



ACT ROWING
ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

ANNUAL REPORT

2005-06
SEASON

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
ROWING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
2005-06**

Office Bearers

Patron	The Honourable Margaret Reid
President	Brendon Prout
Vice-President	Nick Hunter
Secretary	Patrick Davoren
Treasurer	Alan Borger
Committee Member	Kate Borger Mark Partridge Taryn Langdon David Bagnall

Association Officers

Executive Officer	Ross Jones (to May 2006) Camilla Hayman (from May 2006)
Recorder	Graham Tanner

Members

The Committee of the ACT Rowing Association Incorporated is pleased to present its report on the Association's activities for the 2005-06 rowing season.

ACTRA Premiership Competitions

The Committee congratulates Black Mountain Rowing Club for winning the aggregate points score for the Men's and Women's Premiership Competition and the Women's Premiership. Canberra Rowing Club won the Men's Premiership points score.

Canberra Grammar School won the Schoolboys Premiership and Canberra Girls' Grammar School the Schoolgirls' Premiership

Final point scores are as follows:

Club Point Score

Club	Men's	Women's	Masters	Aggregate
Black Mountain RC	54	209	166	429
Canberra RC	68	85	149	302
Capital Lakes RC	66	43	14	123
Canberra Girls' Grammar School	-	75	-	75
Radford College	15	34	11	60
Canberra Grammar RC	40	-	16	56
Daramalan College	28	18	-	46
Shoalhaven RC	-	43	-	43
ANU Boat Club	30	6	-	36
Lake Tuggeranong RC	15	8	7	30

School Competition

Girls		Boys	
Canberra Girls' Grammar School	159	Canberra Grammar School	218
Shoalhaven RC	117	Capital Lakes RC	79
Black Mountain RC	113	Radford College	58
Capital Lakes RC	50	ANU Boat Club	39
Radford College	45	Daramalan College	19
Canberra RC	31	Canberra RC	17
Nowra High School	13		
Daramalan College	12		
Lake Tuggeranong RC	9		
ANU Boat Club	6		

Association Trophies and Awards

Over the last few years, maintenance and award of the Association's trophies has been seriously neglected, thereby removing a major incentive from the local competition. The Association has continued the process of recovery, recording and repair of our trophy collection to redress this unfortunate situation. Establishment of an ACTRA office in Sports House has assisted greatly in retention of trophies.

Representative Rowing

Australian Team Selections

The ACT is represented in this year's national team through the following selections:

Senior Team FISA World Championships Eton, Great Britain 20 to 27 August 2006

Sonia Mills (CRC/AIS)	Women's Quad Scull
Craig Jones (CRC/AIS)	Men's Quad Scull
Sarah Cook (CRC/AIS)	Women's sweep squad

The following will represent the ACT at the **2006 Youth Cup Adelaide 1-3 September 2006**

Manager:	Camilla Hayman	Head Coach:	Gordon Marcks
Men's Coach:	Paul Cowan	Women's Coach:	Dafydd Gwynn-Jones (CGGS)

Men's Team

Reese Graham (ACTAS/CRC)
 Nicolas Barnier (CGS)
 Bradley Carron-Arthur (CGS)
 Sam Casey (ANU) -LW
 Zac Cleaver (CRC)
 Wayne Curtois (CRC)
 Riley Owen (CLRC)
 Tom Watkins (CRC) - LW
 Hugh Burnett (Coxswain)

Women's Team

Lauren Burraston (ANU)
 Emma Cook (ACTAS/CLRC)
 Brydie Foran (ACTAS/BMRC)
 Jodie Groothof (BMRC) - LW
 Ellen Hart (CGGS) - LW
 Erin Neil (CLRC)
 Christabelle Northam (CGGS)
 Grace Peatey (CGGS) - LW
 Veronica Tamsitt (CGGS)
 Alison Long (Coxswain)

Administration

The Association's administration is located in an office within Sports House which we share with ACT Squash. This arrangement continues to realise the advantages for the Association of having a properly set up administrative facility and meeting venue.

During the year our part-time General Manager, Ross Jones, decided to take up a senior administrative position with ACT Soccer, an organisation he has been closely involved with for many years. The Committee acknowledges Ross' strong contribution in establishing the Association's office and the systems underpinning our administration. We are fortunate that Camilla Hayman, a capable administrator with considerable experience in our sport as a coach and competitor agreed to serve as part-time Executive Officer.

In the short time Camilla has been in this position, the Committee has been impressed with her achievements in addressing the major issues facing the Association, especially communication and coach development. Camilla has already made contact with most club administrations, established an ACTRA newsletter and organised coaching courses. She is also working closely with Rowing Australia to put in place consistent policy documentation.

Work continued through the year to implement the administrative priorities identified in the 2003 review of ACT rowing conducted by Brendan Lynch and subsequently reflected in the Association's Strategic Plan. Mr Lynch was engaged to facilitate implementation of the Plan. He facilitated a meeting in May 2006 to develop detailed operational plans around the four strategic priorities identified at last year's General Meeting and member forum of Sport Development, High Performance, People Development and Organisational Development.

Completion of operational plans must remain a high priority for the Association if we are to get maximum benefit from the Plan.

Committee

The committee met on seven occasions during the year. Attendance was as follows:

Brendan Prout*	3
Nick Hunter	5
Patrick Davoren	6
Alan Borger	3
David Bagnall	7
Kate Borger	3
Taryn Langdon	6
Mark Partridge	4

* part year only

The Association has had a heavy workload arising from the regatta planning process, the strategic plan and a number of external priorities. These include upgrading the Yarramundi Reach Course, addressing proposals for uses of the Lake with implications for its role as a first rate rowing training facility and decreased Government funding as a consequence of the ACT's budget cuts.

Association President, Brendan Prout, was given leave of absence by the Committee in June 2006 because of a serious medical condition. It is wonderful to see that Brendan is making a good recovery from this condition and, subject to election, expects to be able to resume duty as President for 2006-07.

Coaching Accreditation

The Executive Officer has circulated arrangements for Level One and Level Coaching Courses before the commencement of the 2006-07 season. A Level Three course will be held later in the season.

ACT Academy of Sport Rowing Unit

The Rowing Unit of the ACT Academy of Sport is a joint venture of the ACT Government and Rowing Australia funded through broadly similar contributions from both bodies. The Association provides its input to administration of the unit through its position on the ACTAS Rowing Unit Joint Management Committee and welcomes the views of affiliated clubs on how the Rowing Unit might better serve the interests of the ACT rowing community.

The ACTAS program is a critical element in the Association's elite athlete development pathway by providing the daily training environment for the ACT's national squad athletes and identified emerging athletes (elite under 23 and elite Junior). A detailed report on the ACTAS rowing unit is provided at Attachment A.

Masters Rowing

The Association was well represented at the 2006 Australian Masters Rowing Championship held at Nagambie Victoria from 3-5 June 2005. Medals were won in the interstate events by the following ACT crews:

Interstate Womens D Quad - Silver

Bow. Margaret Pentony, 2. Susan Linacre, 3. Pam Nash, Stroke Amanda Brian.

Interstate Mens D Eight - Silver

Bow Alexander Hodges, 2. Ian Robertson, 3. Michael Body, 4. Scott Pagan, 5. Louis Res, 6. Craig Kentwell, 7. Randal Lawrence, Stroke Peter Macartney, cox: Ann Whelan.

ACT competitors were prominent at the regatta with Canberra Rowing Club having the largest number of competitors in the regatta (64) and being the third most successful Club.

New South Wales will host the 2007 Australian Masters Championship at the Sydney International Rowing Centre, Penrith from 1-3 June.

During 2005-6 the ACT was represented on Rowing Australia's Masters Committee by Randal Lawrence. The Committee met once, at the Australian Masters Rowing Championships, Nagambie, in May 2006. Matters considered by the Committee during the year were:

- Venue for the 2008 Australian Masters Rowing Championships will be Nagambie, Victoria, selected over Westlakes, Adelaide;
- A proposal for an East Coast Masters series of regattas leading up to the Australian Masters Rowing Championships was presented. The Committee agreed the idea was attractive and the proposer, Greg Howell, will approach the various state rowing associations about dates;
- Performance based handicapping was dismissed as unsuccessful in both ACT and Queensland regattas;
- Sydney will use the 2007 AMRC to continue preparation for the 2009 World Masters Games;
- Control of AMRC seat fee increases was discussed, but it was agreed that this was part of the package put forward by bidding associations and could be accepted or rejected in this context;
- The length of the AMRC regatta was discussed. The trial of coxless fours will continue with the expectation they will become more popular. The masters community will be surveyed on whether the regatta should go to 4 days, run it over the Queen's Birthday weekend, and or use half Thursday and Sunday to better fit the program;
- The need for semi-finals was discussed with no specific commitment. There was recognition that events with 8 heats did not ensure the fastest 8 boats were in the final;
- Rowing Australia wishes to apply standard fines to crews who do not start and do not scratch. The standard RA fine is \$250. The Masters Committee considers this excessive for the AMRC and will recommend an appropriate policy to RA out of session;
- Rowing Australia revised its rules during the year, including those applying the Masters races. Some of these rules were at cross purposes to what the Masters Committee had been trying to do in the past few years. These differences were resolved through changes on both sides.

Infrastructure

Following refurbishment in late 2003, the Association's main asset, our 1800 metre rowing course, remains in reasonable condition but requires regular maintenance. We are indebted to honorary course curator, John Simson of Canberra RC who has put a lot of effort into retrieval and replacement of dislodged buoys and liaison with other Lake users including ferry skippers. Rowing coaches continue to be the major culprits for this damage and need to demonstrate more thoughtful use of our main facility.

The Committee sees the four new boatshed sites on Black Mountain Peninsula agreed by the National Capital Authority as the main avenue for growing the sport through establishment of new clubs. Unfortunately the first boatshed planned for this area, the Radford College boatshed, hit an unexpected obstacle when the ACT Government sought a large up-front contribution to site costs before approving construction. This issue was eventually addressed by re-siting the boatshed but final approval of the lease has still not been granted despite representations by the Association to the ACT Government.

This is particularly disappointing after lengthy delays by planners and government in agreeing to this project and the years of volunteer time that have been effectively wasted. If a large institution such as Radford has difficulty establishing a new boatshed, the task would seem beyond the resources of a new rowing club. This remains a priority issue for the incoming Committee considering that our prospects for growth depend on our capacity to foster the formation of new clubs.

The Association continues its close engagement with the National Capital Authority, the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Institute of Sport in pursuing the objective of a 2000 metre course on Yarramundi Reach. A feasibility study into the project managed by the NCA to be completed towards the end of this year will effectively decide the fate of this project.

Major Events

The Association hosted a successful Independent Schools Rowing Association regatta on 26 February 2006 in conjunction with the ACTRA School Championships. The event will not be held in Canberra in 2007, however, the Association expects to stage a Federal Head of the Lake event in response to interest from schools in New South Wales and Victoria.

The Committee sees staging of such events as immensely valuable in promoting the sport in the Territory and establishing our credentials for staging major regattas. A major upgrading of our inadequate course facilities would be required, however, before we could compete with other States for large events such as Australian Masters Championships. In particular, the number of entries for these events makes an eight lane course essential if the regatta is to be conducted on the Lake.

Lake Use and Administration

The Association has continued as an active participant in the Lake Users' Group which continues to be an effective forum for discussion of Lake issues. Our representatives are David Bagnall and Kate Borger.

The use of the Lake for slalom water ski training is an important issue for the Association. Initial proposals involved trial use of the Lake in the area immediately to the east of Black Mountain Peninsula, potentially affecting access to the ANU Boat Club. Recent plans involve use of the northern shore of East Basin, with likely adverse impacts on Capital Lakes Rowing Club. In responding to this issue the Committee has ensured that the authorities understand the safety issues water ski use of the Lake potentially present to our sport without contributing to publicity which could run counter to our interests.

The proposal to construct a footbridge across the Lake near the National Museum has the potential to reduce the amenity of the Lake as a rowing training facility. This project was not discussed with our sport by its proponents and will be closely monitored by our representatives on the Lake User's Group.

Water Safety

Rowing boat collisions remain a serious concern for both the Association and the ACT Water Police. Such incidents arise from breaches of the agreed traffic flows by both inadequately trained novice rowers and experienced rowers. The Association recently acted to address a rowing collision hotspot by replacement of midstream marker buoys in Tarcoola Reach.

The frequency of incidents suggests that we have been fortunate to avoid a very serious accident or fatality to date. To address this situation, the President wrote to all clubs last year reminding them of their responsibilities in respect of traffic rules, safety equipment requirements and supervision of rowers on the water, especially in winter.

The Committee considers that safety needs to be a higher priority in club administration and that clubs should undertake a systematic assessment of the risks in their operations and act to address them. At least one club has responded to the safety issue by appointing a safety officer to provide formal advice on all safety issues. Guidance on water safety for rowers is available from such documents as the British Amateur Rowing Association *Water Safety Code* and the FISA *Guidelines for the Safe Practice of Rowing*.

The Association is concerned that the current licensing of motor boat drivers under interstate licensing arrangements does not recognise the particular safety issues for motor boat drivers on Lake Burley Griffin. The Association has written to the National Capital Authority seeking discussion of a new licensing regime that addresses these issues.

Union of Boat Race Officials

The Union of Boat Race Officials has operated effectively this year under BRO Coordinator Geoff Northam who took over from Kevin Mongan last year. Geoff's report on the operation of the Union of Boat Race Officials is at Attachment B.

Ensuring that the number of boat race officials is sufficient to staff ACT point score regattas remains a high priority for the Association. We continue to have some concern about how responsibility for providing BROs is shared between Affiliated Clubs (see table on page 20). Clubs are exhorted to remind their members of the continuing importance of securing more recruits for BRO training.

It is also clear that excessively long regattas add to the burden of our volunteer officials. This is an important argument in favour of a more compact regatta program with fewer, better supported races.

The Association places top priority on support of the BROs by continuing to update regatta equipment. This year we completed the upgrading of the large outboard motors on BRO boats commenced in 2004-05. Two new Yamaha motors were purchased to replace the last two Johnson motors. A new laptop computer was bought to ensure more efficient management of regatta results. Management of these assets and planning their replacement is an important function of the Association's Executive Officer position.

ATTACHMENT A**ACT Academy of Sport Rowing Report 2005-2006**

ACTAS scholarships were offered to eleven athletes in November 2005, with one athlete receiving direct support from ACTAS in the Junior Talent Search program. Further scholarships were awarded as the season progressed. The scholarship criteria were similar to those of recent years in that they highlighted performance in long distance time trials over the winter preparation period of the program.

The major regattas and events for the ACTAS squad were NSW State Championships, National Championships and the National Selection Regatta.

Coaches assisting in the ACTAS program, largely on a volunteer basis, were Andrew MacKenzie, Taryn Langdon and Bec Sattin. Bec Sattin and Taryn Langdon were supported by the ACTAS Women's Elite Coaching Scholarship for the 2005/06 season, with both coaches assisting the ACTAS Head Coach in the coaching of scholarship holders, and later in the season, coaching Emma Cook and Brydie Foran to win the U19 Women's Double and Schoolgirl Single (Emma Cook). Brydie Foran was also placed third in the Schoolgirl and U19 Single. This was a highlight for the rowing program this year providing exceptional results from two developing coaches in the ACT.

The ACT and its clubs were well represented at the 2006 National Titles and Kings Cup Regatta. Despite the regatta being in Tasmania, participation in the nationals and results show strong involvement. Several national titles were awarded to ACT rowers and their coaches. The ACT was prominent in the Kings Cup Regatta with entries in six out of eight possible events.

Three ACT athletes were awarded scholarships with the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) rowing program for the 2005/06 season. These were Sonia Mills, Craig Jones, and most recently, Sarah Cook. All three are members of Canberra Rowing Club and were all selected for the senior national team to compete at the FISA World Championships to be held at Eton, U.K. in August 2006.

With changes to the delivery of Elite Development Program funding, financial assistance was distributed to coaches who were coaching athletes in the Elite Development Program. These athletes were Reese Graham (CRC/ACTAS), Christabelle Northam (CGGS), Emma Cook (CLRC/ACTAS) and Brydie Foran (BMRC/ACTAS). Zac Cleaver (CRC) was also included later in the season. Coaches of these athletes were Andrew MacKenzie (ACTAS), Taryn Langdon (ACTAS), Bec Sattin (ACTAS) and Tom Westgarth (CGGS).

Identification and development of new talent has been an emphasis for the ACTAS program in 2006 with new groups of athletes beginning training in preparation for the 2007 National Championships. Four girls started their training at ACTAS in June 2006, with further groups to start shortly thereafter. It is expected that groups will be training at

ACTAS as well as ACTRA clubs to ensure that the number of new athletes is maximised.

The ACTAS Rowing Program would like to gratefully acknowledge the generous assistance received from Rowing Australia, ACT Rowing Association, AIS rowing program, AIS physiology department and the ACT Government. Without this support, along with the support and funding received from sponsors **Kinston Foreshore** and **Yarralumla Bakery**, ACTAS would not be able to deliver the high level of service it provides to elite rowers and coaches in the ACT.

Finally, all involved in the ACTAS program would like to acknowledge Ken Norris as ACTAS Manager for a period of eleven years up until 2006. Most recently, Ken was the program coordinator for rowing and his assistance in this role as well as Manager was greatly appreciated. Ken has semi-retired and we wish him well for the future. Mr Emery Holmick has taken up the position as ACTAS Manager as of July 2006 and we look forward to the future with Emery.

Gordon Marcks
Head Rowing Coach
ACT Academy of Sport
25th August, 2006.

ACTAS ROWING PROGRAM

MAJOR SPONSOR



SUPPORT SPONSOR



2005/06 ACTAS Scholarship Holders

COACH: Gordon Marcks

Kate Lord (BMRC) – Senior
Sarah Cook (CRC) – U23
Tara Huntly (CRC) – U23
Yasmin Burraston (ANU) – U23

COACH: Andrew MacKenzie

Dan Coombes (ANU) – Senior
James Crouch (ANU) – Senior
Chris Ritchie (ANU) – Senior
Mack Wilcox (ANU) – Senior
Ben Davis (CRC) – U23

COACH: Taryn Langdon/Bec Sattin

Emma Cook (CLRC) – Junior
Brydie Foran (BMRC) - Junior

2005/06 ACTAS/Talent Search Athletes

COACH: Gordon Marcks

Reese Graham (CRC) – Junior

2005/06 AIS Scholarship Holders

Craig Jones (CRC)
Sonia Mills (CRC)
Sarah Cook (CRC) – Inducted in January, 2006.

2006 National Championships

Lake Barrington, TAS.

At the National and Interstate regatta, ACT clubs were represented by 77 crews/entries in 49 events. The following ACT rowers achieved medal results at the national championships:

GOLD

Sonia Mills (CRC/AIS): Women's Double
Tara Huntly (CRC/ACTAS): U23 Women's Four
Emma Cook (CLRC/ACTAS): U19 Women's Double, Schoolgirl Single
Brydie Foran (BMRC/ACTAS): U19 Women's Double
Canberra Grammar School (CGS): U17 Men's Eight

SILVER

Sonia Mills (CRC/AIS): Women's Single, Women's Quad, Women's Eight, Interstate Women's Single

Mack Wilcox (ANU/ACTAS): Lightweight Men's Eight

Tara Huntly (CRC/ACTAS): U23 Women's Pair, U23 Women's Quad

Reese Graham (CRC/ACTAS): U19 Men's Double

Zac Cleaver (CRC): U19 Men's Double

BRONZE

Craig Jones (CRC/AIS): Men's Double

Yasmin Burraston (ANU/ACTAS): U23 Lightweight Women's Quad

Tara Huntly (CRC/ACTAS): U23 Women's Double

Canberra Grammar School (CGS): U19 Men's Quad

Brydie Foran (BMRC/ACTAS): U19 Women's Single, Schoolgirl Single

Summary of ACT Entries at National Titles, 2001 – 2006

	Events Entered	Number of Entries	Finalists (top 6)	Top 3
2001	43	71	36	14
2002	41	97	29	17
2003	40	67	27	13
2004	48	68	35	18
2005	51	76	31	14
2006	49	77	36	20

Summary of ACT National Title Finalists (top 6), 2001 - 2006**Men**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Open Age	7	6	7	10	7	11
U23	6	5	2	7	6	-
U19	5	4	2	2	1	1
U17	3	1	-	1	1	4
School	-	1	-	1	1	-

Women

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Open Age	9	7	7	7	7	8
U23	8	2	1	4	2	6
U19	1	2	2	3	1	4
U17	-	-	-	-	2	-
School	-	1	2	1	3	2

Summary of ACT Kings Cup Regatta Results, 2001 – 2006

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
W1X	4 th	4 th	4 th	2 nd	3 rd	2 nd
M1X	3 rd	3 rd	-	4 th	4 th	4 th
WL4X	6 th	-	-	-	-	-
ML4-	-	7 th	-	6 th	2 nd	6 th
WY8+	4 th	7 th	7 th	5 th	7 th	7 th
MY8+	7 th	6 th	7 th	7 th	7 th	7 th
W8+	3 rd	7 th	5 th	4 th	5 th	7 th
M8+	4 th	5 th	4 th	5 th	7 th	-
Entries	7	7	5	7	7	6

2006 NATIONAL TEAM SELECTIONS

Senior World Championships – Eton, U.K.

Sonia Mills (CRC/AIS)	Women's Quad
Sarah Cook (CRC/AIS)	Women's Eight
Craig Jones (CRC/AIS)	Men's Double

Australian Team Support Staff

ACT based support staff for this year's national teams are:

Tanya Thornton - Soft Tissue Therapist, Senior World Championships

Summary of ACT National Representatives, 2001 – 2006

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Open Age Men	1	1	2	1	1	1
U23 Men	2	4	2	2	3	-
U19 Men	-	-	-	-	-	-
Open Age Women	1	2	2	3	1	2
U23 Women	1	1	-	2	2	-
U19 Women	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	8	6	8	7	3

ATTACHMENT B**Boat Race Officials' Annual Report 2005-2006 Season****INTRODUCTION**

ACTRA BROs officiated at 10 ACTRA sponsored regattas as well as the annual Independent Schools Rowing Association, which was held on Lake Burley Griffin this season. The ACTRA regatta program included 6 point score regattas, two championship regattas, and the traditional bridge to bridge and Col Pantom marathon. All regattas were run with a considerable degree of success, with few problems and incidents and good spirit at large amongst the rowing community.

THE CONDUCT OF REGATTAS**Scheduling**

While all point score regattas ran according to their original schedules, the following regattas experienced changes for the reasons identified:

- a. ISRA – Saturday scheduled start was brought forward to accommodate the large number of entries, thus avoiding an over-run into Saturday evening.
- b. Federal Head of the Lake – moved to the Masters Regatta to make way for the extended ISRA program. This was undesired, but unavoidable due to the size of ISRA
- c. ACT Championships – reduced to one day due to number of entries
- d. ACT Masters Championship – reduced to one day due to number of entries
- e. Disher Cup – postponed to start of 2006/2007 season

Program of Events

The introduction of an 'A' regatta program and a 'B' regatta program did not create any significant problems, but some issues arose, primarily with the A regatta program typically running considerably longer than the B regatta program. This was not an issue for BROs, but did appear to cause some concern for some rowers.

Rules of Racing Changes

Rowing Australia Rules of Racing were implemented in the 2005/2006 as per ACTRA direction. Briefings were held for all club rowers prior to the racing season, most of which were well attended. BROs were also briefed on the new Rules of Racing prior to season start, and some transitional arrangements were put in place for start procedures to help reduce confusion. The primary problem was the absence of any 'line' call, which caused some hesitation from rowers and umpires alike. With time these problems should disappear.

Pre-Season Briefing of Inexperienced Rowers

Pre-season briefing of inexperienced rowers was undertaken immediately before the start of the season, with an aim of improving the knowledge and familiarity of novice rowers with start procedures and problems. The briefings were primarily attended by junior rowers, and the extent of cooperation and adherence to boat positioning at starts was noted

to be considerably improved from previous seasons. Despite conditions being no better at the start line from previous seasons, there were almost no start zone clashes and few delayed starts to novice school rower events. Briefing for inexperienced rowers should continue for future seasons.

Boat Marshalling

Boat marshalling arrangements were changed to assemble boats 250m beyond the 1000m start line. This reduced congestion around the 1000m start line area and provided clear vision for aligners at the 1000m.

Assembling boats 250m beyond the start line also allowed boats in any heat to be brought down the course together in an orderly fashion, and facilitated efficient alignment and starting in even the worst wind conditions. Fewer starts were delayed than in previous seasons, and windy conditions had less impact on regatta timing, with most regattas proceeding on schedule even in difficult conditions. There were also few boat clashes at the start – a significant change from previous seasons.

The revised marshalling arrangements significantly reduced confusion in the start area and provided ample opportunity to keep regattas running to schedule. These marshalling arrangements also allowed aggressive heat scheduling intervals to be implemented, allowing starts to be sustained at 4 minute intervals, which helped reduce the duration of regattas.

Coxswain Weigh-Ins

Random weigh-ins of coxswains was continued this season, but with little effectiveness and considerable disturbance in the finish line area. Umpire boats were required to advise crews of weigh-in requirements when selected for random weigh-ins, which drew the umpire boat into the finish area and delayed the exit of boats from the area. This caused greater congestion than warranted in the finish area, and did little to ensure the fairness of racing. Alternative arrangements will be considered for the 2006/2007 season. The most likely options to be pursued are for a shore-based BRO to advise and administer weigh-ins near the pontoon area, or for coxswains to weigh in before racing and show a weights check tag at the finish.

Competitor Behaviour

Competitor behaviour on the lake was excellent this season, with very few reported incidents, and those noted being of a minor nature. Clubs are to be congratulated for the way in which their members conducted themselves on the lake.

School Competitor Rules

A significant protest regarding the status of school event crews was forewarned prior to the start of the Federal Head of the Lake event. The issue was around some boats having mixed school crews, which is against school event rules. The issue was averted on the day through mass withdrawal of boats from the regatta, but this result should be seen as an unsatisfactory outcome for rowing as a sport, as it denied willing rowers the opportunity of participation, and did not serve the sport of rowing well. Had the mixed crews rowed and a protest was lodged, the BRO Panel would have had no option other than to disqualify mixed crews, which would not have been a good outcome.

Clarification of crew status entry requirements should be made clear at every contact point with rowers for any regatta – from when entries are lodged right through to draw advice

and regatta notices.

THE PANEL OF BOAT RACE OFFICIALS

BRO Strength

BRO recruitment did see an increase in the number of BROs from 26 reported the previous season to 34 at the start of the 2005/2006 season. Despite the healthy increase in BROs, week to week availability was down on previous seasons due to a high number of absences due to work commitments and some significant illnesses. Several new recruits also failed to continue, reducing the number of BROs to 30 by season end. In general there were only just enough BROs for each regatta, with the number of umpire boats reduced for the last few regattas of the season due to BRO numbers.

Additional BROs are still required to account for anticipated losses.

Volunteer helpers from clubs are now being placed on the 1000m platform to assist the aligner. This has proven to be very popular amongst volunteers and has helped attract volunteers to help out and consider BRO duties on a regular basis. This practice will continue in the coming season.

BRO Training

A single training session was held to familiarise all BROs with rule changes for the season. On-the-job training was held for new BROs, which brought new starters to a useful competence by mid-season.

Rowing Australia BRO training and accreditation will be introduced into the ACT BRO administration once available.

Increasing the competence of BROs to undertake aligning and referee duties will be a focus in coming seasons, as these are the roles where competent BROs are few.

No ACTRA BROs sought national accreditation this season.

BOAT RACE OFFICIALS' EQUIPMENT

Boats and Motors

All boats are in sound condition and with the exception of Daisy, have relatively new motors. Little maintenance on boats and motors is anticipated, except for regular preventative maintenance.

Boat Storage

Storage of BRO boats is fast becoming an issue requiring urgent attention. CGGS has asked for Tarcoola to be removed from school grounds, and it is currently being stored at Rick Warboys private residence. This arrangement is not sustainable, and there is considerable pressure for alternative storage arrangements to be put in place from those who have boats stored at their private residences. Alternative boat storage arrangements need to be found as a matter of urgency.

Communications Equipment

Two new base station radios with high gain antennas were purchased this season to overcome communication difficulties between the finish line and on water officials. These

have significantly improved communications and reduced transmission failures due to low batteries.

Unfortunately one hand held radio was lost overboard during the season and could not be recovered.

Several of the older technology radios installed on BRO boats are also performing poorly, making communications difficult. These performance issues are related to the aging technology of the radios, low gain antennas and the absence of squelch technology. The poor performance of these radios limits communications for events such as the Col Panton marathon and Disher Cup, which could compromise rower safety as was experienced in the Disher Cup two years ago.

Communications are also hampered by interference from nearby hotels, crane drivers, and rally officials. This interference is normally dealt with using sub-tone selective squelch control technology, but is not possible in the ACTRA BRO network as the older boat mounted radios do not have this capability.

It is therefore proposed to progressively refit BRO boats with newer radios and high gain antennas, at an approximate cost of around \$300 per boat. Replacement radios for the one lost last season, and any future replacements should be accomplished following this strategy, which will ultimately provide the good communications BROs need to ensure participant safety at all times.

Timing Equipment

The new electronic start signal worked well this season. Notwithstanding, manual timing arrangements have been retained to cover operator errors and missed starter button activation.

Loud Hailers

Loud hailers continue to be a problem, primarily due to the poor quality of hailers purchased in the past. With some maintenance these hailers can continue to be of use, but do cause some frustration. A more reliable brand of hailer needs to be identified for future purchases.

Flags

There will be a need to purchase materials to make up additional BRO flags, which through losses are reaching a minimum level. Arrangements will be made in the coming season to replace lost flag sets.

Distance Marker Buoys

The large distance marker buoys at the 1000m, 1500m and 1800m start lines are a hazard for rowers and cause difficulties on the start line in windy conditions. These large marker buoys should be removed and replaced with smaller buoys of a different colour. This will reduce start line aligning difficulties in windy conditions.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

ACTRA BROs acquitted themselves well over the 2005/2006 season, earning the praise of many visiting clubs, and in particular, the organisers for ISRA and the interstate clubs participating at ISRA. The feedback was extremely positive and held in sharp contrast to other rowing organisations.

The ACTRA BROs deserve recognition for their efforts, which was well acknowledged by ACTRA through the annual BRO dinner at season end.

The additional efforts of Rick Warboys, Bill Thomson, and Bruce Selleck deserve special mention for their tireless efforts to set up the course for each regatta. Martin Sessions is also to be congratulated on his technology additions to the BRO equipment, which has helped improve our performance in running regattas.

Geoff Northam

B.R.O. Coordinator

21 August 2006

BRO CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS 2005/2006 REGATTA SEASON

Club	No. BROs	Av BROs/Regatta
ANUBC	1	0.7
Black Mountain	2	0.95
CRC	4	2
Daramalan	4	2.3
Boys Grammar	7	3.8
Girls Grammar	5	3.55
Lake Tuggeranong	2	0.85
Capital Lakes	2	0.75
Radford	1	0.2
No Club Alignment	2	0.9
Total	30	16.0

Note: Excludes BROs that attended for one regatta or less.