

MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB

MELBOURNE



59th Annual Report
and
Balance Sheet

SEASON 1938-9

Mercantile Rowing Club



Club House,
Princes Bridge,
1st July, 1939.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fifty-ninth **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Mercantile Rowing Club will be held at the Club House on **SATURDAY, 22nd JULY, 1939, at 7.45 p.m.** (The Annual Smoke Night will be held at the conclusion of the meeting).

BUSINESS:

To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Balance Sheet.

To confirm the minutes of the previous General Meeting.

To elect Office-Bearers for the ensuing year.

Presentation of Trophies.

General.

By order of the Committee,

F. NEWPORT,

Hon. Secretary.

Mercantile Rowing Club

SEASON 1938-39

List of Office Bearers

President :

A. L. DOBBIE, Esq.

Vice-Presidents :

E. T. BRADSHAW, Esq.	J. M. MOUNSEY, Esq.
T. F. BRENNAN, Esq.	C. N. McKAY, Esq.
R. A. COOPER, Esq.	Cr. T. S. NETTLEFOLD, O.B.E.
Sir GEORGE FAIRBAIRN	J. H. PICKEN, Esq.
W. JOSEPH, Esq.	G. W. SMITH, Esq.
J. M. MACFARLANE, Esq.	J. G. SPRIGG, Esq.

Captain :

W. G. ROSS.

Vice-Captain :

C. F. RAVEN.

Hon. Secretary :

F. NEWPORT.

Hon. Assistant Secretary :

V. BOURNE.

Hon. Treasurer :

C. A. R. CLARKE.

Executive Committee :

J. H. BAILEY.	M. E. GREEN.	E. KENNY.
N. W. CAIRNES.	G. J. HORDER.	D. M. MACRAE.
	A. P. MILLER.	

Selection Committee :

J. H. BAILEY. N. W. CAIRNES. W. G. ROSS.

Hon. Auditor :

F. R. BROWNE, A.I.C.A.

Hon. Solicitor :

M. S. WILLIAMS, LL.M.

Victorian Rowing Association :

<i>Executive Members</i>	<i>Elected Member</i>	<i>Representative Members</i>
A. L. DOBBIE.	J. H. BAILEY.	F. NEWPORT.
E. KENNY.		
C. F. RAVEN (Hon. Asst. Sec.)		W. G. ROSS.

Delegates to the Upper Harra Amateur Regatta Association :

N. W. CAIRNES. M. E. GREEN.

Delegates to the Metropolitan Rowing Committee :

V. BOURNE. D. M. MACRAE.

Representative to Melbourne Amateur Regatta Association (Henley)

W. JOSEPH.


Victorian Amateur Sculling Association :

M. E. K. HANSEN (Resigned 20/2/39).
L. S. DIGBY (Appointed 20/2/39).

The Fifty-Ninth Annual Report

of the

Mercantile Rowing Club



To the Members of the Mercantile Rowing Club,

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting for your consideration the Fifty-ninth Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the year ending 30th June, 1939.

During the season 1938-39, Victorian rowing was restored to its high position of some years past. The King's Cup crew, though defeated at Brisbane, gave a highly creditable performance, and its members proved themselves worthy representatives of their State. In the only other interstate contest, the Melbourne crew won the Intervarsity Eights at Penrith in convincing style. Your Club played its part in this revival, as was proved by its winning the Grand Challenge from a field which included the best eight from New South Wales.

The outstanding achievement of the year for the Club was the annexing of the Senior Premiership of Victoria. An early lead, established after the first regattas, laid the foundation of this result, and throughout the year the Club was not headed. Careful planning and organisation, coupled with the willingness of the coach and crew to work enthusiastically together for four and a half months, enabled the Senior Eight to defeat the strong Haberfield crew after a stirring struggle at Henley. And so commenced a remarkable succession of victories under the expert guidance of Dr. R. A. Cooper, whose patience and concentration were rewarded with five wins out of six starts in Senior Eights during the season.

Your Club was not so successful in the junior division. Apart from the runaway victory of a brilliant lightweight eight at V.R.A. and Henley, no performance of note can be recorded. It was most disappointing that so few maiden wins can be reported. A definite decline in the number and calibre of crews at country regattas was noticed this season. It may be well to remind members that when strongly represented at these regattas, the Club won Junior Premierships.

All phases of the Club's activities were generously supported throughout the year. Social fixtures were always well attended and were of inestimable value as a means of introduction of new members to their Club fellows. The Annual Ball was a particularly enjoyable function and reflected great credit on its organisers. Entries for Club races were very satisfactory, while attendances during the week-ends continue to reveal the true strength of the Club. It has become quite usual for every unit of the practice fleet, boating seventy to eighty Club members, to be afloat on Sunday mornings. The gymnasium continues to attract an increasing number of enthusiasts during the

winter months, and a cordial welcome is extended to new recruits for the medicine ball team.

A successful drive, conducted towards the close of the season, resulted in the enrolment of about twenty new members. The teaching of these novices, who will be representing the Club in regatta races next season, is of very great importance. A good foundation will mean much to their future careers, and an earnest appeal is made to all who have had the benefit of good coaching to assist with this work.

Membership.

The total membership decreased by one during the season, forty-nine new members being enrolled to replace resignations and defections. The membership now stands:—

Life Members	10
Senior Active Members	169
Junior Active Members	31
Honorary Members	11
Associate Members	7
Country Members	8
Total	<u>236</u>

Financial.

The purchase of the S. C. Macrae and V. F. Mason and two sets of Oars amounting to just over £200 has proved a serious drain on the Club's funds during the season.

The payment of subscriptions has been satisfactory, which is shown by the comparatively small amount of arrears.

More careful handling of the Club's Boats and Oars is necessary. It is essential that this high figure be reduced considerably.

Club House, Boats and Oars.

A list of the Club's fleet at the present time is set out hereunder:—

RACING BOATS.	PRACTICE BOATS.
2 Best and Best Eights	6 Practice Eights
2 Clinker Eights	3 Practice Fours
1 Best and Best Four	2 Tub Fours
4 Clinker Fours	3 Practice Pairs
1 Clinker Pair.	3 Practice Sculls.

The racing fleet has been reduced by one Clinker Eight, the "A. R. Shannon," which has completed a useful and successful career of

some twelve years. It will be necessary to replace this eight before the commencement of the new racing season. It has been decided by the Committee to dispose of the Best and Best Boat, the "R. V. Gregg," and to place an immediate order with Messrs. W. H. Jerram & Sons for the purchase of a Clinker Racing Eight.

A new Practice Four, the "V. F. Mason," was added to the fleet at the commencement of the year, and was named after one of the Club's most honoured past members. Mr. Mason was a foundation member of the Mercantile Rowing Club.

A Clinker Racing Four, purchased entirely from the proceeds of social functions, was built for the Club by Messrs. Jas. Edwards and christened the "L. B. Weire" in honour of one who had given years of service as Social Secretary, on Saturday, 12th November.

Two sets of oars were purchased in preparation for the opening regatta, one from Messrs. Edwards and one from M. Stephenson.

Two rowing machines were presented to the Club during the year. Your President, Mr. A. L. Dobbie, was responsible for one, the other from Mrs. G. Gardiner, widow of a former member. Both machines have proved of great assistance in the coaching of new members, and your thanks are conveyed to the donors.

Executive and Committee.

During the past season the Captaincy of the Club was carried on by Mr. W. G. Ross, who divided his time between racing and his duties of office. He combined a most successful rowing season, including a seat in the State Eight, with an equally successful term as Captain. Mr. C. F. Raven proved a worthy lieutenant and was responsible for much good work among the new members.

Twelve regular meetings of Committee were held during the season and attendances were as follows:—

J. H. Bailey 12	A. L. Dobbie 10	A. P. Miller 10
V. Bourne 9	M. E. Green 10	F. Newport 11
N. W. Cairnes 11	G. J. Horder 5	C. F. Raven 9
C. A. R. Clarke .. 11	E. Kenny 10	W. G. Ross 11
	D. M. Macrae 12	

Rowing.

Australian Championships.

Interstate Eights.

The annual eight-oared championship for the King's Cup was held at Brisbane on Saturday, 13th May. This year Western Australia did not compete. The Victorian crew consisted of F. Penny (Richmond) (bow), W. Yoxon (Richmond), K. Anderson (Albert Park), H. Glover (Corio Bay), D. A. Calder (Mercantile), W. G. Ross (Mercantile), A. James (Preston), W. Lambert (Richmond) (stroke), D. Calnin (Richmond) (cox), and Mr. B. Thompson (coach).

After a magnificent race, in which Victoria led practically all the way, Queensland snatched the lead in the last quarter-mile to defeat

Victoria by a half-length, with New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania following in that order.

We congratulate our members, Messrs. W. G. Ross and D. A. Calder, on their achievement of interstate honours.

The sculling championship, held on the same day, was won by Cecil Pearce (N.S.W.) in record time.

Intersarsity Eights.

The race for the Oxford and Cambridge Cup was contested on the Nepean River, Penrith, N.S.W., on Saturday, 27th May, and was won by the Melbourne University crew. This eight proved itself a first-class combination and reflected great credit on its coach, Mr. L. Rentoul. Your congratulations are conveyed to Mr. Rentoul and his crew, and also to Queensland's representatives in the King's Cup contest.

State Championship Events.

Champion Fours, 17th December, 1938.

Held on the lower Yarra, and won by Richmond. Your Club's representatives were:—E. K. Varcoe (bow), W. G. Ross, D. A. Calder, J. H. Bailey (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), Dr. R. A. Cooper (coach).

2000-Metre Sculling Championship, 17th December, 1938.

Held on the lower Yarra and won easily by L. A. Purves (Yarra Yarra). Your Club was represented by R. S. Bolton.

Champion Pairs, 26th December, 1938.

Held at Nagambie, and won by Preston. Your Club was not represented.

Champion Eights, 11th February, 1939.

Raced over the lower Yarra course, Mercantile finishing second to Richmond after a thrilling race, with Albert Park third. The Club representatives were:—E. K. Varcoe (bow), A. P. Appleby, P. Black, J. Clemens, G. I. Anderson, W. G. Ross, D. A. Calder, J. H. Bailey (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), Dr. R. A. Cooper (coach).

Sculling Championship, 11th February, 1939.

Rowed upstream on the 2½ miles course on the lower Yarra. Won by L. Purves, of Yarra Yarra.

Champion Junior Eights, 18th March, 1939.

Held on the lower Yarra over a two-mile course, the winners being Corio Bay. Your Club's representatives were:—F. N. White (bow), J. H. Clarke, L. Moll, K. Cooper, J. Couzens, J. McFarlane, G. Davies, J. Winford (stroke), V. Matthews (cox), M. Bailey (coach).

Champion Lightweight Junior Eights, 18th March, 1939.

Raced over one and a half miles on the lower Yarra, the winners being Albert Park, with Corio Bay second and Mercantile third, the crew being:—C. Ward (bow), D. Palfreyman, D. Morgan, W. Henty,

R. H. Hart, J. Lee, J. Robertson, A. Callander (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), Mr. M. E. Green (coach).

We extend your congratulations to the winners of the foregoing championships.

Regattas.

Metropolitan Regatta.

1st October, 1938.

Novice Eight (No. 1).—W. A. Trickett (bow), R. O'Sullivan, C. Lalor, V. Bourne, H. Bowden, G. Clabburn, L. Moll, A. W. Cordia (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), Mr. M. Bailey (coach), were unsuccessful.

Novice Eight (No. 2).—R. Y. Syme (bow), J. Ainslie, P. Vanderkelen, G. Story, B. Bickerstaff, K. Cooper, F. White, C. Duncan (stroke), V. Matthews (cox), with Mr. J. McFarlane as coach, won their heat and semi-final, but were beaten in the final.

Novice Four.—R. McC. Batty (bow), K. Smith, L. Hillard, P. Hemming (stroke), M. Cowling (cox), and Mr. F. Newport (coach), won their heat, but were beaten in the final.

Novice Pair.—I. Unsworth (bow), G. Epstein (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), Mr. D. Macrae (coach), were unsuccessful.

Lightweight Four.—L. Orbuck (bow), N. Kerrigan, E. O. Coffey, S. Coffey (stroke), D. Bottomley (cox), with Mr. J. P. Appleby as coach, won a fine race from Richmond.

V.R.A. Regatta.

19th November, 1938.

Senior Eights.—E. K. Varcoe (bow), J. P. Appleby, P. A. Black, J. Clemens, G. I. Anderson, W. G. Ross, D. A. Calder, J. H. Bailey (stroke), J. Cowling (cox), Dr. R. A. Cooper (coach), won this race very easily.

Junior Eight.—N. Cairnes (bow), D. Macrae, R. Scholefield, G. Trickett, J. Couzens, J. Winford, G. Webster, C. Campbell (stroke), M. Cowling (cox), with Mr. G. Rosser (coach), were defeated in their heat.

Junior Four.—D. Morgan (bow), R. R. Brewin, R. T. Brewin, N. Watson (stroke), D. Bottomley (cox), Mr. J. McFarlane (coach), were unsuccessful.

Junior Pair.—A. Rorke (bow), J. H. P. Clarke (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), coached by Mr. E. T. Bradshaw, were also defeated.

Maiden Eight (No. 1).—P. Vanderkelen (bow), J. Ainslie, H. Bickerstaff, G. Hiller, A. Atkins, K. Cooper, C. Lalor, R. O'Sullivan (stroke), J. Williams (cox), Mr. J. Horder (coach), won heat and semi-final, but were third in the final.

Maiden Eight (No. 2).—V. Bourne (bow), H. Bowden, L. Moll, G. Story, L. Roper, C. Duncan, S. Sanderson, C. Clabburn (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), Mr. M. Bailey (coach), won their heat and semi-final, but were second in the final.

Maiden Four (No. 1).—W. A. Trickett (bow), E. Morrison, F. N. White, A. Dobbie (stroke), D. Bottomley (cox), and Mr. A. P. Miller (coach), won their heat but were beaten in their semi-final.

Maiden Four (No. 2).—L. Orbuck (bow), G. Epstein, I. Unsworth, G. Murphy (stroke), were disqualified after winning their heat.

Lightweight Maiden Eight.—G. Richardson (bow), W. Henty, C. H. M. Ward, R. Paton, R. H. Hart, J. Lee, J. N. Robertson, A. J. Callander (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), Mr. M. E. Green (coach), won heat and final easily.

Lightweight Maiden Four.—E. O. Coffey (bow), N. Kerrigan, N. Coade, S. Coffey (stroke), V. Matthews (cox), and Mr. C. F. Raven (coach), were defeated.

Melbourne Amateur Regatta (Henley).

26th November, 1938.

Senior Eights.—Your V.R.A. representatives again won a fine race from Haberfield (N.S.W.).

Junior Eights.—The same crew as at V.R.A. was again defeated.

Maiden Eight (No. 1).—V. Bourne (bow), N. Kerrigan, L. Moll, H. Bowden, L. Roper, C. Duncan, S. Sanderson, G. Clabburn (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), and Mr. M. Bailey (coach), won their heat, but were beaten in the final.

Maiden Eight (No. 2).—Your V.R.A. crew won its heat but was also defeated in the semi-final.

Maiden Four (No. 1).—Your representatives of the previous week were again beaten in the semi-final.

Maiden Four (No. 2).—The crew this week was stroked by P. Hemming, but was defeated.

Lightweight Maiden Eight.—This crew completed a fine double by winning again very easily.

Nagambie Regatta.

26th December, 1938.

Junior Eight.—K. Kerr (bow), F. Newport, L. Weire, N. Watson, G. Hastie, E. Barkley, A. Rorke, J. H. Clarke (stroke), R. Duncan (cox), Mr. R. Duncan (coach), were defeated.

Junior Pair.—N. Cairnes (bow), D. Macrae (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), were also defeated.

Maiden Eight.—H. T. Spencer (bow), R. Gartley, I. Unsworth, W. Trickett, F. N. White, L. Moll, G. Davies, R. O'Sullivan (stroke), D. Bottomley (cox), Mr. M. Bailey (coach), were also unsuccessful.

Maiden Pair.—J. Major (bow), G. Trickett (stroke), M. Cowling (cox), were defeated.

Lightweight Maiden Fours.—C. H. M. Ward (bow), W. Henty, V. Bourne, J. Lee (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), Mr. M. E. Green (coach), were also unsuccessful.

Lightweight Maiden Pairs.—G. Richardson (bow), D. P. Palfreyman (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), won this event in fine style.

Shepparton Regatta.

27th December, 1938.

Junior Eight.—The crew was slightly altered from that which represented the Club at Nagambie, but was again unsuccessful.

Junior Four.—K. Kerr (bow), N. Watson, G. Hastie, J. Clark (stroke), D. Bottomley (cox), with Mr. D. Macrae (coach), rowed a very fine race but without success.

Maiden Eight.—The crew which represented the Club at Nagambie, with a few changes raced unsuccessfully.

Maiden Pair.—Your representatives of the previous regatta were again defeated.

Lightweight Four.—R. Gartley (bow), W. Henty, G. Richardson, D. Palfreyman (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), raced without success.

Rutherglen Regatta.

2nd January, 1939.

Senior Fours.—F. Macrae (bow), J. Clemens, D. A. Calder, W. G. Ross (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), Dr. R. A. Cooper (coach), won this event.

Junior Fours.—G. Hastie (bow), N. Watson, A. Rorke, J. H. Clarke (stroke), M. Cowling (cox), also won this event.

Lightweight Maiden Fours.—B. Clerihan (bow), V. Matthews, J. Robertson, W. Henty (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), Mr. M. E. Green (coach), were narrowly defeated.

Maiden Four.—F. White (bow), W. Trickett, I. Unsworth, R. O Sullivan (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), were unsuccessful.

Upper Yarra Regatta.

28th January, 1939.

Senior Eights.—E. K. Varcoe (bow), P. Braddock, C. Campbell, J. Clemens, G. I. Anderson, W. G. Ross, D. A. Calder, J. H. Bailey (stroke), J. Cowling (cox), Dr. R. A. Cooper (coach), won this event.

Maiden Eight.—F. N. White (bow), L. Moll, K. Smith, K. Cooper, L. Hillard, H. Bowden, S. Sanderson, G. Hiller (stroke), M. Cowling (cox), Mr. G. Smith (coach), were defeated.

Maiden Four (No. 1).—R. Batty (bow), E. Morrison, C. Lalor, P. Hemming (stroke), J. Williams (cox), Mr. N. W. Cairnes (coach), were unsuccessful.

Maiden Four (No. 2).—H. Bickerstaff (bow), B. Bickerstaff, I. Unsworth, J. B. Ainslie (stroke), V. Matthews (cox), Mr. D. Macrae (coach), were also defeated.

Maiden Pair.—E. Shears (bow), G. Epstein (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), were beaten.

Lightweight Maiden Eights.—N. Coade (bow), N. Kerrigan, R. Paton, D. Palfreyman, R. H. Hart, J. Lee, V. Bourne, A. J. Callander (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), Mr. M. E. Green (coach), won their heat but were unsuccessful in the final.

Lightweight Maiden Pairs.—G. Richardson (bow), R. Gartley (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), were defeated.

A.N.A. Regatta.

Senior Eights.—Your Upper Yarra representatives were defeated by Richmond.

Maiden Eights.—This crew was beaten in the final after a closely fought race.

Maiden Fours (Nos. 1 and 2).—Both crews were beaten in the heats.

Maiden Pair.—The crew of the previous regatta was again unsuccessful.

Lightweight Maiden Eights.—The same crew was defeated in their heat.

Lightweight Maiden Pairs.—Your representatives of the V.R.A. regatta were again unplaced.

Barwon Regatta.

25th February, 1939.

Senior Eights.—E. K. Varcoe (bow), J. P. Appleby, P. A. Black, J. Clemens, G. I. Anderson, W. G. Ross, D. A. Calder, J. H. Bailey (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), Dr. R. A. Cooper (coach), won their race in fine style.

Senior Pairs.—R. Thursfield (bow), A. Rorke (stroke), W. Morrison (cox), Mr. E. Bradshaw (coach), were unsuccessful.

Junior Eights.—K. C. Kerr (bow), N. Watson, E. Jones, J. H. Clarke, G. Webster, J. McFarlane, J. Couzens, J. Winford (stroke), R. Duncan (cox), Mr. D. C. Brooke (coach), won their heat and were second in the final.

Maiden Eights.—F. N. White (bow), L. Moll, K. Smith, H. Bowden, L. Roper, K. Cooper, G. Davies, G. Hiller (stroke), J. Williams (cox) and Mr. G. Smith (coach), scored a meritorious win in this event.

Maiden Four.—E. Shears (bow), G. Epstein, C. Lalor, R. Gibson (stroke), D. Bottomley (cox), were beaten in the semi-final.

Ballarat Regatta.

4th March, 1939.

Senior Eights.—Your Barwon representatives completed a very meritorious double.

Senior Pair.—Your Barwon crew was defeated again.

Junior Eights.—Your crew was again unsuccessful.

Maiden Eights.—The crew which won at Barwon the previous week were narrowly defeated in this event.

Maiden Fours.—Your representatives of the previous week were again unplaced.

Bairnsdale Regatta.

8th April, 1939.

Junior Eights.—L. L. Moll (bow), E. Prendiville, E. Morrison, K. N. Cooper, R. B. Scholefield, W. A. Trickett, G. T. Hastie, J. H. Clark (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), lost this event.

Junior Fours.—R. B. Scholefield (bow), W. A. Trickett, G. T. Hastie, J. H. Clark (stroke), B. Clerihan (cox), raced unsuccessfully.

Maiden Four.—L. L. Moll (bow), E. Prendiville, E. Morrison, K. N. Cooper (stroke), L. Clerihan (cox), were defeated.

Lightweight Fours.—R. W. Gartley (bow), N. Kerrigan, S. G. Richardson, D. Palfreyman (stroke), L. Clerihan (cox), scored a very meritorious win in this event.

Premierships.

PREMIERSHIP POINTS.

Senior.

Club.	Wins.	Points.	Club.	Wins.	Points.
Mercantile	6	52	Shepparton	2	8
Richmond	4	36	Lake Colac	2	6
Melbourne University	3	12	Wahgunyah	2	4
Yarra Yarra	4	8	Albert Park	—	4
Preston	3	8	Bairnsdale	1	2

Junior.

Club.	Wins.	Points.	Club.	Wins.	Points.
Banks	10	62	Rutherglen Lake	2	6
Preston	11	50	Wendouree	2	6
Corio Bay	7	46	Hawthorn	2	4
Nagambie	7	36	Bairnsdale	2	4
Mercantile	6	34	Dimboola	1	4
Albert Park	6	24	Mildura	1	4
Footscray City	6	24	Richmond	1	4
Ballarat City	4	16	Essendon	2	2
Melbourne	4	16	Ballarat	1	2
Heidelberg City	2	8	Barwon	1	2
Power House	2	8			

To Banks Rowing Club, winners of the Junior Premiership, your congratulations are conveyed.

Head of the River.

19th May, 1939.

Our congratulations are extended to the Melbourne Grammar School on their fine win at Barwon, where they retained their Head of the River title.

Inter-Banks Regatta.

This regatta was raced in perfect conditions on Saturday, 7th May. A number of members competed with their respective banks, and Mr. G. I. Anderson completed a winning double with the successful National Bank combinations.

Young & Jackson Combination Eights.

Your Club was very well represented and a most enjoyable afternoon's racing was contested. Mr. P. W. Vanderkelen was the only Club member of the winning combination.

United Services Regatta.

Saturday, 20th May, 1939.

Your Club was very strongly represented in this regatta, though without success for any member. The winners of the President's Fours, which attracted an entry of 13 crews, were coached by your Club member, Mr. J. J. McFarlane.

V.R.A. Combination Eights.

Saturday, 27th May, 1939.

The race was conducted from this Club by the V.R.A. to augment funds for the cost of sending the Victorian King's Cup crew to Queensland. The race was very well supported, the winning members from the Club being W. G. Ross, P. Vanderkelen and G. Epstein.

Club Races.

Dobbie Eights, 13th August, 1938.

Seven eights competed for trophies donated by your President on the opening day of the season. The winning crew was:—F. Macrae (bow), N. Kerrigan, N. Scott, S. Coffey, G. Hastie, A. Atkins, H. Bowden, A. Cordia (stroke), J. Williams (cox).

Chisholm Fours, 23rd July, 1938.

The winning crew in the Chisholm Fours of last Club racing season was seated:—A. Rorke (bow), K. Cooper, G. Hastie, R. O'Sullivan (stroke).

Picken-Williams Eights, 13th May, 1939.

Eight crews competed for trophies donated by Messrs. M. S. Williams and J. H. Picken, the ultimate winners being:—E. Shears (bow), N. Kerrigan, R. Gartley, K. Hyland, H. Bickerstaff, L. Moll, S. Sanderson, E. K. Varcoe (stroke), W. Morrison (cox).

Morell Fours, 17th June, 1939.

Members were again this year given an opportunity of training for the race over a rather longer course than usual, for trophies generously donated by Sir Stephen Morell. The winners were:—A. Rashleigh (bow), W. Rashleigh, G. Hastie, J. Clemens (stroke), W. Morrison (cox). A very satisfactory entry of 13 crews was recorded.

Guinn Novice Pairs, 24th June, 1939.

Mr. S. Guinn donated trophies for this event, which attracted a large number of entries, the successful competitors being:—E. Shears (bow) and A. Rashleigh (stroke). The race is confined to novices only and is always an attractive feature of the Club racing programme.

Richardson Eights, 8th July, 1939.

This event for trophies kindly donated by Mr. James Richardson attracted a very satisfactory entry of eight crews, and resulted in a win for the following:—J. Kyle (bow), N. Kerrigan, C. Lalor, K. McLennan, I. Unsworth, G. Epstein, G. Anderson, J. Clarke (stroke), W. Morrison (cox).

Seven-Mile Competition.

This competition, inaugurated by Mr. J. G. Sprigg, has always proved very popular with Club members and, although unfavourable weather has been responsible for rather smaller entries, the experience gained by those competing will be of undoubted future value. Your thanks are once again extended to Mr. Sprigg, who has fostered this time-trial since its inception. The winning crew for this also will not be known until the final day.

Last season's winners were:—J. Robertson (bow), R. O'Sullivan, L. Moll, K. Cooper, D. Morgan, J. Clemens, A. Rorke, W. G. Ross (stroke), R. Duncan (cox). Time, 44 min. 38 sec. Ten crews completed the course.

Points Competitions.

The Captain's Trophy has again been offered for competition among members. Points are awarded to all entrants in Club and Combination races, two extra being given for a win. Mr. W. G. Ross will present his trophy to the member who has gained the greatest number of points on the day of the Annual General Meeting. Mr. Geo. Stooke, jun., shows his unabated interest in the welfare of the Club by once again offering a handsome trophy for the winner of the Geo. Stooke Aggregate, competition for which embraces all races, Club and regatta, throughout the year. Your sincere thanks are offered to these gentlemen, as also to all donors of trophies, for they are responsible for the enthusiasm engendered during the Club racing season.

Results of last year's contests were:—Captain's Trophy, K. N. Cooper; Geo. Stooke Aggregate, A. T. Rorke.

Social Activities.

OPENING DAY: It was decided to conduct the Opening Day of the Club at an earlier date to give crews a longer uninterrupted period of training in preparation for the first regatta. The plan proved highly successful. The Club's "At Home" was attended by a large crowd of members and supporters. A most attractive afternoon tea was prepared by a ladies' committee, and was thoroughly enjoyed by spectators of the heats of the Dobbie Eights. Afternoon tea having been served, the finals were rowed and the trophies were presented to members of the winning crew by the President.

Opening Day was followed in the evening with a highly successful dance at the "Palms." About 220 dancers enjoyed a most pleasant evening and provided a satisfactory financial result.

PICTURE NIGHTS, organised to defray the cost of such functions as the Annual Smoke Night and such undertakings as the Xmas Camp, were held on three occasions during the year. These were well attended and achieved the purpose for which they were conducted.

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT: Forrest Hills was again selected as the battle ground for this very successful afternoon's sport arranged by Mr. C. F. Raven. About 40 players and 20 caddies participated, and another most enjoyable day was spent.

These and all other such fixtures are arranged to fulfil one of the functions for which the Mercantile Rowing Club was constituted, namely, to promote social intercourse.

It is hoped that members will continue to show their appreciation by generous and hearty support of all social activities organised for their participation.

Annual Dinner.

The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday evening, 15th October, at "The Victoria." About 70 past and present members attended a very successful function, the feature of the evening being the unrehearsed programme supplied by members. With due respect to the recognised artists, the impromptu efforts of the amateurs revealed unsuspected talent and completed a most enjoyable night. The guest of honour was the Rt. Honourable the Lord Mayor, Cr. E. Campbell.

Annual Ball.

M. Paul Bibron's Old Admiralty House was gaily prepared for the Annual Ball on Boatrace Night, 19th May. Again a most enjoyable show was arranged and a slightly reduced attendance, caused possibly by reason of the Head of the River race being contested on the Barwon, allowed greater freedom on the dance floor and so added materially to the success of the evening. Special mention must be made of the interpretation of ballet dancing given by Miss Vera Grist, late of the Covent Garden Russian Ballet.

The two above-mentioned functions are especially recommended to your notice by your Committee. They are the outstanding features of the Club's social calendar, and invariably provide that atmosphere which instills a feeling of pride in every member present.

An energetic Social Committee has ensured the success of every function attempted, and your special thanks are due also to the ladies who worked unsparingly for the results achieved on Opening Day:— Mesdames A. P. Miller, J. South, R. Bolton, N. Cairnes and Miss A. Campbell.

Complimentary Dinner to Dr. R. A. Cooper.

A very fine gesture was the complimentary dinner tendered to their coach, Dr. R. A. Cooper, by members of the Senior Eight. Appreciation of his efforts were expressed and a presentation was made of an enlarged photograph of the crew and the finishes of races at V.R.A. and Henley.

The dinner, which was attended by the entire crew, was held at Phair's Hotel, Collins Street, on Saturday, 25th March.

Another informal dinner, held also at Phair's, after the crew's only reverse during the season in a mile race, was tendered the

Senior Eight by Mr. M. S. Williams. This was rather an exclusive affair, but word has filtered through that every one present enjoyed himself largely.

Donations.

The Club desires to record its appreciation of donations received from the following gentlemen during the past season:—Sir Stephen Morell, Sir George Fairbairn, Cr. T. S. Nettlefold, Messrs. T. F. Brennan, R. A. Cooper, W. Joseph, E. Kenny, J. H. Picken, M. S. Williams, H. Smythe, A. L. Dobbie, G. Stooke, W. G. Ross, J. A. McFarlane, V. F. Mason, J. G. Sprigg, Jas. Richardson, Stan. Guinn and all others who have assisted the Club throughout the year.

Obituary.

It is with deep regret that the deaths of Messrs. C. S. Cunningham and Claude Vankerkelen are recorded.

The passing of Mr. C. S. Cunningham has taken yet another of the men who were responsible for laying for the Mercantile Club the foundations on which to-day's successful organisation was built. He was one of the body of enthusiasts, who in 1885, prepared the site of the present boathouse, when it was a swamp. The outstanding personality and ability of Mr. Cunningham made it inevitable that he should take a prominent part in the development of the Club. He was a member of the first crew to win a Maiden Eight for Mercantile, as far back as 1885, and by rowing in other successful crews helped to establish the Club's prestige in regatta racing. He was captain of the Club during the years 1889-94. For many years he was a contributor to the "Argus" and "Australasian" and by his shrewd comments and constructive criticism rendered fine service to rowing.

One of the activities which gave him a great deal of satisfaction was his association with the A.I.F. crew, which won the King's Cup at Henley Royal Regatta in 1919. He did good work in the organisation of the two crews which represented Australia in this historic race. Despite advancing years, Mr. Cunningham continued to take an active interest in rowing till the time of his death, and he attended most of the Club's fixtures in recent years.

So passes another link with early Victorian rowing and the Mercantile Club.

Mr. Claude Vanderkelen was a member of many years' standing. An excellent Club man, who could always be depended upon to lend a helping hand, his charming personality endeared him to all with whom he was associated. As an oarsman he was a model of neatness and efficiency and did well in regatta racing. His death in the

prime of life is greatly to be regretted, but it is pleasing to know that the name is being worthily upheld in the Club by his two sons.

It is with regret we record bereavements in the families of Messrs. Alan Mann, C. A. R. Clarke and D. S. Stirling. To these gentlemen and the relatives of the above mentioned members is expressed your deepest sympathy.

Old Oarsmen's Association.

The attention of members whose days of competitive rowing are past, is directed to the recently formed "Old Oarsmen's Association," of which Mr. A. L. Dobbie is president.

The object of this body is to retain the interest of rowing men in the sport from which they derived so much pleasure and benefit in their younger days, and to give encouragement and support to present day oarsmen.

It is a live body, and the social functions which are held at intervals have afforded the opportunity for many happy reunions of men who rowed together, or against one another, in past years, and have been the means of bringing back many men who had lost touch with the sport.

While many of your members have joined up, our representation is not as large as should be the case in a club which has always played a prominent part in every progressive movement connected with rowing. Mr. Dobbie will be glad to give information regarding the association, and to sponsor nominations for membership. The subscription is nominal.

Jottings from the Clubhouse.

During the year wedding bells chimed for Sir Arthur Robinson, G. H. Davey, C. B. Duncan, K. C. Kerr and G. Allen. Your best wishes are conveyed to these members.

Additions in the families of Messrs. M. S. Williams, R. S. Bolton, D. C. Brooke, N. Nixon, H. Kendall and Gra. Rosser are recorded. Congratulations are extended.

Mr. J. A. McFarlane has again donated a trophy for the coach rendering greatest service to the Club. Last year Bill Green carried off a handsome silver electric coffee pot.

Eric Morrison and Bruce Chandler have recently become engaged.

The reason for the broad smile on the faces of the Coffey brothers is that they are pleased with the lighting effects they have produced at the new Hotel Australia.

Roy Ferguson is well settled in Roselle, N.S.W., with his new wife.

Maurie Hansen is on his second world trip.

Bill Macrae will be in Melbourne next month to spend his annual holidays with his family.

Dave Stirling is returned to Melbourne after an absence of 10 months in the Harbour City.

Daryl Thomas is doing very well with his firm of engineers in Birmingham.

Teddy Varcoe is fully recovered after his operation for appendicitis.

Jack Reidy is now conducting the Hotel Kermandie in Geeves-town, Tasmania.

Ron Shannon's engagement was recently announced in the press.

Jimmy McFarlane is enjoying an extended trip abroad.

Noel Watson has returned from his vacation in Adelaide, very impressed with Adelaide Rowing Club, and some of the features of its administration.

General.

The Club is very grateful for the services rendered by coaches during the season. Dr. R. A. Cooper gave a great deal of attention to the preparation of the Senior Eight for all races throughout the year, and to one whose time is so very valuable, we extend our sincerest thanks. This very difficult problem would be settled finally if others could follow his fine lead. To Messrs. Max Bailey, D. C. Brooke, M. E. Green, G. J. Horder, D. M. Macrae, A. P. Miller, C. F. Raven, A. G. Rosser and G. W. Smith also the Club is mindful of its indebtedness.

Masters B. Clerihan, L. Clerihan, J. Cowling, D. Bottomley, V. Matthews, J. Ford, R. Duncan and W. Morrison have rendered great service as coxswains during the year.

Mention is made of reports in the Press, and your thanks are conveyed to representatives who have carried out their task with accuracy and enthusiasm.

Two special appeals in the Club raised £5 for Bush Fire Relief, and a similar amount for assistance for Herb. Whitaker, who has acted as Club masseur for some years and who is now seriously ill in hospital.

Duplicates of Premiership Certificates destroyed in the fire of 1927 have been secured from the V.R.A. and are now hung in the Clubhouse.

During the year the exterior of the Boathouse was repainted by groups of members organised each weekend.

The hospitality of the Clubhouse was extended to Haberfield (N.S.W.), Mildura, Nagambie, Bairnsdale and Ballarat City during the year.

Your thanks are conveyed to Mr. F. R. Browne, A.I.C.A., for his services as Hon. Auditor, and Mr. H. E. Butler, Hon. Secretary of the V.R.A., has always been ready to render whatever assistance he has been able.

The November Boat Building Drive was responsible for another £40 towards the purchase of new boats. Mr. M. E. Green was the successful organiser of the scheme.

Mr. T. Paton has been responsible for the condition of the locker room, and has effected many repairs to the fleet.

It was found necessary to replace the lead floor under the hot shower with an asbestos composition. This work was carried out by the Troy Roofing Co., and has proved highly satisfactory.

Conclusion.

The retiring Committee thanks the members for the measure of success achieved during the year and hopes that that same assistance, which is so essential for the successful conduct of the Club, will be forthcoming during the approaching season, which we face with enthusiasm and confidence.

For and on behalf of the Committee,

F. NEWPORT,

Hon. Secretary.

Addendum.

It is again my privilege to express the thanks of members to the executive officers of the Club for the excellent work they have done during the season.

The committee has worked well in supporting the men on whom the main responsibility has fallen, viz., your captain, Mr. W. G. Ross; vice-captain, Mr. F. Raven; hon. secretary, Mr. F. S. Newport; assist. hon. secretary, Mr. V. Bourne; and your veteran hon. treasurer, Mr. Alex Clarke. whose enthusiasm does not flag after so many years service in this important office.

The sound position of the club, as disclosed in the annual report, is due to their appreciation of the responsibilities of their respective offices, and their determination to maintain the high standard set by their predecessors.

A. L. DOBBIE,

President.

List of Members, 1938-39 Season.

LIFE MEMBERS.

Bradshaw, E. T.	Ivens, P. C.	Morell, Sir Stephen
Clarke, C. A. R.	Joseph, W.	Potter, W.
Dobbie, A. L.	Kenny, E.	Stooke, V.
Guinn, S.		

SENIOR MEMBERS.

Anderson, G. I.	Digby, L. S.	Macrae, D. M.
Appleby, J. P. L.	Dobbie, A. W.	Major, J. F.
Atkins, A. H.	Duncan, A. R.	Mann, A. H.
Bailey, J. H.	Duncan, C. B.	Marsh, T. W.
Bailey, M. V.	Dunstan, J. T.	Miller, A. P.
Balfe, N. D.	Evans, E. A.	Mirams, J. W.
Barkley, E. H.	Firth, D. A.	Moll, L. L. B.
Batty, R. McC.	Fletcher, J. M.	Morell, R. T.
Bickerstaff, B. C.	Galvin, V. C.	Morgan, D.
Bickerstaff, H. A.	Gardner, R. G.	Morrison, H. E.
Black, P. A.	Gartley, R. W.	Moss, J. S.
Blair-Holt, J. J.	Gibson, R. J.	Mounsey, J. L.
Bolton, R. S.	Gordon, A.	McFarlane, J. J.
Bourne, V.	Grabham, B. L.	McKay, C. N.
Bowden, H. S.	Gregory, C. G.	McKay, S. S.
Braddock, H. P.	Green, M. E.	McKay, T.
Brewin, R. R.	Gregg, R. V.	McVilly, I.
Brewin, R. T.	Greenshields, J. A.	Newport, F.
Brooke, D. C. L.	Guild, D. D.	Nicholls, J. C.
Browne, F. R.	Hansen, M. E. K.	Nethercote, C. R.
Burrows, C. L.	Harry, C. M.	Nixon, J. F. N.
Burton, A. J.	Hart, R. H. B.	Nixon, N. V.
Bussell, G. J.	Hastie, G. T.	O'Reilly, J.
Buxton, D. M.	Hemming, P.	O'Sullivan, R.
Cairnes, N. W.	Henty, W. H.	Palfreyman, D. B.
Cairns, D.	Hillard, L. T. D.	Paton, R. E.
Calder, D. A.	Hiller, G.	Philp, L.
Callander, A. J.	Hopken, C. T.	Picken, J. H.
Campbell, C. F.	Horde, G. J.	Pitt, W. G.
Chandler, B. R.	Hyland, C. K.	Pollard, R. G.
Clabburn, G.	Irving, R.	Pope, K.
Clark, J. H. P.	Jones, E. J.	Raven, C. F.
Clemens, J. B.	Jones, J. McD.	Read, J. W.
Coade, N.	Kendall, H. I.	Rees, J.
Coffey, E. O.	Kerr, K. C. M.	Richardson, S. G.
Coffey, J. S. K.	Kerr, R. J.	Robertson, J. N.
Cook, D. D.	Kerrigan, N.	Robinson, Sir Arthur
Cooper, K. W.	Knight, C. A.	Rogers, L. W.
Cooper, R. A.	Lalor, C. C.	Roper, L. W.
Cordia, A. W. P.	Lee, J.	Rorke, A. T.
Couzens, J. C.	Lewin, R.	Ross, J. G.
Cruickshank, D. A.	Lindblade, A. G.	Ross, W. G.
Davey, G. H.	Macauley, J. C. C.	Rosser, A. G.
Dickens, A. McD.	Macmeikan, T. K.	Roxburgh, T. W.

List of Members, 1938-39 Season.

SENIOR MEMBERS—Continued.

Rundell, K.	Spillane, J.	Vanderkelen, K. P.
Rush, R. T.	Sprigg, J. G.	Vanderkelen, P. W.
Sanderson, S. O.	Stephenson, C. E.	Varcoe, E. K. L.
Scholefield, R. B.	Stirling, D. S.	Ward, C. H. M.
Scott, N. K.	Story, G.	Watson, N. P.
Scott, R.	Syme, R. Y.	Webster, G. H.
Shears, E.	Thursfield, R. W.	Weire, L. B.
Sloss, A.	Treharne, A. G.	White, F. N. C.
Smith, E. J.	Trickett, G. E.	Williams, M. S.
Smith, K.	Trickett, W. A.	Winford, J.
Smythe, H.	Turnbull, W. R.	Young, D.
Soward, R. S.	Unsworth, I. T.	
Spencer, H. T.	Vanderkelen, late C.	

JUNIOR MEMBERS.

Ainslie, J. B.	Forbes, J.	Rashleigh, W. F.
Berntsen, M. O.	Long, D.	Rowley, T.
Blake, K. B.	Kyle, J.	Sauerberg, F. J.
Braithwaite, K. A.	Marsh, E. W.	Shears, H. P.
Clarke, H.	McLean, D. N.	Shiels, P. G.
Coyne, G. M.	McLennan, K. W.	Smith, M.
Davies, G. A. T.	Orbuck, L. D.	Swadesir, R.
Epstein, G. L.	Prendiville, E.	Topp, R. L. S.
Fentiman, H. J.	Purdy, E. M.	Wharton, J.
Fogarty, B. J.	Radcliffe, J.	Wicks, J.
	Rashleigh, A. F.	

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Burmeister, C.	Hill, L.	Shannon, A. R.
Campbell, J. E.	O'Reilly, J.	South, J.
Connelly, F. R.	Rush, H. R.	Stooke, G. F.
Haworth, W. C.		Sturrock, J.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

French, L. P.	McLaren, R.	Stooke, T. B.
Morgan, N.	Seammen, J. W.	Ternes, H.
	Smith, W. H. R.	

COUNTRY MEMBERS.

Ford, N.	Macrae, S. C.	Reidv, J. J.
Koch, A. H.	Meates, R. A.	Strong, J. R.
Macrae, F. A.		Walker, B. R.

REVENUE ACCOUNT for 12

INCOME.

Subscriptions	£560	1	0	
Less V.R.A. Capitation Fee	43	6	0	
				£516 15 0
Donations	99	5	0	
Special Social Functions	36	5	0	
Entrance Fees—Club Races	23	4	6	

£675 9 6

Audited and found correct,

F. R. BROWNE, A.I.C.A.,

Hon. Auditor.

Months ending 30th June, 1939.

EXPENDITURE.

Repairs to Boats, Oars and Shed	£156	10	7
Depreciation—			
Boats, Oars, Sculls	£143	7	6
Boat House	50	0	0
Club Fittings	9	18	0
		203	5 6
General Expenses	109	17	10
Lighting, General and Water Rates	49	8	2
Insurance	47	19	1
Interest	16	9	10
Telephone	8	4	1
Freight to Country Regattas	18	0	0
Coxswains' Expenses—Country Regattas	20	14	3
Entrance Fees—Regatta Races	2	1	0
Entrance Fees—Combination Races	0	6	0
Trophy Orders	21	14	6
Upper Yarra Regatta Association Fees	4	4	0
Amateur Sculling Association	0	10	6
Boat Staging	2	2	0
Balance Transferred to Capital Account	14	2	2
		£675	9 6

A. CLARKE,
Hon. Treasurer.

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th June, 1939.

LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.				
Bank of New South Wales	£366	10	6	1	1
Sundry Creditors	148	9	2	£2,532	1
Subscriptions Paid in Advance	5	9	6	50	0
Boat Building Reserve	7	14	8	£2,482	1
Capital Account—				£691	8
Capital as at 30th June, 1938	£2,765	9	8	116	7
Add Balance Transferred from					6
Revenue Account	14	2	2		
Capital as at Present	2779	11	10		1
					1
					575
					115
					5
					0
					60
					0
					0
					29
					15
					6
					12
					11
					8
					9
					10
					0
					13
					16
					0
					9
					15
					4
					£3,307
					15
					8

Audited and found correct,

F. R. BROWNE, A.I.C.A.,

Hon. Auditor.

A. CLARKE,

Hon. Treasurer.