

MELBOURNE

96th

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

BALANCE SHEET

SEASON 1975 - 76

PRESIDENT: J.G.H. Sprigg, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENTS

R. R. Aitken, Esq. D. H. Boykett, Esq. J. W. Bradshaw, Esq. John Burford, Esq. N. W. Cairnes, Esq. M. F. McKenna, Esq. D. J. R. Morgan, Esq. W. T. Morrison, Esq.

R. W. Thursfield, Esq.

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

M. G. Tomanovits

CHAIRMAN of SELECTORS

M. F. Owen

HONORARY SECRETARY N. W. Cairnes HONORARY TREASURER A. N. Guerin

HONORARY ASSISTANT TREASURER

M. W. Manley

CLUB and EQUIPMENT MANAGER

W. L. Ruttledge

SOCIAL MANAGER D. J. Yunghanns

COMMITTEE

P. J. Ainsworth, J. R. Harry, T. Horkings (resigned August and replaced by C. Cooper), G. Robertson-Smith, A. Sorani.

HONORARY AUDITOR

Mr. P. R. Devenish A.C.A. (of A.G.H. Clarke & Co.) HONORARY SOLICITOR Mr, R. R. Aitken

SELECTORS John Burford, David Palfreyman.

Princes Bridge, Melbourne, 3004.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 96th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB will be held at the CLUBHOUSE on SATURDAY, 26th. JUNE, 1976, at 8 p.m.

The Annual Smoke Night will be held at the conclusion of the meeting.

BUSINESS:

- 1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th. June, 1975.
- To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 11th. April, 1976.
- 3. To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Balance Sheet.
- 4. To elect Office-Bearers for the ensuing year.
- 5. Presentation of Trophies.
- 6. Any General Business that may be legally brought forward.

Nominations for Office-Bearers for the ensuing year will close on the Notice Board at the CLUBHOUSE on SATURDAY, 19th. JUNE, 1976, at 4 p.m.

By order of the Committee,

N. W. CAIRNES,

Honorary Secretary.

The Ninety Sixth Annual Report of the MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB

To the Members,

Gentlemen,

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting the 96th Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ending 30th April, 1976.

With the completion of the re-building of the Club House at the end of last season, our crews were able to boat out of our own premises resulting in an influx of young oarsmen and an improvement in our regatta racing results. The Club won 50 events in the season as compared with 31 events in the previous season and again won the Lightweight Premiership and finished third in each of the Senior and Junior Premierships.

During the season the rowing of our lightweight oarsmen was again outstanding, the Lightweight Four coached by Martin Tomanovits being unbeaten in this class of boat and on being selected to represent Victoria the crew went on to win the Australian Championship for Lightweight Four with Cox for the Penrith Cup and also competing in the Four without Cox in the National Championships, won this event and was graded by the Australian Selectors fourth in world standard of the competitors at the Championships. We are justly proud of this crew consisting of John Hawkins, Peter Macartney, Ian Porter, Terry Thurtell (stroke), Vic Ronai (cox) and Martin Tomanovits (coach).

Our Lightweight Eight which except for minor changes has been together for the past three years during which they have been unbeaten in this class of boat. Failing to get satisfactory competition in Victorian Regatta racing the crew competed Interstate winning the Champion Lightweight Eight of South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian National Title.

The lightweight oarsmen set a standard of hard training, co-operation and enthusiasm which we hope to see continued by all our oarsmen in the coming season.

We tender our congratulations to Monash University on winning the Senior Premiership and to Banks on winning Division 1 of the Junior Premiership and to Albert Park on making a great recovery to win Division 2 of the Junior Premiership.

In addition to the selection of our Lightweight Four to represent Victoria in the Australian Championships, our members Andrew Withers and Tim Young were selected to row in the Eight which finished a creditable second to New South Wales which won the King's Cup and Selection to represent Australia at the Olympic Games.

Peter Benjamin and Ken Leach of Mercantile were selected No.1. and No.3. to represent Victoria in the Australian Sculling Championship for the President's Cup. Peter Benjamin was successful in winning his heat but unsuccessful in the final which was won by Ted Hale of New South Wales who was also selected to represent Australia in the Olympic Games.

We congratulate New South Wales on winning the King's Cup and Ted Hale on winning the President's Cup and wish success to the Australian Rowing representatives at the Olympic Games.

Since the re-building, the Gymnasium has been in constant use and last season was used for pre season training by a number of our members and presently the Club is negotiating with a professional instructor with a view to winter training for our young oarsmen in preparation for a stronger showing in all classes of rowing during the coming season. The equipment of the Gymnasium has been continuously updated by Ted Sorani, who with the assistance of a number of members has built and erected a great deal of equipment including the construction of a rowing machine.

The Sauna is in operation, the amenities room is furnished with Table Tennis Tables and Snooker Tables and with the carpeting of the Club Room making for greater comfort the members are making greater use of the Club facilities particularly on a Thursday evening when refreshments are available at the S.W. Corner.

A new lightweight four-oared boat, convertible to use, with or without coxswain was purchased and named the 'N.W. Cairnes'. An eight-oared boat has been urgently needed and at the end of the season the opportunity was taken to purchase at a satisfactory price from the Victorian Rowing Association the new Sykes Boat used by the King's Cup Crew.

FINANCIAL

The increasing costs of running the Club and servicing the overdraft \$25,000 resulting from the re-building made it necessary to propose an increase in subscriptions, the motion for which was submitted to an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 11th April, 1976, and adopted unanimously by the members present. This was the first increase in subscriptions since 1969 and it is estimated that it will be barely sufficient to cover the running costs of the Club and the purchase of new equipment will have to be financed entirely by social activities and special efforts which require the whole hearted support of all members.

The Committee has been active in its endeavour to reduce costs but with current inflation, interest charges and greater insurance cover, find the means of reducing expenditure are limited and alternative sources of income have been sought with emphasis on hire of the Club Room which is proving successful, plus the installation of a pay phone which will considerably reduce telephone charges.

The renewal of the rental agreement with Brighton Grammar School has and will continue to be of great assistance to the Club.

Our lightweight oarsmen who in regatta racing and rowing activities have made such a great contribution to the Club also by the means of special efforts organised by themselves donate \$940 for a new set of ten oars and we are very grateful to these young members who have made such a tremendous contribution to the welfare of the Club.

The support and contributions of the Ladies' Auxiliary has continued to be beneficial to the Club's activities and is appreciated by all members.

The purchase of the new convertible four was made possible by the contribution of \$3,000 by the Social Committee and we are grateful to those members who have loaned and promised to loan to the Club money free of interest to enable the purchase of the new eight at a cost of \$4,500 ahead of the boat replacement program thus providing our senior eight with the use of a good boat for the whole season. To permit the final payment on the purchase of the eight we are looking forward to receiving the remainder of the promised loans.

The final payment to the building contractor was made in March, bringing the total cost of the re-building project to \$85,614. The Club is indebted to the remarkable support given by so many members in the completion of this project. We now have facilities not dreamt of till recently.

The Building Fund overdraft limit \$25,000 has been almost fully utilized and will not be drawn upon again. A meeting with our Bank is planned for September to discuss the repayment terms of this loan.

The future holds many financial burdens with the effects of inflation and more particularly the maintenance and repayment of our overdraft. The Committee is confident these problems will be overcome with the continued support of the members of the Club.

DONATIONS

The following members and friends have generously made donations which are acknowledged with appreciation:

R.R. Aitken, J.W. Bradshaw, G.H. Boykett, P.H. Boykett, N.W. Cairnes, M. Cornellison, R. St. L. Dawson, M.J. Fogarty, L.V. Fosdick, H.R. Frederico, P.M. Gibbs, J.R. Harry, J.R. Harvey, P.L. Jones, P. Maginn, D.J.R. Morgan, J. McDavitt, T.B. McKay, M.F. McKenna, S.H. Newcomb, F.P. Newport, N. Newton, D. Permazel, P.E.M. Philp, G.W. Richardson, R.H. Richardson, S.G. Richardson, Mrs. T.L. Sprigg, K. T. Thomas, R.B. Wilson, B. Wright.

These donations amounting to \$558 have been of considerable help to the Club, particularly in the re-building and provision of equipment.

TRIBUTORS

The amount \$696 raised by the Tributors (those members who back our crews at the commencement of each season, contributing an agreed amount to the funds in respect of each race won during the year) has been allocated by the Committee, \$418 to the Building Fund and \$278 to be held in reserve towards the purchase of a new Regulation Four.

With 50 wins to our credit during the season 1975 - 76 it is estimated that the total sum to be contributed by the Tributors will amount to \$1,000 the whole of which is to go towards the purchase of the new Regulation Four.

The new season 1976–77 now approaching more Tributors are required to back the Club crews encouraging them to know that every time they win it means greater financial support for Club equipment.

New members should contact W. T. (Bill) Morrison or J. R. (Jim) Harvey the organisers. To Bill and Jim and all the Tributors listed below we thank you very sincerely for backing our young oarsmen.

R.R.Aitken, A.W.Blaxland, J.B. Bostck, D.H. Boykett, J.W.Bradshaw, J.Burford, N.W.Cairnes, P.A.Cayzer, D.J. Crichton, J.R.Draffin, B.Gross, J.R.Harvey, J.McD.Jones, M.R. Keeley, C.W.Mahony, A.C.Monger, D.J.R.Morgan, W.T. Morrison, K.McConville, M.F.McKenna, J.W.McKeown, K.Pope, R.H.Richardson, S.G. Richardson, T.Rodda, J.S.Rowe, E.Schrader, J.W. Seammen, H.P. Shears, J.D. Shears, A.Sorani, J.G.H.Sprigg, G.M. Taylor, C.T.Thompson, R.W. Thursfield, M.G. Tomanovits, H.R. Walker, E.C. White, D.J. Yunghanns.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Club as at 30th April, 1976, was as follows:-

	1976	1975	1974	1973
Life Members	 7	7	8	8
Senior Active Members	 141	143	135	146
Senior Members	 27	30	29	29
Junior Members	 44	40	37	33
Junior Schoolboy Members	27	14	11	9
Country Members	 34	35	36	29
Associate Members	 48	37	38	36
	328	306	294	290

EXECUTIVE and COMMITTEE

At the time of going to press, 11 committee meetings had been held and the attendance at these meetings has been:-

P.J. Ainsworth	9	C.G. Cooper	6	G.Robertson-Smith	7
R.R. Aitken	7	A.N. Guerin	10	W.L. Ruttledge	9
D.H. Boykett	3	J.R. Harry	4	A. Sorani	9
J.W. Bradshaw	10	T. Horkings	1	J.G.H. Sprigg	8
John Burford	4	M.W. Manley	1	M.G. Tomanovits	11
N.W. Cairnes	11	W.T. Morrison	4	D.J. Yunghanns	9
		M.F. Owen	9	and the second second	

BOATS and OARS

At long last the four eights, seven fours and five pairs which make up the fleet are housed in the shed. The new rack configuration is more than adequate for the current fleet and indeed the Club was able to house the boats of the following crews with space to spare — Y.W.C.A., four; V.R.A., eight; four; and Scull, Scullers have not been forgotten and the shed sports a series of specially designed racks for the sculling boats and their blades. This facility was designed, constructed and installed by Alan Blaxland to whom all scullers offer their thanks for a first rate job. Currently ten single sculls and three double sculls are housed with the facility to provide for another three sculls if required. Space has also been made available at a fee to a number of canoeists who train from the shed.

The return of the fleet has brought with it the problem of several years of minimum maintenance when most voluntary effort was directed to re-building the shed. Boats used for competition were reasonably maintained, although on an adhoc basis; however those used on an irregular basis deteriorated badly mainly because of an apparent philosphy of 'use and abuse' by the occasional user.

The hard facts of the matter are — to buy a reasonable racing eight today costs \$5,000 and a single oar costs just under \$100! These costs coupled with the Club's increased financial commitments and the fact that the boat replacement program funds were diverted into the building fund make it imperative that the Club gets the maximum life out of its equipment. The Club cannot afford to pay to have the equipment maintained or reconditioned by skilled tradesmen so it relies heavily on voluntary labour. The answer is for all members to look after equipment used and if minor damage occurs to accept responsibility for it and repair it if possible or at least take action to see that it will be repaired. Occasional users should take note of the example set by a group of veterans who used the 'Caltex & Dealers' on Sundays — they completely refitted and varnished the craft themselves.

Currently, 50% of the fleet is rated as less than good. Note – that each boat thus rated requires sanding down, and revarnishing, Riggers sanded and painted and all internal fittings to be refurbished. The time involved is considerable. The Club needs help with its boat maintenance program.

During the year we took delivery of a racing four suitable for lightweight oarsmen, a coxed boat convertible to coxwainless, at a cost of \$3,650, a set of ten Croker oars valued at \$960 donated by our lightweight oarsmen.

The four 'Sir Benard Evans' (1966) and the eight 'Cock Robbins' were sold.

Over the past month or so a concentrated effort has been made to recondition all oars over five years old (about 60 in all). This task will take several more months with the current group of volunteers. To date about \$150 has been paid to a boat builder for repairs to oars beyond the capacity of the voluntary workers.

A special effort will be required in the current year if the overall deterioration of the fleet is to be arrested.

The fleet and equipment is listed below:

EIGHTS

LIGI	110			1 AILIS
Racing: New Sykes Boat J. Burford R.R. Aitken J.G. Sprigg	1976 (very good) 1973 (good) 1971 (fair) 1968 (poor)	Racing: W.T. Morrisc Bill Bradshav Keith Bilney	V	1971 (good) 1967 (good) 1964 (fair)
FOU	RS	Tub:		
Racing:		Paul Harding		1962 (poor)
N.W. Čairnes M.F. McKenna	1976 (very good) 1972 (very good)	Dr. R.A. Coo	oper	1961 (very poor)
Ricky Loveless	1970 (good)			OARS
The First Lady	1968 (good)			UAND
J.J. Wylie	1964 (poor)	Croker	12'2"	1976 (very good)
Caltex & Dealers	1964 (fair)	Croker	12'6"	1974 (very good)
Gartes & Dealers	1504 (fair)	Sykes	12'4"	1972 (good)
		Sykes	12'2"	1971 (good)
Tub:		Karlisch	12'6"	1970 (good)
Deane Morgan	1961 (poor)	S & B	12'2"	1969 (poor)
Deane Morgan	1301 (0001)	S&B	12'4"	1968 (poor)
MISCELLANEOU	c	Ayling	12'4"	1967 (fair)
Motor Boat Hull		Donorartico	12'4"	
	(very poor)			
Outboard Motor	(good)	Assorted	1950-	-1964 (poor)
Boat Trailer	(poor)			

PAIRS

COACHING

Over the past season there has been a marked increase in our regatta successes. This improvement has been largely due to the new members recruited and the fact that we have been able to provide our crews with coaches who have shown the skill and enthusiasm necessary to lead our crews to regatta successes.

We extend our thanks to the following members who have given considerable time and effort to the coaching of our crews during the season under review: John Burford, Phil Cayzer, Hubert Frederico, Paul Guest, Mike Kerin, Marty Owen, David Palfreyman, Bill Ruttledge, Martin Tomanovits, and Roger Wilson.

RECRUITING

As can be seen from our membership numbers we have successfully recruited a number of junior and schoolboy oarsmen but the recruitment is wasted if our experienced members do not make themselves available to assist in coaching and organising these new members. In this field Phil Ainsworth, Marty Owen, Bill Ruttledge, Ted Sorani, and Roger Wilson have all been of great assistance.

We will be commencing a further recruiting campaign in September and together with our recently joined members we have a number of young oarsmen who need coaching and very few members willing to give the time to this worth while project.

Members are urged to help the Club reap a dividend from this recruiting investment.

AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nepean River, Penrith, N.S.W.

INTERSTATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	17th - 19th	March,	1976.
Eight-oared Championship for the King's Cup 1st. New South Wales; 2nd. Victoria; 3rd. Sout	h Australia.	Time	2000 metres 5-47.2
Single Scullin Championship for the President's 1st, N.S.W. (E. Hale), 2nd, N.S.W. (R. Reddell)			2000 metres
3rd. Queensland (G. Petelin)		Time	7-06.6
Lightweight Four-oared Championship for the 1st. Victoria, 2nd. Western Australia, 3rd. New			2000 metres 6-38
Youth Eight-oared Championship for the Wilki 1st. Victoria, 2nd. Tasmania, 3rd. New South V		Time	1500 metres 4-31.5
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	19th - 21st	March,	1976.
Champion Four with Cox			2000 metres
1st. Sydney-N.S.W. University Comp., 2nd, Mo 3rd, Monash-Melb, University Comp.(Vic.)	sman (N.S.W.) Time	6-25.1
Champion Four without Cox			2000 metres
1st. Mosman (N.S.W.), 2nd. Joondalup (W.A.), 3rd. Sydney Comp. (N.S.W.)		Time	6-13.9
Champion Pair with Cox			2000 metres
1st. Sydney (N.S.W.), 2nd. Warrnambool (Vic),	<	_	
3rd. Torrens (S.A.)		Lime	7-27
Champion Pair without Cox 1st. Sydney University (N.S.W.), 2nd. Melbourn	ne University	(Mic)	2000 metres
3rd. Sydney (N.S.W.)	the Oniversity	Time	7-15
Champion Double Scull			2000 metres
1st. Haberfield-Sydney Comp. (N.S.W.), 2nd.		Time	0.540
University, 3rd. North Esk-Lindisfarne Comp.(Tas.)	i ime	6-54.2
Champion Quadruple Scull 1st. Sydney–Haberfield Comp. (N.S.W.), 2nd. Sydney Comp., 3rd. Qld. University–Perth Col		Time	2000 metres 6-09.3
Champion Lightweight Eight	n. comp.	THILE	2000 metres
1st. Mercantile (Vic.), 2nd. Balmain (N.S.W.), 3rd. Glebe, (N.S.W.)		Time	6-01.8
Mercantile – A. N. Guerin, M. Connolly, C. Ko R. Garrard, I. R. Duthie, G. Robertson–Smith, D. Alfreyman (coach).			
Champion Lightweight Four without Cox 1st. Mercantile (Vic.), 2nd. Sydney-Haberfield	Comp. (N.S.	W.)	2000 metres
3rd. University of W.A.	and the second second		6-26.3
Mercantile – J. Hawkins, P. Macartney, I. Porte (stroke), V. Ronai (cox), M. G. Tomanovits (co	er, T. Thurtell bach).		
Champion Junior Eight			2000 metres
1st. Sydney UnivUniversity N.S.W. Comp., 2nd. Mercantile (Vic), 3rd. Drummoyne (N.S.W	V.).	Time	5-58
Mercantile – M. Robertson, P. Ainsworth, M. M. G.E. Brooke, R. Guy, C. Cooper, R. Edwards (cox), P.A. Cayzer (coach).	Manly, J. Wilto stroke), T. Lin	on, ng	
Third Grade Four			1500 metres
1st. Manning River (N.S.W.), 2nd. Mercantile (' 3rd, Sydney (N.S.W.)	Vic.),	Time	5-18.6
Mercantile – M. Lory, P. Ley, S. Kennedy, S. F P. Sorani (cox), M. Kerin (coach).	Ritchie (stroke	e)	

CHAMPIONSHIP AND REGATTA RACING

Mercantile won the following events during the Regatta Season 1975–76 and we record our appreciation of the training and hardwork contributed by all members who represented the Club and offer encouragement for further efforts to greater success in the coming Season to help your Club win back to its former eminence in Rowing.

We congratulate the members of the following successful crews:

SENIOR FOUR

Henley Regatta — 28th. February, 1976. Scotch-Mercantile Regatta — 28th March, 1976. J. Hawkins, P. Macartney, I. Porter, T. Thurtell (stroke), V. Ronai (cox), M. G. Tomanovits (coach).

SENIOR SINGLE SCULL

Albert Park Lake Regatta — 26th January, 1976. — K. Leach Victorian Universities Regatta — 31st January, 1976. Victorian Championship — 7th February, 1976. Henley Regatta — 28th February, 1976. P. L. Benjamin

LIGHTWEIGHT EIGHT

South Australian Championship – 20th December, 1975.
New South Wales Championship – 31st January, 1976.
A. N. Guerin, M. Connolly, C. Koster, C. Crichton, A. Spriggins, M. F. Owen, I. R. Duthie, G. Robertson–Smith (stroke), M. Aitken (cox), D. Palfreyman (coach).
Henley Regatta – 28th February, 1976.
Ballarat Regatta – 6th March, 1976.
Victorian Championship – 7th March, 1976.
National Championship – 21st March, 1976.
A.N. Guerin, M. Connolly, C. Koster, M. F. Owen, A. Spriggins, R. Garrard, I. R. Duthie, G. Robertson–Smith (stroke), M. Aitken (cox), D. Palfreyman (coach).

LIGHTWEIGHT SENIOR FOUR WITH COX

V.R.A. (Melbourne) Regatta — 22nd. November, 1975. Upper Yarra Regatta — 6th December, 1975. Colts Regatta Ballarat — 13th December, 1975. V.R.A. Special Regatta — 20th December, 1975. Victorian Championship — 24th January, 1976. Albert Park Lake Regatta — 26th January, 1976. Henley Regatta — 28th February, 1976. Scotch-Mercantile Regatta — 28th March, 1976. J. Hawkins, P. Macartney, I. Porter, T. Thurtell (stroke), V. Ronai (cox). M. G. Tomanovits (coach).

LIGHTWEIGHT SENIOR FOUR WITHOUT COX National Championship – 21st March, 1976. J. Hawkins, P. Macartney, I. Porter, T. Thurtell (stroke), V. Ronai (cox), M. G. Tomanovits (coach).

LIGHTWEIGHT SENIOR PAIR

Metropolitan Regatta – 11th October, 1975. Banks Regatta – 18th October, 1975. A. N. Guerin, M. Connolly, J. Frederico (cox). JUNIOR EIGHT V.R.A. (Melbourne) Regatta - 22nd. November, 1975. Upper Yarra Regatta - 6th December, 1975. Colts Regatta, Ballarat - 13th December, 1975. South Australian Regatta - 20th December, 1975. A. N. Guerin, M. Connolly, C. Koster, C. Crichton, A. Spriggins, M. F. Owen, I. R. Duthie, G. Robertson-Smith (stroke), M. Aitken (cox), D. Palfreyman (coach). Scotch-Mercantile Regatta - 28th March, 1976. M. Robertson, R. Edwards, A. Withers, J. Wilton, G. E. Brooke, R. Guy, C. Cooper, P. Ainsworth (stroke), T. Ling (cox), P. A. Cayzer (coach). JUNIOR FOUR Banks Regatta - 18th October, 1975. Colts Regatta - Ballarat - 13th December, 1975. Nagambie Regatta - 26th December, 1975. Victorian Universities Regatta - 31st January, 1976. Victorian Championship – 7th February, 1976. J. Hawkins, P. Macartney, I. Porter, T. Thurtell (stroke), V. Ronai (cox),

M. G. Tomanovits (coach).

JUNIOR PAIR Scotch-Mercantile Regatta – 28th March, 1976. Footscray Regatta – 3rd April, 1976. A. N. Guerin, M. Connolly (stroke), P. Wiseman (cox).

MAIDEN EIGHT Nagambie Regatta – 26th December, 1976. S. Kennedy, C. Godfrey, C. Jones, M. Robertson, J. Wilton, A. Briggs, R. Guy, E. Dwyer, R. Jones (cox), R. B. Wilson (coach).

MAIDEN FOUR Metropolitan Winter Regatta – 2nd August, 1975. P. Doyle, E. Dwyer, C. Godfrey, J. Wilton (stroke), P. Wiseman (cox), M. Pollinelli (coach).

Scotch-Mercantile Regatta — 28th March, 1976. Mildura Regatta — 17th April, 1976. Wentworth Regatta — 19th April, 1976. M. Lory, P. Ley, S. Kennedy, S. Ritchie (stroke), P. Sorani (cox), M. Kerin (coach).

NOVICE FOUR Nagambie Regatta – 26th December, 1975. No.3. Crew – G. Pitson, D. Klein, R. Loveless, C. Holland (stroke), G. Barnes (cox), W. L. Ruttledge (coach). Nagambie Regatta – 26th December, 1975. Yarrawonga Regatta – 27th December, 1975. Ruthergien Lake Regatta – 1st. January, 1976. No.1. Crew – P. Wilson, G. Molloy, J. Ryan, R. Zacharin (stroke), P. Sorani (cox), R. B. Wilson (coach).

OPEN EIGHT

Banks Regatta – 18th October, 1975.
E. Schrader, M. Manley, R. Guy, P. Benjamin, C. Godfrey, T. Horkings,
S. Shirrefs, T. Young (stroke), A. Maginn (cox), H. R. Fredeico (coach).
V.R.A. (Melbourne) Regatta – 22nd November, 1975.
Upper Yarra Regatta – 6th December, 1975.
S. Sherrifs, E. Schrader, C. Cooper, R. Guy, J. R. Harry, P. Benjamin,
A. Withers, T. Young, (stroke), A. Maginn (cox), H.R. Frederico (coach)
Yarrawonga Regatta – 27th December, 1975.
A. N. Guerin, M. Connolly, C. Koster, C. Crichton, A. Spriggins, M. Owen,
M. Robertson, G. Robertson–Smith (stroke), M. Aitken (cox),
D. Palfreyman (coach).
V.R.A. Championship Regatta – 7th February, 1976.
Dead Heat for First – A. N. Guerin, M. Connolly, C. Koster, C. Crichton,
A. Spriggins, M. F. Owen, I. R. Duthie, G. Robertson–Smith (stroke),
M. Aitken (cox), D. Palfreyman (coach).

VETERAN EIGHT

Upper Yarra Regatta – 6th December, 1975. P.E.M. Philp, W.L. Ruttledge, E.Sorani, R. Negri, M.G. Tomanovits, D.H. Boykett, P.M. Guest, D. Palfreyman (stroke), G. Godkin (cox).

PREMIERSHIP POINTS

SENIOR – Monash University 68; M.U.B.C. 52; Mercantile 13; Warrnambool 10; Albert Park 4; Barwon 4; Corio Bay 4; Melbourne 4; Hawthorn 3; Essendon 2; Wendouree/Ballarat 2; Power House 1.

JUNIOR – 1st. Division – Banks 224; Essendon 140; Mercantile 100; Corio Bay 75; Barwon 75; Power House 34; Wendouree/Ballarat 34; Richmond 11; Hawthorn 4; Melbourne 0.

LIGHTWEIGHT — Mercantile 60; Wendouree/Ballarat 16; Corio Bay 13; Hawthorn 10; Albert Park 8; Essendon 8; Melbourne 8; Rutherglen 6; Barwon 6; Power House 6; Footscray City 4; M.U.B.C. 4; Richmond 4; Yarra Yarra 4; Warrnambool 2.

JUNIOR – 2nd. Division – Albert Park 90; Warrnambool 26; M.U.B.C. 24; Rutherglen 10; Wentworth 6; Lake Colac 6; Ballarat City 4; Dimboola 4; Footscray City 4; Monash University 4; Mildura 4; Wahgunyah 2.

SCOTCH-MERCANTILE REGATTA

The 18th Scotch—Mercantile Regatta, held on 27th March, 1976, was organised by Mr. J. W. Bradshaw, assisted by a Committee consisting of Messrs, R. R. Aitken, D. H. Boykett, A. N. Guerin, W. V. Nash, M. F. Owen, and P. H. O'Brien and resulted in a record entry of 1,520 oarsmen with a programme of 157 events commencing at 9.15 a.m. and finishing on time at 5.00 p.m.

The assistance of the Ladies' Auxiliary in catering arrangements, Scotch College students with communications, etc., Mr. R. B. Duncan as Referee and the Victorian Rowing Association Officials, ensured the efficient conduct of the regatta and we record our appreciation of this valuable assistance.

COXSWAINS

The success of the regatta racing season can be made or marred by the coxswains and Mercantile has been most fortunate in the quality of its coxswains during the past season and the number of boys we had available to share our success and we express our appreciation of their assistance to – M. Aitken, G. Barnes, D. Farrow, J. Frederico, R. L. Jones, T. Ling, A. E. Maginn, V. Ronai, P. Sorani, D. Strong and P. Wiseman.

TROPHIES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S TROPHY - is awarded to the member who has entered and won the most Regatta and Club races during the season.

We congratulate Peter Macartney a member of our Lightweight Senior Four who in addition to winning 15 regatta races also competed successfully in club races and won the National Championship for Lightweight Fours without Cox and the Australian Championship for Lightweight Fours with Cox. A most worthy winner of this trophy.

MAX BAILEY TROPHY – The Perpetual Shield and Trophy for the Champion Coxswain has been won by Vic Ronai with a total of 15 wins for the season.

DR. R. A. COOPER MEMORIAL TROPHY — is made available by the generosity of the family of the Late Dr. R. A. Cooper and is awarded annually to the membe who during the year has rendered the most outstanding service to the Club. The Trophy has been awarded to Craig Holland a first year member who throughout the year has been available at the most inconvenient times to tow boats and oars to Regattas throughout Victoria and has provided transport for equipment required at various functions. We thank you Craig for the services rendered to Mercantile. JEFF WYLIE MEMORIAL TROPHY – The Perpetual Shield and Trophy for the most improved lightweight oarsman is donated by the Management and Staff of Edward Lumley and Son, Pty. Ltd., and is awarded annually in memory of the late Jeff Wylie a former Captain of the Club.

The award goes to Clem Koster to whom we extend our congratulations.

LATE F. R. BROWNE TROPHY — The perpetual Shield and Trophy are donated by the family of the late F. R. Browne for presentation to the most improved novice oarsman and has been presented to Craig Holland to whom we extend our congratulations.

N. W. CAIRNES TROPHY – The Trophy for the most improved coxswain of the season has been awarded to David Farrar.

CLUB EVENTS

Traditional events in the Annual Dinner, 20th September, 1975, held at the Dorchester and Ladies' Day, 7th September, 1975, were well patronised and enjoyed by all who attended.

A. L. DOBBIE MEMORIAL FOURS, conducted in conjunction with Ladies' Day, attracted an entry of eight crews. The trophies donated by the family of the late Mr. A. L. Dobbie were presented by Mr. Alex Dobbie to the successful crew, Clive Jones, P. Ainsworth, C. Milledge, P. Macartney (stroke), and G. Barnes (cox).

MORELL COMBINATION EIGHTS, 15th. February, 1976, for trophies donated by the family of the late Sir Stephen Morell were supported by members from a number of kindred clus. The presentation was made by Mr. Rod. Morell to the winning crew: S. Brass (Essendon), P. Demllo (Richmond), C. Peart (Essendon), C. Heys (Richmond), I. Porter (Mercantile), T. Young (Mercantile), S. Jelbart (Monash), G. Robertson—Smith (stroke) (Mercantile), J. Burke (cox)(Mercantile).

J. G. H. SPRIGG TIME TRIAL, an eight-oared race against time from Mercantile around Como Island and return, crews must have a minimum of two novice oarsmen and not more than two senior oarsmen. The race is conducted between the end of the regatta season and the day of the Annual Meeting and was won by A. N. Guerin, M. F. Owen, C. Godfrey, J. Wilton, S. Shirrefs, M. Manley, T. Horkings, R. Garrard (stroke), V. Ronai (cox).

Mr. Bert Spencer made the presentation of trophies on behalf of our President, Mr. J. G. H. Sprigg, who was absent overseas.

STONK-MOOSE TIME TRIAL, rowed in a tub four the crews being handicapped by the Selectors, is rowed through the Chapel Street Bridge and return to the Club. The successful crew was M. Connolly, M. F. Owen, R. B. Wilson, E. Sorani (stroke), P. Wiseman (cox). We thank Mr. Laurie Moll (the Moose) for the trophies for this event keeping green the memory of a past Captain the late Gordon (Stonk) Ross.

RICHARDSON-BRADSHAW TIME TRIAL, raced through the Morell Bridge and return to the Club was won by M. F. Owen, E. Dwyer, P. Benjamin, R. Garrard (stroke), V. Ronai (cox). We thank Bill Bradshaw and Ron Richardson for donating these trophies.

BARBECUE — The Henley Night Barbecue held at the home of our Chairman of Selectors, Martin Owen, proved a magnificent function and we are indebted to Martin's parents for making their home available.

LADIES' AUXILIARY – The Ladies are presently working to raise funds to purchase for the Club – Exercise Bike Aluminium Coaching Hull Divider Curtains for the Club Room

During the year they held a Dinner Dance, conducted the catering for the Scotch-Mercantile Regatta and held three small morning functions which raised \$850.

The Ladies donated 150 chairs to the Club at a cost \$1,155 and we are very appreciative of their service to the Club.

The members of the Ladies' Auxiliary are: Mesdames C. Boykett, (President), J. Bradshaw (Secretary), E. McKeown (Treasurer), N. Bryan, M. Burford, D.Bailey, P. Coleman, E. Gaffney, J. Guerin, A. Gumley, S. Garrard, J. Loveless, P. Maginn, A. Macartney, M. Owen, A. Porter, D. Robertson-Smith, P. Shanasy, M. Sherwood, M. Wiseman.

The Ladies are eager to recruit new members, wives or mothers of oarsmen and those interested can contact Mrs. Jean Bradshaw, Telephone: 96-4504.

ANZAC DAY SERVICE — was conducted by the President with the assistance of David Stirling and John Seammen on the morning of Anzac Day, 25th April, 1976, a ceremony at which we remembered the large number of our members who served in three wars and did not return.

E.M.M.A. Once again we are indebted to the good service of Mrs. Sprigg who organises the disposal of the members empty containers and from this source contributed \$80 to Club Funds.

CHRISTMAS CAMP — The Christmas Rowing Camp was again held at Yarrawonga where Mr, and Mrs. Roger Wilson aided by Ted Sorani looked after about 20 young members who spent the holiday rowing, swimming, and winning a few races.

VALE – It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Clive Ward who had been a member of the Club for forty years and will be sadly missed by his many friends.

For and on behalf of the Committee,

N. W. CAIRNES, Honorary Secretary, Mercantile Rowing Club.

LIST OF MEMBERS, 1975-76

LIFE MEMBERS

Aitken, R. R. Bradshaw, J. W. Cairnes, N. W. Morgan, D. J. R. Soraní, A. Sprigg, J. G. H. Thursfield, R. W.

SENIOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

Ainsworth, P. J. Athorne, W. J. Ayres, L. F. Bailey, K. B. Baird, A. T. Baker, K. Gross, B. Guest, P. M. Gumley, J. H. Harry, J. R. Harvey, J. R. Hawkins, J. F. Negri, Dr. R. B. O'Brien, P. H. Owen, M. F. Palfreyman, D. Park, G. A. Paton, H. Ball, D. G. Benjamin, P. L. Blaxland, A. W. Boykett, D. H. Bradley, A. J. Bridges, R. J. Briggs, J. D. Brien, F. D. Burford, J. Burke, M. Butler, S. J. Cayzer, P. A. Cordell, A. M. Cowling, D. S. Cunningham, P. Curtis, R. A. Dawson, R. StL. Delfos, N. Dobbie, A.W. Dobie, P. D. Docherty, W. Donoghue, J. D. Douglas, D. G. A. Draffin, J. R. Duthie, I. R. Eddie, A. Emsell, R. Evans, A. M. Everist, I. C. Farnhill, D. Fox, J. A. Franet, P. J. Frederico, H. R. Garrard, R. J. Gibson, A. D. Gibson, D. H. Gillon, S. M. Glennon, M. P. Glynn, D. J. Green, H. P. Griffiths, R. I.

Hill, J. Hogan, T. J. Holding, J. H. Holberton, A. S. Holland, C. S. Hughan, J. R. Hume, M. C. Hunter, D. S. Hutchins, R. L. Hutchins, W. B. Jeffery, S. R. Jones, J. McD. Jones, P. L. Jones, P. L. V. Kellam, M. B. Kerin, M. J. King, R. J. Klein, D. P. Knowles, P. R. Kohn, A. B. Leach, K. Loveless, R. T. McCall, G. A. McCorkell, S. R. McKenna, M. F. McKeown, J. W. McMahon, G. McQuilkin, N. S. Macartney, P. M. Mahony, C. W. Mahony, H. Mansfield, P. S. Manton, G. O. V. Mollard, K. F. Moore, C. C. M. Morell, D. R. Morell, R. T. Morgan, E. M. Morrison, W. T. Mulder, V. Negri, R. A.

Patterson, B. J. Patterson, I. H. Philp, P. E. M. Pirani, R. L. Pitson, G. K. Porter, C. F. Redman, R. Reiner, M. Renouf, L. P. Richardson, G.W. Richardson, R. H. Richardson, S. G. Richter, P. G. Ruttledge, W. L. Ryan, S. P. Schrader, E. D. Shanasy, J. Shears, H. P. Sherwood, R. Sloan, A. T. Spartalis, B. R. Spensley, Dr. J. S. Stewart, R. D. Stone, F. J. Talbot, L. J. Taylor, G. M. Thom, J. J. Thurtell, T. J. Tomanovits, M. G. Tynan, J. Vautin, W. Wallace, W. L. N. Wertheimer, E. J. Williams, A. P. Williams, J. G. Williams, L. S. Williams, M. M. Wilson, W. I. Wirtz, E. Wood, P. V. Yunghanns, D. J.

Adams, A. W. Arnold, W. S. Atkins, A. H. C. Bostock, J. B. Brooke, D. C. Broughton, O. S. Carr, J. P. Clarke, J. H. P. De Guingand, C.

SENIOR MEMBERS

Doyle, B. J. Fletcher, J. M. Harding, P. Hewitt, H. N. Hyett, G. S. Merton, B. Newcomb, S. H. Newport, F. P. Shears, J. D. Spalding, N. Spencer, H. T. Stirling, D. S. Thomas, J. C. Walker, H. J. R. Watkin, P. K. White, E. C. Wilson, R. B. Wood, M. R.

JUNIOR MEMBERS

Bowring, K. C. Brooke, G. E. Cannon, A. M. Chirnside, A. M. Connolly, M. C. Cooper, C. G. Craig, R. I. Cremean, T. A. Croagh, P. Doyle, P. J. Doyle, P. J. Dwyer, E. Edwards, R. K. Godfrey, C. L. Guerin, A. N. Holyman, I. D. Jorgensen, M. E. Kennedy, S. M. Lagler, M. C. Ley, P. J. Lipzker, M. Lory, M. McCoy, T. J. Maginn, A. E. Manley, M. W. Morrison, B. W. Newton, N. L. Parton, D. B. Pinniger, H. R. Porter, I. J. Prince, R. J. Richardson, R. McK. Ritchie, S. A. Robertson, W. M. Robertson-Smith, G. Romanin, B. Shaw, I. Shirrefs, S. A. Spriggins, A. J. Stafferton, C. G. Symon, B. R. S. Webster, J. S. Wilton, J. Withers, A. Young, T. J.

JUNIOR SCHOOLBOY MEMBERS

Briggs, A. P. Castell, G. Clemens, W. R. M. Cornellison, M. Crichton, C. D. Fitch, P. C. Gaffney, M. T. Guy, R. J. Jones, C. P. Jones, R. L. Keast, R. B. Koster, C. Milledge, C. J. Molloy, G. J. Morris, C. Negline, J. W. Reiner, M. A. Rigby, E. J. Ronai, M. J. Rowe, M. J. Scott, P. W. Taylor, G. Theakstone, S. Viner, G. R. Wilson, P. Wright, B. C. Zacharin, R. M.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Alekna, V. Appleby, J. P. Baxter, D. Berold, B. I. Blair Holt, J. A. Bolton, R. S. Burke, H. B. Carlton, R. Corben, M. H. Cordell, A. J. Crichton, D. J. M. Cutka, J. V. Dumbleton, W. Fogarty, F. Foley, J. E. Fosdick, L. V. Granowski, W. O. Hidgcock, C. W. Higgins, K. L. Hill, L. C. Holyman, G. I. Horne, G. W. Hume, D. Hume, K. M. Leggett, E. P. Longmuir, I. McDavitt, J. P. Milligan, A. S. Mollard, S. F. Nicholls, C. J. O'Brien, R. A. Oliver, R. J. D.

Palfreyman, D. B. Rodda, T. Seammen, J. W. Searle, N. M. Shears, E. Spark, J. M. Stephenson, C. E. Thomas, A.C. Thomas, K. C. Walker, A. J. Walker, G. A. Wilkinson, C. V. H. Will, G. D. Willis, J. D. Wraith, G. J. Wylie, W. J.

COUNTRY MEMBERS

Ansell, G. L. Bailey, J. H. Barber, J. E. L. Bowman, J. W. Boykett, G. H. Boykett, P. H. Connolly, R. W. Darker, A. Ferguson, J. M. Fogarty, M. J. Gamble, P. Hart, A. L. Humphris, P. W. Keeley, M. R. Lee, R. E. McArthur, F. S. McConville, K. H. McKay, T. B. McLean, A. R. McNamara, P. J. Miller, P. M. Moll, L. L. B. Monger, A. C. Morell, S. D. H. Noble, F. Olliff, D. Pennefacher, A. Pope, K. Rowe, J. S. Thompson, C. T. Thompson, C. P. Williams, J. M.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

M. R. Faulkner P. M. Gibbs

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT YEAR ENDING 30th APRIL, 1976.

1975	INCOME						1976
\$6,840 928	Subscriptions	•••	***			····	\$7,040 1,441
\$5,912							\$5,599
866	Donations			***		***	5,195
	Gymnasium Fees					***	260
	Hire Scull Racks	***					135
150	Hire Club Room						1,050
4,012	Interest Received					***	425
	Profit on Sale of Boats						359
	Profit on Sale of Singlets & Track	Sui	ts				14
	Rent					***	1,099
181	Sundry Income						15
4,032	Transfers from Social Fund			***			
\$15,153							\$14,151
	EXPENDITURE						
\$1,796	Depreciation						\$2,287
77	Entrance Fees - Regattas						259
158	Fire Protection Expenses						159
182	Freight - Country Regattas						54
459	General Expenses						234
723	Insurances						1,394
1,207	Interest on Overdraft						2,619
1,118	Lighting, Gas, Rent & Rates						1,303
950	Printing and Stationery						1,192
920	Repairs and Maintenance						1,459
90	Telephone						155
114	Trophies - Club Races						80
378	V.R.A. Dues, Fees & Donations						822
\$8,172							\$12,017
00.001	NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR						\$2,134
\$6,981	NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	***		***	***	***	\$2,134

1975		1976
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
\$1,650 23,907 6,138 130 100	Bank of New South Wales	\$216 24,845 6,303 257 3,879 800 100
\$31,925		\$36.400
\$2,804	R. A. COOPER MEMORIAL TRUST FUND ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$2,959
50,772 38,825	Balance 30th April (See Note 2.)	52,904 39,066
\$92,401		\$94,929
\$124,326		\$131,329

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th APRIL, 1976

CURRENT ASSETS

\$358	Bank of New South Wales (R. A. Cooper Memorial Trust Fund)	\$482
1,094 78	Subscriptions Outstanding	577 28
1,343	Sundry Debtors & Prepayments	1,228
\$2,873		\$2,315
	INVESTMENTS (at cost)	
\$14,000	Loan – Brayburn Securities Ltd Commonwealth Treasury Bonds:-	
597	V.R.A. Trophy Order Account	391
50	F. R. Brown Trophy Account	50
100	J. J. Wylie Trophy Account	100
\$747		\$541
1,000	R. A. Cooper Memorial Trust Fund:	
1,397	Finance Corporation of Australia Australian Foundation Investment Co	1,000
1,007	Australian Foundation Investment Co	1,464
\$17,144		\$3,005
	NON-CURRENT ASSETS	
\$88,035	War Memorial Club House (See Note 4.) S	102.298
5,201	Boat House (at cost)	5,201
7,408	Boats (at cost less depreciation)	13,673
738	Boat Trailer (at cost less depreciation)	837
1,138	Sundry Assets (at cost less depreciation)	1,586
1,789	Oars (at valuation less depreciation)	2,414
\$104,309	s	126.009
\$124,326	5	131.329

I report that, the accompanying Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Statement of the Mercantile Rowing Club are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Club at 30th April, 1976, according to the information and explanations given to me and as shown by the books and records.

P. R. DEVENISH,

Chartered Accountant.

Dated - Melbourne, 9th. June, 1976.

WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING FUND

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th APRIL, 1976.

1975		
May 1	Balance \$23,907	
1976 April 30	PAYMENTS Bank Fees	
	Expenditure on re-instating building 12,169 Gymnasium Equipment 210	
	Interest on Overdraft	
1976	RECEIPTS	\$110
April 30	Interest on Deposit Repayment of Deposit Sundry Donations	11,900
	Transfer from Club Funds	2,625 24,845
	\$39,640	\$39,640
1976 May 1	Balance \$24,845	1
	NOTES ACCOMPANYING BALANCE SHEET AT 30th APRIL, 1976.	
1975	Note 1. TROPHY ORDERS ACCOUNT	1976
\$5,885	Balance 1st May	\$6,138
\$6,138	less Trophy Orders Paid	\$6,345 42
\$6,138		\$6,303
	Note 2. ACCUMULATED FUNDS	
\$43,789 6,981	Balance 1st May	\$50,770 2,134
\$50,770	add Transfers on inclusion of War Memorial	\$52,904
3,623	Building Fund – own Funds	2,625
\$54,393 3,623	less Transfer to War Memorial Building Fund	\$55,529 2,625
\$50,770		\$52,904
	Note. 3. The figure of \$39,066 represents total donat War Memorial Building Fund received to 30tl	
	Note 4. WAR MEMORIAL CLUB HOUSE	
	NOTE 4. WAN WEINDRIAL CLUB HOUSE	

\$21,746 66,290	Balance 1st May	\$88,036 14,262
\$88,036	Balance 30th April	\$102,298