

Media Release

From:



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“I am woman, hear me roar.....” (Helen Reddy), a truly great song written with the hope of change – and how things have changed since it was released in 1971. These days, we don’t think twice about women driving trams, trains and buses, or piloting jet aircraft, not to mention a host of other things that didn’t even seem to be aspirational in 1971.

Some things that proved to be more difficult to change were some of the last bastions of male dominance in various clubs. In this instance we are seeing fit to highlight our own fishing club, Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club (APYAC). “Throughout 112 years of our existence, we have been like a number of other fishing clubs and been a bit too ‘blokey’ until relatively recent years,” said APYAC President, Peter Nevile. “However, this has been changing rapidly for quite some time now,” he said. “We now have a fishing club with active fishing participation by many of our female members and they are proving to be quite competitive with the men. Not only that, but they are showing outstanding leadership in a variety of key areas in recreational fishing.” We currently have Chantal Meehan as our club Secretary and Lee Spyrou has taken over as our Boathouse Captain.”

As many people are aware, the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) also recognised the contribution that women are increasingly making to recreational fishing and created the ‘Women in Recreational Fishing’ network to promote knowledge sharing and recreational fishing activities for women, through its Facebook community and events; and, unsurprisingly, some of the leadership people in this group are APYAC members. “Chantal, Lee, Skye Kirne and Olga Harradine are providing active leadership within this group,” Mr Nevile said. “In fact, Skye supports recreational fishing on the VFA’s Round Table Forum. Skye has also been appointed to the Board of the Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body (VRFish).”

Mr Nevile said, “We are very proud of the work of these women, who are showing outstanding leadership in what was once a pretty blokey kind of world until recent years; and we fully expect that, over time, we will see many more of our ladies taking positions of responsibility both within our club and contributing further to the betterment of recreational fishing generally.”

“APYAC will continue to encourage this,” he said.

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