

# MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB

## 137<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17



'FAR BETTER IS IT TO DARE MIGHTY THINGS, TO WIN GLORIOUS TRIUMPHS, EVEN THOUGH CHEQUERED BY FAILURE... THAN TO RANK WITH THOSE POOR SPIRITS WHO NEITHER ENJOY NOR SUFFER MUCH, BECAUSE THEY LIVE IN A GREY TWILIGHT THAT KNOWS NOT VICTORY NOR DEFEAT.'

— THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Mercantile Rowing Club would like to thank all our generous supporters and donors.  
Without their assistance, our club would not flourish.

Timothy Frederico  
Malcolm Batten  
Andrew Cannon  
Andrew Cleary  
Jeffrey Lawrence  
David Douglas  
Phillippe Batters  
Peter Selby Smith  
Christopher de Guingand  
Sally Guerin  
Andrew Guerin  
Julie McCall  
David Yunghanns  
Sean Colgan  
Duncan MacKinnon  
Equity Trustees

In addition there are numerous other members who donated smaller amounts during the year.  
Every donation is appreciated.

# Office Bearers

2016 - 2017

## **PRESIDENT**

Mr. M.W. Batten OAM

## **CHAIRMAN OF SELECTORS**

Mr. D.E.G Colvin

## **VICE PRESIDENTS**

Mr. J.J. Lawrence  
Mr. D.E.G. Colvin  
Mr. D. J. Yunghanns  
Mr. D.A. Pincus  
Mr. R.B. Wilson OAM  
Mr. W.B. Hutchins  
Mr. A.M. Evans  
Mr. P.H.C. Edgar  
Mr. J. Tomkins OAM  
Mr. N. P. R. Batters

## **HEAD COACH**

Mr. S.P. Gadsden

## **SAFETY OFFICER**

Mr. M. French

## **CLUB AND EQUIPMENT MANAGER**

Mr. S. Jenner

## **CAPTAIN**

MR. W.H. Webster

## **VICE CAPTAINS**

Ms. H.C. Lewis  
Mr. J. Leeming

## **HONORARY SECRETARY**

Mrs. J. Fraumano

## **HONORARY TREASURER**

Mr. D. MacKinnon

## **COMMITTEE**

Mr. T. Courtney  
Mr. C. Nott  
Mrs. J. Orr  
Mr P.H.C. Edgar  
Mr. A. Bergelin

## **HONORARY SOLICITOR**

Ms. R. Selby Smith

# President's Report

MALCOLM BATTEN OAM

Our crews have enjoyed a successful racing season with golden results on domestic, interstate and international waters. Most pleasing is that the results are gold for both our women and men in all categories, U21, U23, Senior A and masters.

Our ultimate goals for national representation has once more been realised, as well as commendable performances at domestic and international regattas.

## Vale

We note the sad departure of a number of long standing members. An all Mercantile crew including 3 presidents carried Ron "Thrasher" Richardson to his final resting place following a moving ceremony that celebrated Ron's long and distinguished club membership.

Peter Philp passed in January and his life and service to rowing was beautifully captured by Jeff Lawrence in his moving eulogy. "Philpy", a fine rower became one of the most perceptive and innovative coaches ever Australia has produced.

Harry Mahoney was a member of the Club for 71 years and Mercantile to his core. He raced in the post war era and made many friends and was a very generous supporter of the Club.

Roberto Perillo was strong rower with a big and generous heart. He made valuable contributions to Mercantile, Richmond and Essendon after escaping the dictatorship in Argentina in 1980.

## Membership

We have continued to work on the attraction and retention of club members. Our aim is to continue to develop the notion that once a member, always a member. To achieve this outcome we will need to increase the frequency member attend the club house by offering relevant and attractive activities and hence add lasting socialization to the club culture.

The post Head of the Yarra celebration is a fine example of this effort. It is a great opportunity to don your rowing blazer, connect with old friends, give the crews a cheer at the big bend then enjoy a cool refreshment on the balcony.

## Giving

We thank Sean Colgan (Trader Al) for his generosity

and his growing lists of "Friends of Mercantile for their ongoing commitment to an equipment trust that will endure.

Our sincere thank you to all the members and friends who have donated. Without this generosity we would not deliver on our goals of representative rowing.

## Thanks to our coaches

Without our wonderful coaches we would not be learning our craft of rowing or learning the many life skills that are necessary to achieve our potential. On behalf of the crews I thank all our dedicated coaches for another excellent year.

My thanks and gratitude to each and all our coaches.

## Clubhouse and Equipment

Our club house continues to perform well and our fleet remains in excellent order. I wish to acknowledge Sebastian Jenner and his support as Building Manager and his work to keep the club house in good repair.

We are very happy with the interaction with our sub tenants, St Catherine's and Brighton Grammar. I encourage all our members to welcome the school level rowers at all times, they are our future.

## Club officers and Supporters

Our Saturday breakfast tradition literally keeps the team fueled and ready for more. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers for their constant support. Thanks also to parents of St Catherine's for pitching in and supporting the breakfast. Jenny Fraumano is to be noted for her leadership, and the team including Julie Orr, Alison Legge, Marissa Sibillin, Clare Clark, Monique Hooper, Madeline Grace, Tara Letch, Anna Marulli, and the number of supportive St Catherine parents.

I wish to thank to Hannah Lewis for her leadership as Vice Captain, particularly for her initiative to revamp the Mercs newsletter.

Thanks also to our trustees and generous supporters. Mercantile stands to the fore because we rely on the leadership and vision of our past office bearers. We recognize and thank the trustees for their support and governance: Jeff Lawrence, Andrew Guerin, Warwick Hutchins, John Harry and Timothy Frederico

I thank our boat race officials, who have once more umpired and officiated at the regattas.

Thanks to our executive committee for providing the steady hand to the tiller. Particular thanks to Secretary and Team Manager Jenny Fraumano for the unending support provided to the club. To Treasurer Duncan MacKinnon for his ever reliable assistance and to Bill Webster our Captain for his leadership and support of the rowers.

Special thanks to Andy Guerin, he like the Yarra, is always present with much wisdom and generous support.

We recognize the important contribution of Henry Edgar for his service as our nominee for the liquor license.

We have completed a year of consolidation of our financial foundations and success on the water. Keep up to date with the Club's activities by going onto the website. There is plenty to read.

We look forward to the coming year as we continue to strive for our club core values of excellence, respect, friendship and health.

GO MERCS !

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Batten', followed by a period.

M. Batten OAM  
*President*  
Mercantile Rowing Club



# Captain's Report

WILLIAM WEBSTER

This year has seen the establishment of the National Training Centres in Canberra (men) and Penrith (women). Our own Angus Widdicombe was selected in the initial intake and moved to Canberra before Christmas. Although the idea of the NTCs was somewhat controversial they are now well established and will be a fact of life of this Olympic cycle. Mercantile's place in the national program was formalized at the beginning of the year with the signing of an MOU with the Victorian Institute of Sport. The agreement provides an increase in direct funding from our previous arrangement and importantly access to the VIS boat fleet for our best up and coming members. Consequently we will be able to provide better equipment to our U21 members, while our immediate equipment purchase priorities will turn to fours and quads. Our Head Coach, Simon Gadsden has direct oversight of all the Mercantile members categorized under the national program. The focus for us will be on developing young rowers through their underage years and pushing them up to the National Training Centres and the senior national team.

The cost of participation is an issue for our young members. Attendance at training club camps and the NSW and National Championships are essential but costly activities. This year the Club decided to absorb boat transport and costs for staff coaches that had previously been directly passed on to participants. The impact to the club was nearly \$7K for a saving to participants of about \$140 for the season. We shall continue to look for ways, direct and indirect to reduce the cost of competition for our young members. While sponsorship is an obvious avenue it is very difficult to obtain to the current climate.

In August we had the great pleasure to celebrate the 100th birthday of Arthur Atkins. As has been previously reported Arthur donated our new eight the "David D Browne" that was christened last October. The boat went through the Victorian season undefeated. Arthur is our longest serving member and has been a fantastic contributor for many years. We were delighted recognize his centenary by having him christen one of our pairs the "Arthur 100". May all our members maintain their connection to the Club like Arthur.

On the water we had another excellent season. We started with strong results in the Head races, our men regained supremacy in the Open Eight in the Head of the Yarra. Our women's and men's Youth Eights were

dominant throughout the season. This led to an all Mercantile Victorian Men's Youth Eight and our women being more than 50% of the women's boat. At the Victorian State Championships we were again by far the dominant club with a virtual clean sweep of the Open and Underage races.

The National Championships saw some outstanding performances with Liam Donald and Rob Black winning the U23 pair and four, our U21 Women winning the coxed four. Our LW men also performed strongly with Carl Tomczak and Will Legge finally winning the U23 pair and combining with Jayden Grey and Ed Manton (Banks, but grandson of Garth) winning the U23 LW four. Ben Keller and Max Hanna were in the winning U19 four and James Hoban and our Swiss visitor Hugo Van De Graaf won the Mens Club Double Scull. A number of other podium placing were also achieved in what was a very solid regatta for the Club.

Mercantile members have been selected on the Australian Senior, U23 and U21 teams this year and at the time of writing this report have achieved success at each level. Kat Werry was selected in the W4- and recorded victories at both World Cup regattas the team attended in Europe. They go into the World Championships as favorites in an event that regained Olympic status earlier this year. Angus Widdicombe was selected in the men's sweep squad and will compete in the 2+ at the World Championships. Red Matthews gained selection in the LW4x after a season off and despite receiving no national or VIS support, a fantastic effort. James Rook has had a meteoric rise this season. In 2016 James coxed the Victorian Youth Eight, this year he steered the King's Cup Eight to second place and was selected to cox the Australian Senior Men's Eight. At World Cup 2 he steered the Eight to a 4th place and at World Cup 3 in Lucerne he steered the Eight to a very close Silver Medal and also won a Silver in the Coxed Pair. At the World Championships he will cox the Men's Eight and the Coxed Pair.

Liam Donald and Rob Black were selected in the U23 Men's Four. The four trained in Perth. They were a stand out crew at the U23 World Championships. In their semi final they set a new Worlds Best Time and then won the final and Gold Medal in fine style. Amanda Bateman and India Dempsey were selected in the Women's Four at the final trial a month before the U23 World Championships. The four performed well considering its



limited preparation.

Ben Canham, Alex Clarke and Alexis Hancock were selected for the U21 test series against New Zealand. Our Development Coach Brigette Carlile was selected to coach the Men's crew. The Ben and Alex recorded 2nd placings in the pair and with Alexis were successful in the eight and in contributing to Australia retaining the Rusty Robertson Trophy.

A number of our members also competed overseas at the Holand Bekker regatta in Amsterdam and the Henley Royal Regatta. Jayden Grey and Will Legge recorded a victory in the Men's LW Eight at Holand Bekker and Josh Dunkley-Smith made the final of the Silver Goblets at Henley Royal.

A key part of our season is our annual camp at Johnsonville on the Tambo river. This is a large logistical exercise with over 35 athletes, two boat trailers, motor boats and 8 coaches attending. The Tambo provides an excellent training venue, enabling our rowers to crank out plenty of kilometers in perfect conditions. Congratulations to Simon Gadsden and Jenny Fraumano for the successful planning and execution of such a large and important exercise. Jenny's efforts as our Team Manager were again excellent covering the NSW State Championships, National Championships and Henley Royal Regatta. A selfless and generous volunteer, her service to the Club is fantastic.

Saturday Breakfasts have continued to be a vital contributor to moral and camaraderie of our active members. Breakfasts have become something of a tradition particularly over the months of winter training and leading into the racing season. The enthusiasm of Jenny Fraumano with the support of many others has been a constant in providing members a welcome and solid refuel after a long session of winter training. Members, parents and supporters keeping this 'tradition' going needs involvement, we need more people to step forward and assist on Saturdays and ensure the load is shared.

The Scotch-Mercantile Regatta in March was probably the best ever since the regatta was moved to Nagambie more than a decade ago. The event was live streamed for the second time and recorded over 20,000 views. Sponsorship increased significantly and 3 major sponsors have already been signed for the 2018 regatta. From the Club a number of people contributed to the success

of the day: Richard Wraith stepped in at short notice to fill the Secretary role and was ably assisted by Faith Gasparini, David Pincus did a great job as our on water "Admiral" ensuring that went smoothly on the water, Andrew Guerin provided his usual steady guidance as Referee, Claire Clarke, Geoff and Fiona Barden ran the Bow Numbers and Jeff Thompson assisted with boat driving. And of course Roger Wilson provided his distinctive and engaging commentary. Thanks to all. It is fantastic to see this regatta going from strength to strength.

Sebastian Jenner has stepped into the role of Boathouse Manager and has been organized and diligent in attending to the many and varied maintenance issues that occur. Andrew Guerin has provided constant updates to our website. The content has ranged from Club activities, results, world rowing news, history and member profiles as well as many, many photos. This is providing a great record of our activities and helping to bring news to our members who may not be able to attend an event. Our Vice Captain Hannah Lewis has provided great support during the year and took on the tasks of producing our printed newsletter and organizing the post Olympic function the "Evening of Excellence" and did a superb job with each task.

Simon Gadsden's engagement as our Head Coach has recently been reconfirmed. As well as being a first class coach he has strongly led the coaching team. He demonstrates strong values and always show great care for our athletes and members, he is a great asset to the Club.

Thanks to all our coaches led by Head Coach Simon Gadsden; David Colvin, David Pincus, Brigette Carlile, John Saunders. John Leeming and Pauline Frasca also provided some important assistance at key times. John Saunders leaves us as Development Coach after 3 years to further his legal studies, thank you and good luck for your future career.

**W. Webster**

*Captain*

Mercantile Rowing Club

# Trophies

## CAPTAIN'S TROPHY

This 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.

For the 2016/17 season, the Captain's Trophy has been won by **Benjamin Canham** and **William Legge**.

## 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.

For the 2016/17 season, the Max Bailey Trophy has been won by **Adelaide Cester**.

## 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.

For the 2016/17 season, the Dr R.A. Cooper Memorial Trophy is awarded to **Jenny Fraumano**.

## N.W. CAIRNES TROPHY

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

For the 2016/17 season, the N.W. Cairnes Trophy is awarded to **James Rook**.

## JEFF WYLIE MEMORIAL TROPHY

The Perpetual Shield and Trophy for the most improved lightweight rower was 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.

For the 2016/17 season, the Jeff Wylie Memorial Trophy is awarded to **Redmond Matthews**.

## **F.R. BROWNE MEMORIAL TROPHY**

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

For the 2016/17 season, the F. R. Browne Memorial Trophy is awarded to **Angus Widdicombe**.

## **H.R. FREDERICO MEMORIAL TROPHY**

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

For the 2016/17 season, the H.R. Frederico Memorial Trophy is awarded to **India Dempsey**.

## **KEITH BILNEY COACHES TROPHY**

This trophy was established in the memory of Keith Bilney who gave nearly 70 years of service to rowing as a coxswain, sculler, oarsman, administrator but, most of all coach. He gave of his time freely, instilling in his charges a love of the sport, and a burning desire to win, but with a balanced approach to life. The trophy is awarded to the coach that is not necessarily the most successful in terms of race wins, the one who does the most to teach oarsmen and 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.

The Keith Bilney Coaches Trophy has not been awarded for the 2016/17 season.

## **JAY LOVELESS TROPHY**

This trophy was established as a result of a bequest from the estate of the late Jay Loveless. Jay was the mother of Ricky Loveless, who coxed for the Club. Ricky was tragically killed in a road accident while riding to Mercantile and Jay remained a supporter of the Club until her passing in late 2006. It was Jay's wish that a trophy be established for the Most Outstanding Oarswoman each season.

For the 2016/17 season, the Jay Loveless Trophy is awarded to **Katrina Werry**.

## **MOST OUTSTANDING OARSMAN TROPHY**

With the establishment of the Loveless Trophy, the Committee deemed it appropriate to establish a trophy for the Most Outstanding Oarsman each season.

For the 2016/17 season, the Most Outstanding Oarsman Trophy is awarded to **Liam Donald**.



# Season Wins

## MELBOURNE HEAD 2016

Womens Open Single - **Amanda Bateman**, coach **Simon Gadsden**.

Mens Open Pair – **Callum Nott, Tom Hunt**, coach **Simon Gadsden**.

Womens Club Eight – **Annie Anezakis, Georgie Gleeson, Jessica Brommeyer, Olivia Keppell, Clare Ward, Ellie Tomanovits, Bella Logie-Smith, Michaella Ballas**, cox **Alexis Hancock**, coach **Brigitte Carlile**.

Mens Open Eight – **Angus Widdicombe, Liam Donald, Josh Dunkley-Smith, Tom Hunt, David Crawshay, Nicholas Purnell, Callum Nott, Alexander Wolf**, cox **Annabelle Orr**, coach **Simon Gadsden**.

Womens Open Eight – **Jennifer Cleary, Fiona Albert, Olivia Sibillin, Katrina Werry, Hannah Lewis, Jessica Morrison, Addy Dunkley-Smith, Madeleine Thomas**, cox **Alexis Hancock**, coach **Simon Gadsden**.

## HEAD OF THE YARRA 2016

Mens B Eight – **Lachlan May, Alexander Clarke, Alexander Kinsella, Angus Beckingsale, Benjamin Canham, Jack Lawrence, Angus Maloney**, cox **James Rook**, coaches **John Saunders & David Pincus**.

Mens Open Eight – **Angus Widdicombe, Liam Donald, Josh Dunkley-Smith, Tom Hunt, David Crawshay, Nicholas Purnell, Callum Nott, Alexander Wolf**, cox **Annabelle Orr**, coach **Simon Gadsden**.

## BALLARAT REGATTA 2017

Female Lightweight Single Scull – **Meghan Hester**.

Mens Open Pair – **Angus Maloney, Jack Lawrence**, coach **David Pincus**.

Mens Lightweight Pair – **William Legge, Carl Tomczak**, coach **David Colvin**.

Female Open Pair – **India Dempsey**, Elise Franetic (MUBC), coach **Simon Gadsden**.

Mens U21 Pair – **Benjamin Canham, Lennart Schiesswohl**, coach **John Saunders**

Female U21 Pair – **Kirstie Green, Georgie Gleeson**, coach **Brigitte Carlile**.

Mens Open Four – **Jack Lawrence, Angus Maloney, Andrew Burke, James McCann** (MUBC), coach **David Pincus**.

Mens U21 Coxed Four – **Lachlan May, Alexander Wolf, Alexander Clarke, Benjamin Canham**, cox **James Rook**, coach **John Saunders**.

Female U21 Eight – **Clare Ward, Jessica Brommeyer, Ellie Tomanovits, Annie Anezakis, Georgie Gleeson, Kirstie Green, Michaella Ballas, India Dempsey**, cox **Adelaide Cester**, coach **Brigitte Carlile**.

## BARWON REGATTA 2017

Mens U21 Eight – **James Robertson, Lennart Schiesswohl, Max Hanna, Lachlan May, Alexander Wolf, Alexander Clarke, Benjamin Canham, Alexander Maycock**, cox **William Anders**, coach **John Saunders**.

Female B Grade Single – **Meghan Hester**.

## WENDOUREE-BALLARAT REGATTA 2017

Female U23 Pair - **India Dempsey**, Elise Franetic (MUBC), coach **Simon Gadsden**.

Male U23 Single Scull – **James Hoban**.

Male Lightweight Single Scull – **Michael McNamara**, coach **David Colvin**.

Female U21 Single Scull – **Clare Ward**, coach **Brigitte Carlile**.

Female Lightweight Single Scull – **Meghan Hester**.

Male Open Eight – **Michael McNamara, James Hoban, Angus Maloney, Jack Lawrence, Andrew Burke, William Legge, Carl Tomczak**, cox **Alexis Hancock**.

Male Lightweight Double Scull – **Jayden Grey, Michael McNamara**, coach **David Colvin**.

Female U23 Double Scull – **Amanda Bateman, Ria Thompson** (Melb), coach **Simon Gadsden**

Female Lightweight Double Scull – **Meghan Hester**.

Male U21 Eight – **Jack Robertson, Lennart Schiesswohl, Max Hanna, Lachlan May, Alexander Wolf, Alexander Clarke, Benjamin Canham, Alexander Maycock**, cox **William Anders**, coach **John Saunders**.

Female U21 Eight – **Clare Ward, Jessica Brommeyer, Ellie Tomanovits, Annie Anezakis, Georgie Gleeson, Kirstie Green, Michaella Ballas, India Dempsey**, cox **Adelaide Cester**, coach **Brigitte Carlile**.

Male Lightweight Four – **Michael McNamara, Jayden Grey, William Legge, Carl Tomczak**, coach **David Colvin**.

## LAKE COLAC REGATTA 2017

Male Masters Four – **Jeffrey Thompson, Colin Kimpton, Euan McMinn, Mike Dakic** (Melb)

Male Masters Pair – **Colin Kimpton, Mike Dakic** (Melb)

## NSW CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Male Lightweight Pair – **William Legge, Carl Tomczak**, coach **David Colvin**

Male U21 Eight – **James Robertson, Lennart Schiesswohl, Max Hanna, Lachlan May, Alexander Wolf, Alexander Clarke, Benjamin Canham, Alex Maycock**, cox **William Anders**, coach **John Saunders**.

Male U21 Pair – **Lennart Schiesswohl, Benjamin Canham**, coach **John Saunders**

## NAGAMBIE REGATTA 2017

Male U21 Coxed Four – **Charles Perkins, Joel Cain, Benjamin Keller, Sam Lovejoy-Hall**, cox **Alexis Hancock**, coach **John Saunders**.

Female U21 Coxed Four – **Jessica Brommeyer, Michaella Ballas, Annie Anezakis, Ellie Tomanovits**, cox **Adelaide Cester**, coach **Brigette Carlile**.

Male U21 Double Scull – **Ethan Seder, Hugo Van De Graaf**.

## AUSTRALIAN HENLEY REGATTA 2017

Male B Grade Eight – **Alexander Kinsella, Charles Perkins, Ethan Seder, James Hoban, Joel Cain, Benjamin Keller, Sam Lovejoy-Hall, Hugo Van De Graaf**, cox **James Rook**, coach **John Saunders**.

Male U21 Eight - **Jack Robertson, Lennart Schiesswohl, Max Hanna, Lachlan May, Alexander Wolf, Alexander Clarke, Benjamin Canham, Alexander Maycock**, cox

**James Rook**, coach **John Saunders**.

Female U21 Eight – **Annie Anezakis, Kathleen Hanson, Jessica Brommeyer, Michaella Ballas, India Dempsey, Ellie Tomanovits, Kirstie Green, Georgie Gleeson**, cox **Adelaide Cester**, coach **Brigette Carlile**.

Male Open Eight – James McCann (MUBC), **Andrew Burke, Jack Lawrence, Angus Maloney, Callum Nott, Tom Hunt, Rob Black, Liam Donald**, cox **James Rook**, coach **Simon Gadsden**

Female Open Eight – **Meghan Hester, Kate Duggan, Amanda Bateman, Pauline Frasca, Gemma Sibillin, Madeleine Thomas, Addy Dunkley-Smith, Katrina Werry**, cox **Alexis Hancock**, coach **Simon Gadsden**.

Male Lightweight Four – **Michael McNamara, Redmond Matthews, William Legge, Carl Tomczak**, coach **David Colvin**.

## VICTORIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Male U21 Pair – **Benjamin Canham, Lennart Schiesswohl**, coach **John Saunders**.

Male U23 Pair – **Angus Maloney, Jack Lawrence**, coach **David Pincus**.

Male Open Pair – **Josh Dunkley-Smith, Josh Booth** (MUBC)

Male Lightweight Single Scull – **Redmond Matthews**, coach **David Colvin**.

Female U23 Pair – **India Dempsey, Elise Franetic** (MUBC), coach **Simon Gadsden**.

Female Open Pair – **Katrina Werry, Addy Dunkley-Smith**, coach **Simon Gadsden**

Male U23 Single Scull – **James Hoban**, coach **Simon Gadsden**.

Male U21 Coxed Four – **Benjamin Keller, Charles Perkins, Joel Cain, Sam Lovejoy-Hall**, cox **Adelaide Cester**, coach **John Saunders**

Male Lightweight Four – **Jayden Grey, William Legge, Red Matthews, Michael McNamara**, coach **David Colvin**.

Male Open Four – James McCann (MUBC), **Angus Maloney, Jack Lawrence, Andrew Burke**, coach **David Pincus**.

Female U21 Eight – **Georgie Gleeson, Kirstie Green, Ellie Tomanovits, India Dempsey, Michaella Ballas, Jessica Brommeyer, Kathleen Hanson, Annie Anezakis**, cox **Adelaide Cester**, coach **Brigette Carlile**.

Female Open Eight – **Katrina Werry, Addy Dunkley-Smith, Jessica Morrison, Amanda Bateman, Madeleine Thomas, Olivia Sibillin, Kate Duggan, Megan Hester**, cox **Alexis Hancock**, coach **Simon Gadsden**

Male Open Eight – **Robert Black, Liam Donald, Josh Dunkley-Smith, Tom Hunt, Callum Nott, Angus Maloney, Carl Tomczak, William Legge**, cox **James Rook**, coach **Simon Gadsden**.

Male U21 Eight – **Alex Maycock, Benjamin Canham, Alexander Clarke, Alexander Wolf, Lachlan May, Max Hanna, Lennart Schiesswohl, James Robertson**, cox **James Rook**, coach **John Saunders**.

Female U23 Double Scull – **Amanda Bateman, Ria Thompson (Melb)**, coach **Simon Gadsden**.

Male U21 Double Scull – **Ethan Sedar, Hugo Van De Graaf**.

Male Lightweight Double Scull – **Red Matthews, Michael McNamara**, coach **David Colvin**

Male U23 Double Scull – **James Hoban, Alexander Kinsella**.

## 2017 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Male U23 Pair – **Liam Donald, Robert Black**, coach **Simon Gadsden**

Male U23 Four – **Liam Donald, Robert Black, Barnes & Patterson (Sydney)**, coach **Simon Gadsden**

Male U23 Lightweight Pair – **William Legge, Carl Tomczak**, coach **David Colvin**

Male U23 Four – **Carl Tomczak, William Legge, Ed Manton (Banks), Jayden Grey**, coach **David Colvin**

Female U21 Coxed Four – **Annie Anezakis, Ellie Tomanovits, Kirstie Green, Georgie Green**, cox **Adelaide Cester**, coach **Brigette Carlile**.

Male U19 Four – **Benjamin Keller, Max Hanna**

Male Club Double Scull – **James Hoban, Hugo Van De Graaf**.

Female Interstate Youth Eight – (Victoria) – **Ellie**

**Tomanovits, Kirstie Green, Georgie Gleeson, India Dempsey**, cox **Adelaide Cester**, coach **Brigette Carlile**.

Female Interstate Open Eight – (Victoria) – **Addy Dunkley-Smith, Hannah Lewis, Jessica Morrison, Jennifer Cleary, Katrina Werry**, coach **Simon Gadsden**.

## HENLEY ON THE MARIBRYNONG 2017

Mixed Masters Eight – **Pernette Wijnen, Jennifer Williams**

## BALLARAT MASTERS REGATTA 2017

Mixed Masters Eight – **Jeff Thompson, Colin Kimpton**

## ALBERT PARK MASTERS REGATTA 2017

Female Masters Four – **Pernette Wijnen, Val Dowell (Caul), Jennifer Williams, Joanna Adamson**, cox **Sebastian Jenner**.

Male Masters Double Scull – **Hugh McVicker, Greg Hansen**.

## 2017 VICTORIA MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mixed Masters Eight – **Ray Dawson**

Mixed Masters Four – **Jennifer Williams, Colin Kimpton**.

Male Masters Eight (E) – **Jeff Thompson, Andrew Guerin, Ray Dawson, Colin Kimpton, Peter Dempster, Greg Hansen, Chris Radcliffe**, cox **Sebastian Jenner**.



MERCERS  
ROWING CLUB



Josh Dunkley-Smith

SIXES



# Head Coach Report

SIMON GADSDEN

The beginning of a new Olympiad presented many structural changes for our senior athletes aspiring for national selection in the 2016/2017 season. The construction of two national training centres - women in Penrith, men in Canberra - has created greater capacity within the VIS to offer support to talented development athletes. Our club used the few racing opportunities of Head of the Yarra, Australian Henley on the Yarra and Victorian State Championships to rally and demonstrate the strength of our comradery within the club.

As Head Coach during this time I am extremely proud of the efforts of our coaches, support staff and athletes. Performances on the water were indicative of the quality of training performed in the pre-season, many athletes have achieved goals they detailed at the beginning of the season and in turn, made significant steps toward future State and National representation.

Ultimately our athletes' performances are an indication of the hard work that they have put in, and the support they have received, enabling them to train and learn in our club. The Executive Committee continue to support and facilitate the notion of being a high performance club, with high performance goals. This is reflected in the support they provide me and other coaches; the support and organisation for our athletes and coaches to attend the most elite domestic and international rowing events; and the support through purchasing of the best rowing equipment to be used by young athletes at the club. Saturday breakfast at the club is a cherished event, usually between first and second sessions on a Saturday training at the Yarra, it provides almost the only opportunity each week where school leavers, U21's, U23's and senior athletes can socialise over a meal, it is very important for the fabric of our club. The coaches - who spend as much, if not more time as the athletes at the club - guide our athletes to achieve the best out of themselves physically and mentally and teaching them to beat their opposition on the water. However, they also assist them in coping with pressures of pursuing a high-performance athlete lifestyle, balancing training, work and studies. Thank you so much to our dedicated team:

Brigette Carlile	U21 and U19 women
John Saunders	U21 and U19 men
David Colvin	lightweight men and women
David Pincus	senior and U23 men
Bill Webster	senior and U23 women
Thomas Swann	lightweight men
John Leeming	U21 and U21 assistant
Pauline Frasca	U19 women
Kate Hornsey	U19 women

## 2016 Australian Underage Teams

The U23, U19 and Senior non-Olympic boats class world championships were held over the same week in Rotterdam, Netherlands, making for one huge regatta. The event was post Olympic Games and many countries Olympians travelled to compete in either the non-Olympic events or U23 events. The following Mercantile members represented Australia at the World Rowing U23 Championships.

Rachel Engle	U23W8+	5th
Olivia Sibillin	U23W8+	5th
Liam Donald	U23M8+	8th
Tom Hunt	U23M8+	8th
Callum Nott	U23M8+	8th
Angus Widdicombe	U23M8+	8th

It must be noted that David Pincus did a fantastic job in coaching Liam, Tom, Callum and Angus in the in the domestic 2015/6 season and onto the Australian team.

## 2016 Olympic Games

The Mercantile representation at the 2016 Olympic games was due to sit with Jennifer Cleary in the women's quad and Joshua Dunkley-Smith in the men's four - but on the 28th June 2016 Rowing Australia announced that the women's eight would also be competing at the Olympic Games, with four Mercantilians named in this crew: Sarah Banting, Charlotte Sutherland, Jessica Morrison and Fiona Albert, along with previous club head coach Mark Fangen-Hall. These six athletes and coach took Mercantile to being the equal most represented club in the Australian team at the Olympic regatta.

We saw how racing at the Olympic games was a level above any previous World Championships or world cups. Jen's quad had finished 0.3 of a second in World Cup II behind the eventual Olympic Champions then in the Olympic repechage missed the Olympic final by a recovery boat surge. Our women's eight after a considerable gap in training between the Olympic qualification regatta and the Olympic regatta rallied and finished fifth in the repechage, four seconds behind the Dutch crew that beat them in the Olympic qualification regatta by three seconds. Joshua and the men's four seemed to surge to the front of the field shortly after the 1500m mark in what was a two boat race in the Olympic final, the boldness shown by this crew early in the race was rewarded with a silver medal. These six athletes are fantastic role models for younger athletes at the club and we look forward to them passing the baton or sharing future experiences with the next group of Mercantilians in Tokyo.

## **2016 International Competition**

In spite of what was being tabled by the IOC regarding future Olympic lightweight events a group of sinewy men and one lady led by Thomas Swann travelled to St Catharines, Canada to represent Mercantile and compete in the 134th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. An athlete each from Banks RC (Jack Kelly) and MUBC (Jackson Harrison) transferred to MerCs and joined the seven Mercantilians of Michael McNamara, Jayden Grey, Carl Tomczak, William Legge, Josh Bell, Connor Grace and Alexis Hancock to compete in the eight and senior and U23 lightweight fours. Both the senior and U23 lightweight fours produced stunning victories accompanied by stunning trophies in their respective events, the eight wasn't as competitive as the other boats finishing 6th in a strong field. Thank you to Tom for his time and raising the bar of intensity expected at training and to Jenny Fraumano for her management of the travelling team.

## **2016/2017 Victorian Domestic Season**

The river banks were buzzing again for the Head of the Yarra regatta, with a record number of entries and many Interstate crews coming to compete in the men's and women's open eights. We were unable to match the previous years' record breaking result in the women's eight, but the men, in the first competitive outing for the David D Browne eight, surged past the number one seeded MUBC crew in the second half of the course for the win.

The Ballarat regatta at the end of January was the first real opportunity for competitive 2000m racing for our competition crews, with the performances here setting the scene for the rest of the season. David Pincus' men's pairs of Jack Lawrence, Angus Maloney, Andrew Burke and James McCann (MUBC) took out the MO2- and U23 M2- events. The U21 men led by John Saunders dominated the U21 M2- event with Ben Canham and Lennart Schiesswohl winning and five Mercantile pairs occupying the top six places. Brigette Carlile's U21 women occupied all three spots on the podium with Georgie Gleeson and Kirstie Green taking the Gold in the U21 W2- event.

Mercantile was represented by our athletes and coaches at five domestic Victorian regattas in 2017 (excluding the Victorian State Championships), with the podium spots in open, U23 and U21 events dominated by Mercantile. A highlight of the season was most definitely five Mercantile eight's winning the five events entered at the Australian Henley on the Yarra regatta. We took out the MO8+, FO8+, MU21 8+, WU21 8+ and MB8+ division.

## **Victorian State Championships**

Our competitive group had travelled to and from Nagambie, Geelong and Ballarat most weekends prior to the Victorian State Champs, so our coaching group decided we would only contest the Saturday Open and underage State Championship events, not the grade events on the Sunday so to best manage our approach to the National Championship. Our three previous years at the State Championships we'd competed on both days usually doubling our medal count between Saturday and Sunday, it was a challenge to aim to finish top of the medal table only competing on the first day. Our athletes and coaches netted a total of thirty medals and had a majority hand in nineteen Victorian State Championships titles to finish top of the medal table at the conclusion of the regatta on Sunday, an extraordinary achievement by everyone involved.

## **Australian National Championships and Interstate Regatta**

For the second year running the senior Australian rowing team to compete at international world cups had been selected prior to the national championships, it was great to have some of our seniors released from Canberra and Penrith train and prepare with us in Melbourne for club combinations and Victorian Interstate crews in the week leading into the nationals. Our plan for Mercantile at the Nationals is to first put Mercantile crew combinations together, if not, put two State based combinations together from Melbourne clubs or three to look for interstate combinations if either first or second options can't be achieved. We were very proud of the performances of all our athletes during this regatta with some club boats only being beaten by stacked national team boats. Special mention must be made of the Mercantile open women's eight that were beaten by less than a second by a composite crew comprised of athletes domiciled in four different states and representing nine different clubs.

Sunday, a large contingent of our group swapped their red and white for the navy blue. Brigette and John were nominated as coaches of the respective Victorian women's and men's youth eights to compete for the Bicentennial Trophy and Wilkinson Cup and David Colvin co-coached the Penrith Cup four. Our Mercantile athletes occupied the majority of seats in Victorian boats and we are immensely proud of their achievements.

## **S. Gadsden**

*Head Coach*

Mercantile Rowing Club

# Secretary's Report

JENNY FRAUMANO

HONORARY SECRETARY

Another busy year has passed.

## Committee

The Committee continues to provide a vital role in steering the Club and maintaining the essential tasks that are required to keep the Club in good nick

Our Treasurer Duncan MacKinnon's endless help is appreciated- he seems to be able to locate past documents in a flash at any hour, and has chaired many of our Committee meetings (in addition to being our Treasurer)

Thank you one and all.

I would encourage all members to be involved and contribute ideas to the Clubs future

A special thanks to James Harvey for his coordination of our senior members. It is always great to see the 'On Golden Ponds' table at Mercantile functions.

## The Spirit of Mercantile

I never cease to marvel at the magnificent Mercantile Spirit. It is evident at Saturday morning breakfasts, where the newest and oldest athletes mingle and chat together during the break between the sessions.

Breakfast at Mercs is now in its 14th year, and would not be possible without the friends and helpers who give up their time on Saturday to help

We are always excited when Mercantile athletes are named in an Australian team

## Mercantile Travels

Mercantile athletes represent our Club in a number of Regattas. In the last year we had athletes at the Holland Beker Regatta, Royal Canadian Henley and Henley Royal Regatta.

The challenges of interstate and international travel certainly remain and would not be possible without the assistance from the athlete's families and friends

There is significant cost involved for the athletes and it is great to see athletes and families rally around to support the fundraising activities organised to assist with the costs relating to international travel

To all of our athletes who have been training hard over winter, I wish you every success in the coming season.

## Attendance at Committee Meetings

There have been 5 Committee Meetings since the 2016 AGM

## Attendance

M. Batten	4
W. Webster	5
D. MacKinnon	5
J. Fraumano	4
H. Lewis	3
D. Colvin	4
S. Gadsden	3
J. Orr	3
A. Bergelin	1
T. Courtney	3
S. Jenner	5
H. Edgar	3
J. Leeming	0
C. Nott	0

# Boats & Equipment Register

## BOATS

David Brown	Empacher	8+	2015	Excellent
Dr Bibi Colgan	Hudson	8+	2013	Excellent
John Burford	Hudson	8+	2013	Excellent
Barry Gross	Sykes	8+	2011	Excellent
Sean Colgan	Sykes	8+	2011	Excellent
Henry Edgar	Sykes	8+	2005	Excellent
David Colvin	Sykes	8+	2003	Very Good
Andrew Guerin	Sykes	8+	2001	Very Good
JJ Lawrence	Sykes	8+	1997	Good
Kate Hornsey	Sykes	4-/4x	2011	Excellent
Sarah Tait	Sykes	4-/4x	2011	Excellent
Emily Martin	Sykes	4-/4x	2011	Excellent
David Crawshay	Sykes	4-/4x	2009	Excellent
Fleur Chew	Sykes	4-/4x	2009	Excellent
Richard Wraith	Sykes	4-/4x	2008	Excellent
Warwick Hutchins	Sykes	4+	2014	Excellent
Jenny Fraumano	Sykes	4+	2014	Excellent
M Teasdale	Johnston	4+	2006	Good
Trader Al	Sykes	4+	1994	Fair
6484 Unnamed	Sykes	2-/2x	2015	Excellent
Arthur 100	Sykes	2-/2x	2015	Excellent
Thomas Abramowski	Sykes	2-/2x	2015	Excellent
5650 Unnamed	Sykes	2-/2x	2012	Excellent
Josh Dunkley-Smith	Sykes	2-/2x	2011	Excellent
David McGrath	Sykes	2-/2x	2011	Excellent
Bill Tait	Sykes	2-/2x	2011	Excellent
Pauline Frasca	Sykes	2-/2x	2010	Excellent
Roger Wilson	Sykes	2-/2x	2008	Excellent
John Shears	Sykes	2-/2x	2008	Excellent
Bob Lachal	Sykes	2-/2x	2006	Excellent
Peter Philp	Sykes	2-/2x	2004	Excellent
Robyn Selby Smith	Sykes	2-/2x	2004	Excellent
Andrew Cannon	Sykes	2-/2x	2005	Excellent
Harry Mahoney	Sykes	2-/2x	2003	Good
Lucky Tony Walker	Sykes	2-/2x	2002	Fair
David Douglas	Sykes	2-/2x	2002	Fair
Garth Manton	Sykes	2-/2x	2002	Fair
Ben Dodwell	Sykes	2-/2x	2002	Good
David Pincus	Sykes	2-/2x	1993	Fair
The Breakfast Mums	Sykes	1x	2014	Excellent
Duncan MacKinnon	Sykes	1x	2014	Excellent
Sgt William Cumberland MSM	Sykes	1x	2014	Excellent

## SPEEDBOATS

AU/BLU12223F516 SL493	Trekker 3.45m speedboat	2015	Excellent
AU/BLU12186F516 SL494	Trekker 3.45m speedboat	2015	Excellent

## OARS

146	Croker/Concept Mixed sweep & sculling oars		Good
-----	--	--	------

## ERGOMETERS

13	Concept 2 Model D	2011	Good
22	Concept 2 Ergo Sliders	2011	Good

## VEHICLES

1BM6VX	Toyota Hilux Utility	2010	Good
YOM276	Nissan Navara	2011	Good
D61456	Sykes Boat Trailer	1997	Good

# Member Roll

## MEMBERS 2016/2017

	FEMALE	MALE	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>LIFE</b>	0	16	16	16	17	16	16
<b>SENIOR</b>	39	144	183	190	193	189	192
<b>JUNIOR</b>	23	42	65	67	58	105	56
<b>COUNTRY</b>	3	20	23	27	25	38	33
<b>ASSOCIATE</b>	7	19	26	17	25	18	16
	<b>72</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>313</b>
<i>FEMALE</i>			72	81	84	101	82
<i>MALE</i>			241	236	234	265	231

### LIFE

Phil Ainsworth 40+  
 Philippe Batters 40+  
 Sean Colgan 40+  
 David Colvin  
 Andrew D Cooper OAM  
 David Crawshay OAM  
 Noel Donaldson  
 Drew Ginn OAM  
 Andrew N Guerin 40+  
 James Harvey 40+  
 Jeffrey Lawrence 40+  
 Michael McKay OAM  
 Martin Owen 40+  
 Ted Sorani 40+  
 James Tomkins OAM  
 William Webster

Stephen Gillon 40+  
 Ronald Griffiths 40+  
 Paul Harding 40+  
 John Harry 40+  
 H. Neil Hewitt OAM 40+  
 Murray Kellam AO 40+  
 Bob Lachal 40+  
 Colin D Lewis 40+  
 Garth Manton 40+  
 Derek Marley 40+  
 Stewart McArthur AM 40+  
 Bruce Morrison 40+  
 Victor Mulder 40+  
 Ron Negri 40+  
 Simon Newcomb OAM 40+  
 John Nickson 40+  
 Richard Oliver AM 40+  
 David Palfreyman 40+  
 John S Rowe AM40+  
 John Shears 40+  
 Tony Walker 40+  
 Bill Wallace 40+  
 Roger Wilson OAM 40+  
 David J. Yunghanns 40+  
 Joanna Adamson  
 Fiona Albert  
 Roger Allen  
 Will Anders  
 Max Arundel  
 Nicholas J. Baker  
 Samuel Ballantyne  
 Geoff Barden  
 Graeme Barns  
 Katrina Bateman

Amanda Bateman  
 Philippa Batten  
 Malcolm Batten OAM  
 Angus Beckingsale  
 Stewart Bennett  
 Anthony Bergelin  
 Emily Biasotto  
 Robert Black  
 Danae Bosler  
 John Boulton  
 Maddison Brown  
 Peter Browne  
 Andrew Burke  
 Donald Burns  
 Ben Canham  
 Andrew Cannon AM  
 David Ceddia  
 Alexander Clarke  
 Jennifer Cleary  
 Zac Cleaver  
 Tom Courtney  
 Dylan A Curnow  
 Peter DeGaris  
 Marie Dekeyser  
 India Dempsey  
 Peter Dempster  
 Robert Deutscher  
 Charles Dixon  
 Liam Donald  
 Michael Donovan  
 Kate Duggan  
 Addy Dunkley-Smith  
 Josh Dunkley-Smith  
 Henry Edgar

### SENIOR

Arthur Adams QC 40+  
 Warwick Anderson 40+  
 Arthur Atkins DFC 40+  
 William Bailey 40+  
 John B Bostock 40+  
 Graeme Boykett 40+  
 Brian Dawes 40+  
 Ray Dawson 40+  
 Chris De Guingand 40+  
 David Douglas 40+  
 Ian R. Duthie 40+  
 Andrew M Evans 40+  
 Michael Fogarty 40+

Hamish Fitzsimmons  
Pauline A. Frasca  
Jenny Fraumano  
H. Tim Frederico  
Mathew French  
James Garrett  
Faith Gasparini  
John Grant  
Kirstie Green  
Jayden Grey  
Mark Groves  
Alexis Louise Hancock  
Max Hanna  
Greg Hansen  
Simon Harrison  
Blair Hasforth  
Riley Hazard  
Tom Hedditch  
Meghan Hester  
James Hoban  
Bronson Hooper  
Richard Howden  
Thomas Hunt  
Warwick Hutchins  
Eduardo D Inostroza  
Debbie Jefferson  
Sebastian Jenner  
Anthony Johnson  
Joseph Joyce  
Jack Kelly  
Olivia Keppell  
Jessica Kilroe-Smith  
Colin Kimpton  
Alex Kinsella  
Alex Law  
Jack Lawrence  
John Leeming  
William Legge  
Alexandra Legge  
Hannah Lewis  
Richard Linke  
Sam Lovejoy-Hall  
Steven Macek  
Duncan MacKinnon  
Angus F Maloney  
John Manolitsas  
Adriana Marulli  
Redmond Matthews  
Lachlan H C May  
Alexander Maycock  
Andrew McDonald  
Paul McGann  
Lachlan McKinnon  
Euan McMinn  
Michael McNamara  
Hugh R S McVicker  
Stewart Moreton  
Richard Moreton  
Jessica Morrison  
Simon Morrison  
Thomas J Nickson  
Ciara O'Keeffe  
Sam Patten  
Charlie Perkins

Susie Phillips  
Andrew C Phillips  
Elliot Poynton  
Charles Prior  
Justin Quill  
Brenton Rasheed  
Christopher Ratcliffe  
Bibi Rogers  
Hugh Sarjeant  
Lenny Schiesswohl  
Simon Schoner  
Ethan Seder  
Robyn Selby Smith  
Gemma Sibillin  
Olivia Sibillin  
Alex T Sloan  
Christopher A Smith  
Peter Somerville  
Simon Spriggs  
Georgia L Stewart  
George Theodossiou  
Madeleine Thomas  
Jeffrey Thompson  
Ellie Tomanovits  
Peter Tomanovits  
Carl Tomczak  
Hugo van de Graaf  
Clare M Ward  
Bruce Waxman  
Katrina Werry  
Colonel John Wertheimer, AM RFD  
Angus Widdicombe  
Pernette P. Wijnen  
Jennifer Williams AM  
James S. Wilson  
Rohan Wilson  
Alex Wolf  
Richard Wraith  
Roy Zhang

## **JUNIOR**

Alex Adams  
Annie Anezakis  
Michaela Ballas  
Oliver Barden  
Josh Bell  
Timothy Benton  
Ruby Binios  
Sam Blomley  
Jessica Brommeyer  
William Bullock  
Joel Cain  
Robert Capp  
Adelaide Cester  
Sasha Christian  
Luke M Coburn  
Jarvis Cole  
Isabelle Coleman  
Thomas Connell  
Jack Cooper  
Richard A N Dunlop  
Tom Ebeyan  
Jessica F Evans

Lachlan Ewers  
Simon Farrow  
Stephanie Ferrali  
Nicholas L Foster  
Millie Fraumano  
Georgie Gleeson  
Isabel Gray  
Tom Haddon  
Sam Hannah  
Kathleen Hanson  
Thomas P Herbert  
Hunter Hilditch  
Mitchell Hooper  
Mitchell Hurd  
Ella Jackson  
Sam Jobson  
Samuel Kastrinakis  
Joshua Kaye  
Benjamin Keller  
Charlie Kenny  
Asia Letch  
Will Lewis  
Bella Logie-Smith  
Jackson Mahan  
Jack Mason  
Kate Morrison  
Tom Murray  
Robbie O'Neill  
Anna Pantazis  
Daniel Parish  
Nick Phillips  
Oliver Platt  
Jack D Robertson  
James Rook  
Alick Rose  
Isaac Sanderson  
Alexandra Somerville  
James Stewart  
Elena Teh  
Ali Tsigaras  
Max Twycross  
Marli Wilkinson  
Maya Worth

## **COUNTRY**

Mal Corben	40+
E. Ted Johnson	40+
Russell McLean	40+
Peter O'Brien	40+
John Shanasy	40+
William Bailieu	
Mark Connolly	
Tom Daffy	
Benjamin Dodwell	
J. Doug. Donoghue	
Rod Edwards	
Rachel Engel	
John Harry	
Jason Kovacic	
Pat McNamara	
Andrew S. McNeil	
Cate V McNeil	
Sean McNeil	

Celia Patterson  
George Patterson  
Paul Schreier  
Paul Somerville  
Tim Young

## **ASSOCIATE**

Marlena S. Ahrens  
Andrew Ambrose  
Timothy Arnold  
Lucas Batten  
Robert Brain  
James Campbell  
Siobhan Crawshay  
David Curnow  
Frederique Donnelly  
Jean-Baptiste Donnelly  
Mark Doyle  
Peter Foster  
Gary A. Fraumano  
Clementine Froomes-Houseman  
George Froomes-Houseman  
Jackson Harrison  
Sam Hayden  
Adam Holovics  
Maddy Hurst  
James McCann  
Rod Moseley  
Julie Orr  
Jan M. Tennent  
Scott Tierney  
Hugo Tribe  
Max Walkem

## **VALE**

Roberto Perillo  
Peter Philp  
Harry Mahoney  
Ron 'Thrasher' Richardson



# Finance Report

**DUNCAN MACKINNON**

**HONORARY TREASURER**

As I reported at the Annual General Meeting last year, I am very pleased to report that due to the generosity of our members, the building loan has been extinguished. This is a tremendous relief for the club's finances as it means that interest payments can now be devoted to the operations of the club.

These operations entail costs like coaches' salaries, vehicle running costs, electricity & gas, insurance, boathouse cleaning, bank charges, the club's website, and so forth. In addition there are repairs and spare parts for boats & oars (about \$20,000 last year) as well as repairs to keep the boathouse functional (about \$10,000 last year).

Fortunately our generous donors like the Frederico Fund help with capital purchases and last year we bought a new pair, ten new sweep oars and two new ergometers.

This year, in accordance with the new accounting standards, the club's accounts have been combined with those of the Endowment Fund. The finalised accounts will be available at the Annual General Meeting, but if the club's operations are separated out, they show a small loss of about \$19,000 (mainly due to the depreciation on our assets), but a positive cash flow of about \$5,000. To improve the situation we have recently renegotiated our waste disposal contract, optimised some of our insurances and shortly we will be changing auditors. The end result should be a \$12,000 per annum cash flow improvement to the club.

Finally let me close in drawing your attention to the list of donors at the front of the annual report. We are tremendously lucky to have the support of those listed, as well as others who choose to remain anonymous. To me this is the essence of club membership - those who have enjoyed the camaraderie of rowing in their youth continue the association and support those who come after them. Let us all strive to continue their legacy.

# Obituaries

## ROBERTO PERILLO

Roberto loved the sport. He raced and coached at Essendon Rowing Club, he was Captain at Richmond Rowing Club and loved racing with Mercantile. And we loved rowing with a great friend who was also such a dependable and strong rower. He readily offered assistance to every Club or rower, fixed boats and was a friend to all.

Roberto commenced his rowing career at the age of 12 years old in 1958 in his native country Argentina. His club was the Nahuel Rowing Club in Tigre, a rowing town of some 14 clubs. Many of these Clubs had a nationality foundation being based on various nationalities.

He first rowed with Mercantile in 2001 when the Inebri8 was a person short one night. He has stayed ever since whilst also rowing with Richmond and Essendon. He has coached at these Clubs and undertaken his level 1 and 2 coaching accreditation.

Roberto has raced successfully at the 2002 Ballarat World Masters, the 2005 Edmonton Canada World Masters, at State and National Championships and of course in the Head of the Yarra.

Roberto took some courageous steps in his life. In 1980, when Argentina was under military rule with tens of thousands of people going missing, Roberto made the big move of migrating to the safer Australia to bring up his family. The dirty war was no place for bringing up his children.

With hard work and bold decision making, Roberto successfully created a new life in Australia. When asked why rowing, he responded: Relationships. The community of rowing recognises no borders and is excellent for migrants." Roberto will be sadly missed by all those who had the privilege to know him.

## HARRY MAHONEY

Harry was born 1923 in humble circumstances, left school early and became a fitter and turner. He later specialised in the heat treatment of metal and understandably metallurgy was his passion. He set up his own steel heat treatment company in 1955.

He met his wife June on a blind date at a dance.

Amongst his other interests he was very keen amateur builder and squash player. He built the Moorabbin Squash Centre and had a squash court at home.

Harry joined Mercantile 1946 at same time as Thrasher Richardson and raced in many post war crews. He loved his time at the Club and was a frequent visitor to the Club throughout his life. He was proud of his assistance of the Oarsome Foursome back in 1992 in their early stages of success.

A generous and thoughtful person who was a Mercs man to the core.

## PETER PHILP

The Club and the sport of rowing lost one of its great rowers and coaches on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 when Peter Philp sadly died from cancer after a prolonged illness.

Peter commenced his rowing at Scotch College where he stroked their first crew in 1963 and 1964, winning in 1963. He was a strong, technically good and aggressive rower and very perceptive about who and what made a boat go fast. Those who rowed with him described him as a fighter and a winner.

He was not a big person, but he

successfully matched it with those far larger than himself. Whilst only two years out of school, he raced in a very successful four of similarly minded and strong rowers with David Palfreyman, Richard Garrard and George Xouris. This four represented Australia at the second World Championships in Bled in 1966. Interestingly all these rowers went on to be excellent coaches and rowed for far longer periods than their peers.

Even though he was still rowing, his reputation as a perceptive and innovative rower led to him being sought out to coach a similarly talented group of rowers of Cam Johnston, Andrew Michelmores, Geoff Rees and Colin Smith. This lightweight crew went onto win Australia's first gold medal in sweep oared rowing at a FISA World Championship. It also heralded the beginning of the golden age of lightweight rowing in Australia with numerous gold medals being won during the seventies and eighties. This victory must have been very sweet for Peter given his advocacy for the introduction of lightweight rowing at FISA Championships.

AOC President John Coates AC added that "Peter made a massive contribution to our sport and will always be remembered as our first coach to win gold in the modern era with his lightweight four at the 1974 FISA World Championships."

It was during this time that a big change in Australian rowing occurred, the appointment of Reinhold Batschi. Whilst the credit for this appointment rests with others, Peter was at the genesis of the idea whilst on tour with John Coates in 1975. Discussions between Coates as team manager and the team coaches, particularly Peter, led to the realisation that a revolutionary change in the sport was required to achieve consistent success.

Peter also was appointed an Australian women's selector at a time when a new approach was required. Rather than single crews from one club being selected, the best from Australia were combined to improve



standards. His contribution was significant.

Peter always loved his rowing and continued to row successfully throughout his life. His rowing did not change. He remained a strong, technically sound and fierce competitor who appreciated rowing with similarly minded individuals. Even in his work as an insurance broker, he was always supportive of rowers and rowing clubs.

## **RON RICHARDSON**

Roland "Thrasher" Richardson died on 27th January 2017 after a long illness. He was a person who lived for the Club and its members. He was Mercantile to the boot straps.

Ron was born in Tasmania in 1926 and commenced his rowing at Melbourne Grammar after his family moved to Melbourne in 1932. In



*Top: Peter Philip coaching in 1974  
Bottom: 1955 Juniors dinner with coach Bob Aitken. Ron Richardson far right*

1942 he joined Mercantile as a junior and was on active service in the Navy from 1944 to 1947. He then came back as a senior oarsman in 1947-48 season. Ron was the younger brother of another famous Mercs member, Graham Richardson.

When Bob Aiken was asked by a person outside the Club, how Ron was to be addressed, he responded: He was born Roland Hugh But we all call him Ron However, if you wish to be formal, then call him Thrasher.

Ron served rowing for many years as:

- Treasurer Mercantile
- First time keeper of the Head of the Yarra and Hon Member of Hawthorn Rowing Club
- Rowing Australia Umpire
- Rowing Victoria Umpire
- Head of the River Umpire

He and his wife Rosemary shared their interest in rowing, particularly in Australian Henley and were the prime movers in gaining and organising the 1993 FISA World Cup on the Yarra River- – the first in the Southern Hemisphere.

Ron was a very successful rower and a highly respected stroke. He had a great feel for the boat movement was able to keep boats running smoothly without interruption. This was the key to the success of the crews in which he rowed. He was the technician.

Even as a lightweight, he was feared by all competitors, particularly open weight rowers.

At the time he raced, there was no lightweight racing at the interstate, national or international level. The peak races for him would have been Australian Henley Regatta where we won:

1948 – Maiden Four

1951 – Ladies Challenge Cup

1952 – Ladies Challenge Cup

1953 – Ladies Challenge Cup

1954 – Founders Challenge Cup

1955 – Founders Challenge Cup

He also won seven Victorian Championships including many open weight Championships. His last race was in 1956 where he won senior four championship with Hubert Frederico, John Hunt, Brian Dawes, coxed by Neil Hewitt, coached by

Norm Cairnes and of course stroked by Ron.

In total he had 104 starts, wins 66, being 6 pairs 35 fours and 25 eights.

In later years, Ron was usually seen at Mercantile rowing in his double scull. He sculled regularly with Stan Jeffries, Bill Morrison, Tony Cordell, Reg McKay and John Foley. He also stroked the "Cock Robins" eight for some years.

# Office Bearers

SEASON	PRESIDENT	CAPTAIN	HONORARY SECRETARY	HONORARY TREASURER
1880-1881	THOMPSON W K	BOYD W S	BALDWIN J	BALDWIN J
1881-1882	THOMPSON W K	BOYD W S		
1882-1883	THOMPSON W K	BOYD W S	WILSON E	WILLIAMS F S
1883-1884	THOMPSON W K	BOYD W S	CLEGG G	WILLIAMS F S
1884-1885	THOMPSON W K	BOYD W S	CUNNINGHAM C S	WILLIAMS F S
1889-1886	THOMPSON W K	BOYD W S	WILSON E	GREGERSON F
1886-1887	THOMPSON W K	BOYD W S		
1887-1888	THOMPSON W K	BOYD W S		
1888-1889	THOMPSON W K	BOYD W S	MILLAR F	GILCHRIST T R
1889-1890	WHITTY J B	BOYD W S	MILLAR F	GILCHRIST T R
1890-1891	WHITTY J B	BOYD W S		
1891-1892	WHITTY J B	CUNNINGHAM C S		
1892-1893	WHITTY J B	DUNN H	WEINHEIM S	BEST J T
1893-1894	WHITTY J B	MILLAR F R	JOHNSON C F	GIBBS F S
1894-1895	WHITTY J B	GIBBS F S	CUPIT C J	BROWN W S
1895-1896	WHITTY J B	GIBBS F S	CUPIT C J	STRONG J A
1896-1897	WHITTY J B	GIBBS F S	BRENNAN T F	STRONG J A
1897-1898	WHITTY J B	GIBBS F S	KAIBFELL J G	STRONG J A
1898-1899	WHITTY J B	GIBBS F S	KAIBFELL J G	STRONG J A
1899-1900	WHITTY J B	GIBBS F S	MOSES A R	STRONG J A
1900-1901	WHITTY J B	SLOAN A B	MOSES A R	STRONG J A
1901-1902	WHITTY J B	SLOAN A B	ALWYN A R	IVENS P C
1902-1903	WHITTY J B	SLOAN A B	ALWYB A R	IVENS P C
1903-1904	BLACKWOOD A R	SLOAN A B	HOOF A E	IVENS P C
1904-1905	BLACKWOOD A R	SLOAN A B	DOBBIE A L	IVENS P C
1905-1906	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	SLOAN A B	DOBBIE A L	IVENS P C
1906-1907	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	SLOAN A B	MILLS A C	IVENS P C
1907-1908	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	SLOAN A B	CAMEERON D	IVENS P C
1908-1909	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	DOBBIE A L	WOOD J A	IVENS P C
1909-1910	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	DOBBIE A L	JOSEPH W	IVENS P C
1910-1911	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	DOBBIE A L	JOSEPH W	GUINN S
1911-1912	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	DOBBIE A L	JOSEPH W	GUINN S
1912-1913	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	DOBBIE A L	JOSEPH W	GUINN S
1913-1914	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	DOBBIE A L	JOSEPH W	HILL C
1914-1915	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	DOBBIE A L	JOSEPH W	HILL C
1915-1916	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	DOBBIE A L	JOSEPH W	HILL C
1916-1917	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	DOBBIE A L	JOSEPH W	CLARKE C A R
1917-1918	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	DOBBIE A L	JOSEPH W	CLARKE C A R
1918-1919	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	DOBBIE A L	JOSEPH W	CLARKE C A R
1919-1920	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	KENNY E	BANNERMANN W G	CLARKE C A R
1920-1921	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	KENNY E	BETTS F W	CLARKE C A R
1921-1922	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	KENNY E	BETTS F W	CLARKE C A R
1922-1923	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	KENNY E	BETTS F W	CLARKE C A R
1923-1924	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	MOUNSEY J L	DUNSTAN J T	CLARKE C A R
1924-1925	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	MOUNSEY J L	DUNSTAN J T	CLARKE C A R
1925-1926	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	MOUNSEY J L	CASTREAU G B	CLARKE C A R
1926-1927	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	MOUNSEY J L	NICHOLLS C J	CLARKE C A R
1927-1928	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	SPRIGG J G H	NICHOLLS C J	CLARKE C A R
1928-1929	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	SPRIGG J G H	NICHOLLS C J	CLARKE C A R
1929-1930	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	SHANNON A R	SLOSS A	CLARKE C A R

SEASON	PRESIDENT	CAPTAIN	HONORARY SECRETARY	HONORARY TREASURER
1930-1931	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	SHANNON A R	RAVEN C F	CLARKE C A R
1931-1932	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	MILLER A P	SOWARD R S	CLARKE C A R
1932-1933	MORELL Sir Stephen J Kt B	HORDER G J	BOLTON R S	CLARKE C A R
1933-1934	DOBBIE A L	MILLER A P	BOLTON R S	CLARKE C A R
1934-1935	DOBBIE A L	GREGG R V	MACRAE S C	CLARKE C A R
1935-1936	DOBBIE A L	RAVEN C F	MACRAE S C	CLARKE C A R
1936-1937	DOBBIE A L	BAILEY J H	MACRAE S C	CLARKE C A R
1937-1938	DOBBIE A L	CAIRNES N W	NEWPORT F P	CLARKE C A R
1938-1939	DOBBIE A L	ROSS W G	NEWPORT F P	CLARKE C A R
1939-1940	DOBBIE A L	ROSS W G	NEWPORT F P	CLARKE C A R
1940-1941	DOBBIE A L	CLARKE J H P J	OSEPH W	CLARKE C A R
1941-1942	DOBBIE A L	GORDON A	JOSEPH W	CLARKE C A R
1942-1943	DOBBIE A L	GORDON A	PALFREYMAN D B	CLARKE C A R
1943-1944	DOBBIE A L	GORDON A	PALFREYMAN D B	CLARKE C A R
1944-1945	DOBBIE A L	BLAIR-HOLT J	PALFREYMAN D B	CLARKE C A R
1945-1946	DOBBIE A L	BLAIR-HOLT J	PALFREYMAN D B	CLARKE C A R
1946-1947	DOBBIE A L	CLARKE A H G	CAIRNES N W	CLARKE C A R
1947-1948	DOBBIE A L	CLARKE A H G	NEILL J S	ROBERTSON J N
1948-1949	DOBBIE A L	MORGAN D J R	MORRISON W T	ROBERTSON J N
1949-1950	DOBBIE A L	MORGAN D J R	KOHN A B	ROBERTSON J N
1950-1951	DOBBIE A L	MORGAN D J R	MORRISON W T	RICHARDSON R H
1951-1952	DOBBIE A L	AITKEN R R	WHITE E C	RICHARDSON R H
1952-1953	DOBBIE A L	AITKEN R R	MORRISON W T	RICHARDSON R H
1953-1954	DOBBIE A L	AITKEN R R	CRIGHTON D J	RICHARDSON R H
1954-1955	DOBBIE A L	AITKEN R R	LEWIS C D	RICHARDSON R H
1955-1956	SPRIGG J G H	AITKEN R R	LEWIS C D	RICHARDSON R H
1956-1957	SPRIGG J G H	AITKEN R R	BRADSHAW J W	RICHARDSON R H
1957-1958	SPRIGG J G H	SHARP V A	BRADSHAW J W	RICHARDSON R H
1958-1959	SPRIGG J G H	BOYKETT D H	BRADSHAW J W	OLIVER D A
1959-1960	SPRIGG J G H	WALLACE W N L	BRADSHAW J W	OLIVER D A
1960-1961	SPRIGG J G H	WALLACE W N L	deGUINGAND C J	BRADSHAW J W
1961-1962	SPRIGG J G H	WALLACE W N L	WYLLIE J J	HEWITT H N
1962-1963	SPRIGG J G H	NEWCOMB S H	WYLLIE J J	BOSTOCK J B
1963-1964	SPRIGG J G H	NEWCOMB S H	WYLLIE J J	BOSTOCK J B
1964-1965	SPRIGG J G H	WYLLIE J J	HARVET J R	BOSTOCK J B
1965-1966	SPRIGG J G H	McKENNA M F	HARVEY J R	BURFORD J
1966-1967	SPRIGG J G H	BURFORD J	McKENNA M F	BOSIOCK J B
1967-1968	SPRIGG J G H	BURFORD J	WOOD P V	GRIFFITHS R I
1968-1969	SPRIGG J G H	TOMANOVITS M G	EASSON R V	GRIFFITHS R I
1969-1970	SPRIGG J G H	TOMANOVITS M G	EASSON R V	GRIFFITHS R I
1970-1971	SPRIGG J G H	GUMLEY J H	WATKIN P K	GRIFFITHS R I
1971-1972	SPRIGG J G H	BURFORD J	WATKIN P K	GRIFFITHS R I
1972-1973	SPRIGG J G H	BURFORD J	GUMLEY J H	McKENNA M F
1973-1974	SPRIGG J G H	OWEN M F	WATKIN P K	McKENNA M F
1974-1975	SPRIGG J G H	GUMLEY J H	CAIRNES N W	BURFORD J
1975-1976	SPRIGG J G H	TOMANOVITS M G	CAIRNES N W	GUERIN A N
1976-1977	SPRIGG J G H	TOMANOVITS M G	GUERIN A N	CAIRNES N W
1977-1978	SPRIGG J G H	TOMANOVITS M G	RICHTER P G	NEWTON N L
1978-1979	SPRIGG J G H	GUERIN A N	AINSWORTH P J	NEWTON N L
1979-1980	SPRIGG J G H	BURFORD J	AINSWORTH P J	LAWRENCE J J

SEASON	PRESIDENT	CAPTAIN	HONORARY SECRETARY	HONORARY TREASURER
1980-1981	SPRIGG J G H	GUERIN A N	PINCUS D A	LAWRENCE J J
1981-1982	SPRIGG J G H	GUERIN A N	PINCUS D A	LAWRENCE J J
1982-1983	AITKEN R R MBE	GUERIN A N	AINSWORTH P J	FREDERICO H T
1983-1984	AITKEN R R MBE	GUERIN A N	AINSWORTH P J	O'HALLORAN M K
1984-1985	AITKEN R R MBE	NEWTON N L	AINSWORTH P J	GUERIN A R
1985-1986	AITKEN R R MBE	NEWTON N L	AINSWORTH P J	MATTHEW J P
1986-1987	AITKEN R R MBE	NEWTON N L	AINSWORTH P J	GUERIN A R
1987-1988	AITKEN R R MBE	O'HALLORAN M K	AINSWORTH P J	WRAITH R G
1988-1989	AITKEN R R MBE	O'HALLORAN M K	SOMERVILLE P G	INGLIS A C
1989-1990	AITKEN R R MBE	LAWRENCE J J	SOMERVILLE P G	LEE Susan A
1990-1991	AITKEN R R MBE	LAWRENCE J J	WEBSTER W H	LEE Susan A
1991-1992	AITKEN R R MBE	LAWRENCE J J	WEBSTER W H	LEE Susan A
1992-1993	AITKEN R R MBE	LAWRENCE J J	WEBSTER W H	LEE Susan A
1993-1994	BOYKETT D H	MURPHY P J	WEBSTER W H	LAWRENCE J J
1994-1995	BOYKETT D H	MORRISON S A	LEEMING J	LAWRENCE J J
1995-1996	BOYKETT D H	WRAITH R G	LEEMING J	EDGAR P H C
1996-1997	BOYKETT D H	WRAITH R G	HALL G	EDGAR P H C
1997-1998	GUERIN A R	PATTERSON C L	WEBSTER W H	KELLY M
1998-1999	GUERIN A R	BARDEN G I	WEBSTER W H	KELLY M
1999-2000	GUERIN A R	BARDEN G I	WEBSTER W H	FARANDA J
2000-2001	GUERIN A R	COLVIN D E G	WEBSTER W H	FARANDA J
2001-2002	GUERIN A R	COLVIN D E G	WEBSTER W H	FARANDA J
2002-2003	GUERIN A R	COLVIN D E G	WEBSTER W H	SOMERVILLE P G
2003-2004	GUERIN A R	COLVIN D E G	WEBSTER W H	SOMERVILLE P G
2004-2005	BATTERS N P R	TAIT W J	WEBSTER W H	MANTIPLAY A
2005-2006	BATTERS N P R	TAIT W J	WEBSTER W H	MANTIPLAY A
2006-2007	BATTERS N P R	EDGAR P H C	WEBSTER W H	NICKSON J
2007-2008	BATTERS N P R	EDGAR P H C	EDGAR P H C	NICKSON J
2008-2009	BATTERS N P R	EDGAR P H C	MACEK S	NICKSON J
2009-2010	BATTERS N P R	EDGAR P H C	MACEK S	NICKSON J
2010-2011	BATTERS N P R	CHEW F A	BOSLER D	MacKINNON D
2011-2012	BATTEN M W OAM	BAKER N J	BOSLER D	MacKINNON D
2012-2013	BATTEN M W OAM	BAKER N J	O'NEILL C M	MacKINNON D
2013-2014	BATTEN M W OAM	SELBY SMITH R	FRAUMANO J	MacKINNON D
2014-2015	BATTEN M W OAM	SELBY SMITH R	FRAUMANO J	MacKINNON D
2015-2016	BATTEN M W OAM	SELBY SMITH R	FRAUMANO J	MacKINNON D
2016-2017	BATTEN M W OAM	WEBSTER W H	FRAUMANO J	MacKINNON D

WITH THANKS TO



VICTORIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT



ROWING VICTORIA



ROWING AUSTRALIA



[www.mercantile.org.au](http://www.mercantile.org.au)

Instagram @mercantile\_rc

Facebook @MercantileRC