership of Fencing Victoria cannot be underestimated. Carol Bond was elected to the vital position of Finance Director and Andrew Cobb was elected Director, assuming the Competitions portfolio recently vacated by Samantha Auty who did not contest the 2015 election. A Special General Meeting in June elected Cath Harmer to the board as Secretary, with special focus on the relationship with State Government funding providers.

The development of the new Rules for Fencing Victoria Incorporated has been a major activity over the last two years and reached its conclusion at a Special General Meeting in November which unanimously resolved to accept the new Rules. These were submitted to Consumer Affairs Victoria and became effective from December 6. A debt of gratitude is owed to the key stakeholders who took the time to participate in the various workshops and reviews during the development of the document finally adopted. Special thanks indeed to previous Director Grant Foster, who also did not contest the 2015 election. Without his leadership the process would have not have concluded so successfully.

In related activities, the financial position of Fencing Victoria is strong. Carol will present the Financial Statements of FV for 2015 later in this meeting. I wish to convey sincere thanks for the way Carol has grasped the challenges of the Finance portfolio with enthusiasm and professionalism to improve both the transparency and financial performance of the association; all of which were aims promised when this Executive was installed.

A new funding program entitled “Supporting Victorian Sport and Recreation” has been announced through SRV and will be the major funding source for FV over the term. The governments focus on prioritising increased community participation is to be reflected in

proposals submitted under this program. The Executive's submission highlighted activities to build the capacity of fencing as a sport, and has received a positive response; securing funding at \$25,000 p.a. or \$87,500 in total over the period to June 2019. Further announcement as to the programs to acquit this grant will be forthcoming.

The membership of Fencing Victoria sits at 812 affiliated fencers and coaches; including 119 Full Adult fencers, 137 Full Junior fencers and 41 affiliated Coaches. There are more than 150 fencers identified solely as affiliating through the School Fencing Program, indicating that some 365 out of 515 School/Club level affiliations are associated as members of Fencing Clubs. These are healthy numbers, but the conversion of fencers introduced through the successful Schools League to Full members of Fencing Victoria remains a goal for the Executive.

On Fencing matters, Fencing Victoria was pleased to host two national tournaments in 2015. The third Australian Fencing Circuit event of the year for Open fencers was held in August and the Junior National Championships were held in September. Both were highly successful events, and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all involved in putting on a trouble-free spectacle. 2015 was very successful with 11 Individual National Champions and five Team National Champions over the various age groups, including three individual and one team at the Open level. It is a pleasure to report the Victorian State Champions and National Champions from Victoria for 2015 on the attached tables.

Fencing Victoria's Schools League competitions for 2015 concluded with record numbers competing. This series has grown and grown to the point where we have had to consider alternatives, leading to some significant changes to the program underway for 2016. Thanks go to Pieter Leeuwenburgh for his coordination and to Andrew and the other DTs who have stepped up to the challenge of maintaining a product of interest to the school community. Thanks also to the cadre of referees and assistants to keep matches running.

It is pleasing to note the ongoing success on the National and International stages of our fencers. It is a familiar occurrence to be watching live updates and YouTube streaming many weekends to keep track of the efforts of various Australians and Victorians in particular as they pursue their goals. While Rio 2016 will be without any Australian fencers (other than Modern Pentathletes) it was terrific to note that four out of the possible six representatives from Australia to the Asian Zone Olympic qualifier event held in Wuxi, China were from Victoria.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the entire Fencing Victoria community for their ongoing and unwavering support of our sport. Without volunteers in all capacities, we would be in trouble. I take this opportunity in reviewing the year to thank everyone involved and look forward to continuing growth and success in 2016.

I happily submit this review for your consideration.

Geoff Webber
President, Fencing Victoria Inc

25 May, 2016

FV STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

Date	U15	Male	Female
19/04/2015	Foil	Nathan MARSHALL	Michelle GOLDENBERG
19/04/2015	Epee	Alexander ENGLISH	

Date	U17	Male	Female
19/04/2015	Foil	Noah WHIFFIN	Michaela SICARI
19/04/2015	Epee	Gabriel SPANO	

Date	U20	Male	Female
19/04/2015	Foil	Lucas WEBBER	Rosa DYSON
19/04/2015	Epee	Gabriel SPANO	

Date	Novice	Male	Female
18/10/2015	Foil	Nicholas ONG	Veronika SIROTA

Date	B-Grade	Male	Female
18/10/2015	Foil	Jasper MACCUSPIE	
18/10/2015	Epee	Alexander LEAHY	
18/10/2015	Sabre	Timothy DAVIS	

Date	U-9	Male	Female
8/11/2015	Foil	Rinzen TEE	

Date	U11	Male	Female
8/11/2015	Foil	Emily SIMON	

Date	U13	Male	Female
8/11/2015	Foil	Oscar DE JONG	Mayuri MURALIDHARAN
8/11/2015	Epee	Jacob OHRT	

Date	Open	Male	Female
14/11/2015	Foil	Lucas WEBBER	Emily MAROTTA
15/11/2015	Epee	Kristian RADFORD	
15/11/2015	Sabre	Samantha AUTY	

** Veteran State Championships not held in 2015*

VICTORIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONS 2015

U15	Champion
Mens Epee	Alexander ENGLISH
Mens Epee Team (VICTORIA A)	Peter COBB William DUNSTAN Alexander ENGLISH Darcy MACCUSPIE

U17	Champion
Mens Foil	Allan MENTOR
Womens Epee	Emily PATTEN
Mens Epee Team (VICTORIA A)	Peter COBB Alexander ENGLISH Gabe SPANO Domenic YATES

U20	Champion
Mens Foil	Matt FOSTER
Mens Epee	Matt FOSTER
Womens Sabre	Helen PHILLIPS
Mens Epee Team (VICTORIA)	Matt FOSTER Aron SNIDER Gabe SPANO Domenic YATES
Mens Foil Team (VICTORIA A)	Matt FOSTER Alan LUN Lucas WEBBER Noah WHIFFIN

U23	Champion
Womens Epee	Diana SHER
Womens Foil	Emily MAROTTA
Womens Sabre	Helen PHILLIPS

OPEN	Champion
Mens Foil	Lucas WEBBER
Womens Epee	Evelyn HALLS
Womens Sabre	Helen Phillips
Mens Foil Team (VICTORIA)	Matt FOSTER Allan MENTOR Lucas WEBBER Noah WHIFFIN