

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Rowing Australia Board Room
Tuesday 21st October at 6pm

Attendees

Board: Kent Peters (Chair), Tobias Wehr Candler, Jaime Fernandez, Hugo Ellwood (Director of Finance), Catherine Garrington, Alice Arch, Virginia Hayward, Peter Wright, Kathryn Ross

Staff: Sarah Davoren (Executive Officer)

Meeting opened 6:03pm with an acknowledgement of country

1. Register of Interests

Peter Wright noted that he has been elected as a general committee member of the Black Mountain Rowing Club Committee

2. Acceptance of Minutes

a. *Minutes from the September Meeting*

Taken as a true and accurate record, all in favour

b. *Outstanding Actions*

All items noted.

Sarah Davoren commented she was waiting on a quote for the maintenance of the start platforms before progressing further on permanent moorings

Peter Wright and Kent Peters noted a sponsorship proposal had been provided and was to be returned with comments.

3. Director of Finance Report (Hugo Ellwood)

A loss was noted for the month of September which was expected with limited regatta income. It was noted that the loss for the year to date was decreased on the previous year, as was the income received, noting that in 2024 RACT received income from the University Championships during September. A strong cash position was noted, as was the renewal of the term deposits.

Hugo Ellwood noted that a profit was currently forecasted for the year for both general business and the High Performance and Pathways program, though the budget may need to be amended to include depreciation of new assets.

Moved Kent Peters, seconded Peter Wright, with all in favour.

4. Operations Report (Sarah Davoren)

The EO noted the strong success of the Col Panton Memorial Marathon, though commented that there was room for improvement on the National Club Omnium Regatta with opportunities

to work with Rowing Australia and the Rowing in Australia Advisory Group to improve opportunities for club regattas locally and around Australia.

The EO commented on the Australian Masters Games Indoor Rowing Competition and thanked Catherine Garrington for her support during the competition and in the lead up. It was noted that two world records and an Australian record were broken during that day's competition.

The EO noted that the applications for the Community Enhancement Program Grant for the purchase of a new catamaran and the Community Sporting Facilities – Planning Grant for a feasibility study on a finish tower had both been submitted. The EO thanked Rowing Australia for their support and endorsement of a finish tower on the regatta course. It was noted that the EO was still waiting an outcome on the Women's Coaching and Officiating Support Program Grant application.

5. Safety Sub-Committee Report (Catherine Garrington)

1 incident report was noted, though several were received over the past 2 days and will be included in the November report.

13/10 – Near miss reported by club quad and school singles with insufficient lights. No contact or injuries incurred.

6. Performance Pathways Sub-Committee

a. Interstate Team Selection Policy and Processes (For Endorsement)

The board was presented with the Interstate Policy and Processes for Senior, Youth, Pathways and U22 Teams for the 2026 season. It was noted that the policy had been changed to include all interstate teams (including Masters) in the overarching policy, with each team's processes to specify the differences.

The processes had been streamlined around existing requirements for athletes seeking Australian representation and to support staff in minimising the workload.

The Masters Processes will be presented to the board for endorsement later this year.

The EO also commented that Bruce Hick and Donna Martin were recommended as selectors for the Senior, Youth, Pathways and U22 teams for 2026.

DECISION: Board Endorsed the policy and processes as presented.

7. Items for Decision

a. Member Club Application

An application was received by Red Shed Incorporated for affiliated as a member club of Rowing ACT. Under the RACT constitution, Rule 4, the application is considered by the board before being presented to the community for decision at a general meeting.

The board considered the application, noting it had been completed in full as per the constitution. Peter Wright noted that the Red Shed still intended to remain as a non-competitive club with athletes to compete under different clubs and the application to ensure affiliation with Rowing ACT and the broader Rowing community.

DECISION: The board endorsed the application presented for decision at the upcoming AGM.

b. Learn to Row and Temporary Members

Following the decision at the August 2025 board meeting to amend the definitions of the current individual member categories, the Rowing ACT board considered the additional of a new member category to include Temporary Members.

Temporary Members would be “limited to membership that lasts for a maximum period of 8 weeks and can only be purchased once within the membership year. Temporary members are not eligible to compete in any regattas.” Individuals who purchase a temporary membership would be included in coverage under the Rowing ACT Personal Accident Insurance Program and the National Integrity Framework.

This membership may capture individuals who participate in learn-to-row or corporate programs as well as visiting athletes. The addition of this category is to ensure that Rowing ACT has oversight of all athletes who would be included in the Personal Accident Insurance Program as well as National Integrity Framework coverage. To make any claim and in line with changes to the current member definitions, athletes must be registered with Rowing ACT to be eligible to make an insurance claim.

DECISION: The board endorses the addition of temporary members as a new individual member category of Rowing ACT, with a price value for this category to be determined prior to July 1 2026.

All temporary members will be required with Rowing ACT under the new membership platform from July 1 2026. In the interim period, to ensure insurance and integrity coverage, clubs and schools must provide Rowing ACT with a list of individuals who would fall under the definition of a temporary member prior to a program commencing.

8. Items for Discussion

NA

9. Items for Noting

a. Annual General Meeting

i. Agenda and community update

The board considered the agenda for the upcoming Annual General Meeting as well as updates to be provided to the community during the meeting. The board also noted that at the close of business 7 days prior to the AGM, only one nomination had been received for President (Kent



Peters) and one nomination had been received for the vacant elected director position (Peter Wright) and therefore under Rule 19, those individuals would be considered elected.

It was noted that the decision regarding the application of the Red Shed incorporated to become an affiliated club of Rowing ACT should be done by paper ballot as opposed to a show of hands.

Kent Peters thanked the board for their ongoing support of him in the role of President of Rowing ACT and commented on the continual efforts of board members to increase the standards of Rowing ACT that had occurred during his time on the board.

b. Special Purpose Group Meeting #1 Update

The board noted that the Special Purpose Working Group had had their first meeting in the preceding weeks with Ben Page (ADF Rowing) elected as chair. An update from the chair was presented to the board for noting.

Board Members sitting on the working group commented on the suggestions and discussion from the group and particularly commended the Capital Lakes Rowing Club Representative.

10. Other Business

Peter Wright thanked Catherine Garrington and Sarah Davoren for their ongoing efforts in supporting the upcoming Golden Oar regatta.

Kent Peters commended the board on the ongoing efforts towards good governance considering media articles around ACT Sporting Clubs and the lack of governance structure which had caused significant issues.

11. In camera session

Not Required

7:20pm meeting closed.