



**ROWING**  
*Australian Capital Territory*

2018  
ANNUAL REPORT

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ROWING ACT INCORPORATED**  
YMCA SAILING CLUB, ALEXANDRINA DRIVE, YARRALUMLA  
**Wednesday 22 August 2018 at 6.00pm**

# AGENDA

**1. APOLOGIES**

**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 53rd AGM**

**3. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**

**4. PRESENTATION OF THE 2017-18 AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

**5. SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO CONFER LIFE MEMBERSHIP ON PATRICK DAVOREN**

**Background:**

Pat started rowing in Canberra in 1964, the year the Lake filled and competition began.

Pat has a long history of service to rowing in Canberra and was a committee member of the then ACT Rowing Association as early as 1967. He has been Vice-president, Treasurer and Secretary in both Rowing ACT and the Canberra Rowing Club over the decades since, as well as being Captain and Vice-Captain in the Canberra Rowing Club. He was a Committee member/Director of Rowing ACT for 14 continuous years and stepped down to encourage new volunteers from the Rowing ACT community to contribute to the Board. Pat remains RACT's and CRC's Public Officer.

Pat has always exercised a whole-of-rowing approach and has been a strong advocate for expanding participation in the sport. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of rowing, particularly in the ACT. Rowing has greatly benefited from Pat's contributions and the Board proposes his contribution be recognised by Member Clubs.

**Resolution:**

Rowing ACT

- notes that the Board has nominated Patrick Davoren for life membership under Rule 7.1; and
- resolves to confer life membership on Patrick Davoren in accordance with Rule 7.3.

**6. SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE RULES**

The driving change is to standardise the financial year to end in June, rather than April, to simplify rowing and accounting administration and for the convenience of members. In doing so, it is proposed to take the opportunity to shorten our name from Rowing ACT Association Incorporated to Rowing ACT Incorporated, bearing in mind we are by definition an Association, and to simplify and make consistent some of the language of the Rules.

Rowing ACT Association Incorporated resolves by special resolution to:

- a. Change its name from Rowing ACT Association Incorporated to Rowing ACT Incorporated.
- b. Change the financial year from the year ending 30 April to the year ending 30 June.
- c. Amend the Rules to:
  - a) Make consequential changes to the name of the Association and the definition of the financial year.
  - b) Update the objects to use the current terminology in relation to Australian Sports Commission policy and cooperation with Rowing Australia.
  - c) Clarify the terms of appointed and elected Board members.
  - d) Various other minor amendments to simplify the language and to achieve consistency, as shown in the revised set of Rules which was circulated with this resolution. (refer Appendix C)

**7. PRESENTATION OF THE MAY/JUNE 2018 TRANSITION ACCOUNTS.**

**8. ELECTION TO THE BOARD**

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

# MINUTES OF THE 53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ROWING ACT HELD AT THE YMCA SAILING CLUB ON

Wednesday 23 August 2017 at 6.30pm

## MINUTES

### PRESENT:

D. Bagnall, V. McMahon S. Reynolds, R. Curtin (BMRC), A. Chinn, D. Ninham (CRC), C. Bowyer (CLRC), N. Hunter, J. Williams, A. McKenzie, (ANUBC), J. Martin, B. Mason, M. Kelly (Daramalan), G. Bergman (RMC), S. Dunphy (Marist), V. Spencer (Radford), C. Pijpers, P. Marshall (CGGS), M. Halpin (CGS), L. Langdon, D. Styman (LTRC), N. Garratt, J. O'Brien (RACT)

**The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:30pm.**

### APOLOGIES:

P. Davoren (CRC), R. Domaschenz (ANU)

### MINUTES:

The Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting held on 24 August 2016 were read and confirmed.

### ANNUAL REPORT:

The 2016-17 Annual Report was presented to Member Clubs for consideration. The Chairman thanked P. Davoren for his significant contribution to the Board, on which he had served continuously for the previous 14 years after an initial stint on the former ACTRA Committee in 1967. The Chairman thanked R. Curtin for his service on the Board. He noted the additional workload for Rowing ACT after having taken on the Pathways Performance Program from ACTAS. S. Reynolds commented on BMRC shed timing and handover issues and S Dunphy commented on the implementation of the new grading system.

### AUDITED ACCOUNTS:

Director of Finance V. McMahon presented the audited statement of accounts for 2016-17 and referred to his Director of Finance report, circulated the previous week, which had summarised the key financial outcomes. He noted that by far the most significant event was the assumption of the ACT Pathways Performance Program (ACTPP) which had increased employees from 1 to 3 and turnover from less than \$0.4m to over \$1m in a full year. He explained the breakdown of funds between Rowing Australia, ACTAS and Rowing ACT noting that for the 2017-18 standard financial year, RACT would be receiving ACTAS funds for the first time. Allowing for the impact of the ACTPP, whose funds were separate, and for Rowing Australia's compensation for not rotating the hosting of the Australian Championships, he indicated that the underlying profit for the last two years was around \$30k which was the long-term average. He stated that the cash reserves were healthy but would be required in the future for the acquisition and fit-out costs of a shed and the development of Weston Park. He thanked the clubs for their cooperation during the year.

### AFFILIATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE ROWING CLUB TO ROWING ACT (ADFRC):

The meeting considered a motion that an application by ADFRC for membership of Rowing ACT be accepted. G. Bergman spoke to the reasons why ADFRC was applying for affiliation to Rowing ACT. R. Curtin asked if there would be an insurance risk to Rowing ACT if ADFRC rowers were based outside of the ACT. The Chairman noted the national insurance scheme covered this risk. The motion was accepted.

### ELECTION TO THE BOARD:

Nominations were received from V. McMahon, D. Styman, B. Mason and N. Latimer for 3 Board vacancies. D. Bagnall was the only nomination for President and therefore his term was renewed via the operation of the Rules.

V. McMahon, D. Styman and B. Mason were elected to the Board.

### MEETING CLOSED:

7:05pm

# BOARD MEMBERS

The Board includes 6 elected directors and 3 appointed by the Board to supplement its skills, outlook and diversity, addressing matters such as gender equity, governance, audit and risk. Directors hold office until the second Annual General Meeting following election or appointment. The current directors and their terms of appointment are listed below.

POSITION	ELECTION/ APPOINTMENT	EXPIRES AT AGM
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**President**

David Bagnall	Aug 2017	2019
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**Elected Directors:**

Vincent McMahon	Aug 2017	2019
Deb Styman	Aug 2017	2019
Bill Mason	Aug 2017	2019
Nick Hunter	Aug 2016	2018
Alison Chinn	Aug 2016	2018

**Appointed Directors:**

Catherine Bowyer	Sept 2017	2019
Peter Marshall	Sept 2016	2018
Jacqueline Williams	Sept 2016	2018

**The Board met 10 times over the year. Attendance was as follows:**

D. Bagnall	9	V. McMahon	7	C. Bowyer	5
N. Hunter	8	D. Styman	10	J. Williams	10
B. Mason	8	A. Chinn	8	P. Marshall	7

**Rowing ACT Officer Bearers and Officers:**

Director of Finance:	Vincent McMahon
Secretary:	Deb Styman
Executive Officer:	Josh O'Brien (until February 2018)
Public Officer:	Patrick Davoren

**Life Members:**

P.H. Duncan	M. Kwiatkowski	R. Grylis
D.W. Walters	M.L. Lamb	R.J. Porra
R.C. Freeman		

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Staffing and Governance

There were several significant changes in staffing at Rowing ACT during the last 12 months. Nick Garratt was appointed Head Coach, and his enthusiasm and experience have been valuable. The responsibility for managing ACT High Performance has been assigned to RACT, who will lead the program, with ACTAS providing a supporting and service role. RACT has also appointed Renae Domaschenz as Pathways Coach, and we have hired Katrina Wiseman as a High Performance Co-ordinator to provide administrative support to our coaches. Renae and Katrina's jobs are both part-time. Luke Hennessey is coaching Talent Search athletes on a part time contract.

Our Executive Officer over the first half of last year was Josh O'Brien, who quickly learnt about our sport, and was able to work well with our diverse stakeholders. We wish him well with his return to Boxing Australia where he has been appointed Chief Executive Officer. Josh's replacement is Sophie Galvin who comes to us with a strong sports administration background.

At our 2017 AGM Rob Curtin and Pat Davoren did not renominate to be RACT Board members. Both made significant contributions while on the Board. Pat is the longest serving individual to have held office on the ACTRA/RACT Committee/ Board since its inception. His knowledge and management have contributed to the strength of the organisation. At the 2017 AGM, Deb Styman and Bill Mason were elected to the Board. Both bring relevant administrative experience to a strong Board.

Tom Trobe was appointed Chair of the Regatta sub-committee during 2017, replacing Simon Dunphy, who we thank for his time and efforts.

The Board has formed new sub-committees to look at BRO recruitment, and to better integrate communications.

## Facilities and Infrastructure

Member clubs of Rowing ACT continue to upgrade their boathouses in the Territory, and plan for further growth of our sport.

The recently opened Canberra Girls Grammar lakeside building is a splendid facility with both good boat storage and an extensive clubhouse area. The completion of this impressive building will allow expansion of this school's rowing program. It has already opened an opportunity for Marist College to hire part of the former CGGS facility, allowing them to expand their fleet beyond the constraints in their previous home at Canberra Rowing Club.

The Capital Lakes Rowing Club boathouse was only opened in 2017, but already the club has grown with a great mix of juniors and masters rowers and is having great success in local regattas, and at the National Regatta. Their new boathouse is a spacious facility that the ACT government built to replace the temporary sheds that formerly housed CLRC.

In the south, Lake Tuggeranong RC are looking to improve access, club member facilities and storage in their facility. Active Canberra (the ACT Government Sport group) are to be commended for funding these improvements to make this facility safer and provide convenient access for rowers and boats. We look forward to these improvements which would realign the doors and increase storage for this community club over the coming 12-18 months.

The planning for a potential new Black Mountain Rowing Club facility has been derailed by recent changes notified by the ACT government. A policy review is being undertaken by the ACT Government on the direct sale of land to community organisations and the BMRC application for a new site has been suspended. BMRC and their principal sponsor have been forced to work towards redeveloping their current boathouse, and this eliminates RACT inheriting the current BMRC facility. Both BMRC and RACT are very frustrated by this policy change after the development application has been with government for 20 months. RACT will have to look to alternatives for long term storage of our regatta equipment. Separately we wish BMRC well with their boathouse upgrade. The club and their sponsor have been generous with their proposal to help our sport and RACT thanks them for their support through this bureaucratic nightmare.

## Regatta Venue

Rowing ACT has continued to upgrade our regatta venue where spectators, supporters, boats and trailers are co-located at Weston Park. Both the 2018 ACT Championships and 2018 Head of the Lake Schools regattas highlighted to both visiting and local crews that this site is one of the best regatta venues in Australia. The enthusiastic racing of the Rowing Australia National Training Centre crews in singles, pairs and fours in the ACT Championships in perfect conditions was a highlight for spectators, as the crews prepared for National selection trials and the National Regatta.

Regarding the venue, Rowing ACT has gained planning approval to add a fourth boating pontoon to our regatta site to replicate the set-up that existed at the successful 2013 Australian Masters Championship regatta. This will provide

permanent two inflow and two outflow pontoons at regattas to expedite traffic flow to and from the site. We have also gained some ACT government support towards this upgrade.

The Association has continued to upgrade the Boat Race Officials equipment. We have retired two of our elderly umpire launches and are replacing them with ex-AIS catamarans that throw a smaller wash and are more suitable as rescue boats for scullers in the water.

### **Regatta Management**

The regatta grading system has resulted in good racing locally, and the community is enjoying the closer competition that has resulted across the grades. This was the first year of having the grading system automated. Rowing ACT seeds divisions of races and is the only state in Australia to use the automated seeding function in the regatta management software.

### **High Performance Strategic Plan**

Consultation between our High Performance coaches and club coaches was critical to develop a Strategic Plan that provides a pathway for club rowers to progress on a High Performance pathway to National representation. Brendan Lynch facilitated this process and he was conscientious and charming throughout, despite the short time line in January. The clubs now have a better understanding of what their roles can be in supporting and contributing towards HP development. One of the agreed objectives was that talented youngsters be based in clubs prior to migrating into the ACTAS boathouse, which will only house our elite athletes. This change will hopefully build a stronger connection between our rowers and their home club, with promotion to the elite squad a major reward and privilege.

### **National Representation**

The ACT was well represented in 2017 National teams and has multiple members of the 2018 team. Luke Letcher was a member of the Senior A team in 2017 and has been selected in the national quad in 2018. Caleb Antill was Australia's single sculler in the under 23 team and was added to the senior team in 2017, and joins Luke as a member of the 2018 Senior A quad scull.

Other ACT based athletes who were selected in the 2018 under 21s team to compete against New Zealand were Alex Grzeskowiak and Nathan Kennedy. Cox Renae Domaschenz and rower Nikki Ayers are members of an Australian Para PR3 Mixed four oared crew to compete at the World championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

Congratulations are due also to the ACT Master's Women's representative quad crew of Dearne Grant, Kerry Knowler, Selina Rowland and Adair Ferguson. This crew won silver in the Interstate Quad event at the Australian Masters Rowing Championships held at Lake Barrington, Tasmania in May this year.

### **Acknowledgements**

On behalf of the entire ACT rowing community, including both local and Rowing Australia athletes I thank Alex Leitch and John Simson for maintaining the buoyed rowing course on Yarramundi Reach over many years. The "Buoy Boys" have indicated they are retiring from this essential but smelly and unpleasant task. We will of course continue to see both of them paddling on the lake.

A special note of thanks also goes to Vicky Newman who has been a volunteer BRO for some years. Vicky also has assisted RACT this year voluntarily whilst the Executive Officer position was vacant and is on the sub-committee reviewing RACT sponsorship and fundraising initiatives. RACT nominated Vicky for the Active Canberra Senior Volunteer of the Year Award.

Thanks also to all our volunteer Boat Race Officials who continue to run efficient and friendly regattas. Along with our other volunteers they keep our sport performing well.

We are indebted to Stephen Croot of Rowing NSW who continues to provide Regatta Management support for Rowing ACT regattas.

Thanks also to the ACT government for being our principal sponsor, and the National Capital Authority for continuing to consult with us on planning issues that affect the lake and our access to it.

Finally, I would personally like to thank Board members Alison Chinn and Vincent McMahon for their substantial contribution to the Association during January to May in the absence of an Executive Officer earlier this year. This was hard work and made all of us appreciate the contribution that our Executive Officers have made in the past.

**David Bagnall**  
RACT President

# BOAT RACE OFFICIALS

The health and strength of the Rowing ACT Boat Race Officials continued to improve over the past season, with positive trends confirming the effectiveness of BRO recruiting efforts over the past two years. There has been 27 new BROs recruited over this period, of which 5 from the previous season did not return this season. The number of active BROs increased overall by 7 from the previous season, with 42 active BROs at the season close. (15 new volunteers, 8 retired or did not re-engage).

The large number of new BROs has resulted in a reduction in the average experience of BROs on the water, down from 6.8 years average experience in 2015-16 to 5.2 years average experience in the last season. The average experience level is expected to recover as the large tranche of new BROs recruited over the past two seasons continue to participate in future seasons. The number of BROs with 10 or more years experience has remained steady at 11 over the past 3 seasons.



*Image: Winning entry in the 2018 photo competition taken by Renae Domaschenz*

The increase in BROs has resulted in a comfortable level of BRO availability for Rowing ACT regattas, with all regattas staffed above the minimum level required. Of particular note was the available strength of BROs over four consecutive weekends in Feb/Mar, which included the 2 day ACT Championships and a long weekend.

Rowing ACT presented the inaugural BRO of the Year Award at the end of the 2018 season to dual winners Geoff Northam and Edwin Bien. This will become an annual award presented in appreciation of all that the BRO's do as accredited volunteers for our sport.

Accreditation of Rowing ACT BROs under the NOAS program is tracked only at national and international levels. Five Rowing ACT BROs hold national level accreditation, with two of those also holding FISA accreditation. Catherine Garrington is scheduled to undertake FISA examination later this year, and Kevin Turner is currently preparing for national level assessment in 2019.

Improvements in regatta equipment have substantially reduced the amount of time required of volunteers to set up and run regattas. Continuing these improvements, an automated start system is currently in development and a prototype has been successfully built and tested. This new start system will provide start lights for race starts, and introduces the standard yellow light start warning, which has not been previously available at Rowing ACT regattas. The new start system will effectively eliminate missed race times and improve the consistency of race starts. In addition, the system has been design to allow future extension to race timing functions (to millisecond accuracy) and direct integration with the RP7 regatta management software used by Rowing ACT.

The focus of BRO training for the next season will be on boat driving skills and improved on-water safety awareness. The aim of this training will be to reduce wash on the regatta course, and improve safety surveillance and response over the regatta course.

**Geoff Northam**  
Chief Boat Race Official



# HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

Nick Garratt has remained the Head Coach of the High Performance Pathways Program and has been responsible for many of the outstanding results achieved by ACT rowers. He has been assisted by Renae Domaschenz, Assistant Coach/State Development Officer, who coached some of the development rowers and was instrumental in the introduction of the ACT Pathway Eights Program. Luke Hennessy was brought on board to coach school TID athletes identified at TID testing days. Katrina Wiseman commenced in the new position of High Performance Program Coordinator.

There was a total of 8 new athletes in 2017/18, who are currently hosted at Capital Lakes Rowing Club. The Jindabyne Training Camp was held again in January 2018, with 17 HPP and club athletes attending. Staff from ACTAS worked with coaches Nick and Renae to deliver a successful camp.

The HPP shed was thankful for the donation of some strength and training equipment from Bec Tanner. RACT purchased further equipment to support the program, allowing the HPP to offer further strength and conditioning options to HPP and TID rowers. This option had not been available to TID rowers previously and is offered on top of the coaching provided by Luke Hennessy. The High Performance Squad also received funding from Active Canberra to conduct repairs and maintenance to the shed, allowing for much needed upgrades.

Nick Garratt has introduced weekly Wednesday time trials, which are open to all ACT rowers to monitor their progress through the winter season. This has been taken up by ACT rowers, with around 25-30 rowers participating each week.

NSW State Championships provided an opportunity for the junior athletes to compete alongside the senior rowers. The High Performance Squad rowers won a total of 3 Gold and 3 Silver medals, with many of the junior crews making their respective A finals.

The Pathway Eights Program was introduced as a joint program between RACT and Rowing Australia to develop young talented rowers. This is the first time the ACT has been able to send youth eights to compete at the Australian Junior Selection Trials. Coached by Nick Garratt, Renae Domaschenz, Sabina Bertuzzi and Caroline Pijpers, the ACT Schoolgirl 8+ came away with 5th place with a close battle for 3rd-5th, while the ACT Schoolboy 8+ came away with 7th place against some tough competition.

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## Boys 8+

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Edwin Hur-Thompson (cox) (CGS)  
Ben Johnstone (CGS)  
Matthew Norton (CGS)  
Luca Hehir (CGS)  
Jock Campbell (CGS)  
Ethan Peters (CGS)  
Raphael Priest (CGS)  
Henry Ricketts (Daramalan)  
Tom Wynn (Daramalan)

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## School Girls 8+

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Alex McDonagh (cox) (CGGS)  
Ella Kerr (CGGS)  
Bronte Castle (CGGS)  
Maddy Bennett (ANU)  
Nicola Greenland (Radford)  
Harriett Wallace (CGGS)  
Anna Khan (CGGS)  
Ella Ross (CGGS)  
Jessica Brady (ANU)  
Ella Smethurst (CGGS)

## National Championships:

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### Gold:

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U23M4x	Nathan Kennedy [ANU-HPP], Alex Grzeskowiak [CLRC-HPP]
U21LM1x ANU-HPP	Nathan Kennedy
PR3Mix4+	Nikki Ayers [CLRC], Cox: Renae Domaschenz [ANU]
OLM4x	Thomas Perry [CANB]
U21M1x	Alex Grzeskowiak [CLRC-HPP]

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### Silver:

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ISPR3W1x	ACT Nikki Ayers
OM4x	Caleb Antill [ANU-NTC], Luke Letcher [BMRC-NTC]
U23M2x	Nathan Kennedy [ANU-HPP], Alex Grzeskowiak [CLRC-HPP]
U23LW4x ANU-HPP	Sarah Larkin, Jessica Brady, Bianca Gillett, Jilly Roberts
PR3W1x ANU	Sue Donoghoe
PR3Mix2x	Nikki Ayers [CLRC-HPP]
SG4x+	RADF Lily Smith-Saarinen, Jacinta Buckman, Annie Creer, Nicola Greenland, Cox: Spencer Burns
SB4x+	RADF John Baker, Daniel Majchrzak, Fin Sullivan, Miguel Fernandez, Cox: Patrick Morrison

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### Bronze:

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ISLM4- ACT	Hamish Harding, Nathan Kennedy, Thomas Perry, William Clark
U23LW1x	Jilly Roberts [ANU-HPP]
U23LM2- ANU	Riley Sanders, Harrison Leckenby
U23LM4-	Hamish Harding [ANU-HPP]
CW4- ANU	Rachel Kilo, Emily Caudle, Sarah Edwards, Phillippa Smith
U17W4x+	CGGS Sophia Nikias, Alice Maxwell, Anna Khan, Harriet Wallace, Cox: Issy Shaw
OW2x	Cara Grzeskowiak [CLRC-HPP]
PR3W1x CLRC	Nikki Ayers

## National Representatives:

- Caleb Antill (ANU) and Luke Letcher (BMRC) were selected as members of the National Quad Scull to compete on the World Cup Circuit as part of Australia's Senior A team. They competed in Poznan, Poland and Lucerne, Switzerland, and possibly at the World Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.
- Two ACT Athletes have been selected for the Under 21 Team that will compete in the Trans Tasman series of races against New Zealand. Nathan Kennedy (ANU) has been selected as a lightweight sculler, while Alex Grzeskowiak (CLRC) was chosen as an open weight sculler.
- Nikki Ayers (CLRC) and Renae Domaschenz (ANU) were selected as members of the Para Team to compete at the World Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.
- Nick Garratt was selected as the coach for the U23 Women's 8+, which will compete at the 2018 World Rowing Under 23 Championships to be held in Poznan, Poland.

Other notable achievements include Jilly Roberts and Cara Grzeskowiak being selected for the Australian University Games Team, and Cara Grzeskowiak winning the Championships 1x at the Henley Women's Regatta. This increase in National Representatives from the ACT is a credit to the work done by coaches Nick Garratt and Renae Domaschenz.

The ACT currently has 115 accredited coaches listed on the RA coaching register (17 Level 2 and 9 Level 3). Level 1 coaches are now able to complete their accreditation online. A Level 2 coaching course will be offered to ACT members in the near future. Adhoc coach development sessions and advice has been provided to various clubs over the last season.

### Nick Garratt

ACTHPP Head Coach

# REGATTA ADMINISTRATION

The final pointscore for the 2018 season was:

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>MEN</b>	<b>WOMEN</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Canberra Rowing Club	183	178.5	361.5
ANU Boat Club	116	141	257
Black Mountain Rowing	102.5	64.5	167
Capital Lakes Rowing Club	41.5	114	155.5
Radford College	70	50	120
Marist Canberra Rowing Club	102	0	102
Shoalhaven	27	71	98
Kinross Wolaroi School	48	47	95
Canberra Grammar School	58	14	72
St Augustines	60	0	60
North Shore Rowing Club	15	42	57
Canberra Girls Grammar School	0	38	38
Drummoyne Rowing Club	15	18	33
Daramalan College	23	8	31
Mosman Rowing Club	24	0	24
Lake Tuggeranong Rowing Club	7.5	15.5	23
Australian Defence Force Academy	16	0	16
Shellharbour City	4	10	14
Newington Old Boys	8	0	8
Nagambie Rowing Club	0	6	6
Glebe Rowing Club	0	5	5
Sydney Rowing Club	4	0	4
UTS	2	0	2
Canberra Grammar Old Boys	2	0	2

Canberra Rowing Club is congratulated on winning the Men's and Women's Premierships and the Aggregate Points score competition for the W.E. O'Brien Trophy. Canberra Rowing Club also won the Phere Niki (Bring Victory) Trophy for the most successful club at the ACT Championships.

Kinross Wolaroi School won the Steve Fairbairn Memorial Cup for the highest Pointscore at the ANU regatta.

## Local Regattas

Rowing ACT manages a full year of regattas which are not limited to summer regattas. The season starts with the handicapped Winter Time Trials which is a series of five times trials from May to September. The course is four kilometers from Scrivener Dam to just before Orana Bay. This event has been run for 32 years.

Over 150 rowers raced in the Saturday competition for small boats. 111 boats (over 400 rowers) raced in the Sunday big boats competition. Winners of the perpetual trophies were:

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### Mark Kwiatkowski Cup ( mens 1x)

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Tom Perry (Canberra)

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### Lyn Cirulis Plate (pointscore womens 1x)

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Sarah Larkin (ANU)

Tyron Boorman (BMRC) came close to beating Luke Letcher's (BMRC) fastest time of 14. 46.74 over the course. Tyron recorded 14.56.56.

Thank you to all the officials, club volunteers and the handicapper who ran the WTT series. It can be quite a challenge sitting in a tinny on Lake Burley Griffin in winter.

## Head of the Molongo

The Head of the Molongo was brought forward to July to provide some distance from Rowing ACT's other premier distance event, the Col Panton Memorial Marathon. The Head of the Molongo is limited to big boats. The course is from outside the Burley Griffin Canoe Club in the Molongo River to the end of Black Mountain Peninsula. 16 boats raced in this event.

## Col Panton Memorial Marathon

This event is held each year in memory of Col Panton and his son Stuart. This handicapped marathon runs from the eastern end of Lake Burley Griffin to the 600 meter mark of the Yarramundi Reach course. This year 34 boats raced (110 rowers).

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### Panton Memorial Shield

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(First boat across the line)- W4x Composite

Maddy Bennett

Aisling Doyle

Sarah Larkin

Riley Brown

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### Skippers Trophy (fastest crew) - Composite M4x (time 22.43.36)

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Nathan Kennedy

Alex Grzeskowiak

Tom Perry

Tyron Boorman

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### David Stegeman Cup

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(First coxed four across the line) - ANU Mixed 4+

Sabina Bertuzzi

Douglas Horn

Jilly Roberts

Will Clarke

cox Jessica Brady

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### Cootapatamba Cup

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(First quad across the line) - W4x Composite

Maddy Bennett

Aisling Doyle

Sarah Larkin

Riley Brown

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### Black Pete Plate (Fastest Women's Club Crew Not Receiving Financial Support) - CRC/ANU W4x

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Adair Ferguson

Selina Rowlands

Kerry Knowler

Dearne Grant

## Summer Regatta Season

The Regatta Subcommittee (RSC), comprising representatives of all member clubs, meets during the winter to recommend to the Rowing ACT Board, summer regatta dates and any changes to the order of events. Five standard regattas, the two-day ACT Championships, the annual Head of the Lake were scheduled as well as two sprint regattas. All were held but for the CGGS/CGS regatta which was cancelled due to bad weather.

A new initiative recommended by the RSC and adopted by the Rowing ACT board was heats and finals for C, D and E quads with finals being at least an hour after the heat. In previous years all races were divisional races. 187 quads raced in these events with less than 10% not competing in both heat and final. To implement this initiative the standard order of events was changed from previous years. This resulted in about a 15% fall in seat fee revenue because finals and heats are conducted with the one seat fee.

Rowing ACT was also able to utilise the electronic seeding system for single sculling events in Rowing Manager for the first time this season. This function was added to Rowing Manager at the request of Rowing ACT and other states are now following our lead and using this function.

As in previous years, Rowing ACT regattas attracted strong interest from regional and Sydney clubs. Kinross Wolaroi and St Augustines are regular visitors to our regattas.

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#### Major Rowing ACT trophies were won by:

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<b>Uriarra Cup</b> (Ch M8+)	ANUBC
<b>Jubilee Cup</b> (Ch W8+)	ANUBC
<b>Banjo Cup</b> (Ch M4-)	Mosman
<b>Greg Welsh Cup</b> (Ch Sch 8+)	CGGS
<b>Westbourne Woods Plate</b> (Ch Sch 8+)	CGGS
<b>Scullers Trophy</b> (Ch W1x)	C Grzeskowiak (CLRC)
<b>Presidents Shovel</b> (Ch 2nd M8+)	ANU
<b>Fraser Cup</b> (HoL SchB 8+)	Cranbrook
<b>Porra Cup</b> (U19 M 2x)	CGS (Norton, Moylan)
<b>Tarcoola Trophy</b> (Ch U19 1x)	C Hopkins (St Augustines)

The Tarcoola Trophy is a new perpetual trophy for 2018. It was donated by Vicky Newman and Graham Letcher for the Under 19 Men's 1x Champion of the ACT.

A highlight of the ACT Championships was the National Men's Training Centre rowers racing in selected events. This included the World Champion Men's Four racing in the ACT Championships.

### Head of the Lake

The Head of the Lake was a bigger event than in recent seasons. Over 600 rowers competed, compared to 355 in the previous year. All four local schools competed with five visiting schools from Sydney and Victoria. Local schools donated perpetual trophies for selected events. Radford won the girls pointscore with Canberra Grammar School winning boys pointscore. On the back of the success of this regatta Rowing ACT has set up a review of this event, including Rowing Australia input, to further develop its potential. A medal design competition is currently underway to allow, at the request of the schools, for the event to have its own distinctive medal.

### Other Events

Two sprint regattas were held this year. The Tuggeranong sprints were run in November and crews compete for the Tuggeranong Cup which was won by Canberra Rowing Club.

The inaugural Capital Lakes Sprints raced in April. This event was won by Canberra Rowing Club.

### Regatta Management

This substantial regatta season does not happen in a safe environment without many hours of work most of which is by volunteers. The Boat Race Officials do an immense job running safe and competitive events without the infrastructure that so many other states have.

Rowing ACT recognises those who make a substantial contribution to our sport each year with the Cliff Hill Trophy. This year Tom Trobe was the recipient. Tom chaired the Regatta Sub Committee, is Club Captain of Canberra Rowing Club and has worked with Rowing Australia in a voluntary capacity on focus groups and various working parties. Tom, along with Bill Mason, put in many hours to establish this season's Head of the Lake.

Finally, generating start lists, draws, point scores, maintaining the grade system, creating and maintaining regatta profiles for the suite of regattas that Rowing ACT offers is an enormous task on one regatta secretary to do. In addition to the Boat Race Officials lead by Geoff Northam, Mark Kwiatkowski, Josh O'Brien and Michael Cusack were of invaluable assistance.

Thank you also to Stephen Croot for his management and support of Rowing Manager. Also, thank you to Rowing NSW who provided Owen Nix to advise Rowing ACT on best practice of RP7, the software that creates the draws.

### Alison Chinn

Regatta Secretary

# DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

I submit to Members the 2018 Audited accounts. I first wish to thank our Auditor, Steve Maginnity from Mainsail Accounting Solutions, and our accounts team. I also wish to recognise the assistance of our previous auditor, Kevin Fielder, who passed away in 2017.

## Background

2018 has been a very challenging year. Turnover has increased from around \$390k in 2016 to around \$780k in 2018 with a concomitant increase in the complexity of our transactions. We have gone from one employee in the 2017 financial year to our current four employees along with the increased use of contractors. This was complicated in 2018 by the resignation in February of our Executive Officer and transitioning from MYOB to Xero. Operating without an Executive Officer until after the end of the financial year meant that the workload fell on a small number of people to cover the busiest part of our regatta competition and financial year. Alison Chinn was critical in holding the regatta program together.

We transitioned to MYOB in 2008 after I took over the role of Treasurer with the help of our then Auditor, Roger Grylls, who many of you would know as a long-standing BRO and a RACT life member. The inherited accounting system, QuickBooks, had not been balanced for a number of years and relied on external intervention to deliver a set of accounts. MYOB has since faithfully delivered our financial statements and has been a robust system although challenging to new users. However, Rowing Australia, in the context of whole-of-sport reforms, secured the agreement of all states and territories to move to Xero, under standardised Chart of Accounts and business units. This was to allow whole-of-rowing reporting required of Rowing Australia to continue to secure grants.

The accounting system transition had to occur in the new financial year whilst preparing the annual financial accounts. This was facilitated by the professional input of Andrea Parsons who is, fittingly, another BRO. She has provided continuity in our accounting operations, backup when I was otherwise engaged, initiated the development of a manual for the new starters and has mentored Sophie and Katrina in accounting operations. Before addressing the financial outcomes, it is important to understand the significant functional and financial changes that have occurred from January 2017. This was when Rowing ACT began assuming responsibility for the ACT Pathways Program (ACTPP) from the ACT Academy of Sport (ACTAS). In the first six months of 2017, Rowing Australia started devolving funds. In 2017-18, some ACTAS funds were also folded into

the Rowing ACT administered program. In 2018-19, further ACTAS funds are expected to be devolved.

## Financial Outcomes

While information was not collected in 2017-18 on a business-unit basis, the estimated business unit outcomes are set out below.

BUSINESS UNIT	INCOME	EXPENSES	PROFIT/LOSS
	\$	\$	\$
Admin	104934	76351	28583
Development	909	7264	-6355
Events	60802	28409	32393
Marketing	2868	0	2868
Venue and Facilities	0	9266	-9266
HP & Pathways	252041	234921	17120
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>421554</b>	<b>356212</b>	<b>65342</b>

This is a new view of our financial accounts and this year's outcome may require fine tuning as we gain more experience on the application of the new chart of accounts. What it does show, not unexpectedly, is that there are significant differences in performance across business units. *Events* is the major income earner and must necessarily make a profit. *Admin* is also positive both because it is subsidised by the core grant and because it encompasses affiliation and registration fees. Without the core grant, *Admin* would operate at a loss. Business units *Development* and *Venue and Facilities*, which is driven by depreciation expenses, are likely to always operate at a loss. The HP & Pathways business unit profit has fallen from \$39,923 in 2016-17 to \$17,120 in 2017-18. It is expected to make a significant loss next financial year as it draws down on accumulated funds. Underlying business profit has increased from \$39,137 in 2016-17 to \$48,222 in 2017-18. This mainly resulted from reduced medal purchases and reduced athlete supports costs, both of which are variable and will increase in 2018-19.

Total equity rose from around \$483k in 2017 to \$548k in 2018. Cash holdings rose to around \$460k with fixed assets being around \$117k. Debtors fell from around \$108k in 2017 to \$77k in 2018. While trade debtors remain high, it is important to note that some 87% of the amount was within the 30-day period and nearly 70% related to the final Rowing Australia tranche of the year under the ACTPP. Trade

creditors were expeditiously handled throughout the financial year. At year's end, all invoices had been paid. An invoice for Rowing Australia affiliation fees had not been received so the expense was accrued.

### Fees and Charges

Fees have remained unchanged for several years. The Board again decided to leave fees at the existing levels other than bringing the Winter Time Trial series up to the standard fee of \$8. It confirmed that, while all participants in rowing events run by Rowing ACT need to be registered on Rowing Manager, registration fees would not apply to the Winter Time Trails, the Col Pantan and the short-course regatta.

### Financial Goals

Rowing ACT has been seeking to accumulate, for a number of years, funds to achieve two basic objectives.

- Acquisition and fitout costs associated with a shed for Rowing ACT to better manage the fleet and to provide enhanced facilities for the BRO's. Unfortunately, government planning changes in 2017-18 led to a less optimistic outlook for acquiring a shed in the short to medium term. This potentially increases future acquisition costs in the absence of significant ACT Government subsidies.
- Developing Weston Park course as a high-calibre rowing facility including the course itself.

One important milestone towards achieving this objective was a grant of \$18,540 from the ACT Government, on a \$-for-\$ basis, for the installation of a fourth pontoon at Weston Park. This grant, which has not yet been brought to account as revenue, was secured at the initiative of David Bagnall. Rowing ACT is working towards having the pontoon installed by the beginning of the 2018-19 regatta season. Further opportunities to enhance facilities are being actively explored.

Another important development is the proposed acquisition of two catamarans from Rowing Australia. This will improve the on-water capacity of the BROs and result in two of the older boats being retired. Rowing ACT is also exploring the acquisition of storage space for BRO boats.

### Changing the Financial Year

The May to April financial year has its genesis in alignment with the rowing season. It was adopted at a time when accounting systems were very limited in their reporting capabilities. This is no longer the case. Moving to the standard financial year would enhance operational efficiency.

It would simplify the provision of BAS which is currently split between two financial years in the June quarter. Importantly, it would greatly simplify reporting requirements under the ACTPP which is based on the standard financial year. Currently there is significant workload, and an increased risk of error, in reporting across two different financial years. The awkward timing of our rowing year is another factor driving a change in our financial year. For good reasons, our rowing year is aligned with our financial year. However, the timing of the rollover in our rowing year can cause difficulties in rower registrations for the NSW and Rowing Australia championships. For example, in 2018 the Australian Masters Rowing Championships were held 10-13 May. If our year had been rolled over on 1 May, the registration window would have been very tight. In the event, we rolled over the rowing year a few weeks earlier to provide a more manageable registration window.

### Form of the Financial Accounts

The presentation of the Financial Accounts is, again, in a simplified form with the detail and explanations contained in footnotes. Every chart of accounts has its own advantages and disadvantages in how they are maintained and what information they can deliver. When incorporating the high-performance function in 2017, the most expedient way of capturing the reporting information required by Rowing Australia was to in effect double up on some account codes. This provided a useful basis for differentiating between high performance and other business but complicated the chart of accounts. Under the new common chart of accounts, there is a mixing of functions in each account code. For example, boats can now relate to high performance or BRO's. Accordingly, there will be some loss of continuity in future reporting although it will provide different slices of information.

### Assistance of Member Clubs

I again thank all Member Clubs for their support and cooperation during the 2017-18 financial year. Rowing ACT remains committed to prompt invoicing allowing clubs to raise any concerns when the issues are current and for any disagreements to be resolved expeditiously. Rowing Manager continues to prove to be a very effective billing platform being based on data entered by clubs themselves.



**Vincent McMahon**  
Director of Finance

10 July 2018



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