



FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Rowing Australia Board Room

February 17th 2026, 6pm

Attendees

Board: Kent Peters, Jaime Fernandez, Hugo Ellwood (Director of Finance), Catherine Garrington, Peter Wright, Kathryn Ross

Staff: Sarah Davoren (Executive Officer)

Apologies: Tobias Wehr-Candler, Virginia Hayward

Meeting open 6:01pm by Kent Peters, with acknowledgement of country.

1. Register of Interests

No updates to the register of interests.

2. Acceptance of Minutes

a. Minutes from the January Meeting

Moved Peter Wright, Second Jaime Fernandez, all in favour. Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record.

b. Outstanding Actions

Kent Peters noted the outstanding action items for the January Board meeting, particularly the summary of quotes for AED's around the regatta site.

ACTION: EO to present options for AED's at the March board meeting

Kent Peters updated the board on the casual vacancy, with no suitable individual proposed.

The board discussed further options for the chair of the special purpose working group

ACTION: Peter Wright to reach out to a member of the group to determine their capacity and interest in being the chair of the group.

All other items remain open.

3. Director of Finance Report (Hugo Ellwood)

A loss for the year to date was noted, however this remains ahead of budget. A loss for the month of January was also noted, however this is typical for the January where there are limited income streams. Expenditure has increased for the year against the previous financial year, whilst income remains consistent. The Performance pathways program is ahead of budget with a small profit for the year to date, noting some expenses still need to be invoiced and acquitted. A profit is forecasted for the overall financial year.

Sarah Davoren and Catherine Garrington noted that they had been working on developing a plan for the purchases for the Industry Partnership Program and would update the board at the March board meeting.

Minutes approved March 17th 2026

ACTION: IPP Purchases plan to be put to the board for approval at the March board meeting.

Kent Peters Moved, Seconded Peter Wright, all in favour.

4. Operations Report (Sarah Davoren)

Taken as read. The EO acknowledged and thanked the umpires from the ANU regatta held the previous weekend, with racing extended to 4pm with the increased entries.

The EO noted the amendment to the Rowing Australia Performance Pathways Funding Agreement which would provide additional funding towards the Lead Coach's salary, as part of his new role as the Australian U19 Team Head Coach.

The EO noted that pending a booking on the Spirit of Tasmania, Rowing Australia would be borrowing an Umpire Catamaran for the Australian Rowing Championships to ensure the umpires are able to operate at full capacity for a national regatta.

The EO noted that she had been investigating solar generators for a Climate Change Sustainability Grant.

5. Safety Sub-Committee Report (Catherine Garrington)

Taken as read.

14/02/26 – Two complaints received regarding traffic at Finish Line cross over area, both occurred during hourly changeovers of the rostered marshal.

12/02 – Complaint from club double rowing to the start in lane 1 on Yarramundi Reach following a slower crew. Complaint was regarding associated tinnie wash and slower crew not moving to give way to club double.

11/02 – Club single capsized reported after club tinnie washed out training squad persistently between Museum and yellow submarine sign.

07/02 – Collision reported between club quad and unknown fisherman near inflatable aquatic park. Fisherman reported to be looking at their phone and cut in front of quad. Quad sustained a scrape, no injury reported.

31/01 – Collision reported between NTC four with school quad who had stopped 100m past Commonwealth Avenue Bridge. School rower hit in head with oar, no injury reported.

Catherine Garrington commented that some incidents reports had been repeatedly using the term 'victim' which the Safety Sub-Committee did not consider suitable for incident reports, with the incident report form amended to be a drop down box rather than free text. It was also noted that incidents which occur during a regatta should be reported directly to an umpire and did not need to be re-reported through the incident report form as they are included in the President of the Jury's report at the end of a regatta.

6. Items for Decision

a. 2026 Strategic Priorities

The board noted the priorities for the upcoming year were consistent with previous years and the progress of the priorities across the duration of the strategic plan.

Catherine Garrington asked for clarification around one of the Governance priorities, noting the upcoming Sport and Recreation Categorisation process where RACT's governance is measured against the Sport Governance Standards.

Moved Kent Peters, all in favour.

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DECISION: The Board endorses the 2026 strategic priorities as presented.

b. 2026 Winter Season Regatta Dates

The board noted the proposed dates for the upcoming winter season. It was suggested the first winter time trial in May be moved 1 week later to avoid clashing with the NSW Masters Rowing Championships, which was accepted.

Moved Kent Peters, all in favour.

DECISION: The board endorsed the winter season dates, noting the one amendment to original dates as presented.

The board noted that the 2026 Winter Season will be the 40th anniversary of the winter time trial series, and would look to celebrate with different opportunities.

c. Umpire Boats

i. Sale of Current Single Hull Boats

The board noted with the purchase of two new catamarans, two of the current Quintrex single hull boats should be sold. It was requested a valuation of the two boats be sourced prior to placing the boats up for sale.

ACTION: A Valuation of the two boats approved for sale should be made before the boats are put up for sale.

Catherine Garrington noted her conflict of interest as Chief BRO in recommending which umpire boats should be sold.

DECISION: The board determined that the Bill Beadman and Tarcoola should be sold following the delivery of the two new umpire catamarans.

The board noted that Ross Ford has stored the Bill Beadman for several years on behalf of Rowing ACT, and as such determined he should get a right of first refusal on the purchase of the Beadman.

The board determined that both boats should be sold at Market Value and no discounts offered if being sold to members of the community.

ACTION: The board asked for the EO to determine whether the new umpire boats come with covers and the additional cost of them.

ii. Names of new Catamarans

With the new umpire boats arriving shortly, the board considered appropriate names for the new boats, inclusive of submissions from umpires.

Noting the history associated with the name Bill Beadman as the individual who dived into the lake to save the Pantons, it was felt this name should be kept. The board requested the EO research to see if any members of Bill Beadman's family remain in Canberra and could be invited to a future naming ceremony.

Noting that Rowing ACT has commenced a reconciliation action plan, an indigenous place name was felt to be appropriate by the board. The board considered several places, but felt Molonglo after the Molonglo River was appropriate.

DECISION: The board endorsed “Bill Beadman II” and “Molonglo” as the new names for the umpire catamarans.

d. Interstate Team Selection

The board noted that the selectors were still considering the nomination for one of the crews, and this crew would be circulated to the board for endorsement out of session.

DECISION: The board endorsed the pathways squads as presented.

Catherine Garrington queried whether any athletes had an outstanding debt to Rowing ACT and if so were they eligible for selection. The EO noted there was one athlete with a debt which would be followed up before they are eligible for endorsement.

DECISION: The board endorses the interstate crews presented.

The board wishes the best to all athletes selected and looks forward to seeing the crews compete in the coming months, as well as commending the number of athletes who have nominated and been selected.

e. Change of Racing Uniform – ADF Rowing

An application for a change in racing uniform for ADF Rowing under the Rowing ACT By-Laws was presented to the board.

DECISION: The board endorsed the new uniform of ADF Rowing as presented.

7. Items for Discussion

a. ACT Championships Request – Minor Finals

A request has been put to the board for minor finals for specific events where the National Training Centre wish to enter at ACT Championships. The board is supportive of minor finals for the specified events only, and only if the National Training Centre crews are entered.

An additional request was made for a mixed masters eight at ACT Championships. The board felt additional events should be added by the Regatta Sub-Committee and not by request of a club, however the club may compete by invitation in other eight events at the championships.

b. 2026 Golden Oar

The board noted the request for support by Rowing ACT for the 2026 Golden Oar as well as the intended dates and agreed that this is an event Rowing ACT should continue to support. It was suggested the summer calendar be developed to de-conflict regattas where possible.

8. Items for Noting

NA

9. Other Business

a. WU19 2x Trophy

The EO noted that for the upcoming ACT Junior Championships, there was not parity in the WU19 Double Scull and asked for suggestions for the trophy. Kent Peters noted he could potentially donate a trophy as President of Rowing ACT for the event.

ACTION: The EO to work with Kent Peters on finalising a trophy for the event.

b. Visiting Clubs

Peter Wright queried what resources Rowing ACT has available for visiting clubs, noting there were several incidents over the January period. The EO and Catherine Garrington commented there are several documents, quizzes and flyers available for visiting clubs, and that the onus of ensuring the clubs are following the lake rules is on the host club as per the RACT by-laws.

10. In camera session

Not required.

Meeting closed 8:07pm