

## Outrigger Caloundra Canoe Club Strategic Direction

2023-2026

### Background

The OCCC Strategic Direction was reviewed in 2023 to ensure our vision, mission and values remain relevant and reflect the culture of our club. This updated direction supersedes the 2016 Strategic Direction that was approved by the Committee on 1 February 2016.

### Vision

For people to be attracted to, and remain with, Outrigger Caloundra to enjoy everything the sport of outriggering offers both on and off the water.

### Mission

To give our members opportunities to get active on the water, compete in local events and the inspiration to pursue their own goals beyond our local shores.

### Core Values

Values	What it means
Respect	Respect for each other, our competitors, our governing bodies and race officials. Respect for the traditions of outriggering, our canoes and equipment. Respect for the ocean, waterways and clubhouse grounds.
Transparency	Full disclosure of finance and accounting, readily available Minutes, effective and regular communication, crew selections without fear or favour in adherence with the Crew Selection Guidelines, a culture of openness and sharing. Members are upfront about their intent for joining, training and racing with Outrigger Caloundra.
Fun	Outriggering is recognised as a hobby. We don't take ourselves too seriously and we would prefer to lose a race with integrity than win at all costs. Members uphold the Code of Conduct to ensure OCCC is welcoming, inclusive and fair. Everyone pulls their own weight, on and off the water, to ensure the club and our sport is enjoyable for all.
Courage	Courage to face your fears of race distances, potential defeat and challenging conditions. It also means having the courage to stand up to the coaches, steerers and/or race officials when you have serious concerns about your personal safety and the safety of others. We take responsibility for our own safety and don't always expect to be rescued by others.
Commitment	Show up to training when it's raining, push yourself to the limit by giving your personal best and be a reliable club member. Members consider adjustments to their work, life and family arrangements to achieve race crew goals.

## Are we the right fit for you?

OCCC welcomes all types of paddlers. Whether your goal is to try a new sport or cross the Ka'iwi Channel, this is what OCCC can offer you at various stages of your paddling journey. Paddlers often move in and out and back and forth between the different stages; but everyone can embrace paddling as a lifestyle.

### **"Come n Try" & Non-Competitive Training/Recreational Paddling**

We offer "Come & Try" programs for people new to the sport. New paddlers are invited to attend regular training after an induction period of 6-8 weeks. We don't have a dedicated social coach or pool of steerers who can commit to social and junior sessions. As a result, training sessions are open to all types of paddlers and the needs of competitive members are often prioritised over non-competitive and social paddlers. All paddlers are subject to coaching to promote safety and injury prevention. Everyone is responsible for pulling their own weight and contributing to the positive momentum of the canoe.

### **AOCRA OC6 Short & Long Course Racing – Our Core Business! We are a *sports club* as opposed to a *recreational paddle club***

We are a sports club that is affiliated with the Australian Outrigger Racing Association. Teams are selected to represent the club by the club coaches in accordance with the club's selection criteria. Members may be selected for 8-10km races or 16-20km races. This is why we are affiliated with AOCRA. This is why our coaches and committee dedicate hours of their lives to the club. This is why we wear a uniform. This is why we raise money for the best race canoes. Local level competitions in our SQ Zone caters for novices through to experienced paddlers preparing for international events. Race environments: highlight our areas of weakness; test our mental toughness and physical limits; provide a benchmark for monitoring our development; are usually fun (if not at the time, at least in hindsight); and keep us connected with our paddling community.

### **National Iconic Events: examples include the Whale Run, Moreton Crossing, Gold Coast Cup and Sydney Harbour**

There are three ways a club member can race in a national iconic event. Firstly, the club may set a goal for club representation at an event. These crews will be selected by the club coaches via an EOI process. Secondly, members can self-select their own crew within the club if OCCC has not set that event as a race goal. In this case, OCCC may be able to help with race canoes for the event, fundraising support and race registration at the committee's discretion. Thirdly, individuals can form a crew with members from other clubs regardless of club goals. In this case, the club may be able to help with: networking to help members find crews; offering training canoes; offering race canoes if available; and assisting with race registration. Paddlers are self-funded and there are huge sacrifices involved in preparing for iconic events. For this reason, paddlers should be able to self-select crews or join multi-club crews in accordance with their own race/voyaging goals and preferences as long as it doesn't undermine club goals and members are transparent about their intentions.

### **International Iconic Events: examples include Vaka Eiva, Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Takapuna**

Club representation at iconic events is not part of OCCC's agenda for the next three years. It is our hope, however, that our individual members participate in these events and inspire others within the club to do the same. International trips cost upwards of \$4k and are self-funded within our amateur sport. It is unlikely that our small club will have 10 people in any one year who can afford an international trip and have the time to prepare for these races. Furthermore, the journey to a race is arguably more memorable than the race itself. If you are paying over \$4k for a trip and you are dedicating months of your life to training, you want to share this journey with people you want to be with. As a result, OCCC supports members to form their own crews.

### **"Paddling as a lifestyle"**

For some paddlers, outrigger canoeing is more than a sport; it's a lifestyle.

Paddling isn't just about racing and results. For some, paddling is about: embracing canoe culture; voyaging; being part of a community; learning how to radiate the spirit of aloha; and becoming one with the ocean, wind and tides.

It's also about refining lessons for life associated with "you only get what you give", leading by example, mateship and a "no tap out" mentality when the going gets tough.

Our coaches, captains, committee and members are all responsible for ensuring that OCCC is a safe place for members to enjoy everything the sport of outrigger offers both on and off the water. In other words, we all abide to the "no dick head policy"!

OCCC encourages members to strive towards this higher existence throughout their journey as paddlers.



## Our Top 3 Points of Difference

- 1 Our location!!! Outrigger Caloundra's backyard is the pristine Pumicestone Passage. We overlook the bar between Bribie Is and Happy Valley and watch sunsets over the Glass House Mountains; it's a paddlers paradise.
- 2 We operate with a flat structure. While we are village, no one person is the chief and power is distributed broadly. We are all volunteers and offer our unique skills to make the dream work.
- 3 We all get along! Our members respect each other and no one takes themselves too seriously. We abide by our Code of Conduct, men, women and juniors train together as a club and we enjoy socialising as a club off the water.

