

MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB INC.



(Established 1880)

124th ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET 2003 - 2004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 124TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB INC. WILL BE HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON SATURDAY 26TH JUNE 2004 AT 8.00PM.

BUSINESS

1. To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 28th June 2003.
2. To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Balance Sheet.
3. To elect office bearers for the ensuing year.
4. Presentation of Trophies and Awards.
5. Motion:
That David Colvin and William Webster be elected as Life Members.
5. General Business
Any other General Business that may legally be brought forward.

Nominations for Office-Bearers for the ensuing year close on the notice board at the Clubhouse on Saturday 19th June 2004 at 4.00pm.

By Order of the Committee

W. Webster
Honorary Secretary
1st June 2004

2003 - 04 OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT

Mr. A. N. Guerin

VICE PRESIDENTS

Hon. Justice H.R.Frederico
Mr. W.T. Morrison (dec Nov 03)
Mr. R.B.Wilson
Mr. D.H.Boykett
Mr. N.P.R. Batters
Mr D.A. Pincus

Mr. J.J. Lawrence
Mr D. J. Yunghanns
Mr. W.B.Hutchins
Mr. A.M.Evans
Mr E.C. White

CAPTAIN

Mr. D. Colvin

VICE CAPTAINS

Mr. D. Ginn & Mr. W. Tait

HONORARY SECRETARY

Mr. W. Webster

HONORARY TREASURER

Mr. P. Somerville
(resigned Dec 03)

SOCIAL MANAGER

Mr. J. Ball

CHAIRMAN OF SELECTORS

Mr. T. Courtney

COMMITTEE

Mr. H. Edgar
Mr. K. Chambers
Mr. M. Groves

Mr. T Chambers
Mrs J. Fraumano

HONORARY AUDITOR

Bentley's MRI

HONORARY SOLICITOR

Mr. A.N.Guerin

**ROWING VICTORIA/ROWING AUSTRALIA
BOARD MEMBER**

Mr. D. A. Pincus

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The past season was a great one for the Club with significant Olympic representation and excellent recruiting of new rowers. Firstly, my congratulations to our Olympic representatives Michael McKay, James Tomkins, Noel Donaldson and for the first time, David Crawshay, on their selection into the Olympic team. Michael and James are competing at their fifth Olympic Games and each has won two Gold and another medal. Whilst we cannot rule out these members competing at a sixth Games, it is probably their last time. The Club hosted a farewell luncheon for our Olympians late in May where over 150 guests enjoyed a high spirited afternoon (and evening), organised by Anthony Bergelin. If this spirit is conveyed to their rowing, the Mercantile Olympians will win gold again. Members are invited to the Clubhouse on the rowing finals nights to witness the events on a big screen.

The recruiting has been very good on the women's side for a number of years but we were lagging behind on the men's side. This year we appear to have got recruiting right with ample good talent in both genders. We look forward to another year of good recruiting to get the base of talented members to a yet higher level. Our thanks go to our coaches and Captain who undertake this work.

Your Captain and Head Coach will provide details on our rowing achievements later in this report. However I must record the Club's appreciation of the fine and tireless work of our coaches who recruit, train and inspire our rowers. They are the key to the success of the Club and the work involved is enormous. In particular I must thank Head Coach Tom Courtney and his coaching team of David Colvin, Bill Tait, Blair Hasforth, Martin Francis, David Ochert, John Leeming, Pete Woolard and David Fraumano. Our coaching team is without doubt the best on the riverbank.

For the past Olympiad we have been fortunate in having David Colvin as our Captain. He has work has been of the highest order both as an administrator and as a coach. In 2003, he even took a year off work to make sure that his role as Captain and as a coach was not compromised. David is to retire at this Annual Meeting and hand over to his Vice-Captain Bill Tait. David will continue with coaching but will take a well earned rest from the administration. Your Committee has unanimously recommended to members that David become a Life Member of the Club.

Also we must note the extraordinary efforts of Bill Webster, our longest ever serving Secretary. Bill's work has also been pivotal in maintaining the Club's administration, particularly when the Club was missing a Treasurer. Bill also has taken time off work to undertake this role as well as other significant roles within rowing such as the regatta secretary of the APS regatta and Henley on the Yarra. Your committee has also unanimously recommended that Bill be granted the Club's highest honour of Life Membership.

The nature of your Committee has changed over recent years to include a more diverse group of members. The Committee has always been comprised of active rowers and coaches as the Club's only aim is competitive rowing. However now that we have professional coaching to guide the active rowing, the Committee's role is changing to being one more involved with fund raising. Therefore the addition of some parents of active members onto the Committee

this year was a welcome change. I pass on my gratitude to the Committee members this year and in particular note the support of Vice-Presidents Phil Batters, Jeff Lawrence and David Yunghanns.

It is sad that we note the passing of three notable members during the year, namely Graham Richardson, John Seammen and Bill Morrison. Their obituaries follow later in this report.

The Club benefited from three bequests this year. The Estates of John Seammen and Norman and Betty Cairnes contributed to the growth of the Endowment Fund and we trust that their memory is enhanced by their contributions. We have also been advised that a bequest from Graeme Richardson will also be forthcoming. We remind members that such support will assist in guaranteeing the future of the Club and enable others to enjoy the same privileges we have enjoyed as members.

Again the Club received many generous donations during the year and we thank these members for their great support. The names of these donors appear in our financial report. Members can make tax deductible donations to our equipment fund or non-tax deductible donations to our Endowment Fund. We must also thank our Vice-President Jeff Lawrence, who is the proprietor of boat builder Jeff Sykes & Associates. The Club has been able to negotiate the acquisition and repair of the excellent Sykes equipment on most appropriate terms.

Members will recall that the Club published a centenary history in 1980. The Club will attain its 125th year in 2005 and this has prompted an update of the Club's History. Members interested in assisting with this project should contact me. Already Bob Aitken, Martin Owen, John Harry and myself from the original authors have indicated a willingness to participate again, as well as Tim Frederico and James Harvey. The first step will be to publish the existing history on the Club's web-site with additional photographs of Club activities since 1880. The next step will be the production of the Club history for the past 25 years. We ask members to look for any photographs of crews or Club life at any time during the Club's existence so that they can be included in this update.

Despite the tradition established in the Club's first 100 years, the position of President is now one which is unofficially limited in term to allow the Club to benefit from the experience of suitable senior members. Accordingly this was my last year as President and I thank members for their support during this period. It has been a privilege and honour to act as your President.

Andrew Guerin
President

TO THE MEMBERS

Your committee has pleasure in submitting the 124th Annual report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30th April 2004.

This has been my fourth year as Captain of Mercantile and as it does every Olympic year, the excitement levels are rising as the Olympic Games approach and we look forward to seeing our Mercantilians performing on the biggest stage of all.

The old stalwarts James Tomkins and Drew Ginn are back where they were four years ago as World Champions in the pair and go into the Olympics as favourites. Such was the quality of their performance that the Great Britain pair of Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell are now in the four after a lot of speculation which began the moment they finished fourth behind James and drew.

David Crawshay regained his place in the senior Australian Team and after narrowly missing victory in the Luzern World Cup regatta in the Men's Double Scull, finished sixth in the final at the World Championships. David has moved on since and has just left for Europe as a key member of the Men's Quad Scull at the Olympics. Their early form is very exciting and has them as one of the best boats on the Olympic Team.

One more legend of Mercantile is back in the Olympic limelight with Michael McKay back in the Olympic eight. Mike has not raced internationally since the silver medal in the 2000 eight in Sydney, but his has been a painstaking and well thought out return to International competition. No one who knows Mike has any doubt that he will find the intensity to compete in Athens, despite the fact that the men's eight is moving very fast as demonstrated by the Canadians over the last two years.

Our female athletes have had a very challenging and stressful season in an Olympic year. After a silver medal in the Four at the World Under 23 Regatta in Belgrade, Fleur Chew and Sara Richards were joined by Robyn Selby Smith and Pauline Frasca and our Head Coach Tom Courtney in their campaign for selection in the Women's eight for Athens. In a very arduous campaign which left all of these athletes spending more time interstate in Sydney, Canberra and Lake Jindabyne than they did at home, only Robyn achieved selection in the non-Olympic four.

Our other international athlete from 2003, Alison Withers had an eye-opening campaign in the Under 23 Lightweight Double Scull. Alison joined the senior lightweight women in Adelaide under coach Adrian David for a tough winter leading into the World Cup regatta in Luzern. Alison and her partner Jacqui Bain then had to battle injury to finish an unlucky fourth place at the World Under 23 regatta.

It is very pleasing to see most of these athletes already taking the first steps towards the next Olympic Games in Beijing, having missed selection this year.

And I must not forget one more athlete who has made her first Australian Team. Emma Wawn is following in the steps of other Mercantile athletes in being selected in the Women's Under 23 Four. Emma was a midseason arrival at Mercantile having moved to Melbourne from Geelong, and as demonstrated by her other sport of parachute jumping, she knows no fear.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to all of our Australian Representatives.

During the season, there were a number of significant changes to our coaching team. In July, our Head Coach Ian Dryden returned home to the UK. We were fortunate that our Women's Coach Tom Courtney has been able to step in to the Head Coach role.

In his two years with Mercantile, Ian made an enormous impact to the culture of Mercantile and the way our athletes prepare. In particular he was instrumental in guiding David Crawshay back into the Australian Team last year and this has led in turn to David's selection on the Olympic Team. He was also a key influence for Kris Coventry who at the second attempt this year won the Boat Race for Cambridge over Oxford after narrowly missing out last year. Ian's contribution to Mercantile will be felt for years to come.

The second important development in the coaching team has been the arrival of Blair Hasforth as the Mens Youth coach. His energy in recruiting resulted in his being appointed as co-coach of the State Men's youth eight (with Noel Donaldson) with three Mercs athletes on board. Having got a taste for the role, Blair is already recruiting for the coming season with several new athletes already in training.

Our women's program was still busy with plenty of crews and new recruits. After the best season in the club's history in 2003, it is perhaps not surprising that we did not have quite the success we enjoyed last year, however the foundations and the energy are still there and Mercantile will continue to have a very strong presence in Women's rowing. In the season just completed, Tom Courtney coached the Victorian Women's Eight to third place in the Governor Generals Trophy, with a crew containing four Mercantilians. We also had Alison Withers stroking the Victoria Cup crew to third place coached by yours truly, and Sarah Forbes in the Youth Eight.

I say this every year but it is always true. There are always a number of people who contribute to the running of a club such as ours and who volunteer their time and expertise. To the following I offer the Club's thanks:

- To vice-captains Drew Ginn and Bill Tait. Their support is vital for both coaches and athletes in the Club.
- The coaching panel of Tom Courtney, Bill Tait, Ian Dryden, Blair Hasforth, David Palfreyman, David Ochert, Marty Francis, Pete Woollard, David Fraumano, John Leeming, Guy Begley & Anthony Bergelin. Without the input of this group, we don't have a Club. We are always looking for other coaches and there are, so if you wish to contribute to what is a growing group of athletes, please contact Tom Courtney at the Club.

- To Noel Donaldson and the Victorian Institute of Sport for their support of our Elite Athletes.
- As always it seems, Phil Batters for his fundraising efforts and other work around the clubhouse.
- Bill Webster and Paul Somerville for their administration work. Until his move to Ballarat, Paul Somerville has done sterling work as Treasurer in what has been a challenging time for the club. Unfortunately we have been unable to replace Paul in the treasurer's role which has caused the Captain and the Secretary to lose even more hair from their rapidly thinning pates.
- And finally to the President, Andrew Guerin. It was Andy's "request" which led me to nominate as Captain four years ago, and from close quarters I have seen the amazing amount of work he contributes to Mercantile. Although he is not nominating as President this year, Mercantile will enjoy the benefits of his contribution for many years.

I said this last year but it bears repeating as often as possible. It takes an enormous effort from many people for a club such as ours to achieve what it has done with the resources at our disposal. Compared to our opposition we don't enjoy the level of funding or standard of fleet that our competitors are used to. Credit therefore goes to the athletes who simply get on with the job.

As I wrote in the most recent edition of the Mercantilian, I will not be nominating as Captain at the next Annual General Meeting. I have found the last four years to be both very challenging and very rewarding. There is an enormous contrast in the mood of the club and the amount of work being done by a greater number of athletes, not to mention the enthusiasm of school athletes who want to join our club.

I am really looking forward to continuing my contribution as part of the coaching team and working with the new Captain and his team who can bring their fresh energy to leading our club.

David Colvin
Captain

TROPHIES

CAPTAIN'S TROPHY

This trophy is awarded annually to the member who has won the most Regatta and Club races during the season on the basis of one point for a win with one additional point for any championship.

The Captain's Trophy has been won by Alistar Taylor. Alistar competed well in both the single and double scull this season. He capped off the season by winning the State Championships and being selected to represent Australia in the single scull at the World University Games in September.

MAX BAILEY TROPHY

The Perpetual Shield and Trophy is awarded to the coxswain who has won the most Regatta and Club races during the season on the basis of one point for a win with one additional point for any championship.

The Max Bailey Trophy has been won by Hugh Hindle. This was Hugh's first season at the Club and he coxed our Men's Youth Squad to a number of victories. Hugh has recently been selected to cox the Victorian Men's Eight at the Youth Cup Regatta in Adelaide next month.

DR R. A. COOPER MEMORIAL TROPHY

This trophy is made available by the generosity of the family of the late Dr. R. A. Cooper and is awarded annually to the member who, during the year, has rendered the most outstanding service to the Club.

This year the Dr. R.A.Cooper trophy has been awarded to Blair Hasforth. Recruiting has always been the future and the lifeblood of the Club. In the last few years our men's recruiting has lagged badly. A year ago Blair was appointed to coach our men's youth squad and set about the task of making Mercantile again the destination of choice for male rowers when they leave school. This is of great importance to the future of the Club as recruiting simply is our future.

N. W. CAIRNES TROPHY

This trophy is awarded to the most improved coxswain of the season.

This trophy has been awarded to Hugh Hindle. Hugh joined the club this year from Xavier College and coxed our Men's Youth Squad.

JEEF WYLIE MEMORIAL TROPHY

The Perpetual Shield and Trophy for the most improved lightweight rower is donated by the management and staff of Edward Lumley and Sons Pty Ltd and is awarded annually in memory of the late Jeff Wylie, a former captain of the Club.

This trophy has been awarded this season to Nalini Blacker. Nalini is a 'light' lightweight and had to battle hard to finally achieve selection in a Victorian Team. This year Nalini was selected in her first Victorian Team for the 2003 Youth Cup in Adelaide which went on to win the overall trophy.

LATE F. R. BROWNE TROPHY

The Perpetual Shield and Trophy is donated by the family of the late F. R. Browne for presentation to the most improved oarsman.

This trophy has been awarded to Steve Rowley. Steve progressed from Intermediate level last year and gained selection in the Victorian Team for the Youth Cup and this year was selected in the Victoria Youth that contested the Wilkinson Cup at the National Regatta. Steve has again been selected in the Victorian Team to contest the Youth Cup next month.

H. R. FREDERICO TROPHY

This trophy made available by the Honorable Justice H. R. Frederico is awarded annually to the most improved oarswoman at the Club.

This trophy has been awarded to Robyn Selby Smith. As a result of much hard work and persistence Robyn has been selected in her first Australian Team. Robyn has made debut in the green and gold at the Senior A level and will compete in the coxless four at the World Championships later this year.

KEITH BILNEY COACHES TROPHY

This trophy was established in the memory Keith Bilney who gave nearly 70 years of service to rowing as a coxswain, sculler, oarsman, administrator but, most of all as a coach. He gave of his time freely instilling in his charges a love of the sport, a burning desire to win but with a balanced approach to life. This trophy is awarded to the coach that is not necessarily the most successful in terms of race wins, but the one who does the most to teach oarsmen & oarswomen how to row, win races and achieve their potential and in so doing develop the foundations of the Club and build and maintain the attitudes of sportsmanship, dedication and loyalty.

This year the trophy has been awarded to Blair Hasforth. While Blair has already been recognised for his recruiting efforts and the contribution to the Club that has generated it is also appropriate that we recognise his efforts as a coach. Blair has previously coached at Caulfield Grammar School and his appointment as coach of our Youth Men was his first at club level. Blair's squad was professional and disciplined and showed steady improvement through the season. As a result Blair was selected to coach the Victorian Youth Eight that contested the Wilkinson Cup at the National Regatta.

HEAD COACH REPORT

It is with great pleasure I present to the Members of Mercantile Rowing Club my first report as Head Coach.

As in all Olympic Years, 2004 was a great year for the club. No doubt already in the report much has been written about the Olympic selection of James Tomkins, Drew Ginn, Michael McKay and David Crawshay. I congratulate all four on their selection. No matter if it's your first games or maybe your 5th, I'm sure that all of them have the same thrill in being selected and sense of occasion representing their country and club. I would also take this opportunity to congratulate both Robyn Selby Smith and Emma Wawn on their first Australian Representative Selection in the Women's Senior A four and the Women's Under 23 four respectively. We also congratulate Alistair Taylor on his selection in the Australian University Games team as the Men's single sculler.

National Championships

Mercantile was well represented at the National Championships in Nagambie this year, with many medals won by both Men and women athletes. Pleasingly, it was also over a variety of boat classes from the Men's Open Coxless Four to the Men's U19 coxless four and the Women's U19 Eight. Full national results are listed below. In all we had over 30 Mercantile athletes participating at the national championships. The club was also well represented in the Interstate Crews with James, Drew and Michael in the Kings Cup, Robyn Selby Smith, Pauline Frasca, Fleur Chew and Sara Richards in the Women's Senior Eight, Alison Withers in the Women's Quad, David Crawshay the President Cup Sculler, Tim Linke, Nick Mitchell and Steve Rowley in the Men's Youth Eight and Sarah Forbes in the Women's Youth Eight.

Coaching

Mercantile is very fortunate to have arguably the strongest coaching line up in Victorian Rowing, with the number and depth of coaches. I would like to thank all those volunteer coaches who give up so much time and effort that enables the success that we have on the water. David Colvin, whilst being the captain as well, worked very hard at the continued development of the lightweight ranks and was well rewarded by being the coach of the Victorian Women's Lightweight Quad. Bill Tait did a mountain of work co-ordinating the men's side of the program and taking responsibility for the Senior A and B athletes. Bill also coached the Victorian Junior Development four and Victorian Youth Cup teams over the past year. David Fraumano was Bill's assistant, and did a great job in his development coach year. David Orchart came to the rescue in the second half of the year and played a key role with the Women's Senior B athletes in their preparation for the Nationals. Martin Francis once again backed up to be the Women's Youth coach and did a mountain of work in the organising and coaching these young ladies. Blair Hasforth reinvigorated the Men's Youth program, and was instrumental in us having 3 youth fours throughout the season and the competitiveness of all the Men's youth crews. Blair was ably assisted by Guy Begley, and together they ran the best youth program in Victoria. In the Club ranks, Pete Woolard did a fantastic job in running the Women's Intermediate program.

Equipment

The club has completed a thorough review of our fleet needs over the past year and a comprehensive fleet replacement and turnover plan has been put into effect. We were fortunate to purchase an eight (David Colvin) and a pair (Ben Dodwell) this year. We have plans for the purchase of four ex-AIS pairs this season as well as a coxed four. To enable the purchase of this equipment we have managed to sell four pairs. We are endeavouring to be very aggressive in the fleet replacement plan over the next four years as much as our budget and financial responsibility allows us.

The Future

The most exciting aspect of the past season is how we have been able to relaunch the club and be able to hit the post Olympic year (next season) with force and enthusiasm. There are many opportunities for our young athletes and the club is doing its utmost in letting the athletes perform to their optimum standard. The club intends to send a Men's and Women's eight to the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston USA in October this year, with the express desire that this is used as a development tool for our young athletes to aim for National selection. We have been able to set a standard within the Women's ranks that it is expected that one or two athletes will obtain National Selection in the Under 23 or higher ranks every year, with boys to follow this expectation in the future. I urge all members to get behind our young athletes and help them propel the club to where it belongs.

It has been a great honour to lead this club over the past year as Head Coach, with some solid groundwork being put in by Ian Dryden, the past Head Coach over the past 2 years. Without that foundation, the job would have been impossible. I would like to personally thank David Colvin who has done such a tremendous as Captain of the club, Senior Coach and general sounding board for any problems which may occur between all athletes and coaches. His dedication to the club is brilliant and I congratulate him and Bill Webster, another fine servant of the club on their nomination for Life Membership.

Thomas Courtney
Head Coach

2004 State Team Representatives

Men's coxed eight (King's Cup)

James Tomkins, Drew Ginn, Michael McKay

Women's coxed eight (Governor General's Trophy)

Sara Richards, Robyn Selby-Smith, Pauline Frasca, Fleur Chew, Tom Courtney (Coach)

Men's Single Scull (President's Cup)

David Crawshay, Noel Donaldson (Coach)

Men's youth coxed eight (Noel Wilkinson Trophy)

Steve Rowley, Nick Mitchell, Tim Linke, Blair Hasforth & Noel Donaldson (Coaches)

Women's youth coxed eight (Bicentennial Trophy)

Sarah Forbes

2004 Australian Representatives

Head Coach – Men's Rowing

Noel Donaldson

Olympic Games - Athens

Men's Coxless Pair

Drew Ginn, James Tomkins

Men's Quad Scull

David Crawshay

Men's Coxed Eight

Michael McKay

World Championships

Women's Coxless Four

Robyn Selby Smith

World University Games

Men's Single Scull

Alistar Taylor

Mercantile Regatta Wins Season 2003-04

Dimboola Regatta

Male Open Double Scull

Henry Edgar, Geoff Greaves, Coach John Leeming.

Male Open Scull

Henry Edgar, Coach Bill Tait.

Colac Regatta

Female Senior Pair

Fleur Chew, Sara Richards, Coach Tom Courtney

Male Senior Pair

Timothy Linke, Tyson Chambers, Coach Bill Tait.

Male Intermediate Coxed Quad Scull

Peter Kupcis, Joseph Braden, Geoff Greaves, Steve Rowley, Cox David Fraumano, Coach Bill Tait.

Female Senior Double Scull

Claire Shield, Sara Richards, Coach Tom Courtney.

Male Senior Double Scull

Alistar Taylor, Henry Edgar, Coaches Bill Tait & John Leeming.

Female Lightweight Under 23 Scull

Danae Bosler, Coach David Colvin.

Female Senior Scull

Robyn Selby Smith, Coach Tom Courtney.

Carrum Regatta*Male Youth Eight*

Nicholas Mitchell, Steve Rowley, Thomas Haag, Christopher Riddell, Tyson Chambers, Courtney Date, Jonathan Haycock, Chris Pang, Cox Hugh Hindle, Coach Blair Hasforth.

Male Youth Four

Nicholas Mitchell, Thomas Haag, Christopher Riddell, Steve Rowley, Cox Hugh Hindle, Coach Blair Hasforth.

Female Intermediate Four

Sarah-Jane Blunt, Annemarie Howard, Briana Eastaugh, Callie Pearce, Cox Hannah Schunker, Coach Pete Woollard

Male Under 23 Pair

Timothy Linke, Tyson Chambers, Coach Bill Tait.

Male Senior Pair

James Tomkins, Drew Ginn.

Female Intermediate Double Scull

Katrina Garvey, Rachel Skevington.

Female Senior Scull

Pauline Frasca, Coach Tom Courtney.

Male Intermediate Scull

Geoff Greaves

Barwon Regatta*Female Senior Coxless Four*

Robyn Selby Smith, Sara Richards, Fleur Chew, Pauline Frasca, Coach Tom Courtney.

Male Youth Four

Steve Rowley, Courtney Date, Christian Viti, Chris Pang, Cox Hugh Hindle, Coach Blair Hasforth.

Female Senior Pair

Fleur Chew, Sara Richards, Coach Tom Courtney.

Male Senior Pair

Timothy Linke, Tyson Chambers, Coach Bill Tait.

Female Senior Double Scull

Alison Withers, Jo Barnden, Coach David Colvin.

Male Senior Double Scull

Alistar Taylor, Henry Edgar, Coaches Bill Tait & John Leeming.

Male Senior Scull

Alistar Taylor, Coach Bill Tait & John Leeming.

Male Intermediate Scull

Corey Hester, Coach David Fraumano.

Yarra Yarra Regatta

Female Intermediate Four

Callie Pearce, Briana Eastaugh, Kathryn Graham, Elisha Gartner, Cox Hannah Schunker, Coach Pete Woollard.

Male Intermediate Four

Nicholas Mitchell, Corey Hester, Thomas Haag, Courtney Date, Cox Hugh Hindle, Coach Blair Hasforth.

Victorian Universities Regatta (State Championships)

Male Intermediate Coxed Four

James Rogers, Christian Viti, Cameron Miles, Patrick Blain, Cox Hugh Hindle, Coach Anthony Bergelin.

Male Senior Single Scull

Alistar Taylor, Coach Bill Tait & John Leeming.

Male Intermediate Single Scull

Thomas Skidmore

Footscray Regatta

Male Open Single Scull

Alistar Taylor, Coach Bill Tait

Henley on the Murray Regatta

Male Intermediate Four

Courtney Date, Henry Edgar, Thomas Haag, Nicholas Mitchell, Cox Rachel Skevington

Henley on the Darling Regatta

Female Open Scull

Rachel Skevington

Victorian Masters Championship

Male Quad Scull

Jeffrey Thompson, Mark Groves, Ray Dawson, Roberto Perillo

Albert Park-South Melbourne Regatta

Male Masters Double Scull

Roberto Perillo, Andrew Guerin

National Championships

- Nagambie

Female Under 23 Lightweight Double Scull (GOLD)

Alison Withers, Jacqui Bain (AUBC), Coach David Colvin

Male Senior Coxless Four (GOLD)

James Tomkins, Drew Ginn, Bo Hansen (UTS), Geoff Stewart (UTS)

Male Senior Double Scull (GOLD)

David Crawshay, Shaun Coulton (UQBC)

Female Under 23 Lightweight Quad (Silver)

Kalina Barboutov, (Banks), Sophie Johnston (Banks), Lauren Angley (Essendon),

Nalini Blacker, Coaches Jack Bennett & David Colvin.

Female Under 23 Double Scull (Silver)

Sarah Richards, Sarah Forbes, Coach Tom Courtney.

Male Under 19 Coxless Four (Silver)

Chris Riddell, Mitch Estens (SUBC), Edward Boyce (SUBC), Ben Dimensino (SUBC). Coaches Marty Rabjohns and **Bill Tait**.

Men's Open Quad Scull (Bronze)

Alistair Taylor, Henry Edgar, Greg O'Nians (Banks), Chris Willis (Banks)

Coach: **Bill Tait**

Women's Open Eight (Bronze)

Robyn Selby Smith, Sara Richards, Fleur Chew, Pauline Frasca, Sarah Forbes, Emma Wawn, Mia Duncan, Sarah Chibnall, Emily Trewartha (MUBC)

Coach: **Tom Courtney, David Colvin**

Women's Open Coxless Four (Bronze)

Robyn Selby Smith, Emily Martin (Wen Ball), **Fleur Chew, Pauline Frasca**

Coach: **Tom Courtney**

Women's Open Lightweight Quad (Bronze)

Lauren Zovi (Banks), **Jo Barnden**, Kate Durant (Haw), Andrea Dixon (Wen-Ball)

Coach: Jack Bennett, **David Colvin**

Women's U23 Lightweight Single Scull (Bronze)

Alison Withers

Coach: **David Colvin**

Women's U19 Double Scull (Bronze)

Emy Huntsman, Elsie Madigan (ERC)

Coach: Scott Riddell, **Tom Courtney**

Women's U19 Eight (Bronze)

Alice McNamara (MUBC), **Emy Huntsman**, Freya Scully (ERC), Melissa Plummer (ERC), Elsie Madigan (ERC), Elizabeth Dwyer (ERC), Michelle Smigieleski (ERC), Sarah Griffin

Coach: Scott Riddell, Jeff Walker

GENERAL REPORT

The year 2003/04 saw an improvement in the financial position of the Club. In the past year costs have been stabilised and creditors brought to a more manageable level, following dramatic escalation the previous year. Members of course can assist the Club by the prompt payment of their subscriptions. The steady recovery of our finances is forecast to continue this year. A new corporate seminar manager has agreed to hire the hall on a regular basis, this is on top of our normal hall hire revenue, which is a very positive sign.

The Club's longstanding sponsorship agreement with CUB came to an end during the year. Following a change in company policy, CUB elected not to renew our agreement. Whilst we regret the decision that they have taken we must thank CUB for the many years of generous support they have given to us.

Members will be aware that the Club puts a high priority on recruiting and developing young athletes and giving them an opportunity to achieve the elite level of rowing. Rowing Victoria receives funding from Rowing Australia specifically for this purpose and this year gave Clubs the opportunity to tender for funding to assist in this endeavour. Despite submitting a very professional tender before the regatta season commenced and being the most successful club at youth level during season 2003/04 support from RV was sadly lacking. Only as this report was going to press was RV following up on submissions and considering funding allocations. With Rowing Australia considering proposals for direct funding of high performing elite clubs we hope that a more disciplined and organised system will be put in place as the Club could potentially benefit from such a proposal.

The Scotch – Mercantile was again successfully held at Nagambie as a schools regatta. Thanks are extended to Richard Wraith and the many volunteers who acted as officials, car park attendants and soft drink vendors who made the day a success. Unfortunately the draft regatta calendar for next season means the regatta is placed against the Head of the Schoolgirls Regatta and also on the Saturday before the National Regatta begins in Sydney when most of our younger volunteers will not be able to assist. This will seriously compromise our ability to conduct the regatta. Members of the Committee are lobbying RV to take a more strategic approach in structuring the regatta calendar. This is a difficult task as change is sometimes difficult to accept, but is clearly necessary.

The Club attempted to launch a new regatta last October, a long distance time trial format in sculling boats. This format was chosen given the emphasis on the need for rowers to scull as well as sweep and also provide a lead in to the National Selection time trials. Unfortunately the concept failed to attract sufficient entries and was cancelled. This was a pity as it would have created a new and different event on the Yarra. We must thank James Walmsley who did a great deal of work to develop the concept and organise the event. His contribution was first class.

For the past six months the Committee has struggled on without a Treasurer. Paul Somerville who had diligently performed the role for 18 months took up employment in Ballarat, which meant that he could no longer perform the role. It is vital that we find a competent member to undertake this important task.

The coming year will see a changing of the guard as our President and Captain both retire from their positions. Andrew and David have steered the Club through a period of great change and that also threw up many difficult challenges. We are fortunate to have had the benefit of their leadership guidance.

Mercantile's appreciation must again be forwarded to the following:

- Philippe Batters for continuing the publication of "The Mercantilian" organisation of "Barrels Bash" and efforts in revising the website.
- Roger Wilson for his entertaining commentary at regattas and his efforts to ensure that rowing receives media coverage.
- Grant Cosgriff and Sandy Marshall at the RV office for all their assistance and understanding.
- Phil Cayzer as Patron and Namesake of the Cayzer Cup.
- Scotch-Mercantile Regatta Committee and in particular Richard Wraith.
- Jim Harvey, the stalwart of the Sunday Barrel.
- Jenny Nunn at Phil Batters' office for her administrative assistance.
- Sean "Trader Al" Colgan for his continued support.
- Our caterer Degrees Catering and in particular Kathy Powers for her cooperation during the year.
- R.R. Aitken for his advice during the year.
- David Pincus for his continued good work as a board member at the State and National level.
- Bentleys MRI as Honorary Auditor.

William Webster Secretary

Attendance at Committee Meetings

7 meeting have been held since the AGM, attendance is as follows

A. Guerin	4	D. Colvin	6
W. Webster	6	P. Somerville	4
B. Tait	6	T. Courtney	4
H. Edgar	6	P. Batters	3
K. Chambers	3	M. Groves	4
J. Ball	2	J. Fraumano	5
A. Scott	3	A. Bergelin	4
T. Chambers	7	D. Yunghanns	6

OBITUARIES**W.T. (Bill) Morrison**

Bill Morrison was one of our most long standing and revered Vice-Presidents. Bill coxed at the Club pre World War II during his school years and commenced rowing upon leaving school in 1941. He won his first race as a rower in 1938 with a crew largely comprised of ex-coxswains in the lightweight novice fours. Bill enlisted in the RAAF during the war years and returned to rowing in 1946 to win a lightweight maiden four with ex-coxswains Jack & Bill Shears and Barry Johnson. Success followed at the Rutherglen regatta in the lightweight maiden pairs. The successes in Club races that year also kept the trophy cabinet full with wins in the President's Fours and the Picken-Williams Eights. Victorian Championships followed both in 1947 & 1948 in the Championship Lightweight Junior Eights with his last Championship being the Lightweight Fours in 1952. Bill continued to compete until the 1952-53 season when he retired to coaching, administration and umpiring.

Bill was very active off the water. He became Assistant Secretary in the 1947-48 season and in the following two seasons, Secretary. Bill was again appointed Secretary in 1950-51 and 1952-53 seasons and was a committeeman through to 1955. The first boat named in his honour was christened in 1952. He was a member of the Victorian Rowing Association committee and an active umpire.

Bill gave great service to the Club during the 1960's and 1970's. In particular, he was appointed a member of a sub-committee in 1966 which undertook the task of rebuilding the Clubhouse in time for the centenary in 1980. The first stage of this work was completed in 1969 but the Clubhouse fire in 1973 brought Bill back into action for the reconstruction. Bill, in conjunction with others including Ian Wilson, formed the *Cock Robins* in 1969 to purchase the club eight the *Lloyd Williams*. The purpose was to enable them to have access to good equipment for their social rowing whilst giving access to competing crews. The bow of this boat remains above the bar at the Club. His counsel was always sought on key matters and his work during periods of stress for the Club was important. Bill was appointed a Vice-President in 1971 and was one of the authors of the Club History, *Mercantile, A Century of Rowing*.

Bill suffered a stroke in 1988 and thus was only able to join us occasionally at the Clubhouse after that date. His son Bruce Morrison continues as a valued member of the Club.

Sidney Graham Richardson

Graham developed up his interest in rowing whilst at Melbourne Grammar and actively rowed rather than coxed despite his slight stature. He started as all Grammar boys did, at Albert Park before graduating to the Yarra in the senior crews. No doubt his enjoyable experiences rubbed off on his brother Roland (Ron or "Thrasher", as we know him), as he also developed a love of rowing and the Mercantile Rowing Club.

Following school Graham joined Mercantile in the 1936-37 season and remained a member until his death, some 67 years later. When he commenced his rowing, Graham rowed with and was coached by many well-known rowers of that time including Deane Morgan, David Stirling,

Keith Bilney and David Palfreyman Senior. He was not perhaps the most successful rower in the Club but he had great success in his first two full seasons. His first recorded wins were the Upper Yarra and ANA Regatta double in January 1938 in the lightweight maiden eights. He then followed up with wins at the Bairnsdale and Sale regatta double racing in lightweight fours. His earlier attempts that season in the lightweight maiden fours had proved unsuccessful. To top this off, he won the Dobbie Eights in a crew stroked by Alex Dobbie.

Graham's active rowing career was cut short by the war and he did not have the time to fully develop his skills and success. He was a surveyor in the Second Fourth Field Regiment in the Army and saw service in the desert at Tobruk and then in the humidity of the Pacific Islands and Borneo. Graham visited the Club in mid 1942 after service in the Middle East and did so every time he had an opportunity whilst on leave. This was the same regiment in which another well-known Mercantilian Norm Cairnes served. I am not sure that Graham owned up to his fellow members of the Yarra River buoy laying committee in later life of these surveying skills.

Following the war Graham did not compete often, racing in a couple of regattas and club races for several years. He took up coaching crews in 1946 and was very good at this. However his great pleasure was to row on a Sunday morning which he did for most of his life. He would undertake this exercise rain, hail or shine and afterwards then enjoy a beer with his mates. In more recent times when he could not manage the row, he then coxed the crew and finally when he could not undertake that duty, he still managed to partake of a beer with his fellow club members. He had outlived many of this Sunday morning team who included Mick Williams, Doug Brooke, Alex Dobbie, Norm Cairnes and Bert Spencer. It was fitting therefore that his eightieth birthday was celebrated at the Clubhouse.

His love of the sport and the Club led him to undertake other activities within the sport. For example, he and Roland sponsored the senior eights at Scotch Mercantile for many years. He coached all novices at the Club for many years. He also was a member of the Victorian Rowing Association buoy laying committee which set up the rowing course on the Yarra River for some 34 years. His fellow members included Tom Rodda, Norm Cairnes, Garth Manton, James Harvey and Bill Unwin. They were never short of a derogatory remark about Graham's clothing in undertaking this task. He was a trustee for the Victorian Rowing Association for many years. In the 1948-49 Season he organised regular visits by Mercantile members to the Heidelberg Military Hospital where members made blood donations. For many of the following seasons he managed the maintenance of the boathouse. It was for these types of works that earned Graham the honour of having a pair named in his honour in the 1951-52 season. His mother Mrs M B Richardson christened the boat. He was also very active in the Old Oarsmen's Association, and at the time of his death was probably the oldest subscriber of the Melbourne Amateur Regatta Association which organises the Melbourne Henley Regatta.

He was a man capable of handling detail and maintaining accuracy in his work. This eye for detail is what enabled him to be a surveyor in the army and an accountant in his civilian life. His integrity and gentlemanly manner endeared him to all who knew him and led him to take on positions of responsibility and respect within the sport.

Whilst he was a quiet and private person, his contribution to Mercantile and the sport of rowing was significant. He was intently interested in all matters Mercantile and rowing. He loved the sport. He loved Mercantile Rowing Club. We have been advised that Graham left a bequest to the Club which will be invested in the Endowment Fund.

John Seammen

John migrated to Australia as a teenager with his family. He joined the Club in 1927 at the age of 19 and remained a member ever since. Whilst not a champion rower, he enjoyed all aspects of the Club. In fact it is difficult to locate many entries of his rowing in the annual reports. His first recorded race was in a lightweight maiden four at the VRA and ANA regattas over the Australia Day weekend in 1928. Alas he was unsuccessful in these two events. John continued his rowing over the next few years in mainly lightweight maiden fours. However a back injury incurred during the war prevented his active participation after the war.

Despite not being a champion oarsman, John probably got more from his membership than most and enjoyed the Club as much as anyone. This quiet gentleman actively embraced the personal development generated from both Mercantile and Lodge Henley. His enthusiasm for the Club and the recognition of the privileges of membership were passed onto many generations of members. He made many life long friends at the Club and his friendship with both David Stirling and his family has survived generations. Even after David's death in 1977, John has remained one of the "Stirling" clan and kept David's widow Alice up to date with the Mercantile Club affairs until her death.

John was an optometrist and saw service in World War II as an optometrist officer with the Medical Corp. This commenced at Alice Springs in the 2/9th Division. His five years service included one year overseas in Moratai where other Mercantilians served. Following the war he resumed civil life and his former employment with Coles & Garrard, optometrists. As with his rowing associations, John's employment relationships bore more resemblance to friendship than that of employment. John was the god father to Julian Coles, the son of his employer and Julian is also the executor of his estate.

John's wife predeceased him by many years. John left the Club a bequest which has been invested into the Club's Endowment Fund for which the Club is most grateful.

BOAT NAMINGS 2003-04

David Colvin -

The great tradition of naming eights after Captains continued with the naming of our women's eight the *David Colvin*. David's mother Sue did the honours with his father brothers and sister, and nephews present.

David has been a superb Captain of the Club for some four years and retires at the end of this season to coaching duties. David has devoted enormous time to his Captain duties and even took a year off work to pursue these duties thoroughly. His coaching work has been of enormous benefit to the Club and his athletes have attained Australian representative status.

His competitive record is:

1985, 1986, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000

- King's Cup cox

- First (3rd in 1997 and 2nd in 1999)

1990 - World Championships - Men's Coxed Four cox' - Ninth

1991 - World Championships - Men's Lightweight Eight cox - Fourth

1992 - Olympic Games - Men's eight cox - Fifth

1993 - World Championships - Men's Eight cox - Fourth

1995 - World Championships - Men's Coxed Four cox - Fourth

1997 - Henley Royal - Grand Challenge - First

1997 - World Championships - Men's Eight cox - Bronze

1997 - World Championships - Men's Coxed Pair cox' - Silver

1998 - World Championships - Men's Eight cox - Sixth

Ben Dodwell -

The *Ben Dodwell* was named by his wife Alexis before his parents Phil and Pru. Ben joined the Club from Melbourne Grammar where he rowed in the first crew. He joined Mercantile in 1989 in a great era of success at the Club. He raced youth in both 1989 and 1990 and was a member of the victorious 1990 Victorian Youth Eight that won the Wilkinson Cup. Whilst 1991 was not a great season for Ben, he moved quickly onto Olympic selection in 1992. It was one of the most meteoric rises to stardom in the Club's history. In the selection regattas he joined with Peter Murphy to come third in the pairs to the four members of the Oarsome Foursome. He also won his first King's Cup in 1992. He even topped the ergometer rankings that year at the tender age of nineteen. All in all, this was an outstanding achievement.

1990 Wilkinson Cup First

Ben then had a great senior career.

1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000

- King's Cup first (2nd placing in 1999)

1992 OG M8+ Five seat Fifth

1993 WC M8+ Five Seat Fourth

1994 WC M4- Stroke Seat Tenth

1995 WC M8+ Six Seat Eleventh

1996OG M8+ Six Seat Sixth
1998WC M4- Three Seat Fourth
1999WC M4- Three Seat Silver
2000OG M4- Two seat bronze

Ben now joins that elite group of Mercantilians who are medallists at Olympic Games. Furthermore he is triple Olympian and a well deserved recipient of having a boat named in his honour. Not only is he a great sportsman, he is a most delightful gentlemen and most of all a great club member. Ben regards Mercantile as his rowing home despite many years in Sydney.

Alex Dobbie -

The *Alex Dobbie* was named before his son Roger Dobbie, daughter in law Lisa and grand daughter Laura. It was fitting that this was a family affair as for most of the Club's 123 year history, the Dobbie family have been a key part of it. Alex's father, Arch, was a great oarsman and administrator of the Club. It is over 100 years since Arch joined the Club and almost 100 years to the day since Arch Dobbie rowed for Victoria. Arch Dobbie was Captain from 1908-1918 and then President for 22 years. He also held positions such as Treasurer and then President of the VRA and also the inaugural President of the Old Oarsmen's Association. Arch was described as *quiet, wise and intently interested Mercantilian*, the same description I would apply to his son, and great Mercantilian, Alex.

Alex has been closely associated with the Club for some 80 years. Alex began coxing Mercantile crews from the age of eight and continued until he went to Scotch College at the age of 12. He then rowed throughout his time at Scotch before rowing again for Mercantile when he joined the Club in 1934. Alex raced for Mercantile in maiden fours and eights and finally junior eights before he left for the War. He enlisted on 27th May 1940.

Alex was a pilot who flew Lockheed Hudsons, a plane provided to the Australians by the Americans. He left Australia in January 1942 with 6th squadron, which was based at Richmond. He then was transferred to the 8th squadron based in Singapore where his active service was short due to the rapid advance of the Japanese. As the Japanese advanced, the RAAF's Hudsons were depleted and the remnants of the squadron moved to Sumatra and finally to Java. Of the original 30 aircraft, only three remained. These three aircraft were then loaded with as many personnel as possible and the remaining people, including Alex, stayed. They were to be collected by the HMAS Perth. However the Perth was torpedoed by the Japanese and sunk on 1st March 1942 with great loss of life. He and the others remaining were captured by the Japanese.

Alex was sent to Changi prison for a day and a half before being transported in the hull of a ship to the Moulamein jail. Finally he was shipped in the stinking hot hull of a Japanese troop carrier to work on the Burma railroad. He was one of the lucky people to survive this ordeal and was released at the end of the war in Thailand. Nearly one third of Australians POW's on the Burma railway died. I might add that four Mercantile members died whilst prisoners of war at the hands of the Japanese. Alex was discharged at the end of the war at the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

The President mused at the boat naming that Alex must have dreamed of a Sunday morning row followed by a beer during this awful time because until a year ago, he has rowed every Sunday come hail, rain or shine. Such doggedness must have been borne out of such misery. Alex did not dispute this proposition.

The Club has had a boat named after a member of the Dobbie family for most of the last 80 years and so the great tradition continues.

MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB
BOATS AND EQUIPMENT REPORT 2003/04

In the last couple of years the Committee has developed a complete boat replacement program for our fleet. This program takes into account our current fleet, our expected needs over the next five years and our financial capacity. The policy considers the different types of boats and the needs of members in terms of both elite level competition including national selection and also recreational use. Our aim is to ensure that we have the best possible fleet of boats to satisfy our members' needs. Given the priority of pair oared rowing in terms of national selection, our pairs will be maintained as the youngest group of boats in the fleet. Fours will be renewed less regularly and eights will generally be kept until the end of their life. During 2003/2004, the club purchased two boats, the eight 'David Colvin' and pair 'Ben Dodwell', Ted Hale continued to provide 2 double sculls and 2 single sculls for the use of our elite women during the season. Three pairs were sold during the year; 'Andrew Cooper', 'Andrew Evans', John Carr'. Replacement boats will be purchased in the next few months. The eight 'J.J. Lawrence II' was severely damaged by vandals whilst on the trailer at the Mildura Regatta and was an insurance write off.

Thanks must also go to Walter Rotter for the repairs he has done on various boats in the shed.

A full list of the Clubs equipment and the condition thereof is detailed below:

BOAT	MAKE	YEAR	CONDITION
EIGHTS			
DAVID COLVIN	SYKES	2003	EXCELLENT
GEOFF BARDEN	AUSROWTEC	1998	EXCELLENT
J.J. LAWRENCE II	SYKES	1997	WRITTEN OFF
NOEL DONALDSON	EMPACHER	1990	VERY GOOD
ARTHUR ATKINS	SYKES	1988	FAIR
J.G.H.SPRIGG	SYKES	1983	GOOD
COXED FOURS			
W. H. WEBSTER	AUSROWTEC	1998	VERY GOOD
TRADER AL	SYKES	1994	EXCELLENT
N.W.CAIRNES	SYKES	1991	EXCELLENT
TED SORANI	SYKES	1996	EXCELLENT
COXLESS FOURS			
SIMON MORRISON	SYKES	2002	EXCELLENT
McKAY - MANU-FORTI	SYKES	1999	EXCELLENT
DAVID BOYKETT	SYKES	1997	EXCELLENT
PHILLIPE BATTERS	AUSROWTEC	1996	EXCELLENT
SUSAN LEE	SYKES	1993	EXCELLENT
N.L.NEWTON	SYKES	1992	EXCELLENT
GRAEME McCALL	SYKES	1991	GOOD
COXLESS PAIRS			
BEN DODWELL	SYKES	2002	EXCELLENT
MATTHEW LONG	SYKES	2000	EXCELLENT
JAMES TOMKINS	AUSROWTEC	2000	EXCELLENT
D.C.GINN	AUSROWTEC	1999	EXCELLENT
GEORGINA DOUGLAS	AUSROWTEC	1999	EXCELLENT

J. R. HARVEY	SYKES	1998	EXCELLENT
PETER (CHINA) O'BRIEN	SYKES	1998	EXCELLENT
DAVID PINCUS	SYKES	1993	EXCELLENT
SAM PATTEN	SYKES	1991	VERY GOOD

SINGLE SCULLS

ALEX DOBBIE	HALE	2002	EXCELLENT
PAUL MCGANN	HALE	2002	EXCELLENT
MATT LOVELL	HALE	2002	EXCELLENT
ANDREW "MACDADDY" MCNEIL	AUSROWTEC	2001	EXCELLENT
TOM COURTNEY	AUSROWTEC	2001	EXCELLENT
JOHN "LARRY" LEEMING	JOHNSON	2001	EXCELLENT
PAUL SOMERVILLE	JOHNSON	2001	EXCELLENT
ANTHONY BERGELIN	SYKES	1995	EXCELLENT
SYKES WOODEN (YELLOW)	SYKES	1990	VERY GOOD

SQUAD IDENTIFICATION QUANTITY YEAR CONDITION**SWEEP OARS**

SENIOR WOMEN	Croker	10 Adjustable	2002	EXCELLENT
SENIOR MEN	Croker	8 Adjustable	2001	EXCELLENT
YOUTH WOMEN	Concept II Standard	9 Adjustable	1998	EXCELLENT
U23 MEN	Concept II Vortex	10 x 3760mm	1995	EXCELLENT
YOUTH MEN	Concept II Smoothie	10 x 3760mm	1994	EXCELLENT
SOCIAL	Concept II Standard	6 x 3720mm	1992	EXCELLENT
MASTERS	Concept II Standard	8 x 3760mm	1991	EXCELLENT
NOVICE	Concept II Macon	8 x 3840mm		VERY GOOD
ASSORTED WOODEN STANDARD OARS		17	1987	FAIR

SCULLING BLADES

CROKER	M1- M8	9	2002	EXCELLENT
CROKER	W1 - W6	6	2001	EXCELLENT
CROKER	M9, M10, W7, W8	4	1997	EXCELLENT
CONCEPT	W9, W10	2	1997	EXCELLENT

MISCELLANEOUS

FALCON UTILITY		1	2002	EXCELLENT
CONCEPT II D ERGOMETER		3	2003	EXCELLENT
CONCEPT II C ERGOMETER		3	2001	EXCELLENT
CONCEPT II ERGO SLIDERS		8	2000	EXCELLENT
ROWPERFECT ERGOMETER		2	2001	EXCELLENT
SYKES TANDEM AXEL BOAT TRAILER		1	1998	EXCELLENT
BOAT TRANSPORT FRAME		1	1991	EXCELLENT
ALUMINIUM HULL SPEEDBOAT		2	1998	VERY GOOD
OUTBOARD BOARD MOTORS		2	1999	VERY GOOD

FINANCE REPORT

The Club's financial position improved over the year and further improvement is forecast for the year ahead.

Costs have been reduced substantially however revenue remains weaker than desired. The reduction in subscription income is due to a change in accounting method from accrual to cash basis, bad debts have continued to be written off quite aggressively. Rent received from boatspace rental increased. The full impact of the increase in insurance premiums can now be seen in the accounts. To mitigate this increase your committee has accepted a higher excess of \$2,500 per incident and decreased the value of the fleet for insurance purposes. Employment costs were decreased with the reduction to only one professional coach. Sports Foundation donations remain strong thanks to the tireless efforts of our President, this enabled us to purchase two new boats.

Donations – Our members and friends were again very generous with donations this season. These members included Sean Colgan, Andrew Evans, Andrew Guerin, David Yunghanns, Sykes Racing, Jeff Lawrence, Tim Frederico, Phil Batters, Rob Strang, Ken Marshall, Bob Aitken, Peter & Joan Selby-Smith, Simon Morrison, John & Wendy Nickson, John Hill, Arthur Atkins, Richard Oliver, Michael Donovan, Warwick Granowski, Alex Dobbie, Roger Wilson, Graeme McCall, Phil Ainsworth, Arthur Adams, Kim Chambers, Graham Richardson (Estate) and John Seammen (Estate).

William Webster

For and on behalf of the Committee

**MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB
INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2004**

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Subscriptions	49,997	76,960
VRA Affiliations	-	2,196
Beer Sales	4,473	3,744
Donations	81,650	88,135
Distributions	1,037	56
Interest	59	36
Sports Foundation	22,527	32,281
Donation - Bequest	10,000	-
Rent Received	36,188	32,696
Regatta entries	7,888	9,654
Entry Fees Levy	406	3,381
Hire of Boats	1,805	-
Surplus on Sale of Equipment	9,429	1,818
Rack Hire	1,519	2,141
Other Income	11,563	30,799
	<u>238,541</u>	<u>283,897</u>
EXPENSES		
Bad Debts	16,655	18,927
Bank Charges	2,350	864
Beer Purchases	1,541	
Boat & Equipment Hire	3,487	
Boat Transport	-	1,613
Cleaning	3,650	2,688
Clothing	(733)	719
Depreciation Expense	42,289	52,018
Entry Fees	9,519	14,366
Fines & Penalties	450	1,406
Fire Protection	4,650	13,337
Function Catering	5,990	10,875
General Expenses	7,243	3,820
Insurance	29,839	18,783
Interest	1,785	1,087
Licences & Permits	291	
Light & Power	3,911	4,850
Memorabilia	1,948	2,625
Merchant Fees	1,324	3,175
Motor Vehicle	1,642	5,888
Printing & Stationary	1,940	2,182
Postage	1,562	427
Rates	1,497	1,068
Rent	105	105
Repairs & Maintenance	24,410	42,342
Wages & Salaries	54,167	79,318
Super	6,600	5,175
Coaching Expenses	17,952	28,161
Workers Compensation	666	934
Rowing Victoria	7,383	5,131
Telephone	2,559	5,316
Travel & Accomadation	3,504	(181)
Trophies	(387)	1,580
Website	614	1,979
Water	852	1,776
Total Expenses	<u>261,255</u>	<u>332,354</u>
Net Deficit	<u>- 22,714</u>	<u>(48,457)</u>

**MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH APRIL 2004**

	2004 \$	2003 \$	
ASSETS			
Subscriptions Outstanding	10,618		30,763
Refundable Deposits	1,648		-
ASF Donations Accrued			14,500
Contra Account			422
Cash On Hand			
Cheque Account	2728	(2,065)	
Social Account	639	965	
Bilney Fund Account	2415	2,415	
Cash Management Account	(70)	230	
Total Cash	<u>5,712</u>		1,545
Total Current Assets	17,978		47,230
Property & Equipment			
Clubhouse			
Clubhouse at Cost	<u>368,122</u>	<u>368,122</u>	
Total Clubhouse		368,122	368,122
Boats			
Boats at Cost	563,693	524,281	
Boats Accum Dep'n	<u>(463,772)</u>	<u>(431,512)</u>	
Total Boats		99,921	92,769
Oars			
Oars at Cost	48,368	48,368	
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(40,692)</u>	<u>(37,359)</u>	
Total Oars		7,676	11,009
Trailers			
Trailers at Cost	9,650	9,650	
Trailers Acc'd Dep'n	<u>(5,836)</u>	<u>(5,413)</u>	
Total Trailers		3,814	4,237
Car			
Car	24,337	53,751	
MV Acc'd Dep'n	<u>(6,813)</u>	<u>(13,313)</u>	
Total Car		17,524	40,438
Sundry Assets			
Sundry Assets at cost	67,122	67,404	
Sundry Assets Accum depn	<u>(43,579)</u>	<u>(40,023)</u>	
Total Sundry Assets		<u>23,543</u>	<u>27,381</u>
Total Non Current Assets	520,600		
TOTAL ASSETS	538,578		638,416

**MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH APRIL 2004**

	2004 \$	2003 \$
LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	7,212	259
Trade Creditors	43,617	71,468
Total BAS Liabilities	2,799	2,428
Income in Advance	0	230
Total Current Liabilities	53,628	74,385
Long-Term Liabilities		
Loan Accounts		
Loans Other	13,500	15,500
Car Loan	16,519	24,680
Westpac Building Account	(317)	(1,339)
Bilney Fund	250	250
MRC Endowment Fund	16,861	16,861
Total Long-Term Liabilities	46,813	55,952
TOTAL LIABILITIES	100,441	204,722
NET ASSETS	438,137	433,694
EQUITY		
Members Funds		
War Memorial Fund	48,864	48,864
Total Members Funds	48,864	48,864
Accumulated Surplus	411,985	460,442
Surplus (Deficit) Earned This Year	-22,714	(48,457)
TOTAL EQUITY	438,135	460,849

**MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB INC.
ENDOWMENT FUND
BALANCE SHEET AT 30TH APRIL 2004**

ASSETS

Shares in Public Companies - at cost (Market Value \$ 221,233)		158,522.00
A.N.Z. Executors & Trustees Ltd. - Common Fund V2 Balance of credit of Account		8,855.00
Accounts Receivable		10,025.00
Mercantile Rowing Club		
Balance Due 30.4.2003	19,635.00	
Donations Received by Club	1,585.00	
Interest	<u>785.00</u>	
	22,005.00	
Less payment	<u>-</u>	<u>22,005.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>199,407.00</u>

LIABILITIES

Capital - Subject to accumulation to 30.4.2004		20,000.00
Balance @ 30.4.2003	45,550.00	
Donations	2,485.00	
Sundry	32,298.00	
Estate J.W. Seammes	10,000.00	
Estate N.W.Cairnes	<u>10,000.00</u>	90,333.00
Capital Reserve Account	15,735.00	
Loss on sale on investments	<u>7,688.00</u>	8,047.00
Income Account -		
Balance @ 30.4.2003	73,374.00	
Net Income for Year	<u>7,653.00</u>	<u>81,027.00</u>
		<u>199,407.00</u>

INCOME ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2004

Dividends Received		6,738.00
Interest Received		<u>918.00</u>
		7,656.00
Less: Fees and Duties		<u>3.00</u>
		<u>7,653.00</u>

MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB INC.
KEITH BILNEY MEMORIAL COACHES TRUST FUND
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
for the year ended 30th April 2004

2002/03	INCOME	2003/04
	Dividends Received:	
	Bankers Trust Funds Management Limited	
96.03	48.02 Dividends re-invested	189.76
96.03	48.01 Dividends paid to bank account	189.75
		379.51
		379.51
	LESS: EXPENSES	
95.00	Donation to Mercantile RC for Trophy & Coaches Assistance	95.00
1.03	SURPLUS FOR YEAR	284.51

MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB INC.
KEITH BILNEY MEMORIAL COACHES TRUST FUND
BALANCE SHEET
as at 30th April 2004

2002/03	MEMBERS FUNDS	2003/04
8,954.03	Capital Account 1/5/03	9,205.06
250.00	Donations Received	60.00
	Income Account:	
1.03	Surplus for Year	284.51
9,205.06	BALANCE OF MEMBERS FUNDS	9,549.57
	REPRESENTED BY:	
	CURRENT ASSETS	
884.33	Cash at Bank	1,039.08
	INVESTMENTS	
	Trust Units:	
	BT Split Growth Trust	
	Balance 1/5/03	8,320.73
	Investments during 03/04	0.00
8,320.73	Dividends re-invested 03/04	189.76
	(Market value at 30/4/2000	\$7,034.27)
	(Market value at 30/4/2001	\$7,384.28)
	(Market value at 30/4/2002	\$6,153.48)
	(Market value at 30/4/2003	\$4,588.47)
	(Market value at 30/4/2004	\$5,263.83)
9,205.06	TOTAL ASSETS	9,549.57

MEMBERS 2003 - 2004

The membership of the Club as at 30th April 2004 was as follows

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Life	12	12	12	12	13
Senior	273	180	190	193	190
Junior	23	48	38	51	75
Country	51	52	50	49	43
Associate *	N/A	71	74	62	54
Honorary	1	1	1	1	1
	360	364	365	368	376

* Associate category discontinued after 1 May 2003

Life Members

Ainsworth	Phil J.	Aitken MBE	Robert R.	Boykett	David H.
Cooper OAM	Andrew D.	Donaldson	Noel W.	Ginn OAM	Drew C.
Guerin	Andrew N.	Lawrence	Jeffrey J.	McKay OAM	Michael S.
Owen	Martin F.	Sorani	Ted	Tomkins OAM	James B.

Senior Members

Ackland	Danielle	Adam	Douglas	Adams	Arthur W.
Allen	Roger	Anderson	Warwick	Atkins	Arthur H.
Ball	James G.	Barden	Geoff I.	Barnden	Joanne
Barrett	Lisa	Batters	Lex	Batters	Philippe R.
Begley	Guy K.	Benjamin	Peter L.	Bergelin	Anthony P.
Blacker	Nalini M.	Bland	Peter J.	Bland	Stuart
Blunden	Laura V.	Blunden	Phillip	Blunt	Sarah-Jane
Boland	Martin M	Bosler	Danae	Bostock	John B.
Boykett	Graeme H.	Breen	Shannon A	Briggs	Andrew P.
Broughton	Jonathon	Burns	Donald J.	Burrows	Philippa
Burton	Ian	Buxton	Josh	Cahir	John P.
Campbell	Richard	Cannon	Andrew M.	Carr	John P.
Castricum	Anthony	Chambers	Kim D.	Chambers	Tyson E.
Cheales	Kelli M.G.	Chew	Fleur	Chibnall	Sarah E.
Clark	Andrew F.	Clark	Melissa	Colvin	David E.
Cordell	Anthony M.	Courtney	Tom	Cowling	David S.
Crawshay	David W.	Date	Courtney	Dawson	Ray
De Garis	Peter C.	De Guingand	Chris J.	Deasey	Denis
Deutscher	Robert J.	Diamond	Ron	Dobbie	Alex W.
Dodwell	Benjamin	Donovan	Michael J.	Dore	Alice
Douglas	David G.	Douglas	Georgina C.	Duthie	Ian R.
Eastaugh	Briana	Edgar	Henry C.	Edwards	Roderick
Evans	Andrew M.	Everist	Ian C.	Faranda	Jason M.
Farrelly	Lisa	Ferdinand	Jeffrey R.	Ferguson	John
Fogarty	Michael J.	Foley	John E.	Forbes	Sarah
Francis	Martin	Franet	Phil J.	Frasca	Pauline
Fraumano	David	Fraumano	Jenny	Frederico	H. Tim
Frederico	Hubert R.	Gakovic	Zeljko	Garrett	Patrick
Garvey	Katrina M.	Gillon	Stephen M.	Giullieri	Peter
Graham	Matthew	Granowski	Warwick O.	Grant	Ian
Greaves	Geoffrey J.	Gross	Barry B.	Groves	Mark S.
Guy	Jayne C.	Hall	Gavin S.	Hansen	Greg
Hardie	Stewart G.	Harding	Paul	Harrison	Simon R.
Harvey	Jim R.	Hasforth	Blair H.	Hayton	Sam
Hearn	Narelle	Hegerty	Ben	Hester	Corey W
Hewitt OAM	H. Neil	Hill	John	Hobson	Anna C.

Holyman	G. Ian	Howard	Annemarie	Hubbard	Nick
Hume	David J.	Hume	Ken M.	Hume	Michael C.
Hutchins	Tom	Hutchins	Warwick B.	Inglis	Anthony C.
Jackson	Simon	Jefferson	Debbie W.	Jenner	Sebastian
Johnson	Anthony L.	Johnson	E. Ted C.	Johnston	Gregory M.
Johnston	Travis	Jones	Judy A.	Kearney	Kate
Kellam	Murray B.	Kelly	Daniel	Kerr	Cordelia
Kerr	Jason D.	Killick	Caroline	Kimpton	Colin M.
Kinnear	Emily E.	Koekoek	Lucas A.T.	Kupcis	Peter D.
Lachal	Bob P.	Larkins	Tom	Lausberg	Johan
Law	George A.	Lawler	Rowena E.	Lawrence	Toby
Leeming	John	Linke	Timothy D.	Long	Matthew
Loveless	Jay	Lovell	Matthew D.	Mackinder	Guy
Mackinder	Suzanne	MacKinnon	Duncan C.	Maguire	Nadine
Mahoney	Harry J.	Manton	Garth	Marley	Derek C.
Marshall	Ken A.	Matthews	Geoff	McArdle	Matthew J.
McCall	Graeme A.	McCann	Nick	McDonald	Andrew W.
McDonald	Doug	McDonald	Tim	McDonald	Wesley K.
McGann	Paul R.	McGorlick	Michael W.	Melver	Lindsay
McKie	Luke	McKinley	Tim	McLay	Bronwyn
McLean	Andrew	Mentiplay	Alice	Milligan	Angus S.
Moffatt	Alexander	Mollard	Stephen D.	Moore	Denis P.
Moore	Rory C.D.	Moran	Siobhan	Moreton	Richard
Moreton	Stewart C.	Morrison	Bruce W.	Morrison	Ian J.
Morrison	Simon A.	Morrison	W T.	Morrissey	Ben
Mulder	Victor G.	Nation	Michael J.	Negri	Justin C.
Newitt	Joseph	Newton	Nicholas L.	Nickson	John H.
O'Brien	Peter H.	Oliver	Richard J.	O'Reilly	Bernard
Otto	Jared	Palfreyman	David	Pang	Chris
Parker	Caroline	Patten	Sam G.	Patterson	Jamie W.
Patterson	Melinda C.	Pearce	Callie	Perillo	Roberto E.
Phillips	Andrew	Phillips	Matthew	Phillips	Terry D.
Philp	Peter E.	Pincus	David A.	Pound	Antony
Powers	Kathy	Price	Michael	Pring	Lucy
Ray	Campbell	Redman	Roger	Reed	Stephen K.
Rees	Andrew	Richards	Sara K.	Richardson	Geoff W.
Richardson	Ron H.	Roberts	Georgia K.	Robertson	W. Malcolm
Robertson-Smith	R. Glen	Robson	Annabel	Ronai-Horvath	Victor
Rushford	Robert J.	Ryan	Sean P.	Sargent	Hugh
Schmidt	Trent	Schober	Antony	Schunker	Hannah
Selby-Smith	Robyn	Shanasy	John E.	Shears	John D.
Shippen	Malcolm	Shirrefs	Stephen	Skevington	Rachel
Skidmore	Thomas J.	Sloan	Alex T.	Sloan	Robert R.
Smith	Murray D.	Smith	Robert M.	Smyth	Edward A.
Spencer	Tim	Spriggins	Anthony	Spriggs	Simon D.
Squires	Morgan C.	Strang	Nicholas	Strang	Robert A.S.
Strang	Robert W.A.	Szatsznajder	Claire	Tait	Bill
Taylor	Alistar	Thompson	Jeffrey	Tomanovits	Martin G.
Toohey	Julian T.	Tutone	Mario	Wade	Jessica
Wade	Timothy J.	Walker	Tony	Wallace	Alan M.
Wallis	Lindsay W.	Walmsley	James	Watson	Jay
Wawn	Emma	Webster	William H.	Wertheimer	John
White	Bill C.	Wiegard	Paul	Wilkinson	David R.
Wilmoth	Emily	Wilson	Roger B.	Withers	Alison
Wolf	Felicity	Wraith	Richard G.	Yunghanns	David J.

Junior Members

Blain	Patrick	Bowen	Cal-Zak	Braden	Joseph
Chambers	Ellese M.	Davey	Robert P.	Drury	Ben J.
Duncan	Mia R.	Gartner	Elisha	Graham	Kathryn
Haag	Thomas	Hodges	Kristy	Huntsman	Emy
Low	Hamish W.	Lynch	Tess	Mitchell	Nicholas P.
Nickson	Thomas J.	Ramage	Matthew J	Randles	Will
Riddell	Christopher J.	Rodgers	James	Rowley	Steve
Stark	Kieran	Viti	Christian		

Country Members

Adams	James S.	Ansell	Gael L.	Ashby	Duncan
Bailey	William M.	Baillieu	William J.	Batten	Malcolm W.
Boykett	Peter H.	Brosnan	Susan	Cayzer	Phil A.
Connolly	Mark C.	Connolly	Rob W.	Corben	Mal H.
Daffy	Tom C.	Donoghue	J. Doug.	Douglas	Robert G.
Garrard	Richard J.	Harry	John R.	Hayes	John V.
Hayman	Brett	Hobbs	Sam J.	Horne	Cameron R.
Jickell	Ian J.	Kallir-Preece	David G.	Kovacic	Jason
Maginn	Paul T.	McArthur	Stewart F.	McLean	Russell A.
McNamara	Pat J.	McNeil	Andrew S.	McNeil	Neville N.
Meyer	Iain R.	Munro	David I.	Murphy	Peter J
Newcomb	Simon H.	O'Halloran	Martin K.	Parmenter	Brian R.
Patterson	Celia L.	Pearce	Victoria	Pechan	Greg A.
Rowe	John S.	Schoner	Simon	Schreier	Paul J.
Sill	Anthony C.	Somerville	Alexandra	Somerville	Paul G
Somerville	Peter D.	Taylor	Geoffrey M.	Tyrrell	Marcus C.
Wallace	Bill L.	Wilson	Ian W.	Young	Tim J.

Honorary Members

Colgan	Sean P.
--------	---------