

Woollahra Sailing Club Annual Report 2026



Woollahra Sailing Club acknowledges that we are on the land of the Birrabirragal people, the traditional custodians of the land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



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Committee and Senior Staff as at 30 April 2026

Commodore	Matthew Moore
Vice Commodore	Stan Bland
Director	James Bevis
Director	Emile Myers
Director	Bridget Conrad
Director	Beau Junk
General Manager	Dianne Vukelic and from December through August A/g Paul Bruce
Operations Manager	Stewart O'Regan
Sailing School Manager	Nicole Cameri
Accountant	Cathy Jin, A D Danieli Chartered Accountants (ADDCA)

Class Representatives

Sailing Committee Chair	Khiem Tran
420	Angela Coombe
Finn	James Bevis
Mirror	Khiem Tran
Moth	Phil Kurts /Andrew Coxall
OK Dinghy	David Clark
Open/sailboards	Richie Reynolds
Optimist	Ben Tucker
Tasar	Vacant
29er	Vacant
WSC Board Rep	James Bevis

Life members

Martin (Stan) Bland, Ross Barratt, Victor Friezer, Brett Beyer, Michael Boyd, Martin Gill, Adrian Mole, Gaye Rosen, Frank Shepherd, Mike O'Shea, Jay Harrison



Commodore's Report – August 2026

Dear Members

This is my first report as Commodore. It is a great honour to be the Commodore of a club like WSC. Over the last year I have had the pleasure of representing the club at a number of events and I have been struck by the regard in which our club is held in those forums, this reflects on all of us.

The Club has a stable and committed Board. Their breadth of views, backgrounds, and enthusiasm of our members gives me real confidence in the new phase of the club. They generously give their time, skills and experience. Emilie Myer and Bridget Conrad bring the energy of the new generation of foilers at the grassroots level, while James Bevis brings considered view on risk and reward and represents single hander mast up dinghies and Stan Bland provides the steady consistency of someone who is key to our club running smoothly and champions adult learn-to-sail. Beau Junk now adds a knowledgeable voice to sail training and coaching and what we should be aspiring to regarding training and growth of our junior development.

As with every year, there are achievements, challenges, changes, and activities to report on.

We embarked on a strategic review which ranged across many aspects of the club and involved a significant number of you in the process directly and indirectly. The outcomes and recommendations will influence the direction and nature of our club for many years to come. I thank all those that participated in the process and gave some clear and unfiltered suggestions on how the future should look. The Board has commenced enacting findings from the review.

Following last year's decision regarding Sail Sydney, Sailing Australia and the Board/Mgt had a number of discussions through the winter this year looking at whether the regatta could be held late this year. In the end, it was determined that the timing and the resources required to run such an event was too difficult on the timelines. However, as part those discussions, I am pleased to say we have agreed with Sailing Australia a framework that will look at the return of the event in 2027. WSC also remains keen to host other regattas and continue to support all types of regattas whenever there is the opportunity.

The costs of running the club continues to rise with significant costs and resources required to maintain aging building and racking, 12 RHIBs, sailing school assets, pontoon and ramp and the wharf and crane (for which we are responsible for safety, maintenance and repairs) not to mention ongoing increases in running costs such as utilities and insurance. My thanks to all the club staff and volunteers who keep the place on track and moving forward.

The local community had a sad and difficult end to Summer and lead into Autumn this year with extensive rain events giving rise to water quality issues and also the death of young man off Point Piper. That tragic moment and the following months were difficult for parents and children associated with local community and our club regarding water activities.

At the close of last calendar year, our GM Dianne Vukelic decided step down after 3 years as GM and many more on the Board. From December 2025 through to March, Dianne assisted the A/G GM with a transition. We thank her for her hard work and dedication to the club. Dianne was an instigator of the Sydney Harbour Basin club's network, which has become a forum for regular catch-ups and exchange of information and ideas for club Managers/Commodores.

Following Dianne's decision to stepdown from the General Managers role, after an extensive search lead by the Board, we welcomed a new General Manager, Chris Rodwicz. Chris has great experience in the sailing community on the Harbour and is likely known to many of you. He is an active ILCA and keel boat sailor and has got into the role from day one. He is actively looking to get traction on the short- and near-term priorities



I would also like to thank John Harris for his time on the Board as Treasurer and in particular for his work on the selection and purchase process for our new Rhibs and planning the sale process for the outgoing ones during the year.

Finally, thanks to all the members for their support and enthusiasm shown for the club. From the early morning paddlers, the weekend sailors/foilers for the Saturday and Sunday turnout and those sailors/foilers who materialize for a sail during the week when the breeze is up, and the parents and kids doing classes and sail training.

Matthew Moore
Commodore, Woollahra Sailing Club
August 2026



We've also seen the continuation of a dedicated group of volunteers who come every Wednesday to help Stan Bland maintain the sailing school equipment. They'll tell you that Stan makes a great lunch, shares plenty of skills and ensures the work is enjoyable. This happy and committed group was rightly recognised with the Club's Volunteers of the Year Award in May 2024.

We have generous sponsors who have helped us over the year. These organisations have provided valuable resources to the Club and assisted with our delivery of everything from Club Racing to Award Ceremonies. Please see below a summary of our sponsors. For more detail, please see the Club website. NBSailsports, Southern Pacific Inflatables, Gill Marine, Vaikobi and CENTURY 21 Armstrong-Smith.





Woollahra Sailing Club Sailing Committee Report

Chair Report

The Sailing Committee is a team of dedicated volunteers who represent their respective classes and provide input to the board, as well as drafting the NOR and Sailing Instructions for each season of racing. We meet online regularly to discuss new proposals and safety issues, and to do our best to align the racing calendar with the needs of the different fleets.

With the introduction of SailSys, the Sailing Committee is also taking on a greater role in some of the behind the scenes work to help streamline race management and scoring.

Once again, I would like to thank all the entire team. I would also like to thank James Bevis who represented the club board, and Paul Bruce and Chris Rodowicz for their contributions as General Manager.

Khiem Tran

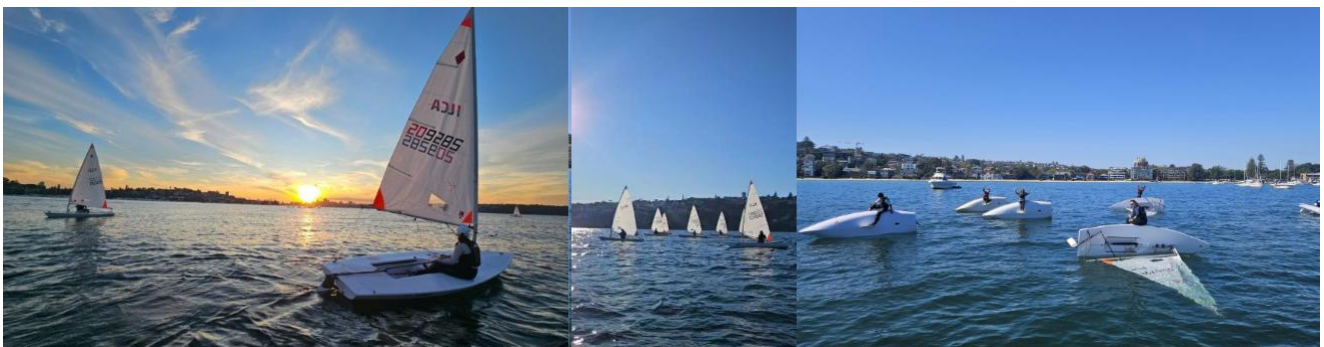
Chair, Sailing Committee WSC



420 Class Report



WSC ILCA Youth Squad





Finn Class Report



Moth Class Report





Optimist Class Report



Optimist Class Annual Report 2025–26

The 2025–26 season was a significant year for the Woollahra Sailing Club Optimist fleet, highlighted by strong results at national and international level and the return of major Optimist regattas to the Club.

The standout event of the season was the 2026 Australian Optimist Championships in Hobart, where Woollahra sailors produced one of the Club's strongest National Championship performances in recent years. Walter Heeley won the Australian Championship, with Will Rogers finishing third overall and Balthazar Roche fifth, meaning Woollahra sailors occupied three of the five positions qualifying for the Australian Optimist Sailing Team. Seb Tucker finished seventh overall and qualified to represent Australia at the European Championships.

Woollahra was also strongly represented by its female sailors, with Lucy Lin finishing fourth female and Emerald Jacobsen fifth female at the Nationals.

Walter Heeley and Balthazar Roche subsequently represented Australia at the Optimist World Championship in Tangier, Morocco. Walter qualified for Gold Fleet and finished 17th overall, the best Australian result at the World Championships since 2018. Balthazar also represented Australia strongly, including a third place in his final qualifying race.

Seb Tucker represented Australia at the Optimist European Championship in Gdynia, Poland, adding further international representation for Woollahra during the season.

The Club also enjoyed considerable success closer to home. At the 2026 NSW Optimist Championship, Walter Heeley finished first, Will Harris second and Kalle Gravare third, giving Woollahra a clean sweep of the Open Fleet podium.

An important development during the year was the return of significant Optimist regattas to Woollahra. The Club hosted the opening round of the NSW Optimist Winter Inter-Club Championship in May and, over the King's Birthday weekend in June, hosted the East Coast Championships in partnership with the NSW Optimist Association.



The East Coast Championships were a particularly significant event for the Club. A total of 156 boats competed across seven junior and youth classes, supported by more than 30 coach and race-management RIBs. A large group of Optimist parents and Club volunteers contributed both on and off the water, demonstrating that Woollahra has the volunteer base and facilities to successfully deliver major junior regattas. The event provides a useful blueprint for hosting similar championships at the Club in future years.

Woollahra sailors also performed strongly at the East Coast Championships. Will Harris won the 42-boat Optimist Open Fleet, while Emerald Jacobsen was second female in the Open Fleet, Lucy Lin fourth female, and Jasmine Wang was the leading female sailor in the Intermediate Fleet.

The key challenge for the year ahead is to rebuild fleet numbers and strengthen the pathway through Green and Intermediate Fleet. Sustaining a strong Optimist program depends not only on success at the top end, but on continually bringing new sailors into the class and helping them progress through each stage of their development.

The focus for the coming season will be on rebuilding that depth while continuing to provide opportunities for Woollahra sailors to compete at the highest levels of the class.



Open and Sail Board Class Report

The Open class is a collection of different performance craft that are raced together. The regular participants in this class are the B14, FD and Weta. The usual fleet is 2 or 3 Weta's, 4 to 7 B14's and an FD. While it is a small fleet, each crew is passionate about their class and the club.

4 B14's went to Midway Point for their Nationals over the New Year period. Paul White took his Weta to Paynesville for their Nationals.

5 B14's from the club have been to the UK to sail in the B14 Global Championship in Torquay, surprisingly home ground for 3 of our sailors. It was a great regatta and the best season to be in the UK with the English Riviera actually feeling worthy of the title. The boats are still making their way back to Australian waters and should be back on the club course early in the spring season.

A number of us also competed in the Twofold Bay regatta, Batemans ANZAC regatta, BYRA Peter Loft Marathon and the Port Stephens Dinghy regatta.

Congratulations to our podium place getters for this season's club racing.

Spring Pointscore

B14	The Nude	Richie Reynolds, Lissa McMillan
B14	YellowBone	Anthony House, Cameron Duncan
B14	Pretty in Pink	Stan Bland, Erica Huber

Summer Pointscore

B14	The Nude	Richie Reynolds, Lissa McMillan
B14	Bonewerk	Ralph Stanford, Dominik Vogt
FD	Chill IT	Matthew Moore, Raul Ximenez

Club Championship

B14	The Nude	Richie Reynolds, Lissa McMillan
FD	Chill IT	Matthew Moore, Raul Ximenez
B14	Bonewerk	Ralph Stanford, Dominik Vogt

Next season we look forward to a shake up as the FD Chill IT comes back from a big maintenance program, Tim Brazier has upgraded to a newer B14 378 and welcome new member Anna'Lysha to the B14 class in 222. If you are interested in joining the open fleet come up for a chat on Sunday afternoons.





Shark Island Paddlers 2026 Report

SATURDAY TIME TRIAL

Our Saturday morning Time Trial continues into its second decade, and numbers have been steadily grown.

THE TINGIRA (ANNUAL CHALLENGE)

The 2026 Tingira occurred just before Easter, and we formed the second leg of the Tri Series with our friends from Manly Warringah Kayak club and the Sydney Harbour Surf Club.

This year, we extended the scope of the race across the heads to Quarantine Bay, and even with some unsettling weather, we provided a more challenging course for accomplished paddlers, which was universally applauded and was safely run.

We appreciate the support from Woollahra Sailing Club in providing the rescue craft which our personnel crewed or the event, and the assistance of their staff in laying the course buoys.

In 2027, the Tingira is booked for 20th March, and will again form part of the Tri Series

AWARDS NIGHT

The Annual Awards night has almost 60 people joining in the festivities at RANSA and what an animated experience it turned out to be.

The occasion also marked the awarding of only our fourth ever Life Membership in recognition of outstanding efforts both on and off the water and an unprecedented contribution to the club. Val Titov was the worthy recipient.

WORLD PADDLING FILM FESTIVAL

Following our other successful event at the Bondi Pavilion, April 8 was the first stop of the 2026 World Paddling Film Festival Tour, hosted by Shark Island Paddlers. The World Paddling Film Festival Tour brings award-winning films to communities around the globe. 20 or so of the best short (2-22 minute) paddling-themed films from over 800 global competitive entries were screened. The 200 seats sold out quickly, and we're placed to host next years' event as a result.

Special Guest Speaker was SIP/WSC member Sarah Davis, showcasing her epic adventure "Paddle the Nile"

CLUB DOUBLE

The purchase of the club double ski continues to be a very successful initiative by SIP, and its use during the week and for the time trial has been ongoing and extensive. Our thanks to WSC for the continued rack storage space to accommodate our new club ski.

SIP AWARDED NSW OFFICE OF SPORT GRANT

With the support of WSC, SIP was successful in receiving a NSW Office of Sport Community Grant to enable us to acquire a fleet of 6 entry-level training kayaks (intermediate, stable craft) to enable schools and the general community to develop their participation in the sport. This initiative, twinned with WSC's paddling program, will increase our reach into the community.

The key objectives of the program align to the Office of Sport Strategic Plan with the specific objectives to:

- increase regular and on-going participation in sport.
- increase participation opportunities for unrepresented groups including women and girls, people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with disability, First Nations peoples and LGBTQIA+ people.
- reduce barriers and improve access to participation in sport.
- assist sport clubs to provide quality experiences to their members and meet community needs.
- increase financial sustainability and improve facilities of community level sporting clubs.



WSC STRATEGY PLANNING

SIP members were willing participants and welcomed the review and strategy planning conducted by WSC, and look forward to implementing many of the key findings. Most particularly, participating in the proposed Paddling Sub-Committee is an excellent opportunity to strengthen bonds between the two organisations.

ONGOING CHALLENGES

The importance of maintaining/increasing membership of Shark Island Paddlers, refocusing on the Time Trial, continuing the annual Tingira success and adding some regular and ad hoc social events to the calendar was feedback we constructively used to make the club a better place to be in 2026.

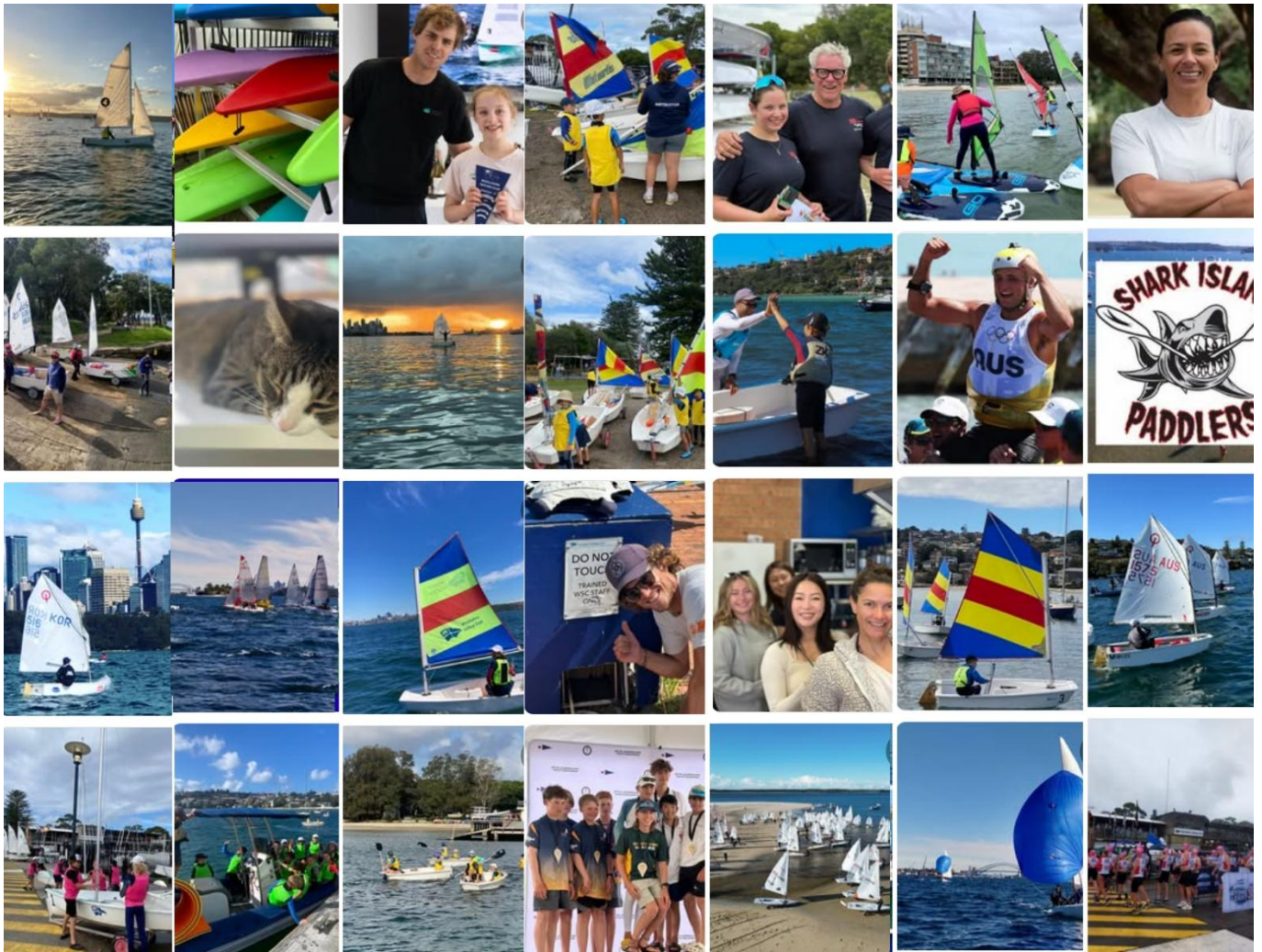
To this end we held a number of Time Trial Social Barbecues, occasionally combined with sponsor/product demos as well as participating in the WSC “Learn To” events.

THANKS TO WSC

SIP as a club would particularly like to thank the management and a number of key individuals from WSC, notably, outgoing general manager Diane Vukelich, interim general manager Paul Bruce and the incoming general manager, Chris Rodowicz for the open welcome and willingness to work with our paddling community. Nicole Cramer also deserves special mention for her sterling organisational efforts.

We also look forward to working with Stewart O’Reagan on the Office of Sport paddling programme and to the instructors who’ll be trained up to help support this initiative.

And a bonus bowl of food is due to Clubbie the Club Cat for his ongoing role as Morale Officer.





Sailing Schools Report

With full credit to the Sailing School Manager Nicole Crameri and the devoted team of instructors, our sailing school level of activity has remained constant over recent years. The biggest growth has been in our school holiday program where we are able to introduce sailing and WSC to large numbers of families and the impressive growth of the WSC ILCA Squad. We have worked diligently on our child safety responsibilities and development paths for our instructors.

We're proud that many of our instructors are homegrown—sailors who began in our sailing school and squads and have gone on to become instructors themselves. We actively encourage this pathway and continue to support their development so they can build rewarding, long-term roles at the club. At the same time, we're fortunate to welcome fantastic overseas instructors each season, who bring their experience, skills, energy, and enthusiasm to our community while enjoying their summers here in Sydney.

The Sailing School's revenue categories are Sailing Lessons for adults and children, Performance Coaching (Optimist Academy and WSC ILCA Squad), School Holiday programs and Schools Programs - such as Sydney Grammar, Coogee Prep, Waverley College as well as activity involving Scots College, Sydney Boys High School and Ascham.

We continued to expand our offerings to get people on the water including paddling, and windsurfing as well as flexible booking arrangements, pick up services, lunches and Sailing Birthday Parties. We love that our young sailors want to share the joy of sailing and we have introduced the option of a sailing birthday party where we take the sailor and their friends out for an adventure in a sailing school pacer with celebrations continuing at the club afterwards.

In closing, we need to acknowledge the very sad event that occurred at the start of the calendar year as outlined in the Commodore's report. That tragic moment and the following months were difficult for parents and children associated with local community and our club regarding water activities.





Finance Report

The statutory financial reports are available on the club website

Year in Review (FY2026)

The Club recorded a **net deficit of \$172,241 for the year ended 30 April 2026**. This compares with a **surplus of \$75,823 in FY2025** and reflects a year marked by **weather-related disruption, lower participation in sailing programs, and higher maintenance and occupancy costs**. Despite the deficit, the Club continues to maintain a strong asset base and remains well-positioned to recover in FY2027 as operational improvements take effect.

Income

Total revenue decreased by **\$290,782**, from **\$1,960,508 in FY2025 to \$1,669,726 in FY2026**.

Key movements:

- **Sailing School revenue fell by \$185,714** (from \$932,244 to \$746,530). This decline aligns with the significant rain events and on-water issues early in the calendar year, which reduced participation in junior, youth, and adult programs.
- **Racing and regatta income dropped sharply**, from **\$156,158 to \$14,433**. This is the single largest category decline and reflects both weather impacts and reduced event activity.
- **Boat storage and rental income increased to \$459,133**, up from **\$440,284**.
- **Membership fees increased to \$240,876**, up from **\$205,324**.
- **Rental income increased to \$155,227** (from \$139,606), continuing the benefit of tenant activity.
- Government subsidies fell to **nil**, compared with **\$25,500** for a new training pacer in FY2025.

Overall, the Club's revenue profile in FY2026 shows strength in core membership and storage, but material exposure to weather-dependent program income.

Employee Benefits

Employee costs remained stable at **\$886,638**, almost identical to FY2025's **\$886,658**. This reflects disciplined staffing management despite operational challenges.

Other Expenses

Other expenses increased to **\$784,392**, up from **\$759,825**.

Key drivers:

- **Consultants increased significantly** (from \$28,169 to \$80,085). The majority of this cost was contract employees.
- **Operating lease rentals increased from \$83,660 to \$129,898**—a direct consequence of the renewed Crown Lands lease and the expanded right-of-use asset base.
- **Repairs and maintenance remained high at \$103,040**, reflecting increased wear on infrastructure.
- **Insurance costs increased to \$87,104** (from \$82,814).

Depreciation decreased from **\$238,202 to \$170,937** due to the reversal of the prior sinking fund provision and changes in asset mix.

Balance Sheet

The Club's financial position remains sound despite the deficit.

- **Net assets decreased from \$1,999,424 to \$1,747,996**.



- **Cash reduced from \$436,668 to \$214,209**, driven by lower operating cash flow and increased capital expenditure (\$152,000 of this being the replacement RHIBS).
- **Property, plant and equipment increased to \$1,625,226** (from \$1,575,776) due to investment in boats, paddle equipment, and capital works in progress.
- **Right-of-use assets more than doubled, from \$503,243 to \$1,160,141**, reflecting the long-term Crown Lands lease renewal.
- The **provision for future maintenance (\$30,000)** was reversed following review, with the option to reinstate in future years if required.

Cash Flow

Operating cash flow decreased from **\$194,185 to \$82,877**.

Major impacts:

- Lower receipts from customers (down **\$172,628**).
- Higher lease payments and maintenance costs.
- Capital expenditure of **\$245,466** (vs \$27,406 in FY2025), including Safety boat replacements \$152,000 and equipment upgrades.

The Club ended the year with **\$214,209 in cash**, sufficient to meet obligations but requiring careful management in FY2027.

Overall Commentary

FY2026 was a challenging year operationally, with weather-related disruptions materially affecting revenue. The Club absorbed these impacts while continuing to invest in infrastructure, maintain member services, and strengthen long-term lease security.

Despite the deficit, the Club retains:

- A strong asset base
- Stable membership
- Growing storage revenue
- A long-term lease securing operational continuity