

# Mercantile Rowing Club.



THE 39TH ANNUAL MEETING of the Club  
will be held at the Club's Boathouse, Yarra  
Bank,

SATURDAY, 23rd AUGUST, 1919,

at 8 p.m.

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## BUSINESS.

To receive and adopt Report and Balance Sheet.  
Election of Office-Bearers for the ensuing season.  
General.

Nominations for Office-Bearers for the  
ensuing season will close on the Notice  
Board, at the Boathouse, at 6 p.m. on  
Wednesday, 20th August.

WALTER JOSEPH,

Hon. Secretary.

# Mercantile Rowing Club.

SEASON 1918-19.

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## List of Office-Bearers.

### President:

COUNCILLOR S. J. MORELL.

### Vice-Presidents:

A. B. SLOAN, Esq.	SENATOR G. FAIRBAIRN
W. POTTER, Esq.	J. C. BENFOLD, Esq.
A. R. MOSES, Esq.	T. R. GILCHRIST, Esq.
R. A. COOPER, Esq.	T. F. BRENNAN, Esq.
J. HERMAN, Esq.	

### Captain:

Mr. A. L. DOBBIE.

### Vice-Captain:

Mr. E. KENNY.

### Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. A. CLARKE.

### Assistant Hon. Treasurer

Mr. R. GREGG.

### Hon. Secretary:

Mr. WALTER JOSEPH.

### Hon. Auditor:

Mr. W. C. HARVEY.

### Hon. Solicitor:

Mr. J. HERMAN.

### Committee:

Mr. J. WATSON.	Mr. A. WOOD.
Mr. J. HARDING.	Mr. F. R. BROWNE.
Mr. R. GREGG.	Mr. W. G. BANNERMAN.
Mr. T. MARSH.	

### Selection Committee:

Mr. E. KENNY.	Mr. J. HARDING.
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### Delegates to the Victorian Rowing Association:

Mr. A. CLARKE.	Mr. J. HARDING.
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### Elected Members on the Victorian Rowing Association:

Mr. A. L. DOBBIE.	Mr. W. JOSEPH.
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Mr. A. L. DOBBIE,

who is retiring from the position of Captain after 11 years' service.

As an oarsman Mr. DOBBIE has won many important races, the chief of which are:—

Double Maiden Eight, Upper Yarra and Footscray Regattas, 1903.

Maiden Four, Footscray Regatta, 1904.

Interstate Eight-oared Race at Brisbane, 1904.

Senior Eights—

Henley, 1907.

Barwon, 1907.

Henley, 1908.

Barwon, 1908.

and Championship Eight-oared Race of Victoria, 1908.

In the Warehousemen's Challenge Races he won every race from 1903 till 1914, winning outright the Beath Schiess Challenge Cup (3 wins), the D. and W. Murray Challenge Cup (3 wins) and the McNaughton, Love & Co. Challenge Cup (1 win, 1914).



Mr. WALTER JOSEPH.



## RETIREMENT OF Mr. WALTER JOSEPH,

Hon. Secretary Mercantile Rowing Club.

Members will learn with great regret that our hon. secretary, Mr. WALTER JOSEPH, finds it impossible, owing to increasing business responsibilities, to continue in the office which he has so capably filled during the past ten (10) years. The fact that he has given his whole-hearted services during this long period, which constitutes a record in the Club annals, is sufficient indication of the enthusiasm which has marked his association with rowing ever since he became a member of the Club. He has proved an ideal hon. secretary, and both present and past members owe to him a debt of gratitude for the very valuable services he has rendered.

Outside of his Club Mr. Joseph is held in the highest regard in rowing circles and has used his influence towards encouraging the spirit of good fellowship which is so desirable between members of the various clubs. In doing so he has done much to maintain the high prestige which our Club has so long enjoyed in the Rowing Association.

Since 1909 he has sat on the committee of the Association, first as a Club representative and later as an elected member. He probably holds the record for consistently regular attendances at the Committee meetings of the V.R.A., for he missed only two (2) out of 106 meetings, which is sufficient comment on the manner in which he looked after his Club's interest on the governing body.

He has also been our representative on the general committee of the Melbourne Annual Regatta (Henley) for a number of years.

Another office which he has capably filled over a long term is that of hon. secretary of the Upper Yarra Amateur Regatta, in which he has had marked success.

The above outline of Mr. JOSEPH's activities in the advancement of his Club, and of rowing generally, is sufficient to show that he will always occupy a prominent place in the history of Victorian rowing. He has well earned a spell from office, and on retiring carries with him the best thanks of this Club for his invaluable services.

On behalf of the Committee,

S. J. MORELL,

President.

# THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

.. OF THE ..

## Mercantile Rowing Club



Melbourne, August 24th, 1919.

To the Members of the Mercantile Rowing Club.

Gentlemen,

Your Committee has much pleasure in placing before you this evening the Thirty-ninth Annual Report and Balance Sheet, and is pleased to record that the past season has been a particularly prosperous and pleasant one. With the signing of the armistice last November, and the subsequent Peace Treaty, the difficulties under which your Club, in common with all other kindred clubs and associations, were carried on have been lifted, and it is satisfactory to state that at no similar period in its history has such a large influx of new members taken place. Many of your older members, who for the past three and four years have been on active service, have returned, and have again entered enthusiastically into the sport and club affairs; and with the early return of the others, it is confidently anticipated that the Club will emerge from the past troublous years in a stronger position than ever.

Shortly after the last report was published word was received that Sergeant J. W. Cumberland had been killed in action, making the sixth of our members to lay down his life for the great cause. Sergeant Cumberland was a particularly good type of club member, being very popular with all, and for a short period before enlisting had been appointed acting Vice-captain. Very deep sympathy is felt for his relatives in their bereavement.

The complete list of your members who enlisted with the A.I.F. is given below, and there were many others who volunteered their services, but were rejected through various causes.



## Roll of Honour.

S. Guinn	L. Johnston	F. Hill
F. Wellings	K. Wootton	F. W. Simcocks
L. Butler	C. Jacobs.	J. Hopkins
B. Kerr	A. Harvey	W. McDonald <i>M. C.</i>
L. Elliott	D. Hamilton	L. G. McDowall, <i>M.C.</i>
A. Henry	G. F. Nicholson	✓ W. B. Davey
L. Nicholls, <i>M.M.</i>	E. Baum	R. Morrison
✗ *N. Johnston	*A. R. Lingham	R. Kerr
*R. J. Robertson	✗ J. L. Mounsey, <i>D.C.M.</i>	H. Wilks, <i>M.C.</i>
A. Aubrey	✗ *N. C. Nation	J. E. Reidy
R. A. Cooper	R. Treacey	R. C. Vincent
G. Sturrock, <i>M.M.</i>	H. Steyens	J. A. Ilsley
✗ *J. W. Cumberland, <i>M.S.M.</i>	J. E. Kendal	J. E. Sprigg
*G. Robertson	F. Stirling	G. E. Anderson
S. Gomm		

\*Killed in action.

The following ex-members of the Club, so far as is known, enlisted in the A.I.F. and have been on active service:—

Bryce Thompson	A. D. Robertson	C. Griffin
*T. E. McGowan	H. E. Cohen, <i>C.M.G., D.S.O.</i>	D. Bishop
H. W. Lloyd, <i>C.M.G., D.S.O.</i>	C. S. Cunningham	E. Cody
B. McCauley	C. G. McNamara	A. Brash
E. Peppard	*S. Booth	*E. Fogarty
J. J. Munday	*G. Gunning	J. Ferguson
*T. L. Pitman, <i>M.C.</i>	S. McCulloch	C. J. Broad
*C. E. Bowen	S. Ehrenberg	F. G. Hyett
*A. M. Robertson		

\* Killed in action.

During the year a sum of £100 was invested in the Seventh Commonwealth War Loan, the greater part of the money being transferred from the Boat-building Reserve Fund, and the balance being made up from current revenue.

Your Committee has met regularly throughout the season, and has given close attention to the affairs of your Club, and the delegates to the Victorian Rowing Association have closely guarded your interests on the governing body. No additional bye-laws have been made, but those referred to in the previous report have given entire satisfaction, and have proved conducive to the convenience of members.

The Victorian Rowing Association has, during the past year, enacted that the capitation fee of each member of the metropolitan clubs to that body shall be 3/6. This will have the effect of increasing the subscription rate of your Club to £2/5/6, being £2/2/- subscription and 3/6 registration fee. You will be asked, this evening, to confirm this arrangement.

The Fallen Oarsmen's Memorial Fund, which was inaugurated under the auspices of the Victorian Rowing Association, is now closed, and it is gratifying to report that the subscriptions by your members have been very satisfactory, placing the Club in a high position in comparison with subscriptions received from other clubs. A large number of orders from members has also been received for Mr. John Lang's "Victorian Oarsmen and Register," which will shortly be published, the gross proceeds of which are to be handed over to this fund. The exact form of memorial has not yet been decided upon, but it is expected that it will take the form of an obelisk or other monument, with the names of all Victorian oarsmen who fell inscribed on it, and which will be erected on the south bank of the River, close to the Henley finishing post.

## Financial.

As will be seen from the Balance Sheet the financial position of the Club is sound. Subscriptions have been paid in a manner which affords gratification to your Committee.

It is anticipated that the ensuing season will show a considerable increase in expenditure owing to the resumption of open regattas, and members are respectfully asked to pay their dues without delay.

The item "Repairs to Boats and Oars" still occupies too prominent a place in the Balance Sheet. Members are asked to use every care when using the Club's property in order that this large expense may be reduced to a minimum.

## Rowing.

Immediately after the signing of the armistice last November, the Victorian Rowing Association instituted a series of classifying races, and revived the Junior Premiership competition. Two full-programmed regattas were held on the Yarra, at both of which your Club was worthily represented in nearly all the events. Most of the competitors in the maiden events were new members so far as classifying races were concerned. The following crews represented the Club:

November 23, 1918—*Maiden Sculls*—E. Roberts was second. *Maiden Four*—A. G. Trehearne (bow), M. G. McQualter (2), W. G. Bannerman (3), K. Wootton (stroke), second in their heat.

December 21, 1918—*Maiden Eight*—A. G. Trehearne (bow), M. G. McQualter (2), J. T. Clarke (3), H. Smyth (4), M. S. Williams (5), K. Wootton (6), W. G. Bannerman (7), C. N. McKay (stroke), J. Cosgriff (cox), beat Banks in the heat by a foot, and in the final beat Civil Service by three feet, Albert Park being three feet behind in the third position. Footscray and Essendon also started. Mr. R. T. Rush is to be greatly thanked for his assistance to this crew during training, he occupying number six seat until two days before the race.



December 26, 1918—NAGAMBIE REGATTA—A *Maiden Four*—J. T. Clarke (bow), M. G. McQualter (2), W. G. Bannerman (3), C. N. McKay (stroke), and J. Cosgriff (cox), won easily by three lengths. W. G. Bannerman and C. N. McKay entered for the *Maiden Pair*, but did not start.

January 1, 1919—COLAC REGATTA—A *Maiden Pair*—W. G. Bannerman (bow), C. N. McKay (stroke), J. Cosgriff (cox), won easily.

February 22, 1919—V.R.A. REGATTA—The following crews were entered: *Maiden Sculls*—R. A. Cooper, who was beaten in his heat. *Maiden Four*—K. Wootton (bow), L. Nichols (2), M. S. Williams (3), B. H. Scriven (stroke), who won their heat, but rowed second in the final. *Light-weight Maiden Four*—F. R. Connolly (bow), I. Lamborn (2), C. J. Scott (3), R. Martin (stroke), who were beaten in their heat. *Senior Sculls*—W. C. Harvey was beaten in his heat by J. Barton, of Richmond, who eventually won the final. *Senior Four*—J. Watson (bow), E. Kenny (2), A. L. Dobbie (3), J. Harding (stroke), who also lost their heat. *Maiden Pair*—M. G. McQualter (bow), A. Woods (stroke).

April 12, 1919—V.R.A. REGATTA—Crews were entered as follows; *Maiden Four*—U. R. Smith (bow), H. Smyth (2), M. S. Williams (3), B. H. Scriven (stroke), who won the first heat, but were beaten in the semi-final by half-a-length. *Maiden Sculls*—A. G. Trehearne, who did not start. *Maiden Eight*—F. R. Conolly (bow), R. Martin (2), C. J. Scott (3), H. R. Rush (4), A. McKenzie (5), T. Marsh (6), T. McKay (7), A. Wood (stroke), J. H. Counihan (cox). *Junior Pairs*—W. G. Bannerman (bow), C. N. McKay (stroke), beat your *No. 2 Pair*—R. Gregg (bow), J. Watson (stroke)—by five feet in the first heat, but were beaten by the Civil Service crew in the final by one-third of a length.

All the winning crews were coached by Mr. J. H. Counihan, to whom the best thanks of your Club are tendered. Messrs. Dobbie, Kenny, and Rush are also greatly thanked for their attention to crews in preparation for regattas.

## Junior Premiership.

The points scored by the different Clubs in the *Junior Premiership* competitions were: Civil Service 20, Mercantile 12, Bank 10, Corio Bay 10, Barwon 10, Ballarat City 7, Richmond 6, Nagambie 6, Hawthorn 6, Albert Park 4, Ballarat 2, South Melbourne 1. We wish to congratulate the Civil Service Club on winning the premiership. No Senior Premiership competition was held this season. The Junior Premiership competition was a very close contest between the winners and your Club, the last race at the last regatta deciding the issue.

## Combination Racing.

Once again you are indebted to your President, Councillor S. J. Morell, for his generosity in providing trophies for Combination Eight-oared races, which are held each year, and are known as the Morell Combination Eights. They were rowed on Saturday, December 7, 1918, and attracted an entry of 112 oarsmen from all the Metropolitan Clubs. This was considered highly satisfactory in view of the depletion in the Club's membership rolls. The racing was close and interesting, and the final heat was won by the following crew: C Edwards (C.S.) bow, A. McNeil (Y.Y.) 2, L. Vandenberg (F) 3, H. Campton (C.S.) 4, O. Neilson (C.S.) 5, E. Casey (C.S.) 6, R. Gregg (M) 7, and J. Watson (M) stroke. We have to thank the Civil Service and Yarra Yarra Clubs for the loan of their practice eight-oared boats on this occasion.

With the re-establishment of regatta and classifying events, as was to be expected, fewer combination races were promoted by the various clubs. Those which were held were well patronised by your members, and the following gained distinction:

October 5, 1918—V.R.A. COMBINATION EIGHTS (opening of the season)—  
R. Gregg (7), E. Kenny (stroke) in the winning crew. M. S. Williams rowed in the second crew.

October 19, 1918—ALBERT PARK CLUB'S COMBINATION FOURS—  
E. Kenny stroked the winning crew; J. Harding stroked the second crew.

November 16, 1918—RICHMOND CLUB'S COMBINATION FOURS—  
M. S. Williams rowed in the second crew.

January 18, 1919—HAWTHORN CLUB'S COMBINATION FOURS—  
E. Kenny stroked the crew which was beaten in the final.

Messrs. Kenny and Gregg are to be congratulated on their performances in combination racing this season.

## Sculling.

As usual, the Amateur Sculling Association held a series of races throughout the season, in which several of your members competed regularly. The following were the results:

November 9, 1918—E. Roberts and A. S. McKenzie rowed first and second in their heat, but were beaten in the final.

January 11, 1919—A. G. Trehearne rowed second in his heat, being beaten by one foot.



February 15, 1919—A. S. McKenzie won the final ; A G. Trehearne won his heat, and was third in the final.

April 26, 1919—W. G. Bannerman was third in his heat ; A. G. Trehearne and A. S. McKenzie also competed, but were beaten in their heats.

It is anticipated that the coming season will be a particularly busy one, as in all probability most of the regattas which were held in pre-war days will be revived, and the Inter-state championship races will be rowed in Brisbane next May. Both the Senior and Junior premiership competitions will be held among the V.R.A. clubs. With the large number of members who have joined the Club during the past season, and the enthusiasm which is being shown, your Club should occupy a good position.

### **General Club Items.**

Since our last Annual Report was issued we have been pleased to welcome home many of our soldier members, viz.: Messrs. S. Gomm, J. L. Mounsey, G. Sturrock, A. Aubrey, F. Stirling, J. E. Reidy, B. Kerr, H. Wilks, W. McDonald, and F. Wellings. Most of these members found their way down to the old spot very shortly after landing and received a warm welcome from their fellow members, and it is pleasing to record that many of them are again taking an active part in the sport.

After an interval of five years the Annual Dinner was to have been held at the end of last month at Wickliffe House, St. Kilda Esplanade, but the Committee, after careful consideration a few days before the event was arranged for, decided to postpone it until a more favorable opportunity presented itself as regards the running of the trains and trams. It is hoped to hold this some time next month.

A particularly gratifying feature of the past season has been the improved attendance of members at the River during the summer evenings, and at the week-ends. You are again indebted to Messrs. Dobbie and Kenny for their attention to the selection of practice crews, the satisfactory nature of which had no doubt proved in no small way to the attraction of members. These two gentlemen have also unselfishly given a lot of their time to the coaching of newer members, and in this connection the names of Messrs. L. Johnston, R. Rush, R. Gregg, A. Dorman, A. Clarke, G. Bannerman and J. Watson also come under the list of gentlemen to whom your thanks are tendered.

Masters Eric Counihan and J. Cosgriff have steered the various regatta and practice crews throughout the season.

Your best congratulations are offered to the Scotch College crew, which won the "Head of the River" race in May. The crew was coached by Mr A. B. Sloan, and stroked by C. N. McKay.

It was not found practicable to hold any Club racing during the past season, but it is intended to revive this branch of the Club life again during the coming season. Several trophies for Club races have already been promised.

Your best wishes and congratulations are offered to Messrs. R. A. Cooper, L. Johnston, W. Burke, and A. Clarke, who during the past year have been married.

The arrangement between the Scotch College Rowing Club and your Club still continues to the mutual satisfaction of both parties.

Your Committee feels that a special vote of thanks is due to Messrs. A. Clarke and R. Gregg, your Hon. Treasurer and Assistant Hon. Treasurer, whose work has been of an arduous nature, and the Balance Sheet placed before you this evening speaks for itself. It is gratifying to record that these gentlemen have consented to remain in office during the coming season. Mr. W. C. Harvey is also to be thanked for his services as Hon. Auditor.

Your thanks are also due to Messrs. J. Harding and A. Clarke, who have represented you on the Committee of the Victorian Rowing Association during the past year, and who have assiduously guarded your interests.

Mr. A. L. Dobbie has notified his desire to resign his position as Captain of your Club, which he has held continuously for 11 years. The best thanks of all members are tendered to Mr. Dobbie for his close attention to the affairs of the Club. His courtesy and tactful administration will always be remembered by past and present members who have been attached to the Club during this long period. It is pleasing to state that his valuable services and advice will still be at your disposal, he having allowed himself to be nominated as a Committeeman for the ensuing season.

## **The Fleet.**

The fleet of boats has been well maintained during the past season without any additions having been made; two sets of oars, however, were purchased at the beginning of the season, and it is thought that for present requirements the supply is adequate. In the early part of the season the boats were overhauled and revarnished, and they are all in good order. At the same time members are once more urged to use every care in handling the Club's property, to keep the repairs item on the balance sheet as small as possible.

## **Conclusion.**

Your Committee, in relinquishing office, thank members for their loyal support. The Club is in a very sound state, and it only needs the co-operation of each and every member to maintain this position. In conclusion, members are thanked for their support and confidence during the past season, and your Committee trusts that its efforts have merited your appreciation.

On behalf of the Committee,

WALTER JOSEPH,

Hon. Secretary.



## Dr. Statement of Receipts and

### RECEIPTS.

To Balance at Bank of New South Wales. on 1st August, 1918 ... ..	£20 14 0
Balance at Victorian State Savings Bank on 1st August, 1918 ... ..	83 1 3
	£103 15 3
Subscriptions for season 1918-19—	
Full Members ... ..	102 5 6
End of Season Members ... ..	12 16 0
Junior Members ... ..	13 19 6
Honorary Members ... ..	4 14 0
	133 15 0
Subscriptions for season 1919-20, paid in advance ... ..	9 4 6
Donations and Contributions ... ..	64 9 0
Entrance Fees, Club Races ... ..	10 14 0
Entrance Fees, Inter-Club Races, <i>vide contra</i> ... ..	5 1 6
Entrance Fees, Regattas ... ..	12 10 0
Interest on Savings Bank Account ... ..	1 7 10
Sale of Singlets ... ..	1 5 0
Sundry Receipts ... ..	0 2 3

£342 4 4

Audited and found correct,

W. C. HARVEY, A.I.C.A.,

*Honorary Auditor.*

11/8/1919.

## Expenditure for Season 1918-1919 Cr.

### EXPENDITURE.

By Investment in Commonwealth 7th War Loan, 5% (1923) ...	£100 0 0
Repairs and Renewals to Boats and Oars ...	38 9 1
Printing, Stationery and Postage ...	2 18 0
Printing Annual Report and posting same ...	7 8 6
Expenses Annual Meeting ...	7 15 8
V.R.A. Dues and Fees ...	7 2 0
Coxwain's Expenses at Regattas ...	2 2 6
Fire Insurance ...	12 12 0
Insurance under Workers' Compensation Act ...	5 0
Lighting, Water, and General Rates ...	16 0 8
Trophies for Club Races... ...	9 9 0
Caretaker's Wages ...	32 10 0
Lease of Land ...	2 2 0
Cheque Book and Bank Charges ...	15 0
Xmas Boxes ...	3 3 0
Sundries ...	4 15 1
Affiliation Fee Amateur Sculling Association ...	10 6
Entry Fees, Inter-club Races, see contra ...	5 1 6
Entry Fees Regattas ...	13 0 0
Expenses Morell Eights ...	5 16 3
Boat Staging ...	3 3 0
Donation Oarsmen's Memorial ...	10 10 0
Names on Honor Board ...	15 0
Balance at Bank of New South Wales on 31st July, 1919, less outstanding cheque ...	£46 11 6
Balance at Victorian State Savings Bank on 31st July, 1919... ..	9 9 1
	56 0 7
	£342 4 4

A. CLARKE,  
*Hon. Treasurer.*

Aug. 11/18.



# BALANCE SHEET as at 31st July 1919.

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THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Trophy Orders unrepresented	£9 19 6	Boathouse at Insurance Value	£1,000 0 0
Boat Building Fund—		Boats, Oars and Sculls at Insurance Value	545 0 0
Invested in Commonwealth		Club Fittings at Valuation	22 0 0
7th War Loan @ 5%, 1923,		Carpenter's Bench, Boat Boxes and Rowing	
as per contra	£100 0 0	Machine at Valuation	7 0 0
Held at Vic. State Savings		Singlets and Caps	1 19 6
Bank, as per contra	9 9 1	Outstanding Subscriptions for Season 1918-1919	14 1 0
Outstanding Account	109 9 1	Commonwealth 7th War Loan, 1923, 5%	
Subscriptions for Season 1919-1920 paid in advance	2 12 6	Bond at cost	100 0 0
Capital, by excess of assets over liabilities	1,614 15 6	Balance, less outstanding Cheque, at Bank of N. S. Wales	£46 11 6
		Vic. State Savings Bank	9 9 1
	<u>£1,746 1 1</u>		<u>56 0 7</u>
			<u>£1,746 1 1</u>

Audited and found correct,

W. C. HARVEY, A.I.C.A., Hon. Auditor.

A. CLARKE, Hon. Treasurer.

Melbourne, 12th August, 1919.