



Mercantile Rowing Club

141st Annual Report - 2020-2021

The premier high performance club in Australia



When you can do something well, it's almost your responsibility to see how far you can take it. James Tomkins, member since 1984

Previous: Olympic Women's four which included Jess Morrison and the Olympic women's eight with Kat Werry in the seven seat and steered by James Rook

Office Bearers -2020-21

PATRON

Arthur H C Atkins DFC

PRESIDENT

Anthony L Johnson

VICE-PRESIDENTS

N Philippe R Batters

David E G Colvin

P Henry C Edgar

Warwick B Hutchins

Jeffrey J Lawrence

John Leeming

David Pincus

James B Tomkins OAM

William Webster until June 2021

Roger B Wilson OAM

David J Yunghanns

CAPTAIN

Meghan Hester

VICE-CAPTAINS

Skye Froebel until Nov 2021

Phil Tran from Dec 2021

William Legge

HON SECRETARY

Andrew N Guerin

ASS SECRETARY

Pauline Frasca

HON TREASURER

Duncan MacKinnon

ASS TREASURER

Andrew Phillips

PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR

Tom Courtney to Nov 2020

Sam Patten from March 2021

SOCIAL MANAGER

Jenny Fraumano

BOATHOUSE AND EQUIPMENT MANAGER

Simon Morrison

COMMITTEE

Graeme Barns

Alex Clarke

Felicity Frederico

Tom Nickson to June 2021

Sam Patten to March 2021

William Webster from June 2021



Paralympics - Mixed PR3 coxed four with Club member Al Viney in the bow seat



Olympic Men's Eight stroked by Club member Angus Widdicombe



Olympic Women's Double Scull with Club member Amanda Bateman in the bow seat

President's Report

Anthony Johnson

Let me begin this report with the best message. Mercantile - Victorian Champion Club 2021

It's October 2020 and we have just gone into or out of another lockdown. The newspapers were all telling us that vaccines were close to being developed and by January they will be available. It seemed in these reports that all would be magically fine on the 1st January. A little known expert in vaccine production and distribution wrote an article on the logistical challenges of producing the required quantities for worldwide inoculation along with the challenges of getting those jabs administered. It was a sobering assessment, and it was given little coverage at the time. Perhaps it was thought to be too much reality for us all. We conducted our 1st ever AGM as a virtual event hopeful that we would be free of this cursed virus in the new year.

It is October 2021. We are in the midst of another extended lockdown and I expect heading toward our second virtual AGM. The logistics expert was right, it was and is going to be much more difficult than we all thought.

It has been a most challenging year for us all but despite this there is much to celebrate. Virtual training and creative group competitions kept athletes fit. Our January rowing camp went ahead with the biggest attendance in years. Lockdowns ended and regattas were held right through to the National titles. Mercantile raced so very well throughout these events as we racked up points toward our Champion club status. With immense planning and dogged determination, the Olympic Games were run. Our sport of rowing and our Mercantile Olympic members did so very well on the world stage. It is a credit to all involved.

The success of Mercantile has not just occurred on the water. Much has happened in the background in our club administration. During my time as President the committee has developed into a disciplined group that has taken on the increasing complexities of club administration. A summary of those achievements are as follows:

- Creation and documentation of our high performance and club rowing programs
- Creation of a four year strategic plan
- Creation of a high performance committee to work with our coaches to work toward and progress our strategic plan and high performance rowing program
- Creation of multiple policies, procedures and induction programs to continue and improve club rowing and racing for all our members
- Creation of an athletes committee and charter to work with and represent our athletes as they train and race toward their respective goals
- Implementation of a new documentation, email and communication system to cross all sections of club operations
- Implementation of a new and improved website for the club. It is the place where many of the points described above are stored for you to view

My sincere thanks goes to all committee members and other volunteers who have contributed to these recent developments and improvements in club operations.

I mentioned the club's strategic plan in the summary above. It is a credit to us all that we have met or exceeded targets in most areas especially in the athlete

and on water components. My congratulations goes to our coaches and athletes for their great endeavours. We have still to make further improvements in membership retention post rowing, sponsorship and financial independence. Work is ongoing in these areas.

I would also like to make special mention of Rowing Victoria. The president **Joe Joyce** and CEO **Ian Jickell**, both Mercantile members have been a huge support to both Mercantile and me

in my role as Club President. I have had the pleasure of many discussions with them both in the ongoing development of the Victorian Pathways program of which Mercantile is a member.

The COVID experience has shown how adaptable we can all be. Mercantile is a wonderful club and we have all played a part in its continued success. Rowing is an incredible sport and Mercantile is the place to be.

Go Mercs, Champion Club 2021.



Our youth women at Wendouree Ballarat Regatta

Captain's Report

Meghan Hester

In rowing, as in life we have choices. We cannot control our competitors, race schedules, conditions or outcomes. But in each stroke we choose to endure pain and find inner strength to push the boundaries of what is physically and mentally possible. When we do this well and practise it repeatedly, excellence results.

In this Olympic and Paralympic year and amidst a global pandemic, we can draw on our learnings from rowing. The discipline and courage of our sport serves us well in times of uncertainty. I applaud the club and all its members on the community effort this year. I am so very grateful that we have our sport and our Mercantile community - something special to unite us and engage us. Being on the water is a privilege we have learnt not to take for granted.

During each lockdown the athlete group has remained strong. The creative Red Rocket Challenge allowed teams of athletes and coaches to adapt, connect and focus. The challenge comprised of points earned for Zoom ergo sessions and various other training modalities recorded on a spreadsheet designed by **Red Matthews**. While this challenge was no substitute for on-water rowing, bonds between squads were stronger than ever. The challenge continues as of September 21 and its success has helped Rowing Victoria adopt a similar initiative.

The coaching team went above and beyond to transport boats within different 5km sections along the river to allow different training zones. Thank you to **Mike McKay, Alistair Matthews, Samuel Fennessy, Dylan Curnow, Anthony Bergelin** and **David 'Chipper' Colvin**. Our dynamic, high-calibre coaching team are committed to their athletes and the progression of the Club. Senior high performance coach Mike

brings vision, innovation, and steely commitment. High Performance Coach **Al** brings an intellect, a process-driven attitude, and the ability to build rapport with his athletes. Senior Coach **Chipper** is a savvy administrator and wise counsel for the coaching team. Our gratitude also to **Dylan, Berge** and **Sam** our development coaches and die-hard Mercantilians. Thank you for the individual and collective efforts that have delivered trust and results for our club.

Mercantile launched a new Club Rowing program in 2020-21. This new initiative supported athletes to join the club in a new capacity and for this I am incredibly proud. The program is available to rowers who have a love for the sport but are not able to commit to a full-time load, such as ex-high-performance rowers and those returning to rowing after some time. The club hopes to further develop this program and offer new opportunities for young, aspiring athletes. Thank you to **William Legge** and **Anthony Bergelin** for coordinating this new program with myself; **Rob Manning** and **Sarah Ben-David** for volunteer coaching assistance; coxswain **Ally Legge**; guest coxswain and ANU Club Captain **Vinhara Goonesekera** and returning coxswain **Jordan King**. The Club Rowers made a presence at regattas this year including the MRA Rutherglen and Wentworth-Mildura Easter regattas. We are excited to continue dodging Go-Boats on the Yarra and growing as a team. Bring on the 2021-22 season!

On-site training resumed in November 2020 with COVID-safe practices the new norm. The club operated in shifts allocated to our Masters, Club and High-Performance rowers, as well as our tenants Brighton Grammar School and St Catherine's. Thank you for the respect

everyone showed each other to give every member a fair go.

More rowers attended the December 2020 camp than any previous camp. Particular thanks to **Jenny Fraumano** for her efforts to arrange accommodation and meals; our volunteer coaches **Tom Fisher, Brendan Scott, Pete Somerville** and **Nick Barlett**, and, **Alex Viney** (Mercantile's first Paralympian) for her rousing presentation on club culture and values.

We were fortunate to celebrate the Christmas luncheon together, including an epic battle on the water between the Mercs 'pudding eights' and Kayakers in the K4. We also christened five new club sculls in honour of members **Sir Stephen Morell, William Boyd, Charles Cunningham, Ted Kenny** and **Alex B Sloan**. We hosted the Henley Eve Cocktail Party to celebrate our success at Nationals and christened a further four pairs in honour of members **Jen Cleary, Graeme Boykett, Tom Swann** and **Tim Frederico**, and a four honouring **Martin and Susan Owen**.

Regattas were few and far between in 2020-21 but the Victorian State Championships was our season highlight. A beautiful display of unity and whole-club effort saw a record number of entries and 25 gold medals which awarded Mercantile both the Senior Championship and overall Victorian Championship Club. Congratulations to coaches, volunteers and athletes for their standout performance, the best in recent years. Thank you to our club umpires **Andy Guerin, Billy Webster, Duncan MacKinnon** and **Graeme Boykett**. A proud result for Mercantile.

The National Championships were held in March 2021 at Lake Barrington, Tasmania. Transport and accommodation preparations were logistically complex and only made possible due to the tireless effort of the coaches and **Jenny and Garry Fraumano**. Many clubs were not able to provide this level of support to their

athletes and/or reduced their squad size. We are proud to have enabled such a large group to attend and compete. Special mentions go to the nine gold medal crews; **Olivia Sargeant, Paige Barr, Emily Sutherland, Sophie Reinehr** and cox **Hayley Verbunt** (U21W4+), **Dom Frederico** (OLM4-), **Alex Viney** (PR3Mix4+, PR3W2-) and **Alex Vuillermin** (PR3W2-) and NTC Athletes **Jess Morrison** (OW2-, OW4-), **Amanda Bateman** (OW1x and OW2x), **Kat Werry** and **James Rook** (OW8+). We hope to turn a few more of our bronze and silver medallists into National Champions in Sydney, 2022.

We also congratulate the Interstate Regatta medallists **Paige Barr, Louisa Bongrain, Sophie Reinehr, Olivia Sargeant, Emily Sutherland, Hayley Verbunt** and coach **Sam Fennessy** (Silver ISYW8+), **Dom Frederico** (Bronze ISLM4-), **Kat Werry, Amanda Bateman, Jess Morrison, James Rook** and coach **Al Matthews** (Gold ISW8+) and **Ben Canham, Jack Robertson, Angus Widdicombe** and coach **Mike McKay** (Gold ISM8+). It was a huge day for Victoria.

Several Mercantile rowers were then nominated for underage Australian Teams. **Paige Barr, Emmie Frederico** and coach **Alistair Matthews** (U23W4-) joined the U23 Australian Rowing Team; and **Sophie Rheinehr, Louisa Bongrain** and **Emily Sutherland** joined the U21 Australian Rowing Team. In any other year these athletes would have raced overseas and we share their disappointment. I commend these athletes for racing at the World Cup III Simulation Regatta, as Victorians were unable to attend in Adelaide due to COVID restrictions.

The Club also began Coastal Rowing; a new category in which our Club and Masters rowers made use of the Port Melbourne Yacht Club on Sunday mornings. The double and quad scull planned to race at the inaugural National Coastal Rowing Championships in Noosa but this event was also cancelled. Thank you **Andy Guerin** for

coordinating this program. We look forward to seeing this space develop and continue making waves.

Mercantile also launched a School Holiday Rowing Camp as an additional fundraising venture. Held in the June/July holidays, it enabled school-aged rowers to access a value-packed program, including nutrition guidance from **Siobhan Crawshay**, goal-setting with **Drew Ginn**, injury prevention with myself alongside expert coaching from our high performance team. **Mike McKay** also facilitated a tour of the National Sporting Museum. May this new program continue to support young athletes.

After the season concluded and winter COVID restrictions came into place, the Club welcomed the Tokyo Olympic Games and our athletes **Angus Widdicombe, Amanda Bateman, James Rook, Katrina Werry and Jessica Morrison**. Although unable to celebrate in-person, we were extremely proud of all our Olympians and acknowledge that the journey was tough. An online screening of each race allowed members to barrack together and watch in awe of the green and gold efforts, with **Drew Ginn** and **David Crawshay** providing finals commentary. Congratulations to Jessica on her performance which earned her the first **James Sprigg** Trophy for endeavour in rowing, amidst schedule changes in her two Olympic events. We applaud all our athletes and hope that the spectacle inspires rowers to take responsibility to explore how far they can go in the sport.

The Tokyo Paralympic Games closely followed with Mercantile cheering on our very own **Alexandra Viney** as she took to the world stage. Many current athletes had a close affinity to the performance having trained alongside Viney and her para pair partner **Alex Vuillermin** throughout the season and Games preparation. Mercantile's focus on inclusion and integrating squads

meant that athletes and coaches share each other's successes, as Al reminded the athlete group on race-day; 'Family ♡ You're right here with me. Thank you for everything.' This is just one example of how the Club can live out the Olympic motto which has changed from 'Higher stronger better' to 'Higher, stronger, better - together'.

In all of these events and successes, I would like to thank President **Anthony Johnson** and Vice Captains **William Legge** and **Phil Tran** for their unwavering support and enthusiasm. I extend this gratitude to each member of the executive and committee for their considerable commitment to keep the club alive, improving every day and for their mentorship in this new role. In addition to those already mentioned, I would like to thank the many others for their efforts this season: **Simon Morrison** and **Duncan MacKinnon** for the purchase of our new men's Empacher eight, the updates to our fleet and the transition to Teams communications software; **Rob Manning** for maintaining our boats; **Anthony Bergelin** for stepping in as a volunteer coach for the U21 Men's program to build on **Dylan Curnow's** great work prior to gaining full-time employment; **Sam Patten** for assuming the High Performance Director role after **Tom Courtney's** handover; all the Breakfast Mums and; Rowing Victoria for their guidance in this difficult year.

This year our Club has been challenged on many fronts, but we have learned and will move forward into the new season to further benefit the club and its members. We are always a student of rowing and never stop learning. May we cast our gaze ahead to the new season having banded together over this last year. We look to live out the values of Mercantile Rowing Club each day and every stroke we take is a stroke to win.

Go Mercls!.

Performance Director's Report

Sam Patten

High Performance Report

Since 1880 Mercantile has endeavoured to provide an environment for members to discover their potential and enhance their personal development through the sport of rowing.

Whilst it is the journey of our rowing efforts, rather than race results alone, that shape our lives, the pursuit of excellence on the water is our instrument in the endeavour to reach our best self.

The resilience that evolves in our personality with the pursuit of excellence comes from years of hard work and dedication. Mercantile promotes each member's endeavour to reach their potential, and the high performance that comes with that focus.

Mercantile has earned its status as one of the world's great rowing clubs. No other rowing club in the world boasts as many Thomas Keller Medalists amongst its members: High Performance is in our being, in our hearts and in our soul.

This year Mercantile has formed a new committee, the High Performance Committee, to assist in this ongoing pursuit of excellence. The High Performance Committee meets regularly to discuss all matters of the Club's elite and development competition program. The committee is composed of the High Performance director, whose role is akin to the previous Chairman of Selectors, the Club Head Coach, the Club Captain, and two members from the Club Committee. This year these roles are filled respectively by Sam Patten, **Michael McKay**, **Meghan Hester**, **Jenny Fraumano**, and **Bill Webster**.

The landscape of high performance rowing in Australia has been transformed over the past Olympic cycle by the introduction of the National

Training centres in Penrith for the women's squad and in Canberra for the men.

As a result of the transfer of our most senior elite athletes to the National Centres we do not have them around the club to mentor our junior and developing members. This fundamental change in club culture has highlighted the importance of a structured program to guide our athletes and coaches towards their goals. Whilst our high performance role has now become more directed towards recruitment and development of talent for selection to senior club, and state teams, with potential selection to the national training centres, we remain an independent club, proud of our history of success in interclub regatta and championship events, and of our culture that promotes the aspiration of excellence in every member.

Our dedicated application of the Club's stated values of excellence and service to the sport of rowing, of physical and mental health, and of respect and friendship for all is integral to our high performance program, and every effort by every member is celebrated as adding value to our purpose to build on these values. Adding to our success on and off the water and to the enduring pursuit of excellence for our club and our members is to be celebrated equally with the reward of making a national team or winning an Olympic medal. Mercantile has earned an iconic stature in our sport of rowing, and we intend to keep enhancing that status into the future.

Since his appointment in June 2020, our senior high performance coach **Michael McKay** has focused on enhancing the coaching and training structures of the club's programs to best undertake our high performance mandate.

There was much to do, and much has been achieved.

Mercantile currently has two full time paid coaches.

As Senior High Performance Coach Michael McKay directs planning and coaching of all the high performance crews. This includes working with the Club Committee to formulate and manage the High Performance program budget, to advise on maintaining and enhancing the clubs competition fleet, and on all coaching strategy and appointments.

Alister Matthews is our High Performance coach, working under Michael's direction, and focusing on pathways and development of emerging elite athletes and coaches.

I would like to thank the coaching team of last season comprising **Mike McKay, Al Matthews, Sam Fennessy, David Colvin, Anthony Bergelin and Dylan Curnow.**

Our evolving and enduring success is founded on successful recruitment and this year we have gained a great increase in young active members through effective new recruitment efforts, and we are looking to build on this in the future.

A high performance program requires high quality, expensive equipment.

The current selection process for the national training centres, and for most state crews, has an increasing focus on performance in small boats, being singles sculls and coxless pairs. To provide a suitable fleet of small boats the club is exploring options in sharing as many boats as possible, whilst trying to acquire more boats to minimise the complexities and problems that come from trying to share and regularly re-rig all the boats. We are very grateful for the support of the clubs donors and the Clubs Foundation in support of our need for expansion and maintenance of our fleet.

It has been a very busy and very challenging year.

After a gap of 20 years, Mercantile is once again Champion Club of Victoria, reflecting the outstanding success of all our crews. Every athlete tasted victory during the season, and the participation of our high performance athletes in as many events as possible, often combining with our club program athletes, reflected the vibrancy and enthusiasm that emanates throughout the boat house. We are also Champion Senior Club, which is a further reflection of our high performance presence.

Mercantile has integrated an established Paralympic program into our high performance activities: this is a great milestone for our club, and we are committed to developing our involvement in this wonderful aspect of our sport as much as possible in the immediate future.

We currently have more junior and development athletes training than at any time in our history, and we are building on these successes towards holding our position as one of Australia's top clubs. In particular we look forward to our first year youth athletes moving up to the state teams next year.

Every Saturday morning we have close to 100 rowers, coxswains and coaches enjoying a breakfast prepared and cooked by our volunteers; chatting, laughing, and talking rowing, there can be no better reflection of the positive momentum and culture of our club than this.

Our high performance championship wins for the past year have been very impressive, and our elite and development category crews have fulfilled or exceeded the vast majority of our expectations.

We are especially rewarded by the successes at the National and Interstate Championships, and in international competition. Our Rowing Australia brief is to provide athletes to the national

training centres and underage crews, and in that we aspect have achieved the vast majority of our targets.

A number of our underage girls were selected for Australia and although they missed international competition we look forward to them leading the way again next year.

Victorian crews dominated the Interstate Regatta, with **Ben Canham, Jack Robertson** and **Angus Widdicombe** fighting off NSW to a thrilling and famous win in the Kings Cup, followed immediately by **Amanda Bateman, Katrina Werry, Jess Morrison** and **James Rook** securing another impressive Queens Cup victory. Truly another great day for Victorian rowing and Mercantile, with **Mike and Alister** coaching these crews respectively.

Once again we have an Olympic champion in Mercantile, our first female

athlete: congratulations to **Jess Morrison** and her crew for their wonderful win in the 4, as well as her terrific effort in the pair.

Congratulations to all our Olympians and Paralympians; **Alex Viney**, our first Paralympian, who raced in the PR3 mixed 4, **Amanda Bateman** in the Women's Double Scull, **Katrina Werry** and **James Rook** in the Women's 8, and **Angus Widdicombe** in the Men's 8.

Thank you to the Club Committee for their ongoing support of the high performance program, to the other members of the High Performance Committee, and especially to our coaches, **Mike McKay, Alister Matthews, David Colvin** and **Sam Fennessy**.

We look forward to building on this year's efforts towards greater success in the coming season.



Hon Secretary's report

Andrew Guerin

As we all know, a Club needs sound administration to achieve its aims. Whilst good administration will not win gold medals, poor administration can certainly prevent them.

Sadly, the level of administration required to manage a club, let alone a club like Mercs, increases in difficulty annually. This year was no exception.

The challenges of maintaining compliance with national, state and local legal requirements of running a club are substantial. Then we need to maintain the requirements of our national and state rowing bodies and voluntarily meet the requirements of the national pathways program. Finally, the expectations of our members continue to rise.

The major administrative changes this season included:

- Updating the website for hand-held device usage
- Greater member engagement through improved communications despite the pandemic.
- Greater one on one engagement with members through our membership manager **Andrew Phillips**.
- Recognition of past and present members with member profiles well exceeding 200 and rising rapidly.
- Updating and improving coach and committee inductions
- Governance reviews, both internal and external.
- Introduction of high-performance and athletes committees.
- Updated and new policies, with more work underway.

- Introduced employee assistance plan which was extended to certain athletes when our athletes in Australian team were unable to race due to COVID.
- Continuing to meet the requirements for COVID-19 financial assistance, and applying for grants.
- Mentoring of committee members and coaches as required.
- Migration of athlete communication channel from Slack to Teams
- Adoption of Teams as the primary Club IT platform thanks to **Simon Morrison's** fine work.
- Step change with a far more structured equipment and boathouse approach thanks to **Simon Morrison**.
- Introduction of Crestone as the Foundation's manager.
- Insurance review.
- Introduction of an effective incident management system.
- Coastal rowing safety plan introduced.

The relentless level of change will continue in the 2021-22 season.

Your Committee has been up to the task and please take the time express your appreciation to the Captain and other members of the Committee.

Safety Officers

Given the nature of the sport, safety management is important. Whilst it is practised daily by all participants, these days we need to maintain a safety management plan and appoint safety officers. The safety management plan was updated during the season and

Meghan Hester and **Alistair Matthews** assumed the important role of safety officers for the 2020-21 season.

Communications

Our communications team comprises **Alex Clarke**, **Meghan Hester** and **Al Viney** managing social media channels and **Andrew Guerin** the website. They have been very active and maintained a good website and social media presence throughout the year. Enjoy the member profiles.

Social

The COVID restrictions played havoc with planned social functions. However, in between lockdowns we did manage a few Saturday morning breakfasts run by the Breakfast Team led by **Jenny Fraumano**.

Our responsibilities to the sport.

As a significant member of our sport, your Club continues to provide our sport with some of the best and brightest.

One of these responsibilities is the provision of umpires. Your Club has provided umpires to local, national and international rowing events. Our international level umpires are **William Webster** and **Andrew Guerin**, our national umpire **Duncan MacKinnon** and local umpire **Graeme Boykett**. **Duncan MacKinnon** has taken on the responsibility of Secretary of the Rowing Victoria Umpires. We thank them for their work.

Another responsibility to the sport is to provide administrators to our sport. We thank **Ben Dodwell** for serving as a Rowing Australia board member.

We also thank **Joe Joyce** for his remarkable work at Rowing Victoria as President. He has undertaken this massive task with great expertise and enthusiasm. The sport owes much to him.

The Rowing Victoria CEO is another Club member and past rower, **Ian Jickell**.

Ian's professionalism and expertise has been much appreciated in this important role.

Member **Noel Donaldson** continued his role as head rowing coach of the VIS and is now undertaking the same role at RV.

And **Roger Wilson** continues his announcement duties at regattas.

Congratulations to **John Harry** on being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for his rowing and charitable endeavours.

To paraphrase Geoffrey Blainey, we stand on the shoulders of others, and in our case, many great rowers, coaches and administrators who have together made Mercantile a great and world renowned Club. It is incumbent on us to add to this legacy.

Committee attendances

The Committee has met on 13 occasions since the last annual general meeting in October 2020 through to September 2021. Vice-President **Henry Edgar** has also been a regular attendee. The attendances for this period were:

	Meetings	Attendances
Anthony Johnson	13	11
Meghan Hester	13	13
Will Legge	13	10
Skye Froebel	1	0
Phil Tran	10	9
Andrew Guerin	13	12
Pauline Frasca	12	6
Duncan MacKinnon	13	11
Andrew Phillips	12	11
Tom Courtney	9	4
Sam Patten	12	9
Simon Morrison	13	13
Jenny Fraumano	13	13
Felicity Frederico	13	12
Tom Nickson	9	8
William Webster	4	4
Alex Clarke	13	7
Graeme Barns	13	13

Hon Treasurer's Report

Duncan MacKinnon

As I wrote this report last year, I thought the 2019-20 financial year was extraordinary, but the 2020-21 financial year just gone has seen further extraordinary conditions, and tests of our club's financial and organisational resilience.

We have been fortunate in attracting state and federal government COVID-19 largesse. By applying for JobKeeper, as well as every grant and entitlement available, we have secured about \$140k, and been able to keep our coaches on the books. Nevertheless we will be reporting a small loss, a reflection of the sensitivity of the club's finances to changes in circumstances.

However we have still managed to conduct a significant fleet turnover, thanks to the efforts of **Simon Morrison**. We have paid for six new single sculls, six pair/doubles, and a four. To achieve all this we have sold boats no longer required, and used the insurance settlement from writing off two eights which tangled with GoBoats. We have also been well-supported by the benevolence of donors, as listed in the Annual Report. Of course the jewel of last financial year's purchases has been the acquisition of a new Empacher 8+, which has been substantially underwritten by the generosity of the Frederico Fund.

The reported loss is primarily due to the ravages of depreciation, and reinforces the need for prudent financial management. To this end, the club has recently been successful in recovering outstanding debts by use of a commercial debt recovery company.

The decision to use such a service was not taken lightly by the Committee, but it was recognised that there should be no "free ride" for those who cost the club significant outlays in the form of accommodation and seat fees.

The need to recover costs and seek additional sources of income has resulted in the School Holidays Camp Initiatives. By drawing on the expertise of our coaches, the time of our volunteers, and the value of our fleet, we have successfully introduced a new source of income, which will underwrite additional coaching staff and reinforce Mercantile as a centre of rowing excellence.

Donors

One of the key elements of maintaining the financial base of the Club is donations. We thank our donors for their generous support.

- Malcolm and Pip Batten
- Sean and Bibi Colgan
- Tim Frederico
- Andrew and Sally Guerin
- John Harry
- Warwick and Margaret Hutchins
- Jeff Lawrence
- Duncan MacKinnon
- Martin and Susan Owen
- Justin Quill
- David Yunghanns

The financial statements and auditor's opinion are in a separate document.

Foundation Report

Andrew Guerin

On behalf of the trustees, **John Harry, Malcolm Batten, Jeff Lawrence, Tim Frederico** and **Andrew Guerin**, the following progress report is provided.

The fourth strategic objective of the Club is to secure the financial future of the Club. This is achieved through the operation of the Foundation.

In 2020-21, the trustees moved the investments under the control of wealth managers, Crestone. This was a gradual move which commenced in July 2020 and finished in December 2021. Despite only being fully invested for part of the year, the Foundation investments returned over 17% for the financial year. The capital of the Foundation as at 30th June 2021 was over \$1.7m. The Foundation has continued to perform very well so far this financial year.

The trustees have completed their annual review and see no reason to change the strategic asset allocation, any of the ranges available in the tactical asset allocations, or the Investment Policy. The trustees are pleased with the investments and the work of the investment managers Crestone. The trustees meet with Crestone quarterly to review the progress of the Foundation and receive more regular reporting.

The Club has structured the Foundation to achieve a variety of objectives:

Sprigg account - to have \$1m available when our current lease expires in 2034 to renovate the boathouse and make it suitable for both ourselves and any sub-tenants. This is on track to reach it's

aims by the end of the current lease period.

Frederico account - to maintain in real terms, \$1m to generate \$50,000pa for equipment for the Club. This aim has been achieved.

Colgan account - to have \$1m in real terms available to generate income to subsidise the seat fees payable by members who are selected in underage Australian teams. This is the current target of donations and income of the Foundation, and given the growth of this account, the trustees should be able to provide \$20,000 next year to this cause, a substantial increase from previous years. Let us hope that Australia sends underage teams overseas and that we have members in them. With the continued support of donors, the trustees expect to reach the \$1m target within 2 years.

Bilney account - this will be the next target for the Foundation and is designed to assist the Club with coaching expenses. At the moment it is an aspiration and will need to be a very large capital amount to generate sufficient income to be effective. This aim will take about 10 years to achieve.

Cooper account - volunteer recognition. This does not need much capital and so is not being actively pursued at the moment.

A great thank you to all our donors and specifically to our cornerstone donors **Sean and Bibi Colgan** through their Colgan Foundation. They continue to do great work for rowing in New Zealand, Australia and USA.

Kayak Report

Geoff Moss

In the second year of the Covid pandemic, our club members have done an outstanding job in very difficult circumstances in continuing to be motivated, energised, training and competing, all under a Covid Safe umbrella.

One of the great benefits of being in a club is actually being able to go to the club to meet your fellow club members and socialise. This may be a brief chat in gear shed, a breakdown of the footy on the weekend or a planned event of a holiday, regatta or a coffee afterwards. I personally miss these interactions and hope that in the near future, all of us can return to some 'Covid Safe' normality around the club.

During the first week of the Olympics, the club was alive with Rowing Club members and guests, watching the Rowing finals live on the big screen. What a great event the Rowing Club facilitated, the excitement and joy of the members and guests as Australia (and Mercantile) was winning medals was great to see. Well done to our Rowing club members, in what has been a difficult year for high performance, your drive and excellence has been rewarded at the highest level.

May I thank all of the Kayak club members for their support during the year, both in adhering to the rules and positive statements around the club when we were allowed to be there. Peter Foster continues to provide great guidance as club treasurer and Justin Quill in guiding our elite paddling squad. Thanks to both of you.

Due to the ongoing constraints in general relating to covid, some of our members have been financially impacted by the lockdowns. Our club has implemented a process to financially support these members this year by providing partial fee offsets.

I spent some of the year in lockdown at Inverloch, enjoying at times some ocean paddling. Our local WhatsApp group one day had a video of a new paddler to the group, catching a wave for about four minutes. It was Drew Ginn, good to see some of our Mercantile rowing members enjoying ocean paddling, a great use of water sports awareness in a different discipline.

Hoping the next 12 months allows us to emerge from the current times and our members continue to be safe, fit and raring to go.

Competition

In what turned out to be a great year for Canoeing Australia, medals were won in three disciplines at the Tokyo Olympics. Women's Whitewater K1 and C1 and in the Sprint discipline and Gold in the men's K2 1000. The men's K2 1000 has a great history for Australia at the Olympics, with our club treasurer Peter Foster a bronze medallist in this event in 1988.

In the Paralympics, Australia medalled in the men's Kayak and Canoe disciplines and the women's canoe.

This is great for the sport, which has other, non-Olympic categories including marathon, ocean racing, canoe polo, freestyle (tricks on whitewater), wild water and surf lifesaving ski racing, which members of our club have competed and excelled in.

Interestingly, Paddleorg Australia is looking at Surf lifesaving for the next generation of canoe/kayak competitors for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics (<https://paddle.org.au/2021/08/16/paddle-australia-turns-to-surf-life-saving-roots-to-identify-next-generation-of-olympians/>). Our club has a strong mix of surf lifesaving/kayaking athletes and it would be good if we can leverage off

this initiative to nurture new talent in Victoria. Noah Cameron is already working with Surf lifesaving Victoria on this program.

One of the key attributes of our club is our strong competition focus, with many of our members training for sprint, marathon, ocean racing and surf lifesaving events. Competition in Victoria last year was lean, a real challenge for our athletes to keep a competitive focus whilst living under the constraints of lockdown.

We did have success with the limited opportunities to compete, which is a great reflection of our members and club culture.

Sprint Kayaking

A strong year for our sprint kayakers, who dominated the Victorian titles in the “K” boat disciplines.

The Olympic program has been changing recently and the Paris Olympics will have another alteration to

the program, due to loss of 12 athlete quotas. Our results at the state titles indicate our athlete’s abilities in all the sprint disciplines, focus will move with the times to the upcoming Olympic events.

The men’s and women’s K1 200 will not be contested in Paris. Under the changes, the men’s K2 1000 (our gold medal event) and C2 1000 will both become 500 metre events. There will be K4 500 races for both men and women. The blue riband events of K1 1000 for men, C1 1000m and K1 500 for women remain unchanged.

The club continues to engage the services of Ramon Anderson (Head Coach, Canoe, WAIS) as coach for our elite paddlers, Ramon is Perth based and the team are having great success in using this arrangement. Sessions were planned for more face-to-face training sessions this year; border restrictions have impacted this.

Well done to the team.



*Merces kayak team at the 2021 VIC Sprint State Championships in Nagambie
Members from left/top: Chris Smith, Adam Holovics, Justin Quill, Dan Lopez, Noah
Cameron, Izzie Nelson, Hannah Scott, Bec Mann, Bri Jones*

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. **Will Legge, Alexander Kinsella, Carl Tomczak.** A stellar effort from these clubbies to take out the Captain's Trophy.

Max Bailey Trophy

This trophy for the champion coxswain has been won by **Hayley Verbunt.**

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 2020/21 season, the Dr R A Cooper Memorial Trophy is awarded to **Anthony Bergelin** for his exemplary assistance coaching the U21 men's squad from part way through the season to the National championships and for his commitment to the Club program from October.

N W Cairnes Trophy

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

For the 2020/21 season, the NW Cairnes Trophy is awarded to **Hayley Verbunt.**

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 2020/21 season, the Jeff Wylie Memorial Trophy is awarded to **Dom Frederico.** A big congratulations to all our lightweight rowers this season, it is

so great to see a strong number. Dom came from BGS to first year club rowing at Mercantile leaving with a medal from the senior lightweight men's team. Not an easy jump.

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 2020/21 season, the F R Browne Memorial Trophy is awarded to **Ben Canham** for his efforts in making it to the Olympic trials and a narrow miss on making the team.

H R Frederico Memorial Trophy

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

For the 2020/21 season, the H R Frederico Memorial Trophy is awarded to **Olivia Sargeant.**

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, but 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.

For the 2020/21 season, the Keith Bilney Coach's Trophy is awarded to **Sam Fennessy** for having unwavering faith in

his athletes and facilitating their growth throughout the season as well as living the Mercantile values in his everyday actions.

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 2020/21 season, the Jay Loveless Trophy is awarded to **Jess Morrison** for her exceptional Olympic performance and exemplary attitude. Now an Olympic gold medallist and a Mercantile life member, there is no higher honour.

Martin Owen 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 2020/21 season, the Most Outstanding Oarsman Trophy is awarded to **James Rook** and **Angus Widdicombe** on their Olympic debuts.

The Icarus - AKA The Jim Sprigg award for endeavour in rowing.

This trophy (a statue of Icarus), has been made available this year for the first time by the club's current Performance Director Sam Patten. It is named after Icarus, the son of a Greek legend craftsman. The craftsman created wings made of feathers and wax for them to escape from their Island Prison. Despite instructions from his father not to fly too high, Icarus does so, the wax melts and he falls from the sky and drowns from his effort. This award is won by someone who demonstrates their endeavour or 'will to win' despite the odds and despite the actual outcome of their effort.

For the 2020/21 season, the Icarus Trophy is awarded to **Jess Morrison**, for her valiant and defiant effort in targeting both the women's four and pair in Tokyo. Despite the unfortunate change in program, she pressed on.



Olympic Women's Quad Scull with former Club member, now a Queenslander, Ria Thompson in the bow seat

Season Wins 2020-2021

Mercantile wins

2021 MRA Rutherglen Regatta

Male Open Eight (Saturday)

Jackson Morrish, Jayden Grey, Sam Wilson, Alexander Kinsella, Angus Maloney, Alexander Clarke, William Legge, Carl Tomczak, Cox Roy Zhang.

Mixed Eight

Eliza Planincic, Jenisi Kelderman, Kate Duggan, Claudia Clements, Angus Maloney, Alexander Clarke, William Legge, Carl Tomczak, Cox Vinhara Goonesekera.

Male Open Scull

Sam Wilson.

Male C Grade Scull

Jackson Morrish

Female Masters Eight

Virginia Mohr [MELB], Anthea Amos [RCHMD], Lynne Charge [MELB], Jackie Petley [YARRA], Helen McManamny [POWR], Jennifer Williams [MELB], Kerry Morrison [MELB], Val Dowell [MELB], Cox Meghan Hester

Male Open Eight (Sunday)

Jackson Morrish, Jayden Grey, Sam Wilson, Alexander Kinsella, Angus Maloney, Alexander Clarke, William Legge, Carl Tomczak, Cox Vinhara Goonesekera.

Mixed Eight (Sunday)

Eliza Planincic, Jenisi Kelderman, Kate Duggan, Claudia Clements, Angus Maloney, Alexander Clarke, William Legge, Carl Tomczak, Cox Roy Zhang

2021 Ballarat Regatta

Male U21 Pair

Jordan Roberts, Dom Frederico

Female U21 Pair

Olivia Sargeant, Sophie Reinehr

Male U21 Scull

Jackson Morrish

Female Open Scull

Emmie Frederico

Female U21 Scull

Jemima Dwyer

Female LW Scull

Demetria Kyriacopoulos

Male U19 Scull

Sam Wilson

Female Open Double Scull

Olivia Evans, Demetria Kyriacopoulos

Female U21 Coxed Four

Hannah Magasanik, Anna Morrison, Teagan Blythe, Louise Carr, Cox Jemima Howell

2021 Wendouree - Ballarat Regatta

Male Open Double Scull

Benjamin Canham [MERC], Sam Marsh [SRRC]

Male U21 Pair

Jakub Williams, Samuel Waugh

Male Open Scull

Red Matthews

Female U21 Pair

Teagan Blythe, Louise Carr

Female U23 Scull

Emmie Frederico

Female U21 Scull

Anna Morrison

Female LW Scull

Olivia Evans

Female U21 Coxed Four

Olivia Sargeant, Paige Barr, Emily Sutherland, Sophie Reinehr, Cox Hayley Verbunt.

Male Open Double Scull
Red Matthews, Kane Grant

Female LW Double Scull
Olivia Evans, Demetria Kyriacopoulos

Female U21 Eight
Louisa Bongrain, Mimmi Balaam, Anneka Davys, Millie Whitehead, Emily Sutherland, Paige Barr, Olivia Sargeant, Sophie Reinehr, Cox Hayley Verbunt.

Male Open Four
Benjamin Canham [MERC], Alexander Wolf [MERC], Frederick Roper [MUBC], Sam Marsh [SRRC]

Female Open Quad Scull
Eliza Planincic, Jemima Dwyer, Claudia Clements, India Flamsteed

Female B Grade Coxed Four
Teagan Blythe, Louise Carr, Anna Morrison, Sophie Reinehr, Cox Sophie May

Male U19 Scull
Sam Wilson

Female B Grade Eight
Jemima Dwyer, Eliza Planincic, Annika Spiers, Anna Morrison, Teagan Blythe, Louise Carr, Gemma Sibillin, Sophie Reinehr, Cox Sophie May

2021 Nagambie Regatta

Male U23 Pair
Jack Guy, Harry Amad

Male U21 Pair
Charlie Clarke, Flynn Stimpson

Male LW Pair
Jordan Roberts, Dom Frederico

Female U21 Pair
Emily Sutherland, Sophie Reinehr

Female U23 Scull
Ruby Gioulekas

Female U21 Scull
Louisa Bongrain

Female LW Scull
Demetria Kyriacopoulos

Male U21 Coxed Four
Charlie Clarke, Flynn Stimpson, Joshua Bortolussi, Dom Frederico, Cox Phillip Tran

Female Open Eight
Olivia Evans, Louise Carr, Hannah Magasanik, Odette Lynch, Anna Morrison, Aleisha Ward, Ruby Gioulekas, Millie Whitehead, Cox Eyrin McCarthy

Female LW Double Scull
Olivia Evans, Demetria Kyriacopoulos

Female U21 Double Scull
Hannah Magasanik, Anna Morrison

Male U21 Eight
Jordan Roberts, Liam Burke, Charlie Clarke, Lachlan Wilmot, Joshua Murphy, Flynn Stimpson, Joshua Bortolussi, Dom Frederico, Cox Phillip Tran

Female U21 Eight
Louisa Bongrain, Amelia James, Anneka Davys, Millie Whitehead, Olivia Sargeant, Paige Barr, Emily Sutherland, Sophie Reinehr, Cox Hayley Verbunt

Female Open Quad Scull
Jemima Dwyer, Claudia Clements, India Flamsteed, Eliza Planincic

Male C Grade Pair
Dylan Curnow, Carl Tomczak

Female B Grade Coxed Four
Anneka Davys, Millie Whitehead, Anna Morrison, Louise Carr, Cox Eyrin McCarthy

Female A Grade Double Scull
Louisa Bongrain, Sophie Reinehr

Female B Grade Scull
Paige Barr

Male A Grade Pair
Thomas Hackett, Hamish Nicol

Male C Grade Coxed Four

William Legge, Alexander Clarke,
Alexander Kinsella, Carl Tomczak, Cox
Roy Zhang

Female B Grade Eight
Claudia Clements, Anna Morrison, India
Flamsteed, Annika Spiers, Sophie
Reinehr, Anneka Davys, Millie
Whitehead, Paige Barr, Cox Jemima
Howell

Male B Grade Pair
Thomas Hackett, Hamish Nicol

2021 RV State Championships

Male Open Pair
Frederick Roper [MUBC], Alexander Wolf
[MERC]

Male U23 Scull
Jamie Forwood

Female U21 Pair
Emily Sutherland, Sophie Reinehr

Female Open Scull
Anna Kirkwood

Female U23 Scull
Emmie Frederico

Female U21 Scull
Louisa Bongrain

Female U21 Coxed Four
Louisa Bongrain, Mimmi Balaam, Olivia
Sargeant, Paige Barr, Cox Hayley Verbunt

Female U21 Coxed Quad Scull
Annika Spiers, India Flamsteed, Hannah
Magasanik, Louise Carr, Cox Saffron
Dewsnap

Female Open Eight
Emily Sutherland, Aleisha Ward, Anna
Kirkwood, Ruby O'Keeffe, Ruby
Gioulekas, Paige Barr, Emmie Frederico,
Sophie Reinehr, Cox Eyrin McCarthy

Male U21 Double Scull
Hamish Nicol, Benjamin Whitmee

Female Open Double Scull
Anna Kirkwood, Emmie Frederico

Female U21 Eight
Louisa Bongrain, Mimmi Balaam, Anneka
Davys, Millie Whitehead, Olivia Sargeant,
Paige Barr, Emily Sutherland, Sophie
Reinehr, Cox Hayley Verbunt

Male Open Quad Scull
Jack Guy, Joel Cain, Alexander Wolf,
Kane Grant

Female Open Quad Scull
Olivia Evans [MERC], Demetria
Kyriacopoulos [MERC], Anna Kirkwood
[MERC], Maggie Foley [CORIO]

Male D Grade Scull
Jackson Morrish

Female A Grade Pair
Emmie Frederico, Ruby Gioulekas

Male A Grade Pair
Kane Grant, Alexander Wolf
Female A Grade Coxed Four

Louisa Bongrain, Mimmi Balaam, Emily
Sutherland, Paige Barr, Cox Hayley
Verbunt

Female B Grade Eight
Alex White, Bethany Zmak, Olivia Evans,
Hannah Magasanik, Annika Spiers,
Odette Lynch, Anna Morrison, Aleisha
Ward, Cox Saffron Dewsnap

Female A Grade Coxed Quad Scull
Demetria Kyriacopoulos, Ruby O'Keeffe,
Ruby Gioulekas, Emmie Frederico, Cox
Eyrin McCarthy

Male B Grade Eight
Max Neave, Benjamin Whitmee, Dario
Sportelli, Hamish Nicol, Samuel Waugh,
Patrick Somerville, Thomas Hackett,
Richard Sammells, Cox Bill Webster

Female C Grade Eight
Claudia Clements, India Flamsteed,
Jemima Dwyer, Eliza Lamb, Eliza
Planincic, Amelia James, Bridgette
Casey, Louise Carr, Cox Sophie May

Male C Grade Scull
Jackson Morrish

Female B Grade Coxed Quad
Bethany Zmak, Eliza Planincic, Hannah
Magasanik, Annika Spiers, Cox Saffron
Dewsnap

Male A Grade Eight
Thomas Hackett, Lachlan Wilmot, Zac
Crawley, Harry Amad, Kane Grant,
Alexander Wolf, Jack Guy, Benjamin
Whitmee, Cox Eyrin McCarthy

2021 Footscray Saltwater Regatta

Male Open Scull
Alexander Kinsella

Male Open Double Scull
William Legge, Jayden Grey

Male Open Coxed Four
William Legge, Jayden Grey, Alexander
Kinsella, Carl Tomczak, Cox Jordan King

Mixed Coxed Four
Meghan Hester, Kate Duggan, Alexander
Kinsella, Carl Tomczak, Cox Theodore
Herbst

Mixed Eight
Meghan Hester, Annika Spiers, Kate
Duggan, Jenisi Kelderman, Alexander
Kinsella, Jayden Grey, William Legge,
Carl Tomczak, Cox Jordan King

2021 Henley on Maribyrnong Regatta

Male Open Scull
Alexander Kinsella

Male Open Double Scull
William Legge, Jayden Grey

Male Open Coxed Four
William Legge, Alexander Clarke,
Alexander Kinsella, Carl Tomczak, Cox
Jordan King

Male Open Eight
Dylan Curnow, Dario Sportelli, Charlie
Dixon, Jayden Grey, Alexander Kinsella,
Alexander Clarke, William Legge, Carl
Tomczak, Cox Jordan King

Male C Grade Double Scull
William Legge, Jayden Grey

Mixed Coxed Quad Scull

Carl Tomczak [MERC], Caitlin Somerville
[RLRC], Patrick Somerville [MERC], Alex
Somerville [RLRC], Cox Holly McMahon
[RLRC]

Mixed Eight
Meghan Hester, Jenisi Kelderman, Kate
Duggan, Sophie Coltman, Alexander
Kinsella, Alexander Clarke, William
Legge, Carl Tomczak, Cox Roy Zhang

Female Open Coxed Four
Meghan Hester, Jenisi Kelderman, Kate
Duggan, Sophie Coltman, Cox Theodore
Herbst

Male Open Coxed Quad Scull
William Legge, Carl Tomczak, Alexander
Kinsella, Jayden Grey, Cox Jordan King

2021 Wentworth Mildura Easter Regatta

Male Open Coxed Four
Carl Tomczak, Alexander Kinsella,
Jasper Ginn, William Legge, Cox Jordan
King

Male Open Coxed Quad Scull
Drew Ginn, Alexander Kinsella, Carl
Tomczak, William Legge, Cox Jordan
King

Mixed Double Scull
William Legge, Emma Webley

Male Open Coxed Four
Carl Tomczak, Alexander Kinsella,
Jasper Ginn, William Legge, Cox Jordan
King

Male Open Coxed Quad Scull
Drew Ginn, Alexander Kinsella, Carl
Tomczak, William Legge, Cox Jordan
King

Male C Grade Double Scull
Jasper Ginn, Drew Ginn

2021 NSW Small Boat Regatta

Women's Elite Scull
Amanda Bateman

Women's Elite Pair
Jessica Morrison

2021 NSW State Championships

Champion Women's Elite Pair
Jessica Morrison

Champion Women's Elite Double Scull
Amanda Bateman

Champion Women's Elite Four
Katrina Werry, Jessica Morrison

Champion PR3 Women's Pair
Alexandra Viney, Alex Vuillermin

2021 Australian Championships

Open Women's Scull
Amanda Bateman

Open Women's Double Scull
Amanda Bateman

Open Women's Pair
Jessica Morrison

Open Women's Four
Jessica Morrison

Open Women's Eight
Katrina Werry, Cox James Rook

Open Men's LW Four
Dom Frederico

U21 Women's Coxed Four
Olivia Sargeant, Paige Barr, Emily
Sutherland, Sophie Reinehr, Cox Hayley
Verbunt

PR3 Women's Pair
Alexandra Viney, Alex Vuillermin

PR3 Mix Coxed Four
Alexandra Viney

Interstate Men's Eight - King's Cup
Benjamin Canhan, Jack Robertson,
Angus Widdicombe

Interstate Women's Eight - Queen's Cup
Katrina Werry, Amanda Bateman, Jessica
Morrison, Cox James Rook



Open men's eight win at the majestic Rutherglen Regatta

Member Roll

Andrew Phillips

The Club has had a pleasing growth in overall membership this year despite the health lockdowns. Most of this growth is in Juniors which bodes well for future seasons.

Overall female membership is over 31% and that number is over 44% of those actively rowing.

The Club now has 3 para rower members.

I encourage those members who are not actively rowing to stay connected with the Club via the Alumnus membership and assist the next generation of Mercantilians to achieve their goals.

We thank all members for their continued support of the Club.

MEMBERS 2020 / 2021									
<i>'Once a member, always a member'</i>									
	Female	Male	Total	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Life	1	17	18	16	17	17	16	16	16
Senior	65	159	224	241	195	172	183	190	190
Junior	41	51	92	9	47	39	65	67	67
Country	3	21	24	23	24	25	23	27	27
Associate	4	3	7	9	14	25	26	17	17
	114	251	365	298	297	278	313	317	317
Female #			114	80	94	65	72	81	81
Male #			251	218	203	213	241	236	236
Female %			31%	27%	32%	23%	23%	26%	26%
Male %			69%	73%	68%	77%	77%	74%	74%

Life Members

Ainsworth, Phil	Life	40+
Batten OAM, Malcolm	Life	
Batters, Philippe	Life	40+
Colgan, Sean	Life	40+
Colvin, David	Life	
Cooper OAM, Andrew D	Life	
Crawshay OAM, David	Life	
Donaldson, Noel	Life	
Fraumano, Jenny	Life	
Ginn OAM, Drew	Life	
Guerin, Andrew	Life	40+
Harvey, James	Life	40+
Hutchins, Warwick	Life	

Lawrence, Jeffrey	Life	40+
MacKinnon, Duncan	Life	
McKay OAM, Michael	Life	
Tomkins OAM, James	Life	
Webster, William	Life	
Senior Members		
Adams QC, Arthur	Senior	40+
Allen, Roger	Senior	
Amad, Harry	Senior	
Ambrose, Andrew	Senior	
Anderson, Warwick	Senior	40+
Ashby, Duncan	Senior	
Atkins DFC, Arthur	Senior	40+
Balaam, Mimmi	Senior	

Balson, Sophie	Senior		Duthie, Ian R.	Senior	40+
Barden, Geoff	Senior		Dutton, Logan	Senior	
Barns, Graeme	Senior	40+	Edgar, Henry	Senior	
Barr, Paige	Senior		Engel, Rachel	Senior	
Barton, Anthony	Senior		Evans, Olivia	Senior	
Bateman, Amanda	Senior		Farrar, Maddy	Senior	
Bateman, Katrina	Senior		Fennessy, Sam	Senior	
Batten, Philippa	Senior		Ferrali, Stephanie	Senior	
Bergelin, Anthony	Senior		Fitzsimmons, Hamish	Senior	
Blythe, Teagan	Senior		Fogarty, Michael	Senior	40+
Boland, Martin	Senior		Forwood, James	Senior	
Bongrain, Louisa	Senior		Foster, Peter	Senior	
Boomer, Patrick	Senior		Frasca, Pauline A.	Senior	
Bosler, Danae	Senior		Fraumano, Amelia	Senior	
Bostock, John B	Senior	40+	Fraumano, Gary A.	Senior	
Boulton, John	Senior		Frederico, Emmie	Senior	
Boykett, Graeme	Senior	40+	Frederico, Felicity	Senior	
Brain, Robert	Senior		Frederico, H. Tim	Senior	
Cain, Joel	Senior		Froebel, Skyla	Senior	
Cain, Michael	Senior		Gallagher, Jessica	Senior	
Cameron, Noah	Senior		Gillon, Stephen	Senior	40+
Campbell, James	Senior		Gioulekas, Ruby	Senior	
Canham, Ben	Senior		Gleeson, Georgie	Senior	
Cannon AM, Andrew	Senior		Goonesekera, Vinhara	Senior	
Carr, Louise	Senior		Grant, Kane	Senior	
Clarke, Alexander	Senior		Green OAM, Nick	Senior	
Cleary, Jennifer	Senior		Grey, Jayden	Senior	
Cohen, Andrew	Senior		Groves, Mark	Senior	
Colgan, Bibi	Senior		Guy, Jack	Senior	
Collier, Anthony	Senior		Hansen, Greg	Senior	
Coltman, Sophie	Senior		Harte, Sarah	Senior	
Courtney, Tom	Senior		Hasforth, Blair	Senior	
Crouch, James	Senior		Hawkins, John	Senior	
Cunningham, James	Senior		Hester, Meghan	Senior	
Curnow, Dylan A	Senior		Hewitt OAM, H. Neil	Senior	40+
Davidson, Thomas	Senior		Holovics, Adam	Senior	
Dawson, Ray	Senior	40+	Hurst, Madeleine	Senior	
de Guingand, Chris	Senior	40+	Inglis, Anthony	Senior	
DeGaris, Peter	Senior		Jefferson, Debbie	Senior	
Dempster, Peter	Senior		Jenner, Sebastian	Senior	
Dixon, Charlie	Senior		Jickell, Ian	Senior	
Donald, Liam	Senior		Johnson, Anthony	Senior	
Donovan, Michael	Senior	40+	Joyce, Joseph	Senior	
Douglas, David	Senior	40+	Kelderman, Jenisi	Senior	
Duggan, Kate	Senior		Kellam AO, Murray	Senior	40+
Dunkley-Smith, Josh	Senior		Kelly, Michael	Senior	

Kerr, Jason	Senior		Nickson, John	Senior	40+
Kilroe-Smith, Jessica	Senior		Nickson, Thomas J.	Senior	
Kimpton, Colin	Senior		Northrop, Edward	Senior	
King, Jordan	Senior		O'Halloran, Martin	Senior	
Kininmonth, Eugene	Senior		O'Keefe, Ruby	Senior	
Kinsella, Alex	Senior		Oliver AM, Richard	Senior	
Kirkwood, Anna	Senior		Orr, Julie	Senior	
Kyriacopoulos, Demetria	Senior		Palfreyman, David	Senior	40+
Lachal, Bob	Senior	40+	Passaris, Isabelle	Senior	
Law, Alex	Senior		Patten, Sam	Senior	
Leeming, John	Senior		Perrignon, Jane	Senior	
Legge, William	Senior		Phillips, Andrew	Senior	
Letch, Asia	Senior		Pilmore, Rod	Senior	
Levin, Alice	Senior		Pincus, David	Senior	
Lewis, Colin D	Senior	40+	Platts, Jason	Senior	
Lopez Garza, Daniel	Senior		Quill, Justin	Senior	
Macek, Steven	Senior		Ratcliffe, Christopher	Senior	
Maloney, Angus F	Senior		Rees, Andrew	Senior	
Mann, Rebecca	Senior		Reinehr, Sophie	Senior	
Manning, Rob	Senior		Roberts, Jordan	Senior	
Manton, Garth	Senior	40+	Robertson, Jack D	Senior	
Matthews, Alistair	Senior		Rook, James	Senior	
Matthews, Redmond	Senior		Rowe AM, John S	Senior	40+
May, Sophie	Senior		Russell, Karl	Senior	
McCarthy, Eyrin	Senior		Ryan, Sean	Senior	
McDonald, Andrew	Senior		Sargeant, Olivia	Senior	
McGann, Paul	Senior		Sarjeant, Hugh	Senior	
McGlashan, Sarah	Senior		Saunders, John	Senior	
McLean, Russell	Senior	40+	Schoner, Simon	Senior	
McMinn, Euan	Senior		Scott, Hannah	Senior	
McNamara, Michael	Senior		Selby Smith, Robyn	Senior	
McVicker, Hugh R S	Senior		Shipton, James	Senior	
Millear, Eleanor	Senior		Sibillin, Gemma	Senior	
Morell, Tim	Senior		Sim, Michael	Senior	
Moreton, Richard	Senior		Simpson, Christine	Senior	
Moreton, Stewart	Senior	40+	Singleton, Glenn	Senior	
Morrison, Jessica	Senior		Sinn, Andrew	Senior	
Morrison, Simon	Senior		Sloan, Alex T	Senior	
Moseley, Rod	Senior		Smith, Christopher A	Senior	
Moss, Geoff	Senior		Somerville, Peter	Senior	
Mulder, Victor	Senior	40+	Spiers, Annika	Senior	
Murray, Tom	Senior		Spiridon, Aaron	Senior	
Negri, Ron	Senior		Sportelli, Dario	Senior	
Neilson, Isabel	Senior		Spriggs, Simon	Senior	
Newcomb, Simon H	Senior	40+	Stanley, Timothy	Senior	
Newton, Nick	Senior		Stark, William	Senior	

Stewart, Rod	Senior		Clarke, Charlie	Junior
Sutherland, Emily	Senior		Clements, Claudia	Junior
Swann, Thomas	Senior		Cooper, Chloe	Junior
Tait, William	Senior		Cousins, Josh	Junior
Thomas, Madeleine	Senior		Crawley, Zac	Junior
Thompson, Jeffrey	Senior		Crothers-Bade, Sam	Junior
Tierney, Scott	Senior		Davys, Anneka	Junior
Tomanovits, Peter	Senior		Demetriou, Alexandra	Junior
Tomczak, Carl	Senior		Dewsnap, Saffi	Junior
Tran, Phillip	Senior		Dillon, Gemma	Junior
Viney, Alexandra	Senior		Dunlop, Will	Junior
Vlachodimitropoulos, Nicholas	Senior		Dwyer, Jemima	Junior
Vuillermin, Alex	Senior		Dyt, Lucas	Junior
Walker, Tony	Senior	40+	Fitzsimmons, Orietta	Junior
Wallace, Bill	Senior	40+	Flamsteed, India	Junior
Ward, Aleisha	Senior		Foley, Tom	Junior
Ward, Clare M	Senior		Frederico, Dom	Junior
Webley, Emma	Senior		Ginn, Jasper	Junior
Werry, Katrina	Senior		Gray, Claire	Junior
Wertheimer AM RFD, Colonel John	Senior	40+	Grylewicz, Ava	Junior
White, Alex	Senior		Guy, Findlay	Junior
Widdicombe, Angus	Senior		Haberfield, Emma	Junior
Willison, Osborne	Senior		Hackett, Thomas	Junior
Wilmot, Lachlan	Senior		Henrys, Tom	Junior
Wilson OAM, Roger	Senior	40+	Herbst, Theodore	Junior
Wilson, James S.	Senior		Howell, Jemima	Junior
Wilson, Rohan	Senior		James, Amelia	Junior
Wolf, Alex	Senior		Junge, Saskia	Junior
Wolf, Phoebe	Senior		Kerr, Samuel	Junior
Wraith, Richard	Senior		Lamb, Eliza	Junior
Yunghanns, David J.	Senior	40+	Leslie, Liam	Junior
Zhang, Roy	Senior		Li, Elaine	Junior
Junior Members			Lynch, Felix	Junior
Amad, Charlie	Junior		Lynch, Odette	Junior
Banfield, Sam	Junior		Magasanik, Hannah	Junior
Batten, Lucas	Junior		Marriott, Sarah	Junior
Bell, Douglass	Junior		McDonald, Alexandra	Junior
Bennett, William	Junior		McKay, Remy	Junior
Binos, Angelo	Junior		Mills, Georgia	Junior
Bongiorno, Zara	Junior		Morrish, Jackson	Junior
Bortolussi, Joshua	Junior		Morrison, Anna	Junior
Brew, Silas	Junior		Murnane, Angus	Junior
Burke, Liam	Junior		Murphy, Joshua	Junior
Burke, Max	Junior		Neave, Max	Junior
Casey, Bridgette	Junior		Newport, Nicholas	Junior
			Nicol, Hamish	Junior

Nijhof, Jasper	Junior	Country Members	
Pearce, Rupert	Junior	Anezakis, Annie	Country
Planincic, Eliza	Junior	Baillieu, William	Country 40+
Polkinghorne, Jake	Junior	Billet, Pierre	Country
Powell, Caitlin	Junior	Connolly, Mark	Country
Powning, James	Junior	Corben, Mal	Country 40+
Reinehr, Austin	Junior	Daffy, Tom	Country
Reynolds, Cameron	Junior	Dodwell, Benjamin	Country
Rochert, Alaina	Junior	Donoghue AM, J. Doug	Country 40+
Ryan, Oscar	Junior	Edwards, Rod	Country
Sammells, Richie	Junior	Hamilton, Fergus	Country
Shaw, Patrick	Junior	Harry OAM, John	Country
Somerville, Brigit	Junior	Johnson, E. Ted	Country 40+
Somerville, Patrick	Junior	Kovacic, Jason	Country
Spiers, Claire	Junior	Law, Robert	Country
Stimpson, Flynn	Junior	McArthur AM, Stewart	Country 40+
Stone, Anna	Junior	McNeil, Andrew S.	Country
Storey, Bryson	Junior	McNeil, Cate V	Country
Thomasson, Alice	Junior	McNeil, Sean	Country
Trentin, Victoria	Junior	O'Brien, Peter	Country 40+
Tyrrell, Oscar	Junior	Patterson, Celia	Country
Verbunt, Hayley	Junior	Patterson, George	Country
Waller, Katie	Junior	Schreier, Paul	Country
Waring, Harper	Junior	Shanasy, John	Country
Waugh, Samuel	Junior	Young, Tim	Country
Wellink, Christophe	Junior	Associate Members	
White, Zoe	Junior	Duncan, Robert	Associate
Whitehead, Amelia	Junior	Johnson, Anna	Associate
Whitmee, Benjamin	Junior	Johnson, Belinda	Associate
Williams, Jakub	Junior	Johnson, Maryrose	Associate
Williams, Sophie	Junior	Richardson, Rosemary	Associate
Willoughby, Max	Junior	Scott, Brendan	Associate
Wilson, Samuel	Junior	West, Phil	Associate
Zmak, Bethany	Junior		



Olympic Pair with Jess Morrison in the bow seat

Obituaries

Bill Bailey



In November 2020, we were advised of the death of Bill Bailey, champion coxswain of the early 1950s. Bill was the senior coxswain of both Mercantile and for Victoria in the early 1950s.

We extend our condolences to his wife Joan, daughters and their sons in law.

A profile of Bill can be found in the member profile section or at: [https://www.rowinghistory-
aus.info/rower-profiles/bailey-william-
m](https://www.rowinghistory-aus.info/rower-profiles/bailey-william-m).

Andrew Evans

Andrew Evans was an esteemed Vice-President of Mercantile Rowing Club, a fierce competitor and a great fellow. He loved his time at the Club and remained a staunch member of it throughout his life.

He was also a very funny man with a street smart sense of humour which captivated club members.

He was also an efficient, stylish and technical rower.

Whilst his rowing was successful, he is perhaps best known for his contribution to the social life of the Club. Along with his great friend and restaurateur, David Yunghanns, they organised and ran many memorable events for Mercantile, although some members claim to have dim memories of them due the liberal consumption of ales. The advent of drink driving killed many of the excesses and wild times of those Mercantile functions.



A full member profile of Andrew can be found at: [https://www.rowinghistory-
aus.info/rower-profiles/evans-andrew-
m](https://www.rowinghistory-aus.info/rower-profiles/evans-andrew-m).

Reg McKay

In January we reported the passing of Reg McKay today. Reg was a superb umpire and significant administrator of the sport. Reg made an enormous

contribution to the sport at all levels, from club to the national level. He umpired and administered the sport at the highest levels being a long standing international umpire and also President of Rowing Australia. He had been Chairman of the Rowing Victoria Committee and also President of his club, Footscray City. He continued to actively row to almost the very end.

Further details of his contribution can be found at: <https://www.rowinghistory-aus.info/rower-profiles/mckay-reginald>.



Derek Marley

One of the sad sides of sending out the notices of meetings is that occasionally we receive advice of a passed member. This was the case sadly with Derek Marley.

Derek was not one of the outstanding athletes but was one who genuinely loved club life and maintained his connection with the Club through to his death in 2019. He grew up in London during the war and so was a Blitz survivor. When he migrated to Australia after the war he joined Mercantile. He clearly was one who loved the camaraderie perhaps more than the sport.

A profile of Derek can be found at: <https://www.rowinghistory-aus.info/rower-profiles/marley-derek-c>.



Simon Rees

It is always very sad when a person dies, but it is doubly so when it is a shock, leaves a young wife and family and is far too early. We extend our sincere condolences to Club member Andrew Rees whose brother Simon from a suspected heart attack aged only 43 years.

Simon rowed with the Club briefly after he left school. Both brothers were part of the 1995 and 1996 back to back Carey winning HOR crews.

Cliff Restarick

Sadly we lost another one of our distinguished rowers from 1960s, Cliff Restarick. Cliff was a member of the first winning Ballarat High School crew in the Head of the Lake and coxed our successful lightweight squad in the mid to late 1960s. His member profile can be found at: <https://www.rowinghistory-aus.info/rower-profiles/restarick-clifford>.



Richard Stanley

In December 2020, we became aware that a past member, Richard Stanley QC, died in June 2020. Richard rowed with us most recently as a social/masters rower. Richards was educated at Xavier College and at Melbourne University. He was an outstanding sportsman in rowing, Australian rules football and in later life, tennis and golf. He was an outstanding barrister and described as the pre-eminent jury advocate of his time.

John “Jimpy” Shears



Jimpy was one of four brothers who were all loyal and enthusiastic Mercantile members, Herbie, Ted, Bill and of course Jimpy. Jimpy first came to prominence as a coxswain in 1940 when he steered brothers Herb and Ted to a victory in the Champion Lightweight

Eight. He raced successfully after WWII and was a personality at the club thereafter.

He was perhaps best known for his jovial nature and wicked sense of humour. His company was always sought out.

A member profile of Jimpy can be found at: [Shears, John D "Jimpy" - Australian Rowing History \(rowinghistory-aus.info\)](https://www.rowinghistory-aus.info/rower-profiles/shears-john-d-jimpy)

Robert Strang



In November 2020, sadly Robert Strang passed away. Robert started his rowing at Scotch College in Melbourne where he went to school from 1952- 1964. He raced in the fourth eight in 1963 and was in the six seat of the first crew in 1964. Sadly neither crew was successful. Rob did not continue rowing after school due to the demands for his involvement in the family business.

His son Robert also rowed at Scotch and raced in the first eight for three years, including a win in 1992. His grandsons are also following in his footsteps at Scotch rowing, with Ben in the Scotch College first crew in 2020, that did not get to race due to the pandemic, and Henry in the Year 10 A crew in 2020.

After school, Robert entered his family's famous stevedore business and became a significant member of the Melbourne business community.

Rob's profile can be found at: <https://www.rowinghistory-aus.info/rower-profiles/strang-robert-w-a>.

Boats and Equipment Register

Simon Morrison

The process of creating a structured fleet, boathouse and equipment plan is under ongoing tension between growing demands due to successful recruiting and the reality of our resource constraints.

The aims of the Fleet plan are to:

- Maximise fleet utilisation
- Minimise lifecycle costs
- Optimise the quality and type of boats available to the various active member demographics.

So far this year key points are:

- We bought 3 singles, 4 pairs, 1 coxed four and 1 eight.
- Boat sales have been minimal due to increased demand
- Undertaken a comprehensive audit of the fleet, oars & all gym equipment
- Moved from the 'Slack' based process for the ongoing repair of minor damage to a fully auditable MS Teams/Task based process.

- Our wish list continues to far exceed our budget
- Self-driving low speed electric hire boats have proven to be quite a menace on the river and seen to the demise of two of our eights.

The aims of the Building plan are to:

- Keep the boathouse to a standard that provides members and tenants with a facility that meets requirements
- Is attractive to potential hirers
- Does not over capitalise in the lead up to the next lease and renovation cycle in 2033

Total Facility Maintenance Pty Ltd (TFM) have been engaged to provide plumbing, carpentry and painting works. TFM have undertaken an initial review and begun working through a schedule of required maintenance activities.

Thanks to **Seb Jenner** for his management of the multitude of other service providers who need on going access to the boathouse.



BOATS

Name	Make	Type	Serial Number	Year	Condition
Sir Stephen Morell	Sykes	1x	7086	2018	Excellent
William Boyd	Sykes	1x	7090	2018	Excellent
<i>Yet to be named</i>	Sykes	1x	7092	2018	Excellent
Ted Kenny	Sykes	1x	7093	2018	Excellent
The Breakfast Mums	Sykes	1x	Ci008	2014	Excellent
Duncan MacKinnon	Sykes	1x	Ci006	2014	Excellent
Sgt William Cumberland MSM	Sykes	1x	Ci009	2014	Excellent
<i>Yet to be named</i>	Sykes	1x	7087	2018	Excellent
Alex B Sloan	Sykes	1x	7089	0	Excellent
Charles Cunningham	Sykes	1x	2956	2000	Good
<i>Yet to be named</i>	Sykes	2-/2x	7095	2018	Excellent
<i>Yet to be named</i>	Sykes	2-/2x	7096	2018	Excellent
Jen Cleary	Sykes	2-/2x	6709	2016	Excellent
Arthur 100	Sykes	2-/2x	6092	2015	Excellent
Nick Baker	Sykes	2-/2x	5650	2012	Excellent
Josh Dunkley-Smith	Sykes	2-/2x	5189	2011	Excellent
Tom Swann	Sykes	2-/2x	7097	2018	Excellent
Graeme Boykett	Sykes	2-/2x	7098	2018	Excellent
Tim Frederico	Sykes	2-/2x	6074	2014	Excellent
Katrina Werry	Sykes	2-/2x	6312	2015	Excellent
Thomas Abramowski	Sykes	2-/2x	5502	2012	Excellent
David McGrath	Sykes	2-/2x	5192	2011	Excellent
Bill Tait	Sykes	2-/2x	5294	2011	Excellent
John Harry	Sykes	2-/2x	6484	2015	Excellent
Ben Dodwell	Sykes	2-/2x	3137	2002	Good
Garth Manton	Sykes	2-/2x	-	2002	Fair
Pauline Frasca	Sykes	2-/2x	5008	2010	Excellent
<i>Yet to be named</i>	Sykes	2-/2X	6928	2017	Excellent
<i>Yet to be named</i>	Sykes	2-/2X	6931	2017	Excellent
<i>Yet to be named</i> - coastal	Lite boat	2X		2020	Excellent
Celia Patterson	Sykes	4-	7189	2017	Excellent
Emily Martin	Sykes	4-	5331	2011	Excellent
Joan Burford	Sykes	4-	6110	2015	Excellent
Sarah Tait	Sykes	4-	5328	2011	Excellent
Kate Hornsey	Sykes	4-	5184	2011	Excellent
<i>Yet to be named</i> - coastal	WinTech	4x		<i>unknown</i>	<i>Excellent</i>
<i>Yet to be named</i> - coastal	WinTech	4x		<i>unknown</i>	<i>Excellent</i>
Martin & Susan Owen	Sykes	4+	7993	2021	Excellent
Warwick Hutchins	Sykes	4+	6090	2014	Excellent
Jenny Fraumano	Sykes	4+	6091	2014	Excellent

Richard Wraith	Sykes	4+	4680	2008	Excellent
David D Browne	Empacher	8+	-	2016	Excellent
Dr Bibi Colgan	Hudson	8+	-	2018	Excellent
<i>Yet to be named</i>	Empacher	8+	-	2020	Excellent
John Burford	Hudson	8+	-	2013	Excellent
David Colvin	Sykes	8+	-	2003	Very Good

BOATS PENDING SALE

Name	Make	Type	Serial Number	Year	Condition
David Douglas	Sykes	2-/2x	3349	2002	Fair
Trader Al	Sykes	4+	-	1994	Fair
JJ Lawrence II	Sykes	8+	-	1997	Good
Andrew Guerin	Sykes	8+	3173	2003	Very Good

BOATS ON ORDER

Name	Make	Type	Serial Number	Year	Condition
<i>Yet to be named</i>	Sykes	8+			

OARS

Qty	Make	Type	Year	Condition
150	Croker/Concept II	Mixed Sweep & Sculling oars	2015	Good

COACHES BOATS

Name	Make	Type	Serial Number	Year	Condition
AU/BLU12223F516 SL493	Trekker	3.45m Aluminium boat+ 15hp motor	01504F- 512820	2015	Excellent
AU/BLU12186F516 SL494	Trekker	3.45m Aluminium boat+ 15hp motor	01504F- 512781	2015	Excellent

VEHICLES

Name	Make	Type	Year	Condition
1MJ9SW	Isuzu	Crew Cab Ute	2017	Excellent
D61456	Sykes	Boat Trailer	1997	Poor

GYM EQUIPMENT

Type	Qty	Make	Type	Year	Condition
Ergometer	13	Concept II	Model D	2011	Good
Ergo Sliders	22	Concept II		2011	Good
Exercise Bike	4	Watt Bike			Good
Exercise Bike	3	Concept II			Good
Free Weights		Various			Good

Information technology report

Simon Morrison

Implementation of Teams

This year we have adopted the Microsoft ecosystem including Exchange, OneDrive, Teams Office 365, SharePoint and other applications. Your committee and coaches have been using it since late 2020, transferring from Google. We are now in the process of moving all athlete communications from Slack to Teams. All our professional coaches, executive committee members and select others have full licences that come with an associated fee. Active members, general committee and others as required will be granted guest access which provides an excellent service with no licence fee.

Key benefits of the move to this new environment are:

- Corporatising Mercantile's intellectual property by having it stored centrally and securely in 'the cloud' rather than on individual members' or employees' PCs.
- Easy sharing with various groups within the club or outside if needed
- Integrated video conferencing
- Integrated Chat
- Integrated voice calls
- Storage, review and collaboration of the enormous quantity of data the coaches now collect, including video, boat performance, biometrics, ergometer scores, etc etc
- Ready reference to historic committee papers
- Incidents are now logged via a phone or PC stored and tracked and accessible to the appropriate individual
- Boat repairs now logged via a phone or PC stored and tracked and accessible to the appropriate individual
- Our coaches are using the system to have athletes fill out a form on their

phones with key session performance metrics that are then automatically populated in a spreadsheet that the coaches can access and evaluate

- Each athlete & squad have their one 'space' in which to collaborate

We evaluated several different options and have taken a step by step approach in our implementation using various pilot groups. Some of the over 50s have been challenged with the IT and access from time to time, needless to say there have been no such issues with our modern athletes.

We will shortly decommission Slack and have the new system fully rolled out for the upcoming season. As we become more familiar with its capability we expect to be able to improve communication and collaboration and ultimately our performance and efficiency in the coach-athlete space and on the administrative front.

Thanks to:

- **Duncan MacKinnon** for his administrative support in setting up the system,
- **David Colvin** for sharing his learnings from our Slack deployment and his active evaluation of the new platform,
- **Mike McKay** for his insight into the needs of the coaching team
- **Alistair Matthews** for proactively exploring the systems capabilities
- My daughter **Anna** for being an athlete user 'guinea pig'.

Continued Systems

Systems and applications that we're continuing to use include:

- Xero for all our accounting requirements

- RevSport for membership and associated billing as well as Website hosting
- Rowing Manager for regatta entries & results through Rowing Victoria
- Training Peaks for training program management

- Strava for session data collection
- Facebook, Instagram & Twitter for Social messaging and branding

Every now and again we still talk to each other, although sadly in the last year your committee has not been able to meet face to face.



K4-200M Mercs State Champion Quartet

Noah Cameron, Dan Lopez, Justin Quill, Adam Holovics

Key Office Bearers

Season	President	Captain	Honorary Secretary	Honorary Treasurer
1880-81	W K Thompson	WS Boyd	J Baldwin T Baldwin	J Baldwin
1881-82	W K Thompson	WS Boyd		
1882-83	W K Thompson	WS Boyd	E Watson	FW Williams
1883-84	W K Thompson	WS Boyd	Geo Cragg	FW Williams
1884-85	W K Thompson	WS Boyd	CS Cunningham	FW Williams
1885-86	W K Thompson	WS Boyd	E Watson	F Gregerson
1886-87	W K Thompson	WS Boyd		
1887-88	W K Thompson	WS Boyd		
1888-89	W K Thompson	WS Boyd	F Millar	TR Gilchrist
1889-90	J B Whitty	CS Cunningham	F Millar	TR Gilchrist
1890-91	J B Whitty	CS Cunningham		
1891-92	J B Whitty	CS Cunningham		
1892-93	J B Whitty	H Dunn	S Weinheim	JT Best
1893-94	J B Whitty	FR Millar	CF Johnson	FS Gibbs
1894-95	J B Whitty	FS Gibbs	CW Cupit	WS Brown
1895-96	J B Whitty	FS Gibbs	CW Cupit	JA Strong
1896-97	J B Whitty	FS Gibbs	TF Brennan	JA Strong
1897-98	J B Whitty	FS Gibbs	JG Kalbfell	JA Strong
1898-99	J B Whitty	FS Gibbs	JG Kalbfell	JA Strong
1899-00	J B Whitty	FS Gibbs	AR Moses	JA Strong
1900-01	J B Whitty	AB Sloan	AR Moses	JA Strong
1901-02	J B Whitty	AB Sloan	AM Alywin	PC Ivens
1902-03	J B Whitty	AB Sloan	AM Alywin	PC Ivens
1903-04	A R Blackwood	AB Sloan	AE Hoof	PC Ivens
1904-05	A R Blackwood	AB Sloan	AL Dobbie	PC Ivens
1905-06	Sir S J Morell	AB Sloan	AL Dobbie	PC Ivens
1906-07	Sir S J Morell	AB Sloan	AC Mills	PC Ivens
1907-08	Sir S J Morell	AB Sloan	D Cameron	PC Ivens
1908-09	Sir S J Morell	AL Dobbie	JA Wood	PC Ivens
1909-10	Sir S J Morell	AL Dobbie	W Joseph	PC Ivens
1910-11	Sir S J Morell	AL Dobbie	W Joseph	S Guinn
1911-12	Sir S J Morell	AL Dobbie	W Joseph	S Guinn
1912-13	Sir S J Morell	AL Dobbie	W Joseph	S Guinn
1913-14	Sir S J Morell	AL Dobbie	W Joseph	C Hill
1914-15	Sir S J Morell	AL Dobbie	W Joseph	C Hill
1915-16	Sir S J Morell	AL Dobbie	W Joseph	C Hill

1916-17	Sir S J Morell	AL Dobbie	W Joseph	CAR Clarke
1917-18	Sir S J Morell	AL Dobbie	W Joseph	CAR Clarke
1918-19	Sir S J Morell	AL Dobbie	W Joseph	CAR Clarke
1919-20	Sir S J Morell	E Kenny	WG Bannermann	CAR Clarke
1920-21	Sir S J Morell	E Kenny	FW Betts	CAR Clarke
1921-22	Sir S J Morell	E Kenny	FW Betts	CAR Clarke
1922-23	Sir S J Morell	E Kenny	FW Betts	CAR Clarke
1923-24	Sir S J Morell	JL Mounsey	JT Dunstan	CAR Clarke
1924-25	Sir S J Morell	JL Mounsey HR Rush	JT Dunstan	CAR Clarke
1925-26	Sir S J Morell	JL Mounsey	GB Castieau CJ Nicholls	CAR Clarke
1926-27	Sir S J Morell	JL Mounsey	CJ Nicholls	CAR Clarke
1927-28	Sir S J Morell	JGH Sprigg	CJ Nicholls	CAR Clarke
1928-29	Sir S J Morell	JGH Sprigg AR Shannon	CJ Nicholls	CAR Clarke
1929-30	Sir S J Morell	AR Shannon	A Sloss	CAR Clarke
1930-31	Sir S J Morell	AR Shannon JGH Sprigg	CF Raven	CAR Clarke
1931-32	Sir S J Morell	AP Miller	RS Soward	CAR Clarke
1932-33	Sir S J Morell	G J Horder	RS Bolton	CAR Clarke
1933-34	A L Dobbie	AP Miller	RS Bolton	CAR Clarke
1934-35	A L Dobbie	RV Gregg	SC Macrae	CAR Clarke
1935-36	A L Dobbie	CF Raven	SC Macrae	CAR Clarke
1936-37	A L Dobbie	J H Bailey	SC Macrae FP Newport	CAR Clarke
1937-38	A L Dobbie	NW Cairnes	FP Newport	CAR Clarke
1938-39	A L Dobbie	WG Ross	FP Newport	CAR Clarke
1939-40	A L Dobbie	WG Ross	FP Newport	CAR Clarke
1901-41	A L Dobbie	JHP Clarke	W Joseph	CAR Clarke
1941-42	A L Dobbie	A Gordon	W Joseph C Ward	CAR Clarke
1942-43	A L Dobbie	A Gordon	DB Palfreyman	CAR Clarke
1943-44	A L Dobbie	A Gordon	DB Palfreyman	CAR Clarke
1944-45	A L Dobbie	J Blair-Holt	DB Palfreyman DB Palfreyman	CAR Clarke
1945-46	A L Dobbie	J Blair-Holt	A Gordon NW Cairnes	CAR Clarke
1946-47	A L Dobbie	AHG Clarke	NW Cairnes	CAR Clarke JN Roberston

1947-48	A L Dobbie	DJR Morgan	JS Neill	JN Robertson
1948-49	A L Dobbie	DJR Morgan	WT Morrison	JN Robertson
1949-50	A L Dobbie	DJR Morgan	AB Kohn	JN Roberston
1950-51	A L Dobbie	DJR Morgan	WT Morrison	RH Richardson
1951-52	A L Dobbie	RR Aitken	EC White	RH Richardson
1952-53	A L Dobbie	RR Aitken	WT Morrison	RH Richardson
1953-54	A L Dobbie	RR Aitken	DJ Crichton	RH Richardson
1954-55	A L Dobbie	RR Aitken	CD Lewis	RH Richardson
1955-56	J G H Sprigg	RR Aitken	CD Lewis	RH Richardson
1956-57	J G H Sprigg	RR Aitken VA Sharp	JW Bradshaw	RH Richardson
1957-58	J G H Sprigg	VA Sharp	JW Bradshaw	RH Richardson DA Oliver
1958-59	J G H Sprigg	DH Boykett	JW Bradshaw	DA Oliver
1959-60	J G H Sprigg	WL Wallace	JW Bradshaw	DA Oliver
1960-61	J G H Sprigg	WL Wallace	CJ deGuingand	JW Bradshaw HN Hewitt
1961-62	J G H Sprigg	WL Wallace	JJ Wylie	HN Hewitt JB Bostock
1962-63	J G H Sprigg	SH Newcomb	JJ Wylie	JB Bostock
1963-64	J G H Sprigg	SH Newcomb	JJ Wylie	JB Bostock
1964-65	J G H Sprigg	JJ Wylie MF McKenna	JR Harvey	JB Bostock R Knappet
1965-66	J G H Sprigg	MF McKenna	JR Harvey	J Burford
1966-67	J G H Sprigg	J Burford	MF McKenna	JB Bostock
1967-68	J G H Sprigg	J Burford	PV Wood	K Roberts
1968-69	J G H Sprigg	MG Tomanovits	PV Wood	RI Griffiths
1969-70	J G H Sprigg	MG Tomanovits	RI Easson	RI Griffiths
1970-71	J G H Sprigg	JH Gumley	RI Easson	RI Griffiths
1971-72	J G H Sprigg	J Burford	JH Gumley	RI Griffiths
1972-73	J G H Sprigg	MF Owen	PK Watkin	MF McKenna
1973-74	J G H Sprigg	MF Owen	J Gumley	
1974-75	J G H Sprigg	JH Gumley JR Harry	AW Blaxland	MF McKenna
1975-76	J G H Sprigg	MG Tomanovits	PK Watkin	
1976-77	J G H Sprigg	MG Tomanovits	NW Cairnes	J Burford
1977-78	J G H Sprigg	MG Tomanovits	NW Cairnes	AN Guerin
1978-79	J G H Sprigg	AN Guerin	AN Guerin	NW Cairnes
1979-80	J G H Sprigg	J Burford	PG Richter	NL Newton
1980-81	J G H Sprigg	AN Guerin	PJ Ainsworth	NL Newton
1981-82	J G H Sprigg	AN Guerin	PJ Ainsworth	
			D Pincus	JJ Lawrence
			DA Pincus	JJ Lawrence
			DA Pincus	JJ Lawrence

1982-83	R R Aitken	AN Guerin	PJ Ainsworth	HT Frederico
1983-84	R R Aitken	AN Guerin NL Newton	PJ Ainsworth	MK O'Halloran
1984-85	R R Aitken	NL Newton	PJ Ainsworth	AN Guerin
1985-86	R R Aitken	NL Newton	PJ Ainsworth	JP Matthews
1986-87	R R Aitken	NL Newton	PJ Ainsworth	AN Guerin
1987-88	R R Aitken	MK O'Halloran	PJ Ainsworth	RG Wraith
1988-89	R R Aitken	MK O'Halloran JJ Lawrence	PG Somerville	AC Inglis
1989-90	R R Aitken	JJ Lawrence	PG Somerville WH Webster	S Lee
1990-91	R R Aitken	JJ Lawrence	WH Webster	S Lee
1991-92	R R Aitken	JJ Lawrence	WH Webster	S Lee
1992-93	R R Aitken	JJ Lawrence	WH Webster	S Lee
1993-94	D H Boykett	PJ Murphy	WH Webster	JJ Lawrence
1994-95	D H Boykett	S A Morrison P J Murphy	J Leeming	J J Lawrence
1995-96	D H Boykett	R G Wraith	J Leeming	P H C Edgar
1996-97	D H Boykett	R G Wraith C Patterson	G Hall W H Webster	P H C Edgar
1997-98	A N Guerin	C Patterson	W H Webster	M Kelly
1998-99	A N Guerin	G Barden	W H Webster	M Kelly
1999-00	A N Guerin	G Barden	W H Webster	J Faranda
2000-01	A N Guerin	D E G Colvin	W H Webster	J Faranda
2001-02	A N Guerin	D E G Colvin	W H Webster	J Faranda
2002-03	A N Guerin	D E G Colvin	W H Webster	P G Somerville
2003-04	A N Guerin	D E G Colvin	W H Webster	P G Sommerville
2004-05	N P R Batters	W J Tait	W H Webster	A Mentiplay
2005-06	N P R Batters	W J Tait	W H Webster	A Mentiplay
2006-07	N P R Batters	P H C Edgar	W H Webster	J Nickson
2007-08	N P R Batters	P H C Edgar	W H Webster	J Nickson
2008-09	N P R Batters	P H C Edgar	S Macek	J Nickson
2009-10	N P R Batters	P H C Edgar	S Macek	J Nickson
2010-11	N P R Batters	F A Chew	D Bosler	D C MacKinnon
2011-12	M W Batten	N J Baker	D Bosler	D C MacKinnon
2012-13	M W Batten	N J Baker	C M O'Neill	D C MacKinnon
2013-14	M W Batten	R Selby Smith	J Fraumano	D C MacKinnon
2014-15	M W Batten	R Selby Smith	J Fraumano	D C MacKinnon
2015-16	M W Batten	R Selby Smith	J Fraumano	D C MacKinnon
2016-17	M W Batten	W H Webster	J Fraumano	D C MacKinnon
2017-18	M W Batten	W H Webster	H Lewis	D C MacKinnon
2018-19	A L Johnson	W H Webster	A F Maloney	D C MacKinnon
2019-20	A L Johnson	W H Webster	A N Guerin	D C MacKinnon
2020-21	A L Johnson	M Hester	A N Guerin	D C MacKinnon

A rower knows the underlying presence that moves a boat; it is quite simply force and energy. The force needs to be penetrating, and the energy needs to be driving and uninhibited. - Drew Ginn, member since 1993

