October 7, 2006

Rowing ACT is pleased to support the 2006 Disher Cup Regatta to be held on Saturday 14th October.

The Disher Challenge Cup is awarded to the winner of a rowing race for eight oared boats over a distance of approximately four kilometers. The only competitors are the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA), the Royal Military College of Australia - Duntroon (RMC-D), and the Australian National University (ANU).

The race was first held in 1971, between ANU and RMC-D (ADFA was not established until 1985) to provide a healthy outlet to the boisterous rivalry between staff and students at the two institutions. It has been held every year since then, with changes to provide additional races for other boat types and for female crews.

The Cup was named after Captain H.C. (Clive) Disher of the Australian Army Medical Corps, who stroked the 1919 Australian Imperial Force (AIF) Number 1 crew. This crew beat Oxford University in the final of the Inter-Allied Services event at the Henley Peace Regatta after the end of the First World War and was successful in bringing the King’s Cup to Australia.

Clive Disher was able to present the Disher Cup to ANU in 1971, the inaugural winning crew.

The race is rowed on Lake Burley Griffin, a 10km long artificial lake in the centre of Canberra, Australia’s capital city. The course is 4250 metres and begins at Aspen island, tracks under Commonwealth Bridge and finishes at Yarralumla. The Men's Eight (for the Disher Challenge Cup) race is held over the 4250 metre course. Races for men's and women's coxed fours over 2000 metres are also held as a part of the 2006 Disher Cup Regatta.

Other trophies contested for at the 2006 Disher Cup Regatta are:

- L W Nicholl Shield for men's coxed four (first presented in 1989)
- Colonel Diane Harris Trophy for women's coxed four (first presented in 1999)

The 2006 Disher Cup regatta will be hosted by the Royal Military College – Duntroon. The order of events is as follows:

0800 Men’s coxed four start
0815 Women’s coxed four start
0840 Dragon Boat race
0900 Men's eight start
0945 Presentations

A fiercely contested race is to be expected in the key event, the Men’s Eight. The Australian Defence Force Academy crew recently set a course record of 13.02 minutes over the 4000m Winter Time Trial course. However the Australian National University are looking to defend their title of 2005 and the Royal Military College – Duntroon are expected to provide a challenge to both crews.

For further details, please contact Camilla Hayman from Rowing ACT on 0411 108 814.