



MERCANTILE
ROWING CLUB
MELBOURNE

76th
Annual Report
and
Balance Sheet

SEASON 1955-56

MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB

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J. G. SPRIGG, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:

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R. V. GREGG, Esq. (Deceased)
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E. KENNY, Esq. (Deceased)
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Mr. R. R. AITKEN.

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Mr. C. D. LEWIS.

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Mr. E. P. LEGGETT.

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. R. H. RICHARDSON.

Committee:

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Mr. D. J. MORGAN.
Mr. H. R. FREDERICO.
Mr. B. J. DOYLE.

Mr. W. O. GRANOWSKI.
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Hon. Solicitor:

Mr. M. S. WILLIAMS, LL.M.

Selectors:

Mr. R. R. AITKEN, Mr. N. W. CAIRNES, Mr. W. T. MORRISON.

Victorian Rowing Association:

President:

M. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.

Executive Members: Representative Members: Elected Members:

Mr. E. KENNY. Mr. B. J. DOYLE. Mr. H. P. SHEARS.
Mr. D. J. MORGAN. Mr. R. H. RICHARDSON. Mr. M. S. WILLIAMS.

Delegate to Victorian Amateur Sculling Association:

Mr. R. WILLIAMS.

MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB

Princes Bridge,

Melbourne,

10th June, 1956.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **Seventy-sixth ANNUAL MEETING** of the **MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB** will be held at the **CLUB HOUSE** on **SATURDAY, 30th JUNE, 1956, at 8 p.m.** (The Annual Smoke Night will be held at the conclusion of the meeting.)

BUSINESS:

1. To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Balance Sheet.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the previous General Meeting.
3. To elect Office-Bearers for the ensuing year.
4. To confirm the recommendation of the Committee for an alteration to the Rules as follows —
That Rule 14 be amended to read —

“The Annual Subscription payable by Active Members shall be £5/5/-; by Honorary Members, £2/12/6; by Country Members, £2/12/6; and by Associate Members, £3/3/-, provided that in the case of

(a) Junior Members the subscription shall be £3/3/- per annum until attaining the age of 21 years.

(b) All Active Members joining on or after the 1st day of January in any year, the subscription for the remainder of the then current year shall be £2/12/6 for Senior Members and £1/11/6 for Junior Members.”

5. Presentation of Trophies.
6. General.

Nominations for Office-Bearers for the ensuing year will close on the Notice Board at the Boat-House at 4 p.m. on Saturday, 23rd June, 1956.

By order of the Committee,

C. D. LEWIS,
Hon. Secretary.

**THE SEVENTY-SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB**

To the Members of the Mercantile Rowing Club:

Gentlemen,

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting to you the 76th Annual Report and the financial statement for the year ended 30th April, 1956.

One of the most gratifying features of the past season is that for the first time for many years, there has been a marked increase in the number of members taking part in competitive events. At Ballarat, Barwon and Henley your Club boated a total of 46 oarsmen, easily the largest entry from the Club since Henley, 1946.

Whilst we have this season secured a number of commendable victories, especially in Senior and Maiden ranks, results generally have not been equal to previous years and have in some regattas been disappointing, despite the increased entries. Your Committee feels that this has been due to some extent to the alteration in the Junior rules which has severely limited the selection of our Junior crews, but in addition, there has, in some crews, been a noticeable falling-off in enthusiasm and training, two factors which have contributed more than anything else to the remarkable run of success which we have enjoyed in recent years.

We were unsuccessful in both the Junior and Lightweight premierships, and our congratulations are extended to Albert Park and South Melbourne on their success in taking these pennants. Both Clubs achieved these results with a very small number of members and this should be an example to us and to all other Clubs as to what can be done by a small, yet vigorous, Club.

While members may agree in theory that this is for the benefit of Victorian Rowing such a view is not one which we can accept in practice and still hope for success. Your Committee trusts that with determined efforts next season one or both of these premierships may return to the Club.

The Senior Premiership was cancelled for the season and all senior races replaced by open events to encourage any oarsmen aspiring to Victorian and Olympic selection to race in open company without loss of status. A further proposal that all open crews should

be composite was vigorously and successfully opposed by your Committee, because, in your Committee's opinion, the Club spirit is an essential in producing a good crew.

Your Senior Eight continued its successful run until late in the season when it was strongly opposed and finally defeated by the Melbourne University Boat Club after some of the keenest and best racing seen for several seasons. While we regret that a successful season and an unbroken run of 33 consecutive victories in major events should have ended in the loss of the Grand Challenge Cup, we must congratulate Melbourne University and their coach, Dr. L. S. Williams, on a fine win, and particularly on the unlimited enthusiasm and hard training which helped to bring it about.

During the year your Club has been well represented at all country regattas and to all our hosts during the past season your thanks for their help and hospitality are extended.

There was a move made during the year by the Melbourne City Council to remove the Boatsheds from their present site at Prince's Bridge. Your Committee is pleased to be able to report that vigorous efforts on the part of the V.R.A. have succeeded in this move being deferred, and it is hoped that the Clubs situated on the Yarra bank will secure more permanency of tenure.

This year has seen the introduction of barbecues as well as dances as a means of raising funds for the Club. Credit is due to the Social Committee, under Mr. Deane Morgan, for the excellent organisation of these functions.

A more detailed account of the Club's activities is submitted for your review.

Financial

It will be seen by the Balance Sheet that our income from Members' Subscriptions is insufficient to cover the ordinary expenses of running a Club of our size and consequently we are unable to set aside adequate funds to provide for the purchase of new boats. During the past season there has been no addition to the fleet, but we have placed on order from Geo. Towns & Sons Pty. Ltd. one racing eight and one racing four. In order to enable us to keep the fleet at its present high standard, and provide for future years, your committee has found it necessary to request an increase in subscriptions for the coming season.

It may be of interest to note that when the subscriptions were increased in 1949, the price of a racing eight was £300 compared with today's price of approximately £550, an increase which is also applicable to our normal running costs.

Our thanks are due to those members whose names appear later on in this report for their generous donations which have helped the Club considerably, also to those members who have attended the Wednesday night working bees during the winter months.

Executive and Committee

Up to the time of this report being placed in the hands of the printers ten regular meetings of the Committee have been held.

R. R. Aitken	10	W. O. Granowski	8	D. J. Morgan	10
N. W. Cairnes	10	C. D. Lewis	10	V. A. Sharp	10
B. J. Doyle	7	E. P. Leggett	9	J. G. Sprigg	7
H. R. Frederico	10	G. O. V. Manton	6	R. H. Richardson	10

Membership

The membership now stands —

	1956	1955	1939
Life Members	7	8	10
Senior	164	154	169
Junior	42	27	31
Honorary	26	26	11
Country	25	28	8
Associate	18	19	7
	282	262	236

Donations

The Club is again indebted to those members who during the season have so generously given material assistance to the Club's finances; and your thanks have already been conveyed to the following —

Messrs. R. R. Aitken, G. Ansell, D. Ball, J. W. Beattie, J. W. Bradshaw, the family of the late F. R. Browne, Messrs. N. W. Cairnes, D. A. Calder, A. H. Clarke, Dr. R. A. Cooper, the Family of the late A. L. Dobbie, Messrs. A. Gordon, R. V. Gregg, S. Guinn, the Harlequin Rugby Club, Messrs. A. Lindblade, D. J. R. Morgan, the Family of the late Sir Stephen Morell, Messrs. W. T. Morrison, J. L. Mounsey, C. N. McKay, Sir Thomas Nettlefold, Messrs. M. and D. Naylor, J. O'Reilly, J. H. O'Reilly, G. Patterson, J. H. Picken, H. R. Rush, G. W. Smith, H. T. Spencer, Mr. J. Sprigg and Mrs. Sprigg, Messrs. W. R. Turnbull, E. K. L. Varcoe, M. S. Williams.

Boats and Oars

The present complete list of the Club's fleet is set out hereunder —

RACING BOATS	PRACTICE BOATS	TUB BOATS
J. T. Dunstan ... 8	A. L. Dobbie 8	N. W. Cairnes ... 4
Deane Morgan ... 8	S. C. Macrae 8	M. S. Williams ... 4
R. R. Aitken 4	C. F. Raven 8	E. K. Varcoe 4
R. W. Thursfield 4	V. F. Mason 4	F. R. Browne 2
H. P. Shears 2		W. T. Morrison ... 2
G. T. Hastie 2		S. G. Richardson 2
		Scull

CLINKER RACING

J. H. Bailey 8 J. G. Sprigg 8 L. B. Weire 4

We have made no addition to our fleet in the year just passed, but have reduced it by the sale of the "A. B. Nicholls". The "G. J. Horder" and "J. L. Mounsey" have been written off as of no further use. The "S. C. Macrae" has been refitted and is now in service and has proved of great value.

It should be noted that the high cost of replacement places a heavy responsibility on those members using our craft and they are urged to take every care in order to lengthen the life of the equipment now in our possession.

Coaching

Once again the rowing members of the Club are indebted to the coaches whose untiring efforts contribute so largely to the success and good fellowship of the Club. To the following your thanks are extended —

Messrs. R. R. Aitken, K. Bilney, N. W. Cairnes, D. A. Calder, D. J. Crichton, P. Harrison, C. D. Lewis, D. J. Morgan, K. Pope, R. H. and S. G. Richardson, G. A. Robertson, V. A. Sharp, H. P. Shears, H. Spencer and W. A. Turnbull.

Your Committee strongly urges that as many members as can see their way clear should take an interest in this important phase of the Club's activities.

Head of the River

Your congratulations are extended to Geelong College and their Coach, Mr. A. B. Bell, on their fine win in this event.

Once again the Club enjoyed a happy association with Scotch College, and your Committee greatly appreciates the co-operation and assistance during the year of Mr. L. H. Christie, Coach of the First Eight and Master A. R. Frater, Captain of Boats.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Australian Eight-oared and Sculling Championships were rowed on the Olympic course at Lake Wendouree, on Friday and Saturday, 3rd and 4th May. This is the first occasion on which these races have been held over the Olympic distances of 2000 metres. Three heats were rowed on the Friday morning, repechage heats on Friday afternoon and the final on Saturday afternoon.

Victoria, represented by J. Morganti (Mercs.) Bow, D. H. Boykett (Mercs.) 2, A. M. H. Aikman (M.U.B.C.) 3, J. G. Howden (M.U.B.C.) 4, G. O. V. Manton (Mercs.) 5, W. N. Howell (Banks) 6, A. C. Monger (M.U.B.C.) 7, B. J. Doyle (Mercs.) Stroke, N. Hewitt (Mercs.)

Cox, R. R. Aitken (Meres.) Coach, J. Hunt (M.U.B.C.) and C. B. Dawes (Meres.) Emergencies, were successful in their heat defeating Queensland comfortably. New South Wales won their heat easily from South Australia and Western Australia narrowly defeated Tasmania after an exciting race.

Queensland were subsequently successful in the repechage heat, a contest between the losers of the three heats, and thus became entitled to row in the final.

The finals were rowed on the afternoon of Saturday the 4th May. Conditions were good and a large crowd attended to see a magnificent win for Victoria by $\frac{3}{4}$ length in 6.5-3/5. New South Wales was second, followed by Queensland and Western Australia. To the crew and coach we extend our warmest congratulations on a very creditable performance.

The Sculling Race for the President's Cup resulted in a convincing win for S. McKenzie (N.S.W.) from M. T. Wood (N.S.W.) and G. Squires of Tasmania. The time was 7.27. Victoria was represented by D. R. Dudgeon of Richmond Rowing Club.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

Champion Eights—This event was rowed for the first time over a 2000 metre Olympic course at Lake Wendouree on the 11th February, 1956, and resulted in a win for Mercantile by 4 lengths from Melbourne University. Your representatives were: H. R. Frederico (Bow), W. O. Granowski (2), J. Foley (3), C. B. Dawes (4), G. O. V. Manton (5), D. H. Boykett (6), J. Morganti (7), B. J. Doyle (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox), and R. R. Aitken (Coach). Conditions were heavy with a strong head breeze. The time recorded was 6.47-2/5.

Champion Fours—Following the reorganization of the programme the Champion Fours event was held at the end of the season, being rowed on the 2000 metre course on the lower Yarra on 21st April, 1956. As a large number of your Club's senior oarsmen were already selected in the Victorian crew and the Champion Junior Eights were held on the same day your Club took the advantage of the rules permitting composite crews to be boated. Your representatives, H. R. Frederico (Bow), C. B. Dawes (2), J. Hunt (M.U.B.C.) 3, R. H. Richardson (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox) and N. W. Cairnes (Coach), won the event by a narrow margin from Albert Park and Corio Bay.

Champion Pairs—Albert Park are to be congratulated on recording another convincing victory in this event, rowed at Nagambie on the 26th December, 1955. Your Club was represented by J. W. Dartnell (Bow), D. H. Boykett (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox), R. R. Aitken (Coach).

Champion Sculls—This event was rowed at Lake Wendouree on the 11th February, 1956, when D. Dudgeon of Richmond again won the title. Your Club was not represented.

Champion Junior Eights—This race was rowed on the 2000 metre course on the Lower Yarra on 21st April, 1956, seven crews competing for the title. These included representatives of several University Colleges and Scotch College, whose crew was successful. Your Club

was represented by D. M. Bruce (Bow), B. S. Paul (2), C. De Guingand (3), J. Gerrard (4), W. S. Arnold (5), G. A. McCall (6), H. Wallace-Mitchell (7), G. M. Taylor (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox) and H. P. Shears (Coach).

Champion Junior Fours—This event was held as usual on the 2000 metre course on the Lower Yarra on 17th December, 1955, and was won by Albert Park. Your crew comprised C. D. Lewis (Bow), H. Wallace-Mitchell (2), W. S. Arnold (3), J. Gerrard (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), K. Pope (Coach).

Champion Junior Pairs—You were represented in this event by C. De Guingand (Bow), D. Oliver (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), K. Pope (Coach). The race was held at Nagambie on 26th December, 1955, and was won by Albert Park.

Champion Light Weight Eights—Although there were only two entries in this event the race was a most exciting one, South Melbourne winning by a canvas from your crew comprising, R. Thyer (Bow), P. Watkin (2), R. McCubbery (3), P. Carroll (4), V. A. Sharp (5), M. Williams (6), E. P. Leggett (7), W. J. Pell (Stroke), G. Forrest (Cox), and D. J. Crichton (Coach).

Champion Light Weight Four—In this event, held on the Lower Yarra course on 17th December, 1955, you were unsuccessfully represented by R. McCubbery (Bow), P. Carroll (2), E. P. Leggett (3), V. A. Sharp (Stroke) G. Forrest (Cox), G. Robertson (Coach). The race was won by South Melbourne.

Champion Light Weight Pair—This event was held at Nagambie on 26th December, 1955, and was won by South Melbourne. You were represented by R. McCubbery (Bow), P. Carroll (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), G. Robertson (Coach).

During the season under review your Senior Eight competed in the Henley on Tamar Regatta at Launceston, Tasmania, and were successful in winning the Senior Eight Event. The hospitality of our Tasmanian associates was much appreciated by your representatives.

The Organising Committee of the regatta had several Mercantilians associated with it—Mr. I. Holyman, a current member, and Messrs. C. S. Stirling and E. A. Ashton, ex-members of our Club.

The open Champion Eights were held this year at Ballarat over the 2000 metre Olympic course and your crew succeeded in recording a splendid win. The Champion Junior Fours of Victoria, held on the lower Yarra, were won by Albert Park and your congratulations are extended to that Club. In the Junior and Lightweight Championship eight-oared events, your Club was unsuccessful, the Junior title going to Scotch College after an exciting race and the Lightweight event to South Melbourne—the margin being half a canvas.

The open Champion Fours, held this year in April, resulted in a splendid win by the Mercantile-University combination against Albert Park and Corio Bay. Your crew was very ably stroked by Mr. R. H. Richardson, who succeeded in pushing his crew past Albert Park after they had led in the middle distance.

Your Committee was again pleased to see the interest shown by schools in competitive rowing this year and trusts that next year will see an even fuller representation. It will be remembered that the Junior Eight event at Henley resulted in a very closely contested finish between Scotch, Melbourne and Geelong Grammar. The High Schools have shown continued interest in the sport also and your Committee was pleased to assist by the loan of several boats for the High Schools' Regatta.

Olympic Selection—The keen competition in senior events over the later part of the season provided the Victorian selectors with a better field for selection of the Victorian crew for several years. We are pleased to report that your Club was well represented in the crew with J. Morganti (Bow), D. H. Boykett (2), G. O. V. Manton (5), B. J. Doyle (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox), C. B. Dawes (Emergency), and R. R. Aitken (Coach). Members will be aware of the success of this crew and it is with the greatest pleasure that we record that it will be the foundation of the crew to represent Australia in the Olympic eight-oared event. We congratulate the crew on its success and hope that this will continue at the Olympic Games.

Regattas

NOVICE REGATTA

8th October, 1955

I. Marshall (Bow), F. Robertson (2), R. J. Hjorth (3), P. Carroll (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), R. H. Richardson (Coach), in the second heat and D. Devenport (Bow), P. Rendle (2), A. Sassoon (3), P. Harding (Stroke), K. Betts (Cox), S. G. Richardson (Coach), in the third heat, were unsuccessful in this regatta.

MELBOURNE REGATTA

19th November, 1955

Open Eight—This event marked the first occasion in which the alteration from Senior to Open rowing, which was introduced for the Olympic year was effective. Your Open Eight comprised: H. R. Frederico (Bow), D. H. Boykett (2), J. Foley (3), C. B. Dawes (4), G. O. V. Manton (5), W. O. Granowski (6), J. Morganti (7), B. J. Doyle (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox), R. R. Aitken (Coach). This crew was successful against a composite eight comprised of Albert Park, Banks, Footscray, and Hawthorn oarsmen in a most convincing win.

Junior Four—B. Collinson (Bow), D. Thyer (2), W. S. Arnold (3), D. Oliver (Stroke), K. Betts (Cox), K. Pope (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Junior Pair—B. Richardson (Bow), J. Gerrand (Stroke), K. Betts (Cox), D. J. Morgan (Coach), were defeated in their heat.

Maiden Eight—Your Club's entry in this event, R. Lee (Bow), I. Law (2), K. Aikman (3), B. Paul (4), R. Hatherley (5), H. Wallace-

Mitchell (6), A. Mayer (7), M. Williams (Stroke), P. Newman (Cox), N. W. Cairnes (Coach), was successful.

Lightweight Eight—Your Club was represented by P. Harrison (Bow), R. Thyer (2), G. Young (3), P. Carroll (4), R. McCubbery (5), A. Bram (6), E. P. Leggett (7), V. A. Sharp (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), G. Robertson (Coach). They were successful in winning this event.

Novice Four—Two novice crews from your Club were entered in this event, but were defeated in their heats. Your representatives were: No. 1 Crew, I. Marshall (Bow), D. Thompson (2), B. Merton (3), P. Armstrong (Stroke), G. Forrest (Cox), R. H. Richardson (Coach). No. 2 Crew, D. Devenport (Bow), A. Sassoon (2), P. Rendle (3), P. Harding (Stroke), K. Betts (Cox), S. G. Richardson (Coach).

UPPER YARRA REGATTA

10th December, 1955

Open Eight—Your crew, comprising H. Frederico (Bow), W. O. Granowski (2), J. Foley (3), C. B. Dawes (4), G. O. V. Manton (5), D. H. Boykett (6), J. Morganti (7), B. J. Doyle (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox), R. R. Aitken (Coach), were successful in this event.

Junior Eight—B. Collinson (Bow), H. Wallace-Mitchell (2), K. Aikman (3), M. Stafferton (4), A. Mayer (5), D. Thyer (6), B. Richardson (7), J. Gerrard (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), K. Pope (Coach), were successful in this event after a close race with Hawthorn.

Junior Four—Your representatives, P. Nicholson (Bow), B. Smyth (2), W. S. Arnold (3), D. Oliver (Stroke), G. Forrest (Cox), R. H. Richardson (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Maiden Eight—Your representatives, P. Boykett (Bow), P. Watkin (2), B. Merton (3), J. McDonald (4), K. Lawton (5), G. McCall (6), P. Humphris (7), G. Taylor (Stroke), P. Newman (Cox), N. W. Cairnes (Coach), were defeated after an exciting race.

Maiden Four—A. Bram (Bow), D. Thompson (2), I. Marshall (3), F. Robertson (Stroke), K. Betts (Cox), C. De Guingand (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Lightweight Four—R. McCubbery (Bow), P. Carroll (2), P. Leggett (3), V. A. Sharp (Stroke), G. Forrest (Cox), G. Robertson (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Lightweight Pair—Your representatives in this event, G. Young (Bow), R. Thyer (Stroke), A. Dunlop (Cox), P. Harrison (Coach), were unsuccessful.

NAGAMBIE REGATTA

26th December, 1955

Open Eight—This event was won as a row-over and at a subsequent meeting of the V.R.A. was declared as "no race". Your Club's opponents, Hawthorn, damaged their boat on the way to the start.

Open Four—In extremely windy conditions your crew, H. R.

Frederico (Bow), D. H. Boykett (2), J. Morganti (3), B. J. Doyle (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox), R. R. Aitken (Coach), were narrowly defeated by a combination crew from Albert Park and Banks. The event was rowed on the "Scour Course".

Junior Pair—H. Wallace-Mitchell (Bow), A. Mayer (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), R. R. Aitken (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Maiden Four—Your representatives, I. Law (Bow), B. Smyth (2), P. Humphris (3), B. Paul (Stroke), P. Newman (Cox), K. Pope (Coach), were disqualified for being late at the start.

Maiden Pair—You were represented by P. Humphris (Bow), B. S. Paul (Stroke), P. Newman (Cox), R. R. Aitken (Coach), who were unsuccessful.

Lightweight Pair—R. McCubbery (Bow), P. Carroll (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), G. Robertson (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Novice Four—Your crew, G. Box (Bow), P. Harding (2), J. Burston (3), A. Sassoon (Stroke), P. Newman (Cox), S. G. Richardson (Coach), were unsuccessful.

YARRAWONGA REGATTA

31st December, 1955

Open Eight—Under very strenuous conditions your crew, H. R. Frederico (Bow), V. A. Sharp (2), P. Leggett (3), D. Oliver (4), C. De Guingand (5), J. Gerrard (6), J. Morganti (7), R. H. Richardson (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox), R. R. Aitken (Coach), succeeded in defeating Hawthorn.

Open Four—Albert Parks-Banks combination four defeated your representatives, H. R. Frederico (Bow), V. A. Sharp (2), J. Morganti (3), R. R. Aitken (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox).

Junior Pair—Your crew, C. De Guingand (Bow), D. Oliver (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), K. Pope (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Maiden Four—An excellent win was recorded by your representatives at Nagambie.

Maiden Pair—Your representatives at Nagambie were successful in this event.

Lightweight Pair—Your crew at the Nagambie Regatta were again unsuccessful.

Novice Four—G. Box (Bow), P. Harding (2), J. Burston (3), P. Humphris (Stroke), P. Newman (Cox), S. G. Richardson (Coach), were defeated.

Novice Pair—J. Burston (Bow), P. Harding (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), were defeated by Yarrawonga.

RUTHERGLEN REGATTA

26th January, 1956

Open Eight — Your representatives at the Yarrowonga Regatta were defeated in this event.

Open Four — Your representatives at the Yarrowonga Regatta were again unsuccessful.

Junior Pair — The crew boated at Yarrowonga was again defeated.

Maiden Four — An excellent double was secured by this crew which had raced at Yarrowonga.

Maiden Pair — P. Humphris (Bow), B. Paul (Stroke), P. Newman (Cox), R. R. Aitken (Coach), defeated Albert Park by one foot.

Lightweight Pair — Your crew competing in the treble were again defeated.

Novice Four — Your crew, J. Burston (Bow), G. Box (2), P. Humphris (3), P. Harding (Stroke), P. Newman (Cox), S. G. Richardson (Coach), were unsuccessful.

YEA REGATTA

28th January, 1956

Junior Four — An excellent win was recorded by P. S. Nicholson (Bow), B. Smyth (2), W. S. Arnold (3), D. Oliver (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), R. H. Richardson (Coach).

Junior Pair — After a splendid win in their heat your crew, C. De Guingand (Bow), W. I. Wilson (Stroke), K. Betts (Cox), D. J. Morgan (Coach), were defeated in the final after a most exciting race.

Maiden Eight — Your representatives in this event, R. Valentine (Bow), P. Watkin (2), R. Denny (3), D. Thompson (4), P. Humphris (5), G. McCall (6), D. M. Bruce (7), G. Taylor (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), N. W. Cairnes (Coach), were defeated.

Maiden Four — D. Devenport (Bow), D. Ball (2), F. Robertson (3), P. Harding (Stroke), K. Betts (Cox), C. D. Lewis (Coach), were defeated in their heat.

Lightweight Four — A convincing win was recorded by P. White (Bow), R. Thyer (2), P. Leggett (3), P. Carroll (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), V. A. Sharp (Coach).

ALBERT PARK REGATTA

30th January, 1956

Open Eight — H. R. Frederico (Bow), W. O. Granowski (2), J. Foley (3), C. B. Dawes (4), G. O. V. Manton (5), D. H. Boykett (6),

J. Morganti (7), B. J. Doyle (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox), R. R. Aitken (Coach), were successful.

Junior Four—Your representatives at Yea were defeated.

Junior Pair—Your representatives at Yea were defeated.

Maiden Eight—Your representatives at Year were again unsuccessful.

Maiden Four—Your representatives at Yea were again unsuccessful.

Lightweight Four—Your representatives at Yea were again successful.

BALLARAT REGATTA

25th February, 1956

Open Eight—H. R. Frederico (Bow), W. O. Granowski (2), J. E. Foley (3), C. B. Dawes (4), G. O. V. Manton (5), D. H. Boykett (6), J. Morganti (7), B. J. Doyle (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox), R. R. Aitken (Coach), won this event.

Open Four—S. Smith (Bow), I. Wilson (2), W. Arnold (3), R. H. Richardson (Stroke), K. Betts (Cox), R. R. Aitken (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Junior Eight—B. Collinson (Bow), I. Law (2), B. Richardson (3), B. Smyth (4), A. Mayer (5), B. Paul (6), H. Wallace-Mitchell (7), J. Gerrard (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), K. Pope (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Junior Four—B. Collinson (Bow), B. Paul (2), H. Wallace-Mitchell (3), J. Gerrard (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), K. Pope (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Maiden Eight—P. Humphris (Bow), P. Watkin (2), B. Merton (3), D. Thompson (4), S. Newcombe (5), G. McCall (6), D. Bruce (7), G. Taylor (Stroke), P. Newman (Cox), W. Cairnes (Coach), won this event.

Maiden Four—D. Devenport (Bow), D. Ball (2), F. Robertson (3), J. Hawes (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), C. D. Lewis (Coach), were defeated in their heat.

Lightweight Eight—P. White (Bow), P. Harding (2), A. Bram (3), P. Carroll (4), R. McCubbery (5), W. J. Pell (6), P. Leggett (7), M. Williams (Stroke), G. Forrest (Cox), V. A. Sharp (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Lightweight Four—A. Sassoon (Bow), P. Rendle (2), P. Harrison (3), R. Thyer (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox), G. Robertson (Coach) were unsuccessful.

Lightweight Pair—P. Leggett (Bow), W. J. Pell (Stroke), G. Forrest (Cox), R. R. Aitken (Coach), were unsuccessful.

BARWON REGATTA

3rd March, 1956

Open Eight — Your representatives at Ballarat were again successful.

Open Four — Your representatives at Ballarat were again defeated.

Junior Eight — Your representatives at Ballarat were again defeated.

Maiden Eight — Your representatives at Ballarat were again successful.

Maiden Four — D. Devenport (Bow), P. Rendle (2), F. Robertson (3), J. Hawes (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), C. D. Lewis (Coach), were unsuccessful.

Lightweight Eight — Your representatives at Ballarat were again defeated.

Lightweight Four — Your representatives did not participate.

HENLEY REGATTA

10th March, 1956

Open Eight — After an exciting race your representatives were defeated by one foot by Melbourne University Boat Club.

Open Four — Your representatives at Barwon were again defeated.

Junior Eight — Your representatives at Barwon were again defeated.

Maiden Eight — Your representatives were again successful after a close race, thus completing the treble.

Maiden Four — D. Devenport (Bow), D. Ball (2), F. Robertson (3), J. Hawkes (Stroke), (Cox), C. D. Lewis (Coach), won their heat and semi-final but were defeated in the final.

Lightweight Eight — Your representatives were again defeated.

Lightweight Four — A. Sassoon (Bow), P. Rendle (2), P. Harrison (3), R. Thyer (Stroke), G. Robertson (Coach), were unsuccessful.

MILDURA REGATTA

31st March, 1956

Open Four — H. R. Frederico (Bow), G. A. McCall (2), J. Foley (3), R. H. Richardson (Stroke), K. Betts (Cox), were successful.

Open Pair — H. Frederico (Bow), J. Foley (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), were unsuccessful.

Junior Four — P. Humphris (Bow), G. McCall (2), V. A. Sharp (3), J. Gerrard (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), were unsuccessful.

Junior Pair — R. McCubbery (Bow), J. Gerrard (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), were unsuccessful.

WENTWORTH REGATTA

2nd April, 1956

Open Eight — W. Wallace (Bow), T. Davies (2), P. Humphris (3), V. A. Sharp (4), J. Foley (5), G. McCall (6), H. R. Frederico (7), R. H. Richardson (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), were unsuccessful.

Open Four — H. R. Frederico (Bow), G. A. McCall (2), J. Foley (3), R. H. Richardson (Stroke), (Cox), were unsuccessful.

Open Pair — H. R. Frederico (Bow), J. Foley (Stroke), R. Sprigg (Cox), were defeated.

Junior Four — Your representatives at Mildura were unsuccessful.

Junior Pair — Your representatives at Mildura were unsuccessful.

PREMIERSHIP POINTS

Senior — There was no contest for this premiership.

Junior: Albert Park, 93; Mercantile, 70; Banks, 44; Hawthorn, 44; Essendon, 30; Wentworth, 28; Dimboola, 24; Corio Bay, 19; Ballarat, 16; M.U.B.C., 15; Footscray, 13; Yarrawonga, 12; Mildura, 12; Lake Colac, 10; Melbourne, 10; Preston, 8; Yea, 8; Wendouree, 8; Barwon, 4; Nagambie, 4; South Melbourne, 4; Bendigo, 4; Ballarat City, 2.

Lightweight: South Melbourne, 82; Mercantile, 24; Yarra Yarra, 10; Hawthorn, 6; Richmond, 4; Ballarat City, 4; Wendouree, 2; Albert Park, 2.

TROPHIES

Captain's Trophy. This trophy, presented to the oarsman who has entered and won the most regatta and club races during the season, has been won convincingly by H. R. Frederico. It is worthy of note that this year is the first for five years that this trophy has not been won by a Lightweight oarsman.

J. W. Beattie Trophy. Mr. Beattie's trophy for the oarsman to win the most premiership points for the Club has also been won by H. R. Frederico.

Coxswains' Trophies. Mr. Max Bailey's trophy and perpetual shield have this year been won by N. Hewitt. Mr. N. W. Cairnes has presented a trophy for the most improved coxswain and this has been awarded to G. Forrest.

F. R. Browne Shield. The perpetual trophy presented by the family of the late F. R. Browne has been awarded by the selectors to B. Merton.

Club Races

GUINN PAIRS — 29th MAY, 1955

We are once more indebted to your Vice-President, Mr. Stanley Guinn, for donating trophies for this event. Twelve crews competed and the successful pair, C. D. Lewis (Bow), R. R. Aitken (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox), had to survive a tie in their heat before racing in the final.

A. L. DOBBIE MEMORIAL FOURS

This year we are indebted to the family of the late A. L. Dobbie for the trophies presented for the "A. L. Dobbie Memorial Fours". This race, in which 9 crews competed, was won by A. Bram (Bow), A. B. Kohn (2), B. S. Dooley (3), B. J. Doyle (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox).

SPRIGG TIME TRIAL

Once again we are indebted to Mr. J. G. Sprigg for the donation of the trophies for this keenly contested winter race. Last year the trial was won by B. Dooley (Bow), A. Bram (2), W. S. Arnold (3), W. Pechan (4), J. Morganti (5), H. Walker (6), C. D. Lewis (7), C. B. Dawes (Stroke), N. Hewitt (Cox). The time recorded was 27.38.

HARLEQUIN TIME TRIAL

We are again indebted to the Harlequin Rugby Club for the donation of the magnificent "Harlequin Time Trial" Trophies, for competition by four-oared crews over the "Spencer Street Bridge" course. Last year the event was won by V. A. Sharp (Bow), B. S. Paul (2), C. D. Lewis (3), R. R. Aitken (Stroke), G. Lawrence (Cox), the time being 11.45.

Combination Races

PICKEN-WILLIAMS EIGHTS

Eighty oarsmen from your own and other Clubs along the river competed for trophies donated by two of our Vice-Presidents, Mr. J. H. Picken and Mr. M. S. Williams. The event was won by G. Faulkner (Rich) Bow, C. West (Banks) 2, R. Kent (Preston) 3, T. J. Riddle (Scotch) 4, B. Richardson (Mercs.) 5, D. Oliver (Mercs.) 6, J. Morganti (Mercs.) 7, L. L. B. Moll (Mercs.) Stroke, N. Hewitt, Cox, the margin being a canvas.

Olympic Games

The rowing events for the Olympic Games will be held on Lake Wendouree at Ballarat from Friday, 23rd, to Tuesday, 27th November.

Your Committee has on your behalf taken all available accommodation at the Western Hotel, Sturt Street, Ballarat, for the period of the Games, and it is suggested that members make this the focal point for their activities at Ballarat. Plans are in hand to decorate the hotel in a true Mercantile fashion and the Committee feels sure that the steps taken will be approved of by the Members.

On the evening of Friday, 23rd November, the Club will entertain visiting Olympic officials at the hotel and it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

The Old Oarsmen's Association has arranged an entertainment day at Manyung Hotel for the Sunday following the Olympic rowing, 2nd December, and all oarsmen are welcome.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Ladies' Day. This function was well attended last year and after watching excellent racing in the President's Fours, members' lady guests were entertained at afternoon tea in the gymnasium.

Annual Dinner. The Clubhouse was again the venue for this very enjoyable function. All present spent a most entertaining evening, the catering for which was up to the standard of previous years.

Dances and Barbecues. We were unable to hold the usual number of dances last year, but, as mentioned earlier in this report, several successful barbecues were held and we are indebted to Mr. K. Boykett and Mr. D. J. Morgan for the use of their homes.

General

The Henley-on-Yarra Regatta was held in conjunction with the Moomba Festival and was very successful. Our congratulations go to Mr. R. W. Thursfield, the Secretary, and his assistants, Mr. D. J. Morgan and Mr. J. McBean, whose hard work assured the success of the regatta.

Each Wednesday during the winter saw an energetic and enthusiastic band of workers at the shed carrying out boat repairs and general odd jobs. Their assistance has proved invaluable in reducing the cost of fleet and Clubhouse maintenance and your gratitude is extended to them.

The cleanliness of the shed has again been the responsibility of a few. Your thanks are extended to Mr. S. G. Richardson, Mr. J. L. Mounsey and Mr. R. T. Rush, who have been particularly energetic in this regard.

The usual Anzac Day service was conducted in the Clubhouse by the Rev. D. M. McCrae. There was a very good attendance. After the service members met for refreshments. A light meal was provided for marchers and we are indebted to Mr. D. A. Calder for his help in this regard.

It will have been noted that the concreting of the front of the shed has been completed and that a start has been made towards painting the building prior to the Olympic Games. Your thanks in this regard are particularly due to Messrs. V. A. Sharp, D. J. Morgan, H. R. Frederico, D. Stirling and G. Smith.

The V.R.A. has once more had a successful year culminating in the organising of the King's Cup at Ballarat. Your congratulations are extended to Mr. N. W. Cairnes, the Secretary of the Association, and also to Mr. S. Jeffrey and Mr. C. E. James, the Assistant Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The Harlequin Rugby Club have again made use of the Clubhouse for training activities and your congratulations on last season's successes are extended to them together with best wishes for the season now in progress.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the families of the late Mr. F. W. Betts, Mr. R. V. Gregg, Mr. E. Kenny, Mrs. Thyer, Mrs. Lemaire, Mr. A. Sloss and Mr. C. Ward, who passed on during the season.

Your congratulations are extended to Messrs. D. J. Crichton, R. J. D. Oliver, D. J. Morgan, L. Rabbas, J. N. Robertson, D. Scales and S. Smith and their wives on the occasion of additions to their families.

Your good wishes for future happiness and prosperity are conveyed to Mr. K. H. A. Levi who was married during the year.

The Club is again indebted to its Coxswains and to the following are extended the thanks of the members: Masters K. Betts, A. Dunlop, N. Falkiner, G. Forrest, N. Hewitt, P. Newman and R. Sprigg.

Mr. J. S. Rowe, a member of the Club and former King's Cup oarsman, was granted leave of absence to go overseas. Whilst away he attended as the Australian representative to the International Rowing Federation.

During the year the Committee of Banks Rowing Club and your own Committee continued the practice of meeting for a social night at the river.

Members will recall that there were no rowing events on the Monday of Henley and your Committee was pleased to make the Clubhouse available to competing motor boat crews.

Your thanks are conveyed to all rowing correspondents and to the various radio stations for their good work in publicising rowing and reporting on the various rowing events.

To all kindred clubs your thanks and appreciation are conveyed for their co-operation during the season.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the retiring Committee wish to thank members for the assistance given during the season, and hope that the same co-operation may be relied on for the incoming Committee.

For and on behalf of the Committee,

C. D. LEWIS,

Hon. Secretary.

Obituary

It is with regret we have to report the passing of the following members —

Allan Sloss, who joined the Club in 1925, was a successful oarsman and capable Secretary. After retiring from competitive rowing he devoted much time to our social activities.

Bob Gregg, who joined in 1911, was a former Captain of the Club. He had an outstanding and unusually long rowing career, retiring from competitive rowing in 1936. He won many Senior Fours and Eights, was successful in Championship Fours and Eights, and on several occasions represented Victoria in King's Cup Crews.

Ted Kenny, who joined in 1909, was, after the First World War, Captain of the Club for several years. Always a keen enthusiastic oarsman and successful coach, his greatest strength was in administration. He was a Senior Executive Officer of the Victorian Rowing Association of which he was for many years Secretary. He was also for many years Secretary of the Henley Regatta Association but retired from this position in 1939. He possessed a fund of knowledge on Australian and overseas rowing affairs and his ability in this direction was recognised by his appointment as Secretary of the Australian Rowing Council. He received the greatest recognition and honour of his lengthy administrative career by being appointed Chief Organiser for the rowing section of the Olympic Games. All will regret he was not spared to see these events for which he worked so enthusiastically and hard.

The Club and the sport in general is the poorer for the passing of these well-known oarsmen.

List of Members, 1955-56

LIFE MEMBERS

Cairnes, N. W.	Mounsey, J. L.	Potter, W.
Guinn, S.	Picken, J. H.	Sprigg, J. G.
Lindblade, A. G.		

SENIOR MEMBERS

Ackland, M. G.	Devenport, D.	McDonald, J. O.
Addison, P.	Dobbie, A. W.	MacFarlane, J. M.
Aikman, K.	Doherty, J. B.	MacKinnon, G. A.
Aitken, R. R.	Dooley, B. S.	McMahon, G. F.
Allen, K. B.	Dowd, M. C.	McNiff, T. F.
Appleby, J. P.	Doyle, B. J.	Naylor, D. H. L.
Arnold, W. S.	Duclos, J. A.	Newport, F.
Atkins, A. H. C.	Duncan, R. G.	(Leave of absence)
Ashkanasy, N.	Dunstan, J. T.	Nicholson, P. S.
Baenziger, E. R.	Ferguson, J. M.	Nixon, H. B.
Bailey, W. M.	Foley, J. E.	Nixon, N. V.
Baird, A.	Fosdick, L. V.	Noble, F.
Ball, D. G.	Frederico, H. R.	Oliver, D. A.
Barrett, A. G.	Galvin, V. C.	Oliver, R. J. D.
Batiste, A.	Gerrard, J.	Olliff, D.
Beattie, J. W.	Granowski, W. O.	(Leave of absence)
Beecham, J. D.	Gray, W. L.	Pell, W. J.
Berkery, J. R.	Greenwood, C.	Penner-Wilson, I.
Bilney, K. A.	Harding, P.	Peterson, J. W.
Blair-Holt, J. A.	Herron, B. F.	Pitt, W. G.
Bolton, R. S.	(Leave of absence)	Pizzey, J. B.
Bourke, B. F.	Hiscock, J. D.	Pope, K.
Bradshaw, J. W.	Hyett, G. S.	Proctor, R. H.
Bram, A.	Jones, J. McD.	Purves, A. H.
Brooke, D. C.	Kerrigan, N.	(Leave of absence)
Broughton, O. S.	Koch, A. H.	Read, J. R.
Browning, N. G.	Kohn, A. B.	Richardson, R. H.
Budge, K. C. S.	Leggett, E. P.	Richardson, S. G.
(Leave of absence)	Lemaire, J. E.	Ritchie, C. K.
Burke, H. B.	Levi, K. H. A.	Robertson, F. W. A.
Calder, D. A.	Lewis, C.D.	Robertson, G. A.
Carr, J. P.	Mahoney, H.	Robertson, J. N.
Chiakoumis, N.	Manton, G. O. V.	Robinson, T. J.
Christie, D. G.	Marley, D. C.	Rogers, L. W.
Clarke, A. H.	Marshall, I. F.	Rorke, A. T.
Clark, J. H. P.	Middleton, R. J.	Rowe, J. S.
Clemens, J. B.	Miller, A. P.	(Leave of absence)
Collinson, B.	Marton, C.	Rush, R. T.
Cooper, R. A.	Mayer, A. W.	Sassoon, A.
Corteen, L. K.	Merton, B.	Sajo, Z.
Crane, R.	Morell, D. R.	Scales, D. J.
Crichton, D. J.	Morell, R. T.	Schmitt, S.
Crowe, G.	Morgan, D. J. R.	Sharp, V. A.
Dartnell, J.	Morganti, J.	Shaw, R.
Davies, M. H.	Morrison, W. T.	Shawcross, D.
Dawes, C. B.	Mounsey, R. J.	Shears, H. P.
Day, R. G.	Macartney, J.	Shears, J. D.
De Guingand, C.	McCubbery, R. J.	Shears, T. W.

Smith, G.
Smith, G. W.
Smith, S. M.
Smyth, B. R.
Soward, R. S.
Spark, J. M.
Spencer, H. T.
Stafferton, M.
Stirling, D. S.

Thomas, J. C.
Thursfield, R. W.
Thyer, R. S.
Trehearne, A. G.
Turnbull, W. R.
Varcoe, E. K. L.
Walker, H. J. R.
Wallace, W. L.
Wheatland, W.
(Leave of absence)

White, E. C.
White, P. A.
Williams, J. G.
Williams, L. S.
Williams, M. S.
Williams, R.
Wilson, W. I.
Young, G. J.

JUNIOR MEMBERS

Aikman, C. L.
Armstrong, P. T.
Barty, B. K.
Blyth, R. H.
Box, G.
Boykett, D. H.
Boykett, P.
Bruce, D. M.
Burgess, A. B.
Carrol, P. R.
Cowling, D. S.
Denny, R. H.
Drangsholt, B.
Hails, R. M.
Harrison, P. C.

Hatherly, R. B.
Hawes, J. D.
Hjorth, R.
Humphris, P.
Johnson, T.
Lawton, K.
Laughton, K.
Law, I. R.
Lee, R.
Moran, J. D.
Murphy, D. J.
McEacharn, I. M.
McIlwain, A. F.
McPhail, G.

McPherson, B.
Newcombe, S.
Paul, B. S.
Richardson, B. A.
Snedden, R.
South, J.
Taylor, G. M.
Thompson, D.
Thyer, D. M.
Tilley, G. W.
Valentine, R. M.
Wallace-Mitchell, H.
Watkin, P.
Williams, M.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Abromwich, W.
Burmeister, C.
Burton, A. J.
Davey, G. H.
Epstein, G. L.
Evans, E. A.
Gordon, A.
Koch, A. A.
Mitchell, J. T.

McCrae, Rev. D. M.
Nicholls, C. J.
O'Reilly, J.
Palfreymann, D. B.
Raven, C. F.
Rush, H. R.
Saleh, C. G.
Sanderson, S. O.
Seamen, J. W.

Shears, E.
Stephenson, C. E.
Stooke, G. F.
Trickett, W. A.
Wade, P. M., Snr.
Ward, C. H. M.
Weire, L. B.
Wilkinson, C. V. H.

COUNTRY MEMBERS

Ansell, G.
Bailey, J. H.
Bailey, W. M., Jnr.
Connolly, K.
Craig, W. J.
Duncan, A. R.
Duncan, H. D.
Fletcher, J. M.
Holyman, G. I.

Lambert, C.
Moll, L. L. B.
McKaige, R. W.
McKay, T.
McPherson, P. M.
Naylor, M. C. L.
Pearce, J. W.
Powell, D. B.
Rand, K.

Rees, J.
Robin, J. B.
Rogers, W.
Ross, W. G.
Spencer, F. D.
Taylor, B. A.
Kelly, J. G.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Boykett, K. H.
Christie, L. H.
Dartnell, V. A.
Hoppe, J. P.
Kerr, B.
Murphy, H.

Nicholas, H. E.
Parker, E. W.
Rabbas, L. A.
Rodda, T.
Smith, T.
Strang, D. J.

Syme, R. York
Tibbits, I. D.
Wade, P. M.
Wallace, W. L.
Yunghanns, M. W.

BALANCE SHEET
As at 30th April, 1956
(Figures adjusted to nearest £)

1955 £	1956 £	1955 £	1956 £
ACCUMULATED FUNDS:			
	£		£
	2472		2472
Balance, 1st May, 1955	66		66
Deduct: Net Deficit Transferred from	—		—
Income and Expenditure Account	105		2242
	—		62
5231	5126		2304
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
256	400		£ 282
7	16		11
46	24		293
58	—		2011
	—		295
	440		4844
FIXED ASSETS:			
			£ 2304
			282
			11
			293
			2011
			295
			4844
DEDUCT:			
			£ 282
			11
			293
			2011
			295
			4844
INVESTMENTS:			
			Commonwealth Loan, at Face Value
			200
CURRENT ASSETS:			
			128
			50
			98
			10
			22
			26
			5598
			5566
			49
			522
			5566

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I report that I have audited the books and accounts of the Mercantile Rowing Club for the year ended 30th April, 1956, and that, in my opinion, the foregoing accounts and Balance Sheet are properly drawn up so as to show a true and correct view of the Club's affairs as at 30th April, 1956, according to the best of my information and the explanations given to me and as shown by the books.

A. H. G. CLARKE, Chartered Accountant (Aust.), Hon. Auditor.

Melbourne 6th June, 1956.