



# 2020 Annual Report







**In appreciation Rowing Australia would like to thank the following partners and sponsors for the continued support they provide to rowing:**

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**PHOTO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Rowing WA	Cynthia Judd
Rowing Tasmania	Jo Malcolm
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# ROWING AUSTRALIA LIMITED 2020 OFFICE BEARERS

## BOARD OF ROWING AUSTRALIA

Rob Scott	President and Chairman ( <i>appointed 1 Oct 2014</i> )
Flavia Gobbo	Director and Deputy Chair ( <i>appointed 19 Dec 2012</i> )
Ben Dodwell	Director ( <i>appointed 10 Aug 2017</i> )
Merrick Howes	Director ( <i>appointed 29 May 2014</i> )
Hannah Every-Hall	Athletes' Director ( <i>appointed 31 Oct 2016 – term concluded Oct 2020</i> )
Andrew Rowley	Director ( <i>appointed 26 Nov 2011 – term concluded 1 May 2020</i> )
Carmen Wearne	Director ( <i>appointed 12 Aug 2013 – term concluded 1 May 2020</i> )
Bryan Weir	Director ( <i>appointed 24 May 2015</i> )
Andrew Michelmore AO	Director ( <i>appointed 26 May 2019</i> )
David Crawshay OAM	Athletes' Director ( <i>appointed Oct 2020</i> )
Sarah Cook	Director ( <i>appointed 1 May 2020</i> )
Georgia Beattie	Director ( <i>appointed 1 May 2020</i> )

## COUNCIL OF ROWING AUSTRALIA

Rob Scott	Rowing Australia President and Chairman
Sarah Cook	New South Wales ( <i>retired May 2020</i> )
Andrew Rowley	New South Wales ( <i>appointed June 2020</i> )
Jim Gibson OAM	Tasmania
The Hon. Pat McNamara	Victoria
Emma Brown	Queensland
Craig James OAM	Western Australia
Greg Melbourne	South Australia
Brigadier Alison Creagh (Retd) AM CSC	Australian Capital Territory

## OTHER KEY PERSONNEL

James Peters	Appeal Tribunal Permanent Chair
Greg Smith	Umpires Committee Chair
Alan Nicoll	Masters Commission Chair
James Lowe	Bromley Trust Administrator
Dr. Lisa Elkington	Principal Medical Officer
Luke Mercurio and JRT Partnership	Principal Legal Advisors

## 2020 SELECTION PANEL

Brian Richardson OAM	Chair of Selectors – Senior A and Para-Rowing
Andrew Stunell	Chair of Selectors – Underage – U23, 21 and U19
Ian Wright	Selector – Senior A Men
Mark Prater	Selector – Senior A Men
Dr. Andrew Randell	Selector – Senior A Men
John Keogh	Selector – Senior A Women
Ellen Randell	Selector – Senior A Women
Tom Westgarth	Selector – Senior A Women
Simon Burgess	Selector – U23, U21 and U19
Lyll McCarthy OAM	Selector – U23, U21 and U19
Gordon Marcks	Selector – Para-Rowing
Pamela Whiting	Selector – Para-Rowing



## 2020 SELECTION OMBUDSMAN

John Boulton AM Ombudsman - Senior A and Para Trials, U23, U21 & U19

## INTEGRITY OFFICERS

Robert Cook  
Peter Kerr

## STAFF & CONTRACTORS

Ian Robson	Chief Executive Officer
Bernard Savage	Performance Director
Jaime Fernandez	Deputy Performance Director
Emily McOrist	Chief Commercial Officer ( <i>from 25 May 2020</i> )
Dhuse Manogram	Chief Financial Officer
Ian Wright	Men's Head Coach
John Keogh	Women's Head Coach
Lyll McCarthy OAM	Pathways Head Coach
Ellen Randell	Women's Senior Coach
Tom Westgarth	Women's Senior Coach
Mark Prater	Men's Senior Coach
Dr. Andrew Randell	Men's Senior Coach
Wayne Diplock	High Performance Operations Manager
Gordon Marcks	Head Coach Para-Rowing
Dr. Tony Rice	Rowing Science Lead – Pathways
Bronwen Lundy	National Teams' Dietician and Nutrition Lead
Phil Cossens	Senior Sports Physiotherapist – Men's NTC
Dr. Nathan Versey	Physiologist – Men's NTC
Erin McCleave	Physiologist – Women's NTC
Tristan Shipsides	Senior Sports Physiotherapist – Women's NTC
Samantha Lewis	Nutrition Fellow – Women's NTC
Amanda McCredie	Dietitian – Women's NTC
Brett Smith	Specialist Sports Science Consultant – Men's NTC
Lucy Benjamin	Communications & Government Relations Manager
Ron Batt	Participation & Education Manager
Nadine Morrison	Participation & Education Coordinator
Alice Evans	Event & Competition Manager
Jaimee Newick	Office Manager and Executive Assistant
Naomi Wagstaff	High Performance Pathways Manager
John Bowes	Pathways Transitions Manager
Georgie Lee	High Performance Operations Coordinator
Kathleen Hextell	Indoor Rowing Officer
David Young	NSWIS – Strength and Conditioning Coach – Women's NTC
Dr. Kirsten Everett	Strength and Conditioning Coach – Men's NTC
Emily Partridge	High Performance Administration Officer
Bianca Fermi	Athlete Wellbeing & Engagement Manager
Sarah Carnahan	Marketing and Partnerships Manager
Taneesh Ahmad	Accountant
Conan Zhu	Accountant

## LIFE MEMBERS

Robert R Aitken MBE (Deceased)	Margaret Mackenzie OAM
Peter Antonie OAM	Michael McKay OAM
Reinhold Batschi OAM	James Tomkins OAM
John Boulton AM	Noel Wilkinson MBE, OAM (Deceased)
John D Coates AC	David Yates
Berry Durston AM (Deceased)	Ray Ebert
Michael Eastaughffe	Kim Brennan AM
Barbara Fenner	Nick Green OAM
Andrew Guerin	Noel Donaldson
The Honourable Paul Guest QC, OAM	Robin Poke AM
Dr. Stephen Hinchy OAM (Deceased)	Doug Donoghue AM
	Kath Bennett







# COMPANY DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Rowing Australia is fortunate to have a Board and Senior Management Team that collectively possess a fantastic mix of governance, financial, sporting and other qualifications and experience that ensure the sport is adequately equipped to deal with all relevant matters.

The qualification of the Directors and CEO of Rowing Australia Ltd at the conclusion of the period of this Annual Report are laid out below:

## PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN

### Rob Scott

Rob Scott is the CEO of Wesfarmers Limited. Prior to his appointment as CEO, Rob held a number of leadership roles with Wesfarmers including Managing Director of the Industrials Division, Finance Director of the Coles Group and Managing Director of Wesfarmers Insurance. He previously worked with Deutsche Bank in Asia and Australia in various investment banking roles. He is a member of the University of Western Australia Business School Advisory Board.

Rob is a dual Olympian in rowing, having stroked the Eight at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 and a silver medallist from the 1996 Atlanta Olympics in the Pair. He started his rowing career in Perth Western Australia and was a scholarship holder at the AIS for a number of years. He was the Western Australia Sports Star of the Year in 1997.

Rob holds a Master of Applied Finance degree from Macquarie University and a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the Australian National University. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant and has completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School.

Rob currently lives in Perth with his wife Liz (an Olympic gold medallist in water polo) and two children.



ROB SCOTT



FLAVIA GOBBO

## DIRECTOR, DEPUTY CHAIR

### Flavia Gobbo

Flavia Gobbo is the Chair of WorkCover Queensland. WorkCover QLD is a government owned statutory body and is the main provider of workers' compensation insurance in Queensland. Flavia is also the Chair of ESTA, the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority that provides the critical link between the community and emergency services for Triple Zero calls. She is also a Director of WorkSafe Victoria and the Deputy Chair of SecondBite, a not for profit food rescue organisation.

Flavia is an experienced commercial lawyer and was previously a Senior Associate at King Wood Mallesons and then a member of the Senior Leadership team at Telstra Legal Services. At Telstra, Flavia worked in Competition Law, Product Management, Marketing as well as Corporate Finance, Treasury and the Company Secretariat. These positions have given Flavia a valuable practical insight into a Director's regulatory and commercial responsibilities.

Flavia has been admitted as a legal practitioner of the Supreme Court of Victoria, Supreme Court of Queensland and the High Court of Australia.

On the water, Flavia was a successful rower at both State and National level and has competed at Masters Level as a member of the University of Queensland Boat Club and now at Melbourne University Boat Club. She joined the Board of Rowing Australia in December 2012 and was appointed the Deputy Chair of the Board in October 2014.

Flavia is the Chair of Rowing Australia's High Performance Commission, Chair of the Awards Committee and is a member of the Audit and Risk Committee.



## DIRECTOR

### Merrick Howes

Merrick Howes was appointed as a Director on the Rowing Australia Board in May 2014. He is also the Chairman of Rowing Australia's Audit and Risk Committee and has previously served on Rowing's High Performance Oversight Committee.

Merrick is a highly experienced senior executive with significant financial experience who is currently Managing Director of Anchorage Capital Group Australia Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of the global investment firm Anchorage Capital Group, and has previously founded and run Shearwater Capital, and held senior executive positions at Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch and Macquarie Bank in Australia, Asia and London.

In addition to his significant business expertise Merrick also enjoyed a successful rowing career including winning a Commonwealth Games silver medal, representing Australia at four World Championships and winning numerous Australian championship titles.

## DIRECTOR

### Bryan Weir

Bryan Weir was elected to the Rowing Australia Board in May of 2015. An accomplished rower, Bryan represented Australia in the Men's Coxless Pair in the World Rowing Championships in Lucerne in 1974 and was part of the New South Wales King's Cup Eight in 1976. At a rowing administration level, prior to his role with Rowing Australia, he has held the positions of Deputy President of Rowing New South Wales, Board Member of the Sydney International Rowing Regatta and President of Mosman Rowing Club.

Bryan graduated from the University of New South Wales with degrees in Law and Commerce in 1976. He has been a partner of Freehill Hollingdale & Page (now Herbert Smith Freehills), a divisional director of Macquarie Bank, a director and chairman of listed company Wridgeways Limited and the founder and co-owner of the Walker Douglas group, a private investment firm. He is currently a Director of L.J. Hooker Ltd, a position he has held since 2014.

## DIRECTOR

### Ben Dodwell

Ben Dodwell brings a vast amount of corporate experience to the Rowing Australia Board and is the current Head of Diversified Development at Charter Hall an ASX listed real estate funds management business with funds under management in excess of \$43.4 Billion. Ben joined Charter Hall following the acquisition of Folkestone in November 2018, where he was Head of Real Estate at Folkestone since 2011.

Previously Ben has held senior executive roles at Stockland and Lend Lease where he has been responsible for the operations and profitability of significant real estate investment portfolios and development pipelines.

Ben is an Olympic, World Championship and Commonwealth Games rowing medallist having attended three Olympics, six World Championships, and three Commonwealth Regattas and is also the winner of seven King's Cup medals. Ben is McVilly-Pearce rower number 481.

## DIRECTOR

### Andrew Michelmore AO

Andrew Michelmore is the Chairman of Century Aluminum (NASDAQ:CENX) in USA.

Andrew has more than 35 years' experience in senior leadership roles in the mining industry in Australia and overseas, including as CEO of MMG Ltd from 2009 until February 2017 and CEO of WMC Resources, EN+ Group, Zinifex and OZ Minerals.

Andrew has used the experience he has gained in these businesses to help support the activities of a number of Not-for-Profit organisations. He currently Chairs Jean Hailes for Women's Health, and is Chair of the Council of Melbourne Grammar School.

Andrew spent most of the 1970s rowing for Melbourne University Boat Club, Victoria, Australia and Oxford University Boat Club. He represented Australia at the World Championships in the Lightweight Men's Four in 1974 (gold medal), 1975 (bronze medal) and 1979 in the Lightweight Eight. He is McVilly-Pearce pin number 224. He stroked Oxford to wins in the 1977 and 1978 Oxford Cambridge Boat Races and was the President of Oxford in 1978.



MERRICK HOWES



BRYAN WEIR



BEN DODWELL



ANDREW MICHELMORE AO



DAVID CRAWSHAY OAM



SARAH COOK

Andrew is a great believer in the all-round benefits of rowing – fitness, discipline, endurance and teamwork – and the belief in these attributes throughout your life. To this end, he chairs the Melbourne University Boat Club Future Fund, raising funds to be able to provide the opportunity for more students to try rowing.

Andrew holds a BE (Chemical) from the University of Melbourne and a MA (Oxon) in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oxford University where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

Andrew was awarded an Order of Australia (AO) in 2017 in recognition of his leadership in the mining industry and his commitment to improving safety, health and environmental outcomes

### **DIRECTOR, ATHLETES' REPRESENTATIVE**

#### **David Crawshay OAM**

David Crawshay is the Chair of the RA Athletes' Commission, a role he assumed in October 2020.

David first competed for Australia at the Nations Cup in the U23 Men's Quadruple Sculls at Copenhagen, Denmark in 2000, where he finished with a silver medal. The next year he competed in his first Senior team at the World Rowing Championships in Lucerne, Switzerland. He has represented Australia at 10 World Championships, finishing with three medals in the Men's Quadruple Sculls. In 2008, he partnered with Scott Brennan to win gold at the Beijing Olympics Games in the Men's Double Sculls. David has also competed in another two Olympics – Athens in 2004 and London in 2012. He is McVilly-Pearce pin number 599.

Away from rowing, David graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from Charles Darwin University, having studied remotely during his last years of rowing, as well as a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice from the College of Law. He previously graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of Melbourne. He worked at Melbourne law firm JRT Partnership before being appointed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in 2019, where he currently hears appeals in the Migration Division.

David lives in Melbourne with his wife Siobhan, a sports dietitian. They have a daughter and two sons.

### **DIRECTOR**

#### **Sarah Cook**

Sarah Cook started rowing in 2000 through the Talent Identification Program with the ACT Academy of Sport and Canberra Rowing Club, and represented Australia in the Coxless Four at the Under-23 World Championships in 2004 and 2005, winning Silver in 2004. She competed at the World Rowing Championships between 2006 to 2012, winning Bronze in 2006 and Silver in 2010. Ms Cook competed for Australia at the 2008 Olympic Games in the Women's Pair and the 2012 Olympic Games in the Women's Eight. She is McVilly-Pearce pin number 689. Following the 2012 Olympics, Sarah changed sports to Sailing and competed for Australia between 2013-2015 in the 470 Dinghy and 49erFX Skiff classes with the Australian Sailing Team.

Sarah has a Bachelor of Applied Science at the University of Canberra/ University of Sydney, and a Graduate Diploma in Education at the University of New England. During this time she was awarded a Full Blue in Rowing from both the University of Canberra and the University of Sydney. In 2018, Sarah completed the Company Directors Course through the Australian Institute of Company Directors, with the assistance of the Sport Australia's Women Leaders in Sport Grants Program. In 2015 she was recognised as one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence in the Young Leaders Category, in 2019 she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of New England, and her rowing program at Kinross Woleroi School won the World Rowing Sustainability Award for their Spring Creek Regeneration Project.

Sarah has been a broadcast commentator at the Henley Royal Regatta since 2015, and for World Rowing at World Championships and World Cups since 2013. She is the President of Sydney University Boat Club and a Trustee of the Laurie Stepto Trust which awards an annual scholarship to a talented young rower in New South Wales. Sarah was elected as a Steward of Henley Royal Regatta in 2018. She currently works as the Head Rowing Coach and Teacher at Canberra Grammar School, and as a member of the National Sports Tribunal. Sarah is Chair of the Rowing Australia Coastal Rowing Working Group and was also recently appointed to the World Rowing Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group.



## DIRECTOR

### Georgia Beattie

Georgia is CEO of Bulla Park, Australia's largest organic mushroom farm and a Non-Executive Director of Australian Mushroom Growers Association, Second Bite and Law Squared. She was also recently awarded a Nuffield Fellowship.

She is currently recognised for high performance farming embracing the use of technology and innovation to achieve fast growth and scale in agriculture. Georgia has experience as the CEO of Startup Victoria and CEO of RealEstate.com's first internal venture Spacely. She began her career in the startup space Founding wine packaging business Lupé Wines in 2010 which scaled across Australia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China and Hong Kong. The company was acquired in 2016.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### Ian Robson

Ian Robson qualified as a Chartered Accountant and holds an Economics Degree from Monash University. His sports administration career began in 1989 with three years as Financial Controller and Football Manager of the Sydney Swans.

Ian was previously the inaugural Chief Executive of the Auckland Warriors, during which time he led its induction as New Zealand's first professional club to play in the Australian Rugby League competition.

Ian then progressed to become the General Manager Marketing of Super League, before moving to the United Kingdom in 1998 to be the Marketing Director and then Chief Executive of Super League (Europe). He was then appointed to the role of Chief Executive with SportScotland in Edinburgh in 2000 where he remained until 2004.

From 2004 to August 2009, Ian was Chief Executive of the Hawthorn Football Club before he was appointed as the Chief Executive of the Essendon Football Club in September 2009. Aside from being a part of the 2008 Premiership success at Hawthorn, during his time at both Clubs membership and other key revenue drivers were taken to record high levels.

In August 2013, Ian was appointed Chief Executive of Melbourne Victory FC. Victory secured the first ever domestic trophy treble in 2014/15 winning the A League's Premier Plate, Championship Trophy and the FFA Cup.

Ian joined Rowing Australia as CEO at the start of 2018.

Ian lives in Melbourne with his wife, Juliette and two children.



GEORGIA BEATTIE



IAN ROBSON

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**ROB SCOTT**

President - Rowing Australia

2020 was a year full of challenges for us all, both domestically and internationally. The year began with the bushfires that engulfed the majority of our country and was swiftly followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ramifications of which we continue to live with daily.

It was a year full of disruption, but it was also a year that provided us with the chance to reset and review the role we play within rowing in Australia. The year was an opportunity to remind ourselves of the importance of our members, of the clubs, schools and gyms that drive participation in rowing in the community.

The year saw much uncertainty and frustration for rowers from schools and clubs through to the elite level, but we have endeavoured to do everything, alongside our Member Associations, to support you, our community, through the COVID-19 crisis. We talk regularly of rowers showing resilience, determination and team work, and together with the support of the entire rowing community, this is what we have done to help our Australian Rowing Team, and the wider participants of our sport, to emerge from the COVID-19 shutdown even stronger.

It was heartening to see such strength of character, across our community, despite the many challenges we all faced through the year. The teamwork of rowers has been alive and well – be it with virtual training sessions, international indoor rowing competitions alongside New Zealand, Canada and Great Britain, or indoor rowing regattas – it was truly inspiring.

2020 saw a number of RA Directors conclude their terms on the Board, and I would like to acknowledge their time and contributions to the sport.

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The year was an opportunity to remind ourselves of the importance of our members, of the clubs, schools and gyms that drive participation in rowing in the community

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Andrew Rowley, Carmen Wearne and Hannah Every-Hall gave so much to our sport via the RA Board and I thank them for the roles they each played over their tenure. All continue to be involved in the sport in their own way, and we were delighted to welcome their replacements in Georgia Beattie and Olympians Sarah Cook and David Crawshay.





As a Board, we continue to endeavour to have a joined-up approach to the work we deliver for the sport. I am grateful to all our Board Directors who sit on various Committees, Commissions and Working Groups to further improve the way our sport is run and developed. It is also pleasing to finish the 2020 financial year in good shape financially, which allows us to continue to support our teams and programs as we navigate through the COVID-crisis. This reflects the hard work in recent years to strengthen our reserves, manage costs efficiently and diversify revenue streams.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the outgoing Chair of the **Australian Sports Commission**, John Wylie, for all his hard work and efforts in supporting the growth of both high performance and grassroots sport. We look forward to working with the incoming Chair, Josephine Sukkar, who takes up the role in 2021.

While we find ourselves in a five-year Olympic/Paralympic cycle, which presents its own challenges, we are focused on delivering for the sport of rowing in Australia, both domestically and internationally. There is much innovation to come for our sport – from still water to indoor rowing and from beach sprints to coastal rowing – we must continue to develop and evolve with the times.

The potential for an **Olympic Games** in Brisbane in 2032 is an exciting recent development and one that we will continue to support, as the negotiations with the **IOC** continue. As we have seen with prior **Olympic Games**, these events are an important catalyst for stronger funding, participation and community engagement in sport and this presents terrific opportunities for rowers and the rowing community in the decade ahead.

While I know Ian Robson's CEO report, and the wider annual report, will cover off in more depth the achievements and challenges of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our key stakeholders and sponsors for their ongoing support of Rowing Australia. Particularly, I would like to thank **Sport Australia**, the **Australian Institute of Sport**, **Hancock Prospecting** and RA Patron **Mrs Gina Rinehart** for all that they do to help rowing in Australia.

Finally, I would like to recognise the team behind the teams. Our participants at the elite, pathway, club or school level could not do what they do without the support of the wider rowing community. The coaches, the staff, the families and the thousands of volunteers around the country who support our sport – on and off the water – thank you for your dedication and work. You are a vital and integral part of our rowing family.



# AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The Australian Olympic Committee's Centenary year was experienced in a way that none of us could have imagined when the COVID pandemic disrupted every aspect of our lives.

With the **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games** postponed on 25 March for 12 months, the training, preparation and ambition of our aspiring Tokyo athletes were thrown into extraordinary uncertainty and difficulty.

However, our athletes stood tall and proved so much to the Australian community, to their sports, friends and families.

When confined to home, athletes responded by recording and posting home-workout routines designed to inspire Australians to stay healthy as well as reinforcing key government messaging around a "**TeamAUS**" approach to beating the virus.

Our rowers certainly led the charge, participating in a range of creative initiatives from indoor regattas to rowing to the moon. In the absence of the Games themselves, the Olympic spirit has never shone more brightly.

Throughout this period, the **AOC's** regular community programs such as **Olympics Unleashed** and **Olympic Change-maker** continued, but in a virtual format with athletes giving their talks to students via online platforms.

**Olympics Unleashed** passed an important milestone, surpassing 150,000 students who have received face to face or virtual visits from Olympians or Tokyo aspirants and their wonderful messages of resilience and goal-setting.

The uncertainty created by the pandemic and the constantly shifting travel access, border restrictions and access to training and competition necessitated frequent and accurate communication from the **AOC** to athletes, our Member sports and importantly, our Partners.

The **AOC** rolled over these sponsorships for another year with **Tokyo 2020** postponed until 2021, for no additional contribution from that partnership group.

Throughout this year, the **AOC** managed to launch a number of significant new initiatives that will have an enduring impact for the Olympic movement.

On Olympic Day, 23 June, we launched the **Parliamentary Friends of the Olympic Movement in Australia** - a bipartisan forum open to all Senators and Members which will promote the values of Olympism in Australia.

The **AOC** also became a signatory to the United Nations' **Sports for Climate Action Framework**, acknowledging the active role that sport can play in delivering sustainable operations for the benefit of the environment.

The **AOC** has committed to embracing sustainability in its day-to-day operations, measuring progress, advocating and educating with member sports.

The **AOC Athletes' Commission** undertook a survey of Australian Olympians and aspirants for the **Tokyo 2020 Games**, following an **IOC Athletes' Commission** initiative to explore the different ways of how athletes can express their support for the principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter.

The findings, released in August by **Athletes' Commission** Chair Steve Hooker, found that more than 80% of all respondents felt a protest on the field of play would detract from the performance or experience of athletes.

Off the back of this survey, the **Athletes' Commission** initiated an educational forum examining Australia's Indigenous history, Indigenous issues and the challenges of reconciliation.

The "**Walk with Us**" forum was held live on-line in November evening featuring panel discussions with Indigenous and non-Indigenous Olympians, questions from Olympians and presentations from prominent Indigenous figures Stan Grant and Dean Parkin.

The **AOC** is currently finalising its inaugural **Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)** as a valuable ingredient of its Indigenous Strategy.

This year contained so many milestones. It was our Centenary Year and also the 20th anniversary since the **Sydney 2000 Games**, the greatest Games ever.



With the relighting of the Olympic Cauldron at Sydney Olympic Park on 14 September, we began a national and international recollection of these record-breaking Games.

But the celebration mainly took place in the digital space with the **AOC's** website and social media platforms breaking all records for audience engagement with the stories, videos and snapshots of our Olympians and the great moments. The **#MySydney2000** hashtag was received more than 72 million impressions.

The wonderful remembrance of Sydney only heightened interest in the prospect of Australia's potential to host a third **Olympic Games**, with Queensland's candidature for 2032.

While our formal candidature process was suspended in March due to COVID-19, work continued behind the scenes with the finalisation of a Brisbane **2032 Games Master Plan** and **Transport Plan**.

By year's end, Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner had all reaffirmed their strong commitment to holding the Games. Consequently, the Queensland candidature is very strong, highly developed and ready for the next step.

This year was also challenging in terms of my role as the Chair of the **IOC's Coordination Commission** for the **Tokyo Olympic Games**.

Working closely with the **Japanese Government**, **Tokyo Metropolitan Government** and the **Tokyo Olympic Games Organisation Committee**, there have been significant strides taken to develop counter-measures to enable to the **Tokyo Games** to proceed, while also simplifying the Games to reduce cost, without impacting on the performance of athletes.

Most importantly for the **AOC**, the focus on working so closely and constructively with our **National Federations** this year was outstanding in its detail and thoroughness. This focus will see our Australian Team safely into Tokyo when the **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games** will go ahead. And safely home.

## **JOHN COATES AC**

President Australian Olympic Committee  
Vice President International Olympic  
Committee









# PARALYMPICS AUSTRALIA PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Throughout a year of extreme challenges, I believe the significant gains Paralympics Australia and Rowing Australia achieved in tandem stand as a testament to the power of teamwork and resolve.

There is no better example of the tenacious and purposeful collaboration between our organisations over this reporting period than the establishment of the new Para-rowing pathway program, **#Passport2Paris**.

While the re-scheduled **Tokyo 2020 Paralympics** naturally remains our immediate focus, it's been heartening for us at **Paralympics Australia** to work with national sporting organisations and eagerly look deeper into the future to build the foundation now for long-term sustainable success, in Paris in 2024, Los Angeles in 2028 and beyond. Our relationship with Rowing Australia is an excellent example of this.

**#Passport2Paris** is framed around a series of Para-rowing camps focusing on increasing participation rates, talent identification and developing opportunities for para-rowing athletes, particularly women and those in the higher impairment sport classes. In itself, this is a brilliant initiative. But the program is also about developing coaching expertise across the **National Institute Network**, which will have a strongly positive flow-on effect for Australian Para-rowing.

**Paralympics Australia** is proud to support Rowing Australia by facilitating classification for athletes who participate in the program, engaging targeted impairment types and facilitating talent-transfer opportunities for athletes between sports. We also provided training for two national classifiers, who achieved international classifier status, and supported RA with their classification needs for their Tokyo long list athletes. We welcomed RA's invitation for Cathy Lambert, PA's classification manager, to join the organisation's **Classification Advisory Group**.

A further aspect of **#Passport2Paris**, with which I'm particularly pleased, is that it continues RA's drive to promote sport as a mode for inclusion and social change. Alongside the pursuit of excellence, these goals are entrenched in our ethos at PA and we are delighted such values continue to be shared by our colleagues at RA.

Significantly, also, during the reporting period, **Paralympics Australia** supported inclusion and opportunity in Para-rowing through our **Para-sport Equipment Fund**. Carrying on the good work from the previous year, we provided funding for the provision of adaptive sculling boats, adaptive chairs, oars and boat carts, as well as specialised strength and conditioning equipment and accessories. I believe our investment in Para-rowing through the **Equipment Fund** is a worthy adjunct to our collective work increasing participation opportunities and developing elite performers.

As we lay the foundations for a bright future, the current members of our high performance program continue to shine. In spite of unprecedented circumstances, our Para-rowers remain focused on gaining selection for Tokyo, as demonstrated by the multiple world records on ergometers that were set during lockdowns. Administratively, our **Games Delivery team** is working closely with RA management around Games planning and scenarios around COVID-19 to ensure our representatives and support staff for the Games are ready.

No doubt new challenges and obstacles lie ahead. However, based on what we achieved in 2020, I am confident our organisations will continue to provide positive outcomes for Para-rowing in 2021.

**JOCK O'CALLAGHAN**

President - Paralympics Australia







# MESSAGE FROM SPORTS AUSTRALIA



The start of 2020 has been an extraordinarily tough time for Australians, including all of us committed to sport.



**JOHN WYLIE AM**

Chairman - Australian Sports Commission

The impact of bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic have been confronting for communities, where we all know sport plays such an important role.

At the **Australian Sports Commission (ASC)**, comprising **Sport Australia** and the **Australian Institute of Sport (AIS)**, our energy is focused on supporting our partners through these times as we continue to advocate the importance of sport to our economy, productivity, health, wellbeing and culture.

We believe whole-heartedly that when we get through this challenging period, sport will play a prominent role in lifting the nation's energy and spirits again.

Times such as these can also make us more appreciative of what we do have and of the success we have achieved.

Success in sport is always hard fought. But it's a fight Australian high-performance sport welcomes as it continues to achieve success.

Last year the wonderful Ash Barty won the **French Open** and became our first female No1 tennis player since her idol, Evonne Goolagong Cawley, in 1976. Javelin-thrower Kelsey Lee-Barber set personal bests throughout the year and took the title at the **IAAF World Championships** in Doha. Dylan Alcott added three more **Grand Slam** quad wheelchair singles trophies to the cabinet and Sailing duo Matt Belcher and Will Ryan claimed the **Men's 470 World Championship**. In the pool, our swimmers won seven gold medals at the **FINA World Championships**, placing Australia fourth on the medal tally.

This year our inspiring women's cricket team won a fifth **World T20** title, drawing a record crowd of 86,174 to the MCG. How fitting that this historical moment fell on **International Women's Day**. These results are a testament to the tenacity and passion of athletes, coaches, sports staff and sporting organisations, which know we have all the skills and abilities to achieve success.

I am proud too of the service our organisation provides to Australian sport each year, on behalf of the **Australian Government**.

The **ASC**, through **Sport Australia** and the **AIS**, delivers 25,000 grants a year.

The **AIS**, funds and prepares our **Olympic, Paralympic** and **Commonwealth Games** to represent us at the highest level in international competition.

In the past few years, we have enhanced our support to athlete wellbeing and engagement, a move that is essential, especially in the current environment.

**Sport Australia** invests in sports participation programs, from our national **Sporting Schools program** for younger children through to the **Better Ageing program** aimed at Australians aged 65 and over.

So many of these grants fuel aspirations. **Our Local Sporting Champions program** supports 9,000 children a year to reach for their sporting dreams.

**Our Women Leaders in Sport program** and the **AIS Talent program** provide opportunities for women to progress their professional development in all roles across sport.

We continue to work with sports to modernise traditional governance structures in Australian sporting organisations and we continue to encourage environments that are inclusive, diverse, safe and welcoming, making sport the benchmark for a more equitable society.

This was to be the year of the **2020 Olympics and Paralympics** in Tokyo. Instead, it has been postponed to 2021, with the **Olympic Games** to be held from 23 July to 8 August 2021 and the **Paralympics** from 24 August to 5 September 2021.

We have already witnessed a great deal of positivity from athletes who now need to re-set. I'm confident, as a united sport system, we will do the same.

# CEO'S REPORT



**IAN ROBSON**

Chief Executive Officer  
Rowing Australia

2020 was a year like no other, not only for Rowing Australia and all involved in our sport, but for the whole world. Where we would normally have had the opportunity to meet and engage with each other in person, the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped the world has fundamentally changed how we support and work together to deliver our great sport to the community.

However, the start of 2020 for Australia was not focusing on the impending global pandemic, but a national disaster that was far closer to home, the bush fires that ravaged our country and impacted us all in their own way.

A great swathe of our community struggled during this time, with properties lost, families and lives significantly impacted and rowing not a possibility due to the poor air quality across significant parts of our great country. With this in mind, in January 2020, we were forced to relocate both our **Men's and Women's National Training Centres** to Tasmania due to the bushfires on the mainland of Australia. This would not have been possible without the funding support of the **Australian Institute of Sport** and the **Australian Olympic Committee**. Further, the entire process could not have happened without the help of **Rowing Tasmania**, the **Tasmanian Institute of Sport**, **Tamar Rowing Club** and **North Esk Rowing Club** and many in the Tasmanian rowing community.

As the fires eased and we returned to a sense of normality and planned for the **2020 Aon Sydney International Rowing Regatta (SIRR)**, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and changed our sporting landscape

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I am proud of how we, as a sport, have handled the year and what we have done for each other to ensure our community continues to feel engaged

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for the year. We were forced to cancel both **SIRR** and the **2020 Australian Masters Rowing Championships** (scheduled for Tasmania) and suspended all activities, including our **National Training Centres**, as the country went into national lockdown. Later, in an unprecedented decision that truly reflected the magnitude of the challenge confronting every country in the World, the **2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games** were postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic.





We began to think creatively as to how we could interact, support and work alongside our athletes, coaches, administrators and volunteers in order for our sport to continue to thrive and grow. I have detailed further into this report some of my highlights, but needless to say I am proud of how we, as a sport, have handled the year and what we have done for each other to ensure our community continues to feel engaged.

2020 would have seen us celebrate the **Centenary of Women's Interstate Rowing**, at Nationals, but with the outbreak of COVID, our celebrations were cancelled. In 2021, we look forward to celebrating 100 years since the original **Queen's Cup Trophy** (then known as the ULVA Trophy) was first presented to the winners of the **Interstate Women's competition** at Lake Barrington during **2021 Nationals**.

Some highlights from the year, despite its many challenges, include travelling to Tasmania and hosting the **Federal Minister for Sport**, The Hon Senator Richard Colbeck, at Lake Barrington with our National Training Centre athletes, seeing so many of our community come together for our indoor rowing challenges, the world and national records set by our community and the interaction of many with our numerous digital offerings in 2020. I would also like to acknowledge the continued support I have received from my counterparts at **Rowing NZ**, **Rowing Canada Aviron** and **British Rowing**, and numerous Australian NSO CEO's – all of whom have been facing the same struggles as us with COVID-19.

I wanted to also take this opportunity to also thank the volunteers, friends and family who support our sport, be it on the river bank of school training to running **online indoor rowing** or **S&C programs** during lockdown, your sacrifices and support for those competing in the sport is truly appreciated. I look forward, hopefully, to seeing many of you in Tasmania in 2021 at the **Aon Australian Rowing Championships**.

In particular, I wish to thank our major partners **Sport Australia** and the **Australian Institute of Sport**, our principal partner **Hancock Prospecting**, all of our partner organisations and commercial partners, our **Member Associations**, **State Institute/Academy partners**, and the members of the rowing community for their significant and valued contribution in the pursuit of these bold strategies.

I have provided below an overview of some of RA's major achievements throughout 2020. Further detail regarding the progress in each of RA's key business areas is provided throughout the Annual Report.

- This year the **Reinhold Batschi Men's National Training Centre's** changing rooms and medical support rooms received a \$1.7m upgrade thanks to funding from **Sport Australia**. The facility had not had a major upgrade in 35 years since the facility's inception as the original **AIS Rowing Facility**.
- With the unfortunate cancellation of **SIRR 2020** and the **2020 Australian Masters Rowing Championships**, our sport as a whole came together to deliver numerous off-water initiatives during the COVID-19 lockdown, including:
  - **The Indoor Interstate Regatta** – won by Queensland
  - **The Anzac Day Indoor Rowing Challenge** – won by New Zealand
  - **The Row to the Moon Challenge** and **One Minute Challenge** – organised alongside our fellow Rowing Federations from New Zealand, Canada and Great Britain
  - **State and Territory Indoor Rowing Challenges**
- Numerous members of our community from Elite through to Masters setting new **World and National Indoor Rowing Records** during lockdown, with particular mention to Paralympians Erik Horrie and Kathryn Ross and Olympic-hopeful Georgie Rowe who all set multiple new records this year.
- The **2020 Australian Indoor Rowing Championships (AIRC)** took place in October 2020, with over 1000 participants from across the globe and numerous World and National Records broken. We were particularly grateful to **Coles** for supporting our initiative to help with school participation in this year's event.



I continue to be excited, working with the **RA Board** and the talented and hardworking **Leadership Team** and staff at RA, to build on these successes as we lead into this **Olympic/Paralympic** year. We continue to recognise that there are great opportunities for growth and improvement within our sport. To this end, RA's key focus areas for the next 12 months will be:

- Supporting our Olympic and Paralympic athletes and coaches in the pinnacle year of what is now an unprecedented five-year cycle
- Continue to develop and enhance our state-based talent pathway programs that will identify and develop emerging athletes and coaches, including in the para-rowing space
- Growing participation across our sport – focusing particularly on expansion of our development programs including indoor, coastal and on-water rowing
- Developing the Rowing in Australia Strategic Plan through to the end of 2024
- Continue to finalise the RA 10-year hosting model which will look to deliver legacy facility outcomes for each State that holds a national event

I look forward to working closely with our committed and passionate community to deliver these goals and continue to grow our sport.

In addition to the specific High Performance, Events, Development and Commercial reports that are detailed in respective sections, a summary of RA's progress in the administrative, corporate and governance section of the business is provided below:

## FINANCE AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS

The 2020 Rowing Australia Financial Statements are presented in detail later in this report. RA achieved a result that tracked well against budget for the year with the overall outcome being a net operating profit of \$403,905. Given the economic and commercial headwinds that all sport has confronted in the face of the pandemic, this outcome is very satisfactory.

Due to the lockdown, postponement of the **Olympic** and **Paralympic Games** and no international travel, there was a significant underspend for the organisation in 2020. These underspent funds from 2020 have been set aside to help reinforce the High-Performance area of the organisation in 2021 with the re-scheduled Games. Additionally, we have now had our funding from **Sport Australia** and the **Australian Institute of Sport** confirmed through to 30 June, 2022.

The major financial commitments throughout the year was once again the ongoing operation of our two dedicated **National Training Centres** for up to 50 male and female athletes, supporting the preparation and participation of **National Teams at Senior, Under 23, Under 21 and Junior** level, continuing to invest in our emerging athlete pathways, delivering quality events – albeit in 2020 these were all off water, expanding our national participation programs and supporting activities across the breadth of Australian rowing, whilst further building the sustainability and financial health of RA.

RA concluded 2020 with total net assets of \$4,966,158. This result, along with the continued financial oversight provided by the **Audit and Risk Committee**, ensures RA remains in a strong financial position and is able to support the continued growth of our sport in line with our strategic objectives.

Other key financial achievements which contributed to this net position:

- A total level of **Federal Government** support of \$9,156,498 to support RA's ongoing operations
- Total commercial revenue of \$3,525,724 as RA continues to diversify its revenue streams
- Total **Olympic Boat Fleet Trust** reserve of \$438,983
- Investment from the **Tasmanian Government**, through **Events Tasmania**, to support the staging of the **2021 Aon Australian Rowing Championships** at Lake Barrington.

I would like to thank our outgoing auditors, **Grant Thornton**, for the work they have done for the sport in their time working with RA. Finally, I would like to welcome **Deloitte** as our new auditors this year.

## GOVERNANCE

The sport and RA continue to benefit from the strong vision and direction provided by the **RA Board**. RA's successes would not be possible without the professionalism and dedication of its Directors. In particular, the sport is fortunate to benefit from the vision and leadership of RA President Rob Scott, along with that of the Directors that Chair the key Commissions, Committees and Working Groups of the Board, Flavia Gobbo (High Performance), Sarah Cook (Coastal Rowing), Georgia Beattie (Indoor Rowing), Hannah Every Hall and latterly David Crawshay (Athletes') and Merrick Howes (Audit & Risk).

The **RA Nominations and Remunerations Committee** (chaired by Ben Dodwell), continues to ensure that the skills and experiences of Directors are continually aligned to achieving the





organisation's strategic priorities. The 2020 Rowing Australia Directors' Report is presented in detail in this annual report.

I would like to particularly acknowledge the three outgoing RA Board Directors from 2020, Andrew Rowley, Carmen Wearne and Hannah Every-Hall. All have contributed significantly to our sport, and continue to do so, and we are extremely grateful for their work and time on our Board.

This year we welcomed Olympians Sarah Cook and David Crawshaw to the RA Board, alongside Georgia Beattie. David also takes on the role of Chair of the **RA Athletes' Commission**.

The vision of the Board is delivered by the efforts, dedication and commitment of the **RA Management team**, staff and contractors whose passion and expertise is central to the achievement of the many pleasing outcomes outlined in this Annual Report. I look forward to continuing to lead this dedicated and professional team to deliver on its strategic goals over the next cycle.

Nationally, Rowing Australia and its Member Associations have demonstrated their commitment to continuous improvements of rowing's governance by working together collaboratively to share the various issues they have faced and how they have solved them. The regular CEO meetings with our State Associations have helped us to understand better how our sport is functioning, how we can help each other and how RA functions overall.

We are working closely with the newly created **Sport Integrity Australia** and **National Sports Tribunal** to ensure our sport, as whole, remains both vigilant and compliant in regards to safeguarding, anti-doping, match-fixing and education.

## COMMERCIAL AND COMMUNICATIONS

2020 saw us renew a number of our partnerships, despite a global pandemic. We are extremely grateful to our Principal Partner, **Hancock Prospecting**, for our ongoing relationship that continues to be transformational for our sport. The support from **Hancock Prospecting** would not be possible without our Patron, **Mrs Gina Rinehart**, who invests in and supports our athletes wholeheartedly and helps us to ensure we deliver high performance support and services to both our elite athletes and athletes in our Pathway programs.

I would particularly like to thank **Mrs Rinehart** for her continued belief in our sport in what has been a year of many challenges, however we have felt fully supported by **Mrs Rinehart, Hancock Prospecting** and all our partners.

We were also delighted to be able to announce this year our continued partnerships with **Coles, Tempur** and **776BC** all of whom support our elite athletes but also the wider rowing community.

RA is very fortunate to benefit from the support of its partners and corporate sponsors. These partners are acknowledged in more depth under the Commercial section of this Annual Report, and collectively enable RA to continue to deliver on its broad range of activities. I would like to acknowledge and thank each of our partners for their ongoing support.

Furthermore, our communications activity continued to progress throughout the reporting period, and was extremely well received during the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions through the middle of the year. We had some fantastic results around our digital series, **Get Cooked**, and I would particularly like to acknowledge the support of Rowing Australia Board Director, Sarah Cook, in helping us to deliver this content.

The series, along with our regular newsletters with training, nutrition and health and wellbeing tips, helped to grow our digital platforms but more importantly helped to connect and engage our community and the wider Australian public during the pandemic.

## SPORT AUSTRALIA (SA) AND AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT (AIS) SUPPORT

The **Federal Government**, through **Sport Australia (SA)**, continues to be RA's largest financial supporter.

In 2020, **Federal Government** support to rowing totalled \$9,156,498, comprising a combination of **SA** base and project funding. The continued support of the **Federal Government**, both financial and through advocacy and other assistance is vital to the ongoing progress of RA and the Australian sports sector. Furthermore, RA's position as a Foundation sport provides the opportunity to contribute to a number of industry wide forums that shape the future Australian sporting landscape.

Additionally, I would also like to thank the **AIS** for the specific grants we have been afforded in 2020, including their support of our **Pathway Program**. We were fortunate enough to secure funding from the **AIS's Performance Pathway Solutions Grants** and its **Pathway Workforce Grants** to help support our ongoing development of future rowers in our sport, funding for our **GRow program** for indoor rowing participation and also funding for our **#Passport2Paris** para-rowing initiative.

RA is particularly appreciative of the ongoing support of the **Federal Government** and is grateful for the leadership of the Minister for Sport, Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck. In addition to their funding programs, **Sport Australia**, led by Chair John Wylie AM, and in the latter part of 2020 Acting



Chair Stephen Moneghetti AM, continues to provide RA with essential services, advice and support. We are excited to welcome Josephine Sukkar AM as the first female Chair of the **Australian Sports Commission** in 2021.

RA is grateful of the continued vital contribution of the **SA** and **AIS** and thank the **SA** management team led by **SA** Acting CEO Rob Dalton and **AIS** CEO Peter Conde for their support throughout the reporting period.

### AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (AOC) AND PARALYMPICS AUSTRALIA (PA)

I would like to express my gratitude to both the **AOC** and **PA** for their ongoing support of our sport. The Presidents of both organisations have kindly shared reports for inclusion in this year's publication. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the CEO of the **AOC**, Matt Carroll, and the CEO of **PA**, Lynne Anderson. Both have been strong advocates and supporters of our sport through 2020.

It was wonderful to announce in 2020 the creation of our **#Passport2Paris** program with the support of **PA** and the **AIS**. The jointly funded initiative aims, through camps, to focus on increasing participation rates, talent identification and developing opportunities for para-rowing athletes, particularly women and those in the higher impairment sport classes. Additionally, the program looks to work with our **National Institute Networks (NIN)** to grow coaching in the para-rowing space.

### STATE INSTITUTES AND ACADEMIES OF SPORT (SIS/SAS)

The seven **State Institutes and Academies of Sport** that conduct rowing programs continue to play a vital role in Australia's high performance rowing pathway system. The **SIS/SAS** network, in partnership with their local State Association, are responsible for the operational delivery of the bespoke talent pathway programs that will identify Australia's next generation of emerging athletes and coaches, and foster their development through the provision of a daily training environment and coaching and support services aligned to the national framework.

While the **SIS/SAS** network has had a disrupted 2020, it has continued to work cohesively with our **High Performance Pathway Program** to support the growth of our Pathway and Para athletes on their rowing journeys. In particular, I acknowledge the support and contribution of the **SIS/SAS** Directors to the implementation of rowing's high performance system.

### MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS (SSOs)

Our seven Member Associations continue play an essential role in the continued growth and strength of Australian rowing. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the CEOs of the Member Associations for their constant support, dialogue and contributions during 2020.

The Member Associations, like so many, had a tough year with the country shutting down due to COVID, but they continued to engage with their communities to deliver a myriad of online virtual offerings from indoor rowing competitions, strength and conditioning programs and educational initiatives. On behalf of RA, I would like to thank the Board and Executive of each State and Territory organisation for their continued contribution to the delivery of our whole of sport plan and for their tireless dedication in developing and maintaining rowing across Australia.

Additionally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank **Rowing ACT's** outgoing Executive Officer, Stuart John, for his contribution to the rowing community in the ACT, we wish Stuart well in his new role and know we will see him out on the water soon. We look forward to welcoming Dr Sally Clark as the new Executive Officer of **Rowing ACT** in 2021.

I would like to also mention here the hard work of **Rowing Tasmania's** Rob Prescott and Jim Gibson to support us hosting the **Men's and Women's National Training Centres** in January 2020 in Tasmania. The camps, held in Tasmania due to the fires engulfing mainland Australia, were a great success and we appreciated the support from **Rowing Tasmania** and their entire community.

I look forward to continuing these constructive relationships, particularly through the regular **CEOs' Meeting forum** and through engagement with the RA Council.

### WORLD ROWING

Rowing Australia continues to enjoy an effective working relationship with the international rowing community during a complex time for the International Federation (**World Rowing**) which has included formulating rowing's future **Olympic and World Championship programs** and expanding the international rowing community.

I would particularly like to thank **World Rowing** President, Jean-Christophe Rolland and **World Rowing** Executive Director, Matt Smith, for their support and guidance in helping our sport navigate the global pandemic and the knock-on effects of cancelled and postponed events.

RA continues to support the expansion of the international rowing community through its ongoing contribution to the **Oceania Rowing Confederation (ORCON)**, and its support of initiatives

to grow rowing across the Oceania region. RA acknowledges the leadership and support of Lee Spear, Oceania's representative to **World Rowing**, in promoting the region's interests at the international level and furthering the development of rowing throughout Oceania.

In addition to its representation at **World Rowing** Congress meetings, RA delegates also enjoy representation on **World Rowing** Commissions, including:

- Warwick Marler – FISA Rowing For All Commission
- Hannah Every Hall – FISA Athletes' Commission
- Nick Hunter – FISA Umpires Commission
- Gordon Marcks – FISA Para-rowing Commission
- Conny Draper – FISA Equipment and Technology Commission
- Jaime Fernandez – FISA Youth Commission

### CONCLUSION

As this Annual Report demonstrates, RA has made pleasing progress in a number of key areas throughout 2020, a year like no other. While the year has challenged us all, with numerous events cancelled, the **Olympic and Paralympic Games** postponed, on-water opportunities taken away from us, it has also illustrated the resilience and determination of our sporting community and our country as a whole.

I continue to be excited to lead RA to build on these successes and learnings of 2020 and in particular to oversee RA's pursuit of its ambitious strategic program that will drive the sport across all areas of its operation - **High Performance, Pathways, Participation, Events, Corporate and Commercial**. I believe we have more to achieve and we have great ambitions for our sport as we move into this Olympic/Paralympic year.

I thank the entire Rowing Australia team for their continued dedication, passion and expertise to improve all areas of our sport, particularly in a year that threw so many challenges their way. In particular I want to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of my **RA Leadership Team** colleagues Dhuse Manogram, Emily McOrist, Bernard Savage, Jaime Fernandez and the much valued support of Jaimee Newick.

I continue to thoroughly enjoy meeting and working with the dedicated and highly skilled workforce, including volunteers, albeit in 2020 this was in a more virtual sense, and I look forward to working with our national partners to collectively deliver the key strategic goals that will ensure rowing continues to grow, diversify and strengthen in 2021 and beyond.







# 2020 COMPETITION REPORT

## EVENTS

### 2020 AON SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL ROWING REGATTA 23 - 29 MARCH 2020, SYDNEY, NSW



SYDNEY  
INTERNATIONAL  
ROWING REGATTA  
23 - 29 MARCH 2020



The **2020 Aon Sydney International Rowing Regatta** was formally cancelled on Saturday 14 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Discussions and consultation between Ian Robson, Event and Medical staff began on 4 March, the group met and shared information regularly in an attempt to run the event in a COVID safe manner. The final decision followed Government advice restricting mass gatherings of more than 500 people. This decision involved not only the RA Executive but also RA Board, Council and State CEOs.

Discussions ensued about options to conduct the event later in 2020 in an abbreviated format, scaling from the current down to an interstate only regatta. Based on the rapidly changing situation at the time, the unknown outlook and the potential financial risk, it was decided that this was not feasible.

### 2020 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS 29 APRIL - 2 MAY 2020, LAKE BARRINGTON, TASMANIA



The **2020 Australian Masters Rowing Championships** to be held at Lake Barrington, Tasmania, following consultation with the Rowing Australia Masters Commission, was cancelled on Monday 16 March. The event will head to Tasmania within the coming years for our Masters community to enjoy the wonderful course that is Lake Barrington.

## WORLD ROWING INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Although all international competition was cancelled in 2020, the following umpires were selected to the jury of **World Rowing International Regattas**, RA congratulates them on this achievement. These umpires were given the opportunity to transfer to the same regatta in 2021.

REGATTA	LOCATION	DATES	UMPIRE
World Rowing Cup I	Sabaudia, Italy	10-12 April 2020	Gregory Melbourne
FISA Asian & Oceanian Olympic Qualification Regatta	Chung-Ju, Korea	27-29 April 2020	Rene Klupacs
FISA Final Paralympic Qualification Regatta	Gavirate, Italy	8-10 May 2020	Phillip Fraser
FISA Final Olympic Qualification Regatta	Lucerne, Switzerland	17-19 May 2020	Catherine Garrington
World Rowing Cup II	Lucerne, Switzerland	22-24 May 2020	Catherine Garrington
World Rowing Senior, Under 23 & Junior Championships	Bled, Slovenia	16-23 August 2020	Caroline Schomberg
World Rowing Masters Regatta	Linz-Ottensheim, Austria	2-6 September 2020	John Murdoch



**INDOOR ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

EVENT	GOLD MEDALLIST	TIME	EVENT	GOLD MEDALLIST	TIME
Under 14 W 500m	Isabella Deans	01:46.0	40-49 M PR3 500m	Andrew Tebbit	01:37.3
Under 16 W 500m	Ella McKenzie	01:39.9	50-54 M 500m	Mark Fountaine	01:22.5
Under 19 W 500m	Olenka Moran	01:38.2	50-54 ML 500m	Peter Roberts	01:30.5
Under 19 W PR3 500m	Kayley Mitchell	01:59.5	55-59 M 500m	Glenn Fitzpatrick	01:26.0
19-29 W 500m	Georgie Rowe	01:28.2	55-59 ML 500m	Mark Whittaker	01:34.5
19-29 WL 500m	Alexandra Moylan	01:39.4	60-64 M 500m	William Webb	01:31.5
19-29 W PR3 500m	Anu Francis	01:49.0	60-64 ML 500m	Henry Brycki	01:36.5
30-39 W 500m	Viv Culverwell	01:32.9	65-69 M 500m	Lindsay Hay	01:34.4
30-39 WL 500m	Jillian Tonihi	01:43.5	65-69 ML 500m	Nigel Finney	01:39.0
40-49 W 2000m	Mareesa Robertson	01:35.2	70-74 M 500m	Peter Beare	01:35.2
40-49 WL 500m	Emily Harridge	01:48.2	70-74 ML 500m	Branko Kovacic	01:45.4
50-54 W 500m	Karen Forbes	01:41.3	75-79 M 500m	David Berry	01:32.7
50-54 WL 500m	Lee Harrop	01:50.2	75-79 ML 500m	Peter Sheean	01:46.0
50-59 W PR3 500m	Simone Cottam	02:15.2	80-84 M 500m	Ian Wilson	01:56.5
55-59 W 500m	Lesley Duffy	01:45.0	85-89 M 500m	Dudley Creagh	02:57.2
55-59 WL 500m	Jennifer Wheelahan	02:04.7	85-89 ML 500m	Ken Stephens	02:24.0
60-64 W 500m	Sharon Jones	01:44.7	Under 14 W 1000m	Mia Kluth	03:50.2
60-64 WL 500m	Shelley Cornish	01:47.8	Under 16 W 1000m	Sarah Marriott	03:32.7
60-69 W PR3 500m	Lindy Hou	02:01.5	Under 19 W 1000m	Grace Turner	03:32.1
65-69 W 500m	Maria Scarlett	02:28.8	Under 19 W PR3 1000m	Kayley Mitchell	04:11.4
70-74 W 500m	Susan Kemp	02:00.3	19-29 W 1000m	Alex Hardy	03:48.0
70-74 WL 500m	Beverley Laundry	02:04.3	19-29 W PR3 1000m	Anu Francis	03:54.0
75-79 W 500m	Pauline Swan	02:30.7	30-39 W 1000m	Viv Culverwell	03:16.3
75-79 WL 500m	Gioia Berry	02:22.6	30-39 W PR1 1000m	Rosemary Little	05:47.9
80-84 W 500m	Gina Nicoletti	02:26.1	40-49 W 1000m	Helen Pearce	03:24.4
85-89 W 500m	Pam Agostini	03:06.6	40-49 WL 1000m	Emily Haridge	03:46.5
Under 14 M 500m	Lachlan Lloyd	01:41.3	50-54 W 1000m	Julie Bailey	03:42.9
Under 16 M 500m	Jake Schemen-Rogers	01:29.8	50-54 WL 1000m	Lee Harrop	03:58.0
Under 19 M 500m	Cormac Hayes	01:26.5	50-59 W PR3 1000m	Janet Etchells	04:49.7
Under 19 M PR3 500m	Brodie O'Reilly	02:13.2	55-59 W 1000m	Lisa Kendell	03:50.8
19-29 M 500m	Lachlan Wells	01:15.4	55-59 WL 1000m	Jennifer Wheelahan	04:09.0
19-29 ML 500m	William Legge	01:25.3	60-64 W 1000m	Peta Robinson	03:50.7
19-29 M PR3 500m	Mac Russell	01:38.8	60-64 WL 1000m	Clare Burrell	04:16.7
30-39 M 500m	Nathan Couper	01:18.2	60-69 W PR3 1000m	Lindy Hou	04:18.6
30-39 ML 500m	Adam Hazelgrove	01:29.7	65-69 W 1000m	Maria Scarlett	05:24.9
30-39 M PR2 500m	Simon Albury	01:46.7	70-74 W 1000m	Susan Kemp	04:15.0
30-39 M PR3 500m	Stuart John	01:42.3	70-74 WL 1000m	Beverley Laundry	04:21.2
40-49 M 500m	Matt Mulholland	01:21.9	Under 14 M 1000m	Lachlan Lloyd	03:45.5
40-49 ML 500m	Sven Wittchen	01:29.5	Under 16 M 1000m	Kalen Routley	03:12.6
40-49 M PR1 500m	Tristin Condon	02:25.7			

EVENT	GOLD MEDALLIST	TIME
Under 19 M 1000m	Adam Holland	03:02.3
Under 19 M PR3 1000m	Brodie O'Reilly	04:34.5
19-29 M 1000m	Jack Whitehead	02:58.9
19-29 ML 1000m	Barnabas Bene	03:17.2
19-29 M PR3 1000m	Mac Russell	03:29.6
30-39 M 1000m	Nathan Couper	02:56.7
30-39 ML 1000m	Adam Hazelgrove	03:12.7
30-39 M PR3 1000m	Gary Wilson	03:40.5
40-49 M 1000m	Paul Higginbotham	03:07.6
40-49 ML 1000m	Richard McDougall	03:11.6
40-49 M PR1 1000m	Tristin Condon	04:56.0
40-49 M PR3 1000m	Andrew Tebbit	03:34.7
50-54 M 1000m	John Thomson	03:00.8
50-54 ML 1000m	Mathew Kaley	03:22.3
55-59 M 1000m	Glenn Fitzpatrick	03:09.9
55-59 ML 1000m	Mark Whittaker	03:24.3
60-64 M 1000m	Oliver Short	03:19.0
60-69 M PR3 1000m	James Johnson	03:54.9
65-69 M 1000m	Lindsay Hay	03:27.1
70-74 M 1000m	Peter Beare	03:30.7
70-74 ML 1000m	Branko Kovacic	03:43.4
75-79 M 1000m	George Petelin	03:33.4
75-79 ML 1000m	Peter Sheean	03:42.0
80-84 M 1000m	Ian Wilson	04:12.1
90+ M PR3 1000m	Vince Home	05:20.1
Under 14 W 2000m	Isabella Deans	07:52.1
Under 16 W 2000m	Sarah Marriott	07:12.5
Under 19 W 2000m	Harriet Wallace	07:07.0
Under 19 W PR3 2000m	Kayley Mitchell	08:41.3
19-29 W 2000m	Xanthe Hadfield	07:29.4
19-29 W PR3 2000m	Anu Francis	08:05.6
30-39 W 2000m	Viv Culverwell	06:56.7
30-39 W PR2 2000m	Kathryn Ross	08:02.5
40-49 W 2000m	Helen Pearce	06:57.8
40-49 WL 2000m	Lisa Bates	08:12.3
50-54 W 2000m	Jane Robinson	07:25.0
50-54 WL 2000m	Mary-Ann Millar	07:57.7
50-59 W PR3 2000m	Janet Etchells	09:54.9
55-59 W 2000m	Lesley Duffy	07:40.7

EVENT	GOLD MEDALLIST	TIME
55-59 WL 2000m	Annette Sherratt	08:33.7
60-64 W 2000m	Peta Robinson	08:01.8
60-64 WL 2000m	Clare Burrell	08:41.7
60-69 W PR3 2000m	Lindy Hou	08:54.6
70-74 W 2000m	Susan Kemp	08:43.7
70-74 WL 2000m	Beverley Laundry	08:56.8
75-79 W 2000m	Pauline Swan	10:46.7
Under 14 M 2000m	Carter Clifton	07:48.0
Under 16 M 2000m	Kalen Routley	06:51.8
Under 19 M 2000m	Adam Holland	06:09.2
Under 19 M PR3 2000m	Brodie O'Reilly	09:49.8
19-29 M 2000m	Samuel Button	06:27.4
19-29 ML 2000m	Will Golding	06:50.0
19-29 M PR3 2000m	Mac Russell	07:00.3
30-39 M 2000m	Matt Dickie	06:15.2
30-39 ML 2000m	Luke Schofield	06:39.5
30-39 M PR2 2000m	Simon Albury	08:14.7
30-39 M PR3 2000m	Stuart John	07:54.3
40-49 M 2000m	Michael Marsh	06:10.6
40-49 ML 2000m	Jamie Hammond	06:39.1
40-49 M PR1 2000m	Tristin Condon	10:15.2
40-49 M PR3 2000m	Andrew Tebbit	07:31.8
50-54 M 2000m	John Thomson	06:13.5
50-54 ML 2000m	Mathew Kaley	07:09.8
55-59 M 2000m	Bob McCarthy	06:33.8
55-59 ML 2000m	Michael Kowal	07:10.3
60-64 M 2000m	Oliver Short	07:08.7
60-64 ML 2000m	Bill Nugent	07:14.3
60-69 M PR3 2000m	James Johnson	08:03.5
65-69 M 2000m	Lindsay Hay	07:13.3
65-69 ML 2000m	Nigel Finney	07:36.9
70-74 M 2000m	Peter Beare	07:20.5
70-74 ML 2000m	Branko Kovacic	07:43.2
75-79 M 2000m	George Petelin	07:11.7
75-79 ML 2000m	Peter Sheean	07:42.2
80-84 M 2000m	Ian Wilson	08:42.5
85-89 ML 2000m	Ken Stephens	11:55.8
90+ M PR3 2000m	Vince Home	11:07.3



TEAM RELAY	TIME	RELAY MEMBER 1	RELAY MEMBER 2	RELAY MEMBER 3	RELAY MEMBER 4
Under 19 M Relay	01:26.8	Tom Oldfield	Nick Burr	Jeremy Beale	Adam Holland
Under 19 W Relay	01:42.3	Grace Turner	Liv Nattery	Lauren Golding	Neve James
Under 19 Mixed Relay	01:47.5	Bianca Kollberg	Sebastian Cole	Rohan Harding	Raphael Quiray
19-39 M Relay	01:24.0	Cameron Girdlestone	Liam Donald	Timothy Masters	Simon Keenan
19-39 W Relay	01:43.8	Alexandra Moylan	Nikki Greenland	Harriet Wallace	Charlotte Ryan
19-39 Mixed Relay	01:42.6	Pavel Oborin	Mayne Campbell	Alex Kinsman	Amy Catlin
40+ M Relay	01:31.3	Matt Casey	Jens Muenster	Tony Berry	Scott Alarv
40+ W Relay	01:45.3	Katrina Ward	Nadia Guillaumier	Lisa Kendell	Nicole Perry
40+ Mixed Relay	01:44.9	Niki Calastas	Vic Sibillin	Jennifer Wheelahan	Peter Sedawie

The **2020 AIRC** saw the introduction of the inaugural **Pointscore Competition**. **Radford College (ACT)**, **Richmond Rowing Club (VIC)** and **Swan Athletic (NSW)** took out first, second and third place in the Overall Pointscore. **Radford College** claimed victory in the Overall Schools and the Under 14, Under 16 and 19 categories, while **Richmond Rowing Club** won the Overall Club Pointscore and **Swan Athletic** won the Overall Gym Pointscore. Our appreciation goes to **Bont Rowing** for generously providing prizes for all our Pointscore winners. Also introduced was allowing participants to compete virtually from wherever they were. This enabled Victorians as well as many others across the country and overseas to compete.

The support of **Coles** in sponsoring 250 youngsters to compete was also greatly appreciated.

### THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

RA would like to sincerely thank those volunteers, contractors and staff that worked tirelessly toward the **Australian Rowing Championships** and **Australian Masters Rowing Championships**. It was devastating for these groups not to see their hard work come to fruition in 2020. RA would also like to thank, on behalf of the athletes and coaches that participated in the **Australian Indoor Rowing Championships**, those venue hosts and volunteers for enabling that event to be run in a COVID safe environment.



#### Alice Evans

Competition & Events  
Manager  
Rowing Australia





ROWING  
PARTICIPATION &  
DEVELOPMENT





## COACH EDUCATION

The **three online coaching courses** continue to allow coaches the flexibility of completing anywhere and at anytime (Level 1 or Riggers accreditation), and Level 2 a combination of online and face to face.

The one-year old Level 2 course has exceeded our expectations with 184 coaches paying to do the course in its first 12 months. **It has generated income of \$64,400** of which \$40,480 has been paid to the States for delivering the workshops. Although the delivery of the workshops by the **State Rowing Associations** was impacted by COVID, the feedback on the course has been positive. It has also successfully addressed the previous issue, where many coaches sat the course but never completed the subsequent assessment. Now although numerous coaches have had to return to complete further work on their rigging, all coaches who have attended the workshop have gone on to gain the accreditation.

For the second year Rowing Australia (RA) awarded coaching scholarships, valued at \$11,200 each, for the **University of Queensland** Graduate Certificate in Sports Coaching. This year they went to Charly Iron of **Queenwood School Sydney**, and Agustin Radero from **University of Queensland Boat Club**.

The October **Coaching and Officiating Conference** was postponed by 12 months and will be held on the Gold Coast from the 15-18 October or remotely if circumstances dictate it.

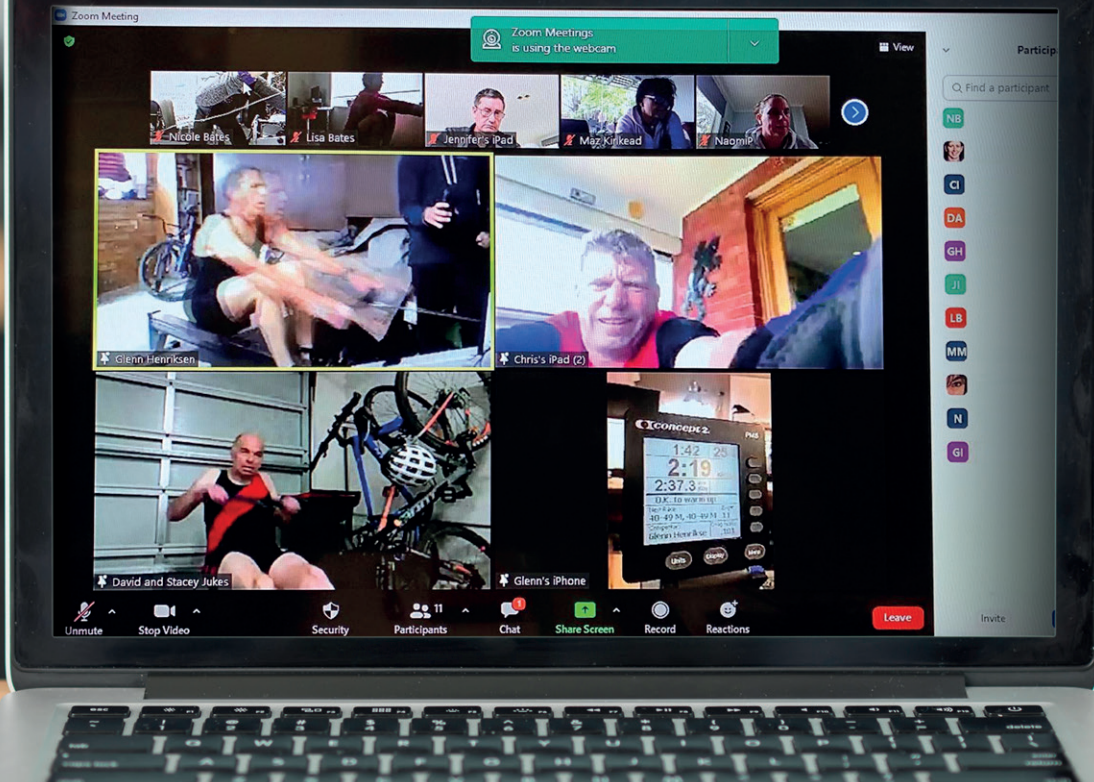
The following table shows the accredited coaches as at 31 December 2020, with comparative figures from 2019 provided in brackets.



### RON BATT

Participation &  
Education Manager  
Rowing Australia

	ACCREDITED AT 31/12/20	MALE	FEMALE	M/F %
Learn to Row Coach <b>LEVEL 1</b>	1782 (1968)	938	844	53/47
Club/School Coach <b>LEVEL 2</b>	419 (322)	310	109	74/26
Performance Rowing Coach – <b>LEVEL 3</b>	107 (119)	92	15	86/14
High Performance Coach – <b>LEVEL 4</b>	10 (10)	10	0	100/0
Riggers Coach	23 (9)	12	11	52/48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2341 (2428)</b>	1362 (1410)	979 (1018)	58/42 (58/42)



## INDOOR ROWING

There were numerous positive outcomes during the year as RA continued to drive the growth of our sport through Indoor Rowing. We were able to try a few different events:

### INDOOR INTERSTATE REGATTA

For the first time an Interstate regatta was held. This participation event enabled individuals to send in their metres over 10 days which counted towards their State's score. **Queensland** were crowned the inaugural winners. The State clocked an **incredible 22,483,408 metres** during the event that ran in April. The **Northern Territory** recorded the most metres per participant, an **impressive 96,335 metres per entrant**, while **Tasmania** came in second with **59,683 metres per participant**. The event was launched with the cancellation of **Australia's Interstate Regatta** and the new government restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and proved to be a hit with nearly 1800 participants from across the country; the online event saw **Australians record 78,447,238 metres during the two-week event** – enough metres to almost circumnavigate the globe twice. This will now be an annual event.

**OVERALL TOTALS** - the two Interstate winners in yellow

State	Metres	Number of Participants	Metres per Participant
ACT	4,277,246	107	39,974
NSW	12,747,667	316	40,341
<b>QLD</b>	<b>22,483,408</b>	580	38,764
SA	5,386,765	113	47,670
TAS	13,428,577	225	59,683
VIC	14,531,913	302	48,119
WA	3,761,302	93	40,444
<b>NT</b>	1,830,361	19	<b>96,335</b>
	<b>78,447,238</b>	<b>1755</b>	<b>44,699</b>



## ANZAC DAY INDOOR ROWING CHALLENGE

Also in April, the inaugural **Anzac Day Indoor Rowing Challenge** was held in competition with New Zealand. All involved rowed 2504 metres (to represent the 25th day of the fourth month of the year – Anzac Day). Participants could complete the distance as many times as they wished during the day. **New Zealand won, rowing on average 2504m six times, while Australians averaged four times.** There were some massive personal metres clocked, between 70-100,000 metres!

### A summary of the key stats are below:

- 1500 participants (862 Australia and 638 New Zealand).
  - 19,398 kilometres rowed in total by Australians and New Zealanders.
  - Total number of participants (1,500) is 14% of the total number of Anzac lives estimated to have been lost during Gallipoli.
  - Total distance recorded by both countries is 19,398 kms.
  - The social media interaction was on par, if not beyond that of our National Championships or even a World Championships.
  - The Colgan Foundation donated of \$3,000 NZD to Royal NZ Returned and Services Association (RSA) and \$2,000 AUD to the RSL Australia ANZAC Appeal.
- 
- Across the two April competitions there were a total of 2,617 Australian participants.
  - 392 people did both the Interstate and Anzac Day Regatta.
  - These will now both be annual events.



## FOUR NATIONS CHALLENGES

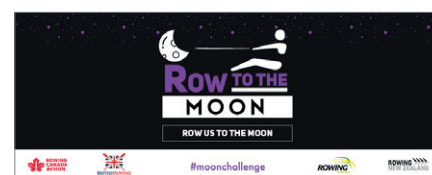
Working with **British Rowing, Rowing Canada Aviron** and **Rowing NZ**, a **One Minute Challenge** race and then an extremely ambitious **Row to the Moon** event took place during May. There was no charge to enter these events and they were fully inclusive with categories across gender, age, weight and para classifications. The active leader board allowed people to attempt the **One Minute** more than once, increasing engagement over the four days it ran.

The **Row to the Moon** ran for 10 days with all four nations combine to log metres to get an ergo to the moon - **384.4 million metres**. An active leader board ran showing the combined distance of all countries and distance per participant for each country.

All these events above were driven by the desire to offer some activities to those who could get on an ergo during the COVID lockdowns.

### The outcomes were incredibly positive:

- Significant publicity for the sport nationally and internationally, including on TV.
- Australian athletes broke over 30 World Records.
- Exceptionally good engagement by a wide range of participants. People from over 32 countries joined in the Moon adventure with a Canadian Astronaut helping promote it.



## THE AUSTRALIAN INDOOR ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS (AIRC)

The **AIRC** entry numbers increased in this challenging year for running events.

**The total number of participants grew to 941 from 678 in 2019.**

The switch to allow virtual entries had a significant impact. As a result, Victorians (who were in lock down), and those all over the country and overseas were able to join in.

We are grateful to **Coles** who sponsored 250 school entries, **Bont Shoes** who sponsored the point score and **776BC** and **Aon** for their support. See the Competition report for the winners across all categories and the full results are available here: [rowingaustralia.com.au/about-events/airc](http://rowingaustralia.com.au/about-events/airc)

- 20% of people who competed in the **2020 AIRC** (and not the 2019 **AIRC**) also participated in one or more of the COVID-19 lockdown Challenges (**Interstate Regatta, ANZAC Challenge, 1min Rip, Row to the Moon**).
- 40% of people who entered the **AIRC** have never rowed on water.
- \$4705 was raised for the **Cancer Council**.
- The three free training programs again proved to be popular as did the **776BC** event T-shirts for the first 400 entrants.



## INDOOR ROWING ENGAGEMENT IN 2020

Event	No. of participants	No. of programs
One Minute Challenge	629	Part of the Four Nations Challenge in May
AIRC	941	n/a
Anzac Day Indoor Rowing Challenge	856	n/a
GRow	284	19
Indoor Interstate Regatta	1735	n/a
Riggers	768	12
Row to the Moon	454	Part of the Four Nations Challenge in May
<b>Total</b>	<b>5667</b>	<b>31</b>





## OTHER INDOOR ROWING NEWS:

- In December, alongside **Rowing NZ**, we helped run the Oceania qualifiers for the **World Rowing Indoor Rowing Championships** that are held in February each year.
- The Indoor Rowing newsletter was distributed throughout the year.
- Interbrand's work on a rebrand for indoor rowing continued.

## SPORTING SCHOOLS – RIGGERS PROGRAM

RA's **Riggers** program is funded by **Sport Australia's (SA) Sporting Schools program**.

The **Riggers** program is indoor rowing with an on-water option. The 14 different games offered encourage learning by doing and range from simple to more complex games.

Although our **Sporting Schools program** was heavily impacted by the pandemic, it still had 1019 students involved in 14 indoor and two on-water programs compared to 1096 students in 22 programs in 2019.

## GROW INDOOR ROWING PROGRAM

The **Move It AUS** grant of \$211,000 from **Sport Australia** that RA received in 2019 is for the **GRow indoor rowing program**. We pay coaches to deliver the program that is targeted at getting four groups of inactive Australians active.

**The targeted inactive groups are -**

- youths in secondary schools
- youths in custody at Youth Correctional Centres
- new mothers and
- inactive adults in the community

Due to the pandemic we were unable to run these programs for most of 2020 and have now had the closing date of the program extended to 30 June 2021. There were seven programs with 314 participants in 2020.

**Concept 2** ergos are shipped to locations or the program pays to hire them. More coaches are needed. An online course is available to train people to deliver the program.

This is an opportunity for clubs and coaches to generate additional income as well as potentially attract new rowers. If interested, please contact [indoorrowing@rowingaustralia.com.au](mailto:indoorrowing@rowingaustralia.com.au)



## COASTAL ROWING

The **Coastal Rowing Working Group** (CRWG) was formed mid-year and has met monthly under the chair of **RA Board** member Sarah Cook. Each State and Territory has nominated a member, the group members are Margot Harley (NSW), Alison Creagh (ACT), Dan Tackenberg (WA), James Cowley (TAS), Creagh Mecham (QLD), Andrew Guerin (VIC), Philip Patterson (SA), Ian Robson, Emily McOrist, Ron Batt and Alice Evans (RA).

### The CRWG's objective is to:

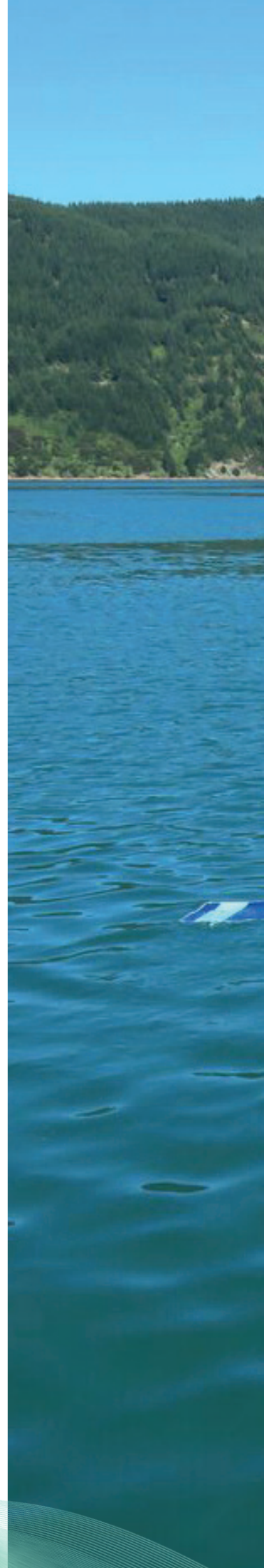
- develop a comprehensive strategy for the growth and development of Coastal Rowing in Australia, through a collaborative approach between the states and Rowing Australia,
- advance Coastal Rowing as a discipline of rowing in Australia, by increasing participation and running events,
- establish a performance pathway for rowers to compete at international Coastal Rowing events.

A strategic plan has been developed and although **Coastal Rowing** will not be in the **Olympic Games** until at least 2028, we will develop and grow this branch of rowing over the coming years. We are perfectly positioned to capitalise on the opportunities that **Coastal Rowing** provides. Our rich history in rowing, and links to the beach and water, provide strong connections to this exciting discipline that will be part of the future of rowing in Australia. Visually, **Coastal Rowing** is spectacular and there are opportunities to leverage venues that showcase some of Australia's most iconic places. Additionally, with the likely removal of lightweight rowing from the **Olympic Games** and the possible inclusion of **Coastal Rowing** there are potentially three Olympic Gold Medals on the line. **Coastal Rowing** may also help retain school, club and university rowers.

## CONCLUSION

Some planned activities had to be cancelled or postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic. They included the **Rower of the Year Awards**, the **Student World Indoor Rowing Challenge**, the **Coaching & Officiating Conference**, and engagement in **Australian Sports Camps**. However, there were also exciting opportunities especially with **Indoor Rowing** and **Coastal Rowing**. The noticeable increase in the use of the indoor rowing machines and their undoubted ability to connect people across the world in a global community came to the fore. The **Anzac Day Indoor Rowing Challenge** struck a particularly strong chord and along with the **Interstate Regatta** will now become an annual event. **Coastal Rowing** also offers us a wonderful way to engage a new community in rowing both racing and participating.

The vision and support of Ian Robson and the **RA Board** to grow Participation and Development is appreciated. Special thanks are due to Bryan Weir, Georgia Beattie and Sarah Cook for all their efforts in this area, as well as to the **State Associations**. The dedication and effort put in by Nadine Morrison and Kathleen Hextell is also much appreciated.







# HIGH PERFORMANCE REPORT



## BERNARD SAVAGE

Performance Director  
Rowing Australia



## JAIME FERNANDEZ

Deputy Performance Director  
Rowing Australia

## OVERVIEW

2020 was certainly not the year we had all imagined. Throughout the cycle our athletes and coaches had been building towards the **Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games**. As we entered 2020, we were facing the immediate challenge of the horrific bushfires the eastern states were experiencing. Little did we know this would not be the only, or most significant, challenge facing our athletes, coaches and staff. Very soon after our Selection Trials both the **Paralympic** and **Olympic Games** were postponed, our training environments shut down, and our athletes were facing a very uncertain time with regards to their respective Paralympic and Olympic dreams.

It was also an interesting time for the Pathway, and indeed for all athletes across the country. All Underage trialling activities and international tours were cancelled due to the COVID pandemic, however this presented a unique opportunity to discuss, explore, plan and review in ways we have been unable to in the past. As a result, the Pathway undertook and delivered several long-term initiatives and projects.

## HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMISSION

The **High Performance Commission (HPC)** is a Board sub-committee that is responsible for the oversight of the implementation of our High Performance Plan. The **HPC** considers and advises the **RA Board** and Management on strategic issues relevant to High Performance rowing. The focus of the Commission is to maximize medal outcomes at the **2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games** and achieve our agreed performance targets in the following key areas - Leadership and Governance, Athlete Performance and Pathways, Coaching, the Daily Training Environment, Competition, Performance services, Culture and Personal Excellence, and Research and Innovation.

The **HPC** is chaired by Rowing Australia Deputy Chair, Flavia Gobbo. Throughout the year, Flavia was joined by the following members:

- Bernard Savage (Performance Director)
- Jaime Fernandez (Deputy Performance Director)
- Tim Conrad
- Hannah Every-Hall (RA Athletes' Commission Chair)
- Geoff Lipshut (Independent Member)
- Ian Robson (CEO) ex-officio

Toward the end of 2020, we came to the end of the term for Hannah as the **RA Athletes' Commission (RAAC)** Chair and therefore her role on the **HPC**. We thank Hannah for her work as the RAAC Chair and for her invaluable contribution to the work of the **HPC**. Hannah will be replaced on the **HPC** by David Crawshay, who was appointed Chair of the **RAAC** in October 2020.

We thank the Commission for their dedication and commitment to ensuring strategic oversight to the **High Performance program**.

## RA ATHLETES' COMMISSION (RAAC)

The **RAAC** continues to play an important role in maintaining effective communication between the athlete group and the leadership of the **High Performance program**. Hannah Every-Hall has been the Chair of the **Athletes' Commission** and has led an active and engaging Commission through 2020. This year is the conclusion of Hannah's term, with Olympic gold medallist, David Crawshay, stepping into the role. We welcome David and look forward to continue to work with him in this important role.



## PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### 2020 AUSTRALIAN TEAM SELECTION PANELS

2020 saw our selection panels remain consistent, at a senior level led by Brian Richardson as Chair of the **Selection Panels** including Para. The **Underage Panel** remained unchanged with independent Chair, Andrew Stunell joined by Head Pathways Coach Lyall McCarthy and the independent member Simon Burgess, however with the **Underage Trials** not conducted the panel unfortunately was not required.

Senior Men	Senior Women	Underage (U23, U21, Junior)	Para-Rowing
Brian Richardson (Chair)	Brian Richardson (Chair)	Andrew Stunell (Chair)	Brian Richardson (Chair)
Ian Wright	John Keogh	Simon Burgess	Gordon Marcks
Mark Prater	Ellen Randell	Lyall McCarthy	Pamela Whiting
Andrew Randell	Tom Westgarth		

John Boulton was again appointed to the role of Ombudsman for both the **Senior and Underage/Para Selection Trials**. John Boulton was the official observer, advisor, mediator and appeal body at this event and we thank him for his considered and prudent counsel to the Selection Panels and athletes alike.

### SENIOR PROGRAM ACTIVITY

We started 2020 with a sense of excitement about our program and the build up to the **Paralympic and Olympic Games**. Our first challenge however was both our **National Training Centre (NTC)** environments significantly impacted by smoke from the bushfires ravaging a large part of NSW. We very quickly relocated both our programs to Tasmania; our women based in Launceston on the Tamar, our men at Lake Barrington. This rapid turnaround would not of been possible without the help and support of Rob Prescott and Jim Gibson from **Rowing Tasmania**, along with the support of **Tamar Rowing Club, North Esk Rowing Club** and the team at the **Tasmanian Institute of Sport**. A big thank you to all involved with this relocation and to the communities in Launceston and around Barrington that made our groups feel so welcome.

The preparation time set us well for Trials which we conducted at the start of March. We selected what we considered to be a very competitive **Australian Rowing Team** to prepare towards the Games, with some strong crews also to contest the **Paralympic and Olympic Final Qualification Regattas**. Our coaches felt genuine excitement about the performance potential for these athletes and crews. Not two weeks after this however, we were dealing with the reality of a global pandemic which was impacting both internationally and domestically. The Games were postponed, our NTCs were shut down, and our Olympic and Paralympic athletes returned to their home training environments for an unknown period of time.

Our **NTC** environments were shut down for the best part of three months. The centres re-commenced under strict protocols and processes outlined in our **Sport Reboot Plan**, in mid-June 2020. While there were some restrictions and modifications to the normal activity, the athletes and coaches adapted quickly. The centres have continued to adapt to the changing COVID environment, in particular in Penrith. This is a credit to the coaches, athletes and staff that impacts on the training are minimised while maintaining the safety and integrity of the environment.

The year ended positively with the opportunity to get a large number of Senior and Para-Rowing athletes, along with some invited Pathway athletes, together for the **December Time Trial**. Getting the groups together was a fantastic outcome, with the real positive being the chance for the athletes to once again race. This was a really important activity at the end of what had been a very difficult year for our athletes.

While this was occurring, we also had our changeroom facilities at the **Reinhold Batschi Men's National Training Centre** upgraded. The original change rooms from 1984 had well past being fit for purpose. Thanks to **Sport Australia** for the funding to complete these works and to Wayne Diplock and Jaimee Newick for managing the process from an RA perspective.

### PARA-ROWING PROGRAM ACTIVITY

It is a testament to the perseverance of the athletes and coaches in our **Para program** that most were able to return to well-structured training. These athletes were also well supported within the **National Institute Network**. Many athletes turned their attention to isolated training with a particular focus on indoor rowing. A highlight of the 2020 season was the huge interest in **ergometer rowing and virtual competition** which lead to many Australian Para athletes marking their time and training with a significant number of World Records. This was across a huge spectrum of athletes which included the U12 through to 90-99 age divisions, PR1 through to PR3 and intellectually impaired sport classes as well as club rower through to Paralympian and multiple World Champions. An extraordinary story of achievement in a year of adversity.

The continuing development of the depth of our para-rowing program was a feature of the 2019/20 season, particularly within the PR3 category. Our depth continues to grow in this boat class and there is a clear path forward for qualification for the **Paralympics**.

The classification assessment by the team of Rowing Australia trained classifiers is a vitally important gateway in to Para-Rowing. Rowing Australia was fortunate to be able to complete its planned domestic classifications for 2020, welcoming a number of new athletes into the sport at the **NSW Championships** in February. This is achieved with significant on-going support from **Paralympics Australia**.

Opportunities for further training with **World Rowing** for international classifiers, as well as international classification activity involving Rowing Australia athletes was suspended for 2020 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

## PATHWAY PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Two valuable resources were developed specifically for the national Pathway, with underpinning Fact Sheets also created as summary documents.

- The **US Recruiting Guide** was developed to assist athletes and parents understand the US Collegiate system in order to make informed decisions. It offers a guide into the system and looks to answer questions regarding the process of attending College in the US.
- The **Planning For Success** resource was developed specifically for prospective national team members, setting out and highlighting the requirements and expectations of representation and helps athletes better understand and manage their own circumstances and commitments.

Both resources are available publicly on the RA website, were distributed directly to coaches and athletes, shared through social media channels and are being used by the network in educating coaches, athletes and their parents.

The Pathway team undertook significant remote engagement with our national network of coaches through delivery of a series of webinars led by Pathways Head Coach, Lyall McCarthy, and facilitated by Pathways Science Lead, Dr Tony Rice. More than 20 sessions were conducted, with each recorded and provided to participants.

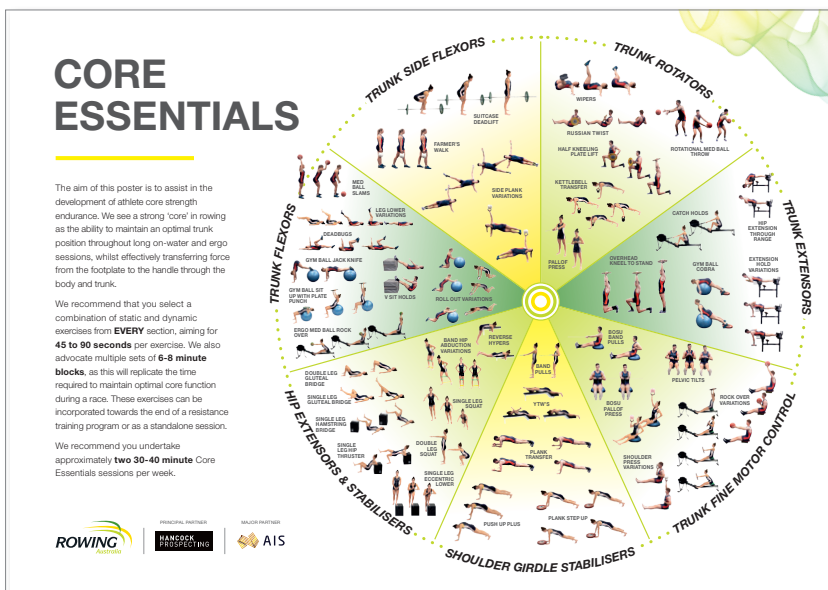
- **WEBinar 1:** Blade Work and Grip
- **WEBinar 2:** Stroke Sequence
- **WEBinar 3:** Physiology and Training
- **WEBinar 4:** Why Rig?
- **WEBinar 5:** Practical Rigging demonstration

Additionally, a **'Core Essentials'** poster was developed to assist in the development of athlete core strength endurance and made available on the RA website for the wider rowing community.

The team were afforded the opportunity to increase engagement with our US-based athlete cohort and establish strong relationships with our US College contacts. As a result of being unable to travel to the US, we managed to meet via video conference with the Head Coaches or Recruiters of over 40 College rowing programs; this would not have been possible, nor as effective and efficient, if these were conducted face-to-face in the US.

The majority of US-based Australian athletes returned to Australia mid-2020 and, with such a high degree of uncertainty, some athletes remain here indefinitely, choosing to conduct their studies remotely or deferring their US studies until the landscape becomes more certain. We are working closely with this cohort to assist with juggling US study requirements and timetables while living and training in Australia, providing support for athletes seeking to race in the Australian domestic season in order to ensure they aren't contravening the regulations of their College scholarship and working with Colleges in order to create flexibility and tailor their programs in response to the COVID environment. Additionally, we continue to provide counsel to athletes interested in the US College experience and looking to understand the complex recruitment landscape.

We capitalised on the opportunity presented by COVID to re-evaluate how we could train and motivate our athletes in the restricted environment and undertook a nine-week investigation to study the effects of different methods of high-intensity training on rowing performance. Approximately 35 national level U21 and U23 athletes from various Pathway training centres across the country participated. The findings indicated that a short block of high-intensity training improves 2000m rowing performance in elite rowers, with an additional block producing smaller gains with greater individual variability. The method of high-intensity training appeared to be less important than the dose.





## THANKS

Along with the team of dedicated High Performance staff there are a number of organisations and additional consultants, volunteers and supporters to thank for their efforts and significant contribution to the Rowing Australia **High Performance Program** in 2020.

### HANCOCK PROSPECTING

**Hancock Prospecting** is a major partner of Rowing Australia. Their invaluable support, along with that of their Chair, and RA Patron, **Mrs Gina Rinehart**, is something we are extremely grateful for. The direct financial support that our athletes and programs receive from **Hancock Prospecting** enables our athletes to continue to focus on performing to the highest level for their country. The support from **Hancock Prospecting** also contributes significantly to our **Women's National Training Centre** on the banks of the Nepean River in Penrith.

**HANCOCK  
PROSPECTING**

### SPORT AUSTRALIA AND AIS

**Sport Australia** and the **AIS** are both critical major partners of rowing. Without the substantial funding allocation that we are provided through the **AIS**, we would clearly struggle to conduct the comprehensive program we now run throughout Australia.



### AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND PARALYMPICS AUSTRALIA

The **AOC** and **PA** have continued to be a great supporters for and of rowing and this strong support continues with the ongoing planning for the postponed **2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games**.



### AIS EUROPEAN TRAINING CENTRE (ETC)

The **AIS European Training Centre (ETC)** staff, led by Warwick Forbes, while not required in 2020, assisted with our initial understanding of the situation on the ground in Europe. We look forward to seeing them again and for the support they will continue to provide into the future.

Our thoughts are also with our friends at the **Gavirate Rowing Club**. We thank them for their support during our extensive training camps in Italy and wish them all the best during this difficult time.

### NEW SOUTH WALES INSTITUTE OF SPORT

**NSWIS** provide significant support to the **Hancock Prospecting Women's National Training Centre** through Strength and Conditioning coach Dave Young, and additional support in Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement. This support is invaluable to us, thank you to **NSWIS** for its ongoing support and to the staff for the contribution to the success for the program.



### HIGH PERFORMANCE STAFF AND COACHING TEAM

Jaime Fernandez, Wayne Diplock, Georgie Lee, Naomi Wagstaff and Emily Partridge work tirelessly behind the scenes to support the programs and Teams of the **High Performance unit**, thank you all for your dedication and commitment.

Recognition and acknowledgement must also go to our coaching team: Head Coaches Ian Wright (Men), John Keogh (Women), Gordon Marcks (Para-Rowing) and Lyall McCarthy (Pathways) along with our Senior Coaches, Mark Prater and Andrew Randell for the **men's NTC program** and Ellen Randell and Tom Westgarth for the **women's NTC Program**.

### SPORTS SCIENCE AND SPORTS MEDICINE TEAM

Dr Lisa Elkington, Phil Cossens, Tristan Shippides, Bronwen Lundy, Sam Lewis, Amanda McCredie, Nathan Versey, Erin McCleave, Tony Rice, Kirsten Everett, the NTC support staff and the whole medical and science team around Australia who support our **National Teams and Pathway program**. Thank you also to Bianca Fermi our Athlete Wellbeing & Engagement Manager and the team of AW&E advisers throughout the **SIS/SAS Network**. We thank you for your dedication, support and expertise through this very challenging year.

### ROWING AUSTRALIA STAFF

Within the RA office Ian Robson, Dhuse Manogram, Emily McOrist, Jaimee Newick, Taneesh Ahmad, Lucy Benjamin, and Sarah Carnahan have all contributed to the **HP Program** throughout the year in significant ways – thank you.



### ATHLETES/COACHES/FAMILIES AND SUPPORTERS

We also sincerely thank our athletes and coaches, their families and supporters for their huge commitment, as they strive to be the best they can be.

# ATHLETES' COMMISSION REPORT



## DAVID CRAWSHAY OAM

Chair - Rowing Australia  
Athletes' Commission

"A year like no other" is a phrase we have heard a lot since February 2020 when many of us first learnt about a new condition called the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The pandemic has seen massive changes in Australia and around the world as we grapple with a paradigm shift in how we work, travel and interact with others.

Sport, like most other parts of society, has borne the brunt of this disruption, with local, state, national and international competitions cancelled or tentatively postponed.

In our own sport of rowing, at this time we would ordinarily be celebrating the efforts of our Olympians and Paralympians, as well as our under-23, under-21 and under-19 athletes in their respective competitions. We would be recounting the successes of our crews and scullers, the stories of perseverance and the new names that have been written into rowing folklore. This is not to be... at least, not yet.

Instead, we have been equally as proud to witness an athlete group that has been flexible and resilient in order to stay motivated in the wake of events such as:

- the relocation of athletes from the **Hancock Prospecting Women's NTC** and the **Reinhold Batschi Men's NTC** to Northern Tasmania in January 2020 due to the effects of the devastating bushfires in South-Eastern Australia;
- the cancellation of the **2020 Australian Rowing Championships** at Penrith in March 2020, as well as of countless other local and state regattas;
- the tough decision to return NTC athletes to their home bases in late March 2020 in the wake of the announcement of the postponement of the **Olympics** and **Paralympics**, and the challenge of "remote" training;
- the effect of lockdowns in various states and border closures for the decentralised para-rowing group and for Victorian members of the **NTCs**; and
- the reintroduction of training at the **NTCs** and within the para-rowing group.

These are the qualities that will stand our rowers in good stead as they compete at the postponed **2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and Paralympic Games**.

Australia will send away at least eight boats to the Olympics, including our **2019 World Championship Women's Four**, and silver medallist Women's Eight and Women's Pair and bronze medallist Men's Pair. Other boats that were unlucky to miss out on the podium in 2019 will also be keen to share in the success. On the **Paralympic** side, Australia will be represented by **2019 World Championship** bronze medallist Erik Horrie, as well as the PR3 Mixed Coxed Four.

At the time of writing, RA is considering the option of sending away for qualification the Men's Double Sculls, Women's Quadruple Scull, Men's and Women's Lightweight Double Scull and the PR2 Mixed Double Scull at the **Final Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regattas** in Lucerne and Gavirate in May and June 2021 respectively. A final decision on this will be made later and arrangements will be put in place to ensure athlete and coach safety during any period where they are away from Australia.

RA will not be sending away any other athletes to Europe for training and racing, making the early decision not to tour in light of the pandemic. While obviously disappointing for athletes, the decision gives certainty that the bulk of Australia's crews can train in a relatively risk-free environment here.

The **Rowing Australia Athletes' Commission (RAAC)** is the body tasked with representing athlete interests to the RA Board, executive and high performance and advocating on behalf of Australia's elite athletes. The **RAAC** is a collection of athletes from the leadership teams of the Men's NTC, Women's NTC and the para-rowing group, as well as several recently retired rowers. They comprise five women and five men, including one a piece from the para-rowing group. In addition, there are two female members who are ex-officio and a male chair. Lightweights are currently represented by one current female athlete and one retired female athlete. The chair of the **RAAC** holds a voting position on the RA Board, highlighting the importance that RA places on it. It is an extremely impressive group of individuals who between them bring a great deal of corporate knowledge and expertise. In November 2020 I had the honour of taking over the position of chair from Hannah Every-Hall, who steered the **RAAC** for the full four-year period. Hannah has been an energetic and passionate advocate for athlete interests over this time. She leaves the position in great shape and is owed a massive debt of gratitude.



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Over the last year, the **RAAC** has been engaged in many of the major decisions affecting athletes. The **RAAC** has helped to ensure as smooth a transition as possible in the wake of the sending home of athletes from the **NTC** and their return. It has been active in the athlete-led response to a cultural review into the **Men's NTC** commissioned by consultant and ex-navy member Grant Dale, which has brought about some positive and lasting changes. It has also continually pushed to bring clarity in communication between athletes and high performance in the able-bodied and para-rowing groups.

But as we leave behind the events of 2020 and look forward with excitement to Tokyo this year, we keep one eye fixed on what lies beyond.

**The Hancock Prospecting Women's NTC and Reinhold Batschi Men's NTC** have had some extremely encouraging results within a very short space of time. The benefit of having Australia's best able-bodied athletes training in the same locations is obvious in terms of being able to achieve closer adherence to the technical model and have athletes train day-in, day-out under the eyes of coaches who are also selectors and whose livelihoods depend on getting the fastest crews. For the athletes themselves, there is a certainty that comes from having the one daily training environment for domestic training and Australian-based international preparation. This is even before we consider the amazing

facilities on offer, access to high-quality service-providers and the direct funding of athletes through the generosity of **Hancock Prospecting**.

However, there are also challenges that come from having athletes away from where they may have previously lived, trained, studied or worked, in an environment that is demanding and potentially all-consuming. The aim as we look to the next cycle towards **Paris 2024** and beyond should be to complement these successes with an acknowledgment of the importance of an athlete's life away from the boat and the gym. The sustainability of these results relies on an athlete group that stays motivated in the long-term over multiple **Olympic** and **Paralympic** cycles, and the key to ensuring this is to embed athlete welfare, which is at the core of the **RAAC's** business. We look forward to being an active part of discussions around this very important topic with RA in consultation with RA's dedicated **Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement (AWE)** section and its manager Bianca Fermi.

On the para-rowing side, the challenge is to cultivate a unified team feeling despite having athletes, some of whom have only recently taken up the sport, training in different locations under a decentralised program. Clear and effective direction and communication should underpin such an approach and the **RAAC** stands ready here to assist as well.

A rowing program only runs effectively with the help of enthusiastic and engaged individuals. A special thanks goes to Performance Director Bernard Savage and Operations Team Wayne Diplock and Georgie Lee for their logistical and other support of athletes during 2020 and into 2021, often working to beat deadlines imposed at short notice by governments. Head Coaches Gordon Marcks, Ian Wright and John Keogh have all put in their heart and soul during what have been very difficult times and have learnt to adapt to changing circumstances. They are ably assisted by coaches Jason Baker, Lizzi Chapman, Renae Domaschenz, Mark Prater, Andrew Randell, Ellen Randell and Tom Westgarth. Coaches do not share the podium with athletes but they do share every bit of the emotional journey.

A final thanks goes to the athletes who have endured the uncertainty and complexity of 2020 and come out the other end stronger for it. The road into Tokyo will be every bit as exciting as any other **Olympics** and **Paralympics**. This is what we all train for and I and the **RAAC** join the wider rowing community in wishing every success to the athletes and coaches who will wear the green and gold at the Sea Forest Waterway in Tokyo Bay in July and August this year.



# COMMERCIAL AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

2020 proved to be an unprecedented year for the sport of rowing, but it also proved to be a year where we continued to increase our engagement with the community, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The team continues to roll out Rowing Australia's (RA) vision 'Excellence through rowing, on and off the water' while also looking at different ways to communicate with the community across our digital platforms



**LUCY BENJAMIN**

Communications & Government  
Relations Manager  
Rowing Australia

Our aim continues to be to create better connections between RA and the grass roots of the sport, while also growing engagement with our sport outside of the traditional rowing community.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The communications area has a key focus of continuing to grow reach and engagement on RA's digital platforms. We target our investment in video content which has **increased our metrics across the board on all our channels by between 13 per cent and 77 per cent** across the year.

Our main newsletter growth has been consistent through 2020, with the **sign ups increasing by 18%** in 2020. We continued, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and lockdown in Australia, to deliver regular weekly content to our community to help them to remain active and connected. The result of this regular and continuous content delivery proved to be extremely positively received. We are also grateful to the RA staff who contributed content to these channels, especially our Nutrition Lead, Bronwen Lundy, and Nutrition Fellow, Samantha Lewis, whose weekly nutrition advice received high praise from across the community and beyond.

COVID-19 provided many challenges, forcing us to rethink our content delivery through the pandemic, with our **National Championships** cancelled and the **Olympics** and **Paralympics** postponed. We were delighted to be able to deliver, with the support of **RA Board** Director, and Olympian, Sarah Cook, our weekly Facebook series, **Get Cooked**, speaking with numerous guests from across the world. We also worked closely with our counterparts in Canada, New Zealand and Great Britain to deliver a variety of indoor rowing competitions – including the **Anzac Day Indoor Rowing Challenge** and the **Row to the Moon** Indoor Rowing Challenge.

We continue to meet challenges when looking for traditional media coverage, outside of an **Olympic/Paralympic** year, however the achievements of our community during a pandemic did not go unnoticed by the media, with numerous rowing stories featuring across print, broadcast and digital networks. Stories included elite rowers, club athletes, Masters rowers and indoor rowers – all showcasing the benefits of our sport and their incredible achievements. We continue to work to deliver our own content to the wider sporting community as this proves to be our most successful avenue of communication.

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

RA's key government partnership continues to be with **Sport Australia** and we are pleased that this relationship continues to be strong. We continue to work closely not only with the Federal Sports Minister's office, but also continue to increase our engagement with the State and Territory Sports Ministers as well as Federal and State Members of Parliament who have rowing venues in their electorates.

We continue to build greater awareness within Government (State, Territory and Federal) about the benefits of rowing and how investment in the sport can support their electorates. There has been a noticeable increase in engagement and correspondence with State, Territory, Federal and Vice-Regal departments, strengthening awareness and support for our sport.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The sport continues to maintain its strong partnerships with our key sponsors **Hancock Prospecting, Aon, Coles, 776BC, Tempur** and **Corporate Travel Management**. We are extremely grateful to all these partners and their continued support throughout the year and beyond 2020.





A special thank you to our Principal Partner, **Hancock Prospecting**, who with their significant investment, directly fund our athletes and help run our two **National Training Centres**. Our partnership with **Hancock Prospecting** will continue through to 2024, and we are extremely grateful to RA Patron, **Mrs Gina Rinehart**, for her ongoing support of our sport.

We also thank our major government funding partner – **Sport Australia** and the **Australian Institute of Sport**. 2020 also saw us renew our partnerships with **Tempur** and **776BC** through to 2024, while we extended and expanded our partnership with **Coles** through to 2022.

We continue to explore new opportunities in a bid to make more long-term partnerships with established brands that align to our core values.

## PHILANTHROPY

Diversifying RA's revenue has been a priority of the team and we continue to look at philanthropic opportunities for individuals to invest in our sport. While there have been donations in 2020, via our philanthropic programs, we know there is still more work to be done in continuing to engage with potential donors for support of our great sport of rowing. The appointment of RA's new Chief Commercial Officer, Emily McOrist, will help us to further expand in this area.

## MARKETING

Marketing support was provided for key events and participation programs throughout 2020. With the cancellation of the **2020 Aon Sydney International Rowing Regatta**, our main focus in 2020 was to promote the various indoor rowing events that we hosted or co-hosted. We were particularly pleased with the number of entries and engagement with the **2020 Australian Indoor Rowing Championships**. Support from **Coles**, **Aon** and **Cancer Council Australia** certainly helped to grow the profile of the event and it was fantastic to see an increase in participants.

The year also saw us finalise our Brand Guidelines for our logos and the various events RA is responsible for delivering – including the **Australian Rowing Championships**, **Australian Masters Rowing Championships**, **Australian Indoor Rowing Championships** and the **Hancock Prospecting Rower of the Year Awards**.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Sarah Carnahan and Alice Evans who both worked tirelessly throughout the year to support rowing in Australia, supported by our contractors Gill Appleby, Delly Carr and Brett Frawley. Thank you also to new RA Chief Commercial Officer, Emily McOrist, for her contributions through the middle of the year, prior to her departure for maternity leave. Emily will return to the department in 2021. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers at State and Club levels who, on a daily basis, through their channels, share stories that help build the profile of our sport. Finally, thank you to the individuals and organisations, who, in a very competitive market, choose to channel their support into our wonderful sport of rowing at a Club, State or National level.





# OBITUARIES





## RAY HAMMON

Rowing Australia was saddened by the news that **Ray Hammon** passed away in his sleep on 8 March 2020.

Ray was a great servant of the sport through sound administration, clear thinking and passion for rowing. He was respected by all parts of the sport.

Ray hailed from the Essendon Rowing Club, joining in 1964 and by 1971, was a mainstay of their administration. He held almost all administrative roles including a term as President. He oversaw significant changes to the Club setting it up as both a rowing and community Club. This

enabled it to have a sound financial basis. His work at Essendon was acknowledged with a life membership in 1985.

It was natural that his talents would be sought out by Rowing Victoria and later Rowing Australia.

In 1976, he was elected to the Executive Committee of Rowing Victoria, initially for a two-year term. At this time he also served with distinction as an umpire both at the Victorian and Australian levels.

He returned to Victorian Executive Committee duties in 1990 and was

the Councillor for Victoria on Rowing Australia.

But his Rowing Victoria duties were short lived as Rowing Australia urgently required his services. In 1991, he was appointed Director of Finance for Rowing Australia at a difficult time for that organisation. He undertook those duties with great acclaim for a three-year term.

Throughout his rowing administration days, he could always be relied upon for good and practical advice. He was a great enthusiast who loved both the sport and his Club.

## JOHN WARD

Rowing Australia was saddened by the passing of **John Ward** on 20 March 2020.

John was well known at regattas throughout his life, firstly as a rower, then as a coach, and finally as a regatta official.

He commenced his rowing at the Essendon Rowing Club where he learnt his rowing skills and love of the sport.

He moved to Rutherglen around 1970 where he became involved with the Rutherglen Lake Rowing Club. He was a successful sculler at Junior, Senior and Open levels during the 1970's as well as winning Junior Pairs and a Senior Pair with one of his protégé's. John was also active on the administration holding the positions of secretary and Captain.

He went onto coaching with many successful crews, including a Victorian Champion Coxed Pair in 1983.

John was a great club member who was honoured with 2 boats being named after him and numerous rowers who revered him. He was strong, but also a kind and thoughtful man whose opinions were valued. His services were also recognised with a life membership.

In later years he drove umpire boats at State and National Championship regattas. He was always sought after as he could understand how a race was unfolding and place his boat exactly where it should be to overcome racing issues. He saved many an umpires reputation

with his work. Many will know of him by his nickname 'Norm', in fact many thought that this was his given name. This nickname was given to him by his interstate umpire boat driving colleagues who reckoned that he was the most normal person amongst them.

Despite a passion for racing pigeons, the advancement of rowing was always John's endeavour in life. He succeeded in this endeavour and leaves many great friends with many fond memories. Our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

## TOM JACK

Rowing Australia was saddened by the news of the passing of **Tom Jack** in April, a highly respected member of our sport.

Tom was an enthusiastic and energetic person who revelled in the development of young rowers. He was never more at home than when he was coaching in a boat with his dog. They were as inseparable as was Tom was with rowing. He was a life-long member of the Toowong Rowing Club.

Tom commenced his rowing as a coxswain with Brisbane Boys' College in 1951 and coxed their first four, the fours event being the Head of the River race at that time. He joined Toowong Rowing Club in 1953 and started his 67 year association with the Club that he loved, and which in turn, loved him.

The highlights of his coxing career included his first State Championship coxing a men's lightweight four in 1953, sadly in a row over, followed a Champion Fours race at Rockhampton in the same year; a superb start to his club career. He went onto to cox many Toowong crews and in 1961, he

coxed the Queensland eight at Interstate Championships.

Following his rowing career, he took up umpiring. He umpired with distinction at the Interstate Championships in 1963 in Brisbane. He also took up administration being Honorary Secretary of the Queensland Association in the years 1963-65.

He returned with passion and enthusiasm to the sport as a team manager and coach in the 1980s. He was Queensland team manager in 1985 and went onto to be the Australian Trans-Tasman Juniors manager for four consecutive year 1985-89.

In 1987 he managed the Australian Junior Team which he repeated in 1989.

However, his coaching was taking over as his passion. By 1987 he was coaching Queensland men's youth eights which he did again in 1988.

His coaching prowess was being sought after and he developed many a young Queenslander. His National Championship

Under 19 Pair of John Pettigrew and Boden Hansen was just one example.

He willingly passed on his knowledge to both rowers and other coaches. His hard work was rewarded with National Championship wins and his crews being selected in national teams. He coached an Australian Junior Pair at the World Juniors in 1995 when team doctor Steve Hinchy identified the illness that would eventually take his life. He coached for one further season taking his coxed four to the 1996 World Under 23 Championships, then called the Nations Cup. His ailments, and the treatments of them, thereafter, prevented the same level of rowing commitment.

In recent times, Tom was the driving force behind the Toowong Octogenarian VIII. He maintained his good spirits until the end with regular visits from rowers.

Our condolences to his family and to his many rowing friends who were touched by his life.

## KEVIN WICKHAM

Rowing Australia was saddened to announce the passing of **Kevin Wickham** on Saturday 4 July. Kevin was a country lad, raised in Colac. He became a senior coxswain at the Banks Rowing Club in Melbourne in 1962 rowing under Alan Jacobsen, the leading Victorian coach.

He coxed a four at the first World Championships in Lucerne in 1962 which finished fifth and which was stroked by future chairman of Australian selectors Jim Howden.

He took over the reins as the Victorian coxswain in 1964 from David Palfreyman who had finally outgrown his coxing career and had become a top lightweight oarsman.

The 1964 King's Cup race he coxed was a cracker with two top notch crews from Victoria and New South Wales fighting it out for the right to be the Olympic crew.

After a false start, starter Ossie Rosevear brought them back to start with the words: That's history, now let us try that again. No one ever knew who broke the start. The Victorians flew off the fresh beginning gaining a  $\frac{3}{4}$  length lead by the 500 metre mark. The New South Welshmen threw everything at the Victorians with effort after effort, which were repelled by the Victorians on each occasion. The final margin was unchanged at  $\frac{3}{4}$  length.

The Victorians were named as the Olympic crew in 1964. After that event, Kevin retired from coxing but was convinced to come back in the 1970s and do a season developing a Mercantile junior eight coached by his old friend Phil Cayzer.

Kevin's loss was deeply felt by those remaining from his crews of the 1960s.

He loved the sports of rowing and yachting and made a significant contribution to them both.

## ROGER MOORE

Rowing Australia was saddened to learn of the passing on Monday 9 November of former Rowing Australia National Selector and rowing stalwart, **Roger Moore**, he was 81.

Born on 19 January 1939, Roger Moore was a significant member and leader of our rowing community. In his time, Roger had been a member of Yarra Yarra Rowing Club (VIC), Sydney University Boat Club (NSW) and Adelaide University Boat Club (SA).

Roger was an astute coach, administrator and commentator of the sport. He had a razor sharp eye for good rowing and a willingness to express his views, sometimes quite stridently. He served as an Australian selector and was a Councillor and Board member of Rowing Australia.

He was passionate about rowing and could talk about it for hours. Fellow rowing aficionados and long term friends David Bishop and Kerry Jelbart were willing participants in such discussions through to his death. Australian chairman of selectors Brian Richardson, also a long term friend, was also not immune to such debates and credits Roger's noted

school coach Albert Bell for developing this interest. Of perhaps less interest to many rowers was his commentary on his beloved Geelong Football Club!

Roger had a great interest in, and respect for, the history of our sport. He loved the traditional races in the sport, specifically the local Head of the River races, the University Championships and the Interstate Championships. He regularly made himself available to coach such crews. He was also a strong advocate of lightweight rowing and bemoaned the forthcoming loss of lightweight rowing at the Olympic Games.

His views on the importance of club rowing brought him in conflict with the South Australian Rowing Association when the new SASI arrangements were introduced – he feared the degradation of the Clubs and his views never changed.

However, he was far from conservative. Roger was a deep thinker of the sport and a technical innovator. He was a supporter of the introduction of the Australian Institute of Sport and the radical changes necessary in the early 1980s. He was an

Australian selector at the time of Reinhold Batschi's appointment and so one of the key decision makers behind it.

His working life was varied. In Melbourne, he worked for Ron Jelbart at Data Control, a company that produced and sold mechanical computers for use by comptometrists. He was transferred to Adelaide in 1963 with that company. After a move to London where he met his wife Helen, he returned to Australia and initially settled in Sydney. Roger joined Courage Breweries in Melbourne. His final move to Adelaide in the 1972-73 season arose from his appointment as marketing manager of Coopers Brewery. Later, Roger and his wife Helen became renowned restaurateurs and wine merchants in Adelaide. Their restaurant in the Botanic Gardens was highly regarded.

Roger was kind and generous friend to so many rowers. He was a loved coach and developed so many young rowers in life. He leaves behind wife Helen and three daughters.

## HAMISH MCLACHLAN

Rowing Australia was saddened to announce the sudden passing of Olympian, Hamish McLachlan. He was McVilly-Pearce pin number 396.

McLachlan was born on 27 July 1967, and made his debut for Australia in the Men's Coxed Four at the **1987 World Rowing Championships**. The following year, the South Australian was selected in the Australian Men's Eight that competed at the **1988 Seoul Olympic Games**, the crew finished fifth overall.

The original crew that was selected to compete for Australia in the men's eight competition did not actually compete at the event. The crew was re-selected after the original eight failed to meet the expectations of the selectors during a pre-Olympic tour of Europe. The eight was re-selected with the recall of **1986 World Championship** gold medallists Andrew Cooper and Mark Doyle, who joined McLachlan, Stephen Evans, Ion Popa, James Tomkins, Mike McKay, James Galloway and cox Dale Caterson.

McLachlan spent his rowing career based between Canberra at the **AIS Rowing Program** and Adelaide in South Australia. After the conclusion of his Olympic campaign, McLachlan returned to Adelaide. His brother Alastair also rowed for Australia in the 1990s, and is McVilly-Pearce rower number 508.

Sadly, McLachlan passed away on 21 December 2020, aged just 53.



## DR STEPHEN HINCHY OAM, ASM



Rowing Australia (RA) was saddened to announce the passing of Life Member and former Australian Rowing Team doctor, **Dr Stephen Hinchy OAM ASM**. Stephen passed away on 8 July 2020 in hospital on the Gold Coast after a short illness.

Stephen Hinchy was one of the greatest contributors to the sport of rowing in Australia. A Life Member of RA (2000), Rowing Queensland (1990) and Commercial Rowing Club (2001) and the 2015 Rowing Australia Volunteer of the Year, Stephen served the sport of rowing, in Australia, in many capacities. Stephen commenced rowing in 1957 at Brisbane State High School and Commercial

Rowing Club and first raced in the Queensland Eight Oared Championship in 1959. He went on to represent Queensland in the King's Cup in 1962.

Most notably perhaps, he is lauded for the work he did as President of RA from 1996 to 2000. Stephen worked tirelessly to transform the national organisation into the governing body it is today. While Stephen was supported by many members of the rowing community during these transformational times, his vision, leadership, commitment and personal manner were second to none.

His delightful and friendly way was always appreciated and all his decisions be they as a Board Director, a Team Doctor or an administrator were taken with the sport's and the athletes' best interests at heart.

Many of Stephen's friends and colleagues have reflected on the work he did to improve the sport, including his great friend, Peter Huggett, who described the work Stephen did between 1996 and 2000 for RA as his greatest contribution to the sport of rowing in Australia.

At the time of his ascendancy into the President's role, the organisation was struggling financially, organisationally and in high performance. Within four years, RA was on sound financial footing, organisational and governance

effectiveness was restored and the team was performing on the world stage.

He held numerous positions at Rowing Queensland over the years, including Councillor, Chairman, Deputy Chairman and President for the organisation. While he was the Australian Rowing Team doctor for Senior, Under 23, Under 21 and Junior teams between 1984 and 2001, held the Team Manager role for many years and served as the Olympic Section Manager at the 1988 Olympic Games, having been Team Manager from 1985 to 1988.

At the time of his passing, Stephen had been an RA accredited Boat Race Official for 50 years and had been a BRO for Rowing Queensland for some 59 years. Stephen became an accredited FISA official in 1994 and was a member of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games rowing jury.

Had the 2020 Aon Sydney International Rowing Regatta taken place in Sydney in March this year, it would have been Stephen's 50th year of continuous service as a BRO at Nationals.

Stephen was a true servant to Australian rowing and will be deeply missed. The thoughts of everyone at RA are with his wife Barb, their family and friends.

## STUART MACKENZIE



Rowing Australia was saddened to announce the passing of Australian Olympic silver medal-winning rower, **Stuart 'Sam' Mackenzie**. Mackenzie, who has been residing in the UK for over 30 years, passed away suddenly on 20 October 2020.

Stuart Alexander Mackenzie was born on the 4 April 1937 and educated at The King's School, Paramatta where he began rowing. After finishing school in 1954, Mackenzie rowed out of Leichhardt Rowing Club in New South Wales and first represented the state in 1955 in the King's Cup, with the crew finishing in third place. He also represented Sydney Rowing Club and upon his return to Australia rowed out of that club.

He made his Australian Rowing Team debut at the 1956 Olympic Games held in Melbourne, winning a silver medal in the Men's Single Sculls. By virtue of making his debut at the Games, Mackenzie became McVilly-Pearce pin number 78. Interestingly, rowing was one of three sports Mackenzie qualified for at the 1956 Games, having also qualified for the discus and shooting, but the New South Welshman ultimately chose rowing as his sport of choice.

In 1958, he competed in the both the Men's Single Sculls and Men's Double Sculls (the latter with Mervyn Wood) at the British Empire and Commonwealth Games, Cardiff, winning gold and silver medals respectively.

A feat that he is perhaps most well known for is his prowess at Henley Royal Regatta, where he won the Diamond Challenge Sculls six times, consecutively, from 1957 to 1962, and won the Silver Goblets partnering Chris Davidge in 1964 and the Double Sculls, also with Davidge, in 1959.

Although favoured to win the gold medal at the 1960 Olympic Games, in Rome, he fell ill before the race and had to withdraw. Mackenzie also represented Great Britain at the first World Rowing Championships, held in Lucerne in 1962,

after refusing to return to Australia from Europe for trials for the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

Away from rowing, many would not know that Mackenzie was in fact the son of a poultry farmer and was actually trained and worked as a chicken sexer, while he also rowed for Australia. A highly skilled sportsman, he was a scratch golfer and while living in Florida, US, played alongside famous US professional golfer, Lee Trevino.

Mackenzie was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1985, while in 2018 he was the guest speaker at a Rowing Australia luncheon at Australia House ahead of the Henley Royal Regatta. Mackenzie was presented with his McVilly-Pearce pin at the function and presented a number of other alumni with their pins at the event. A vibrant and colourful character, his stories were enjoyed by all.

He is survived by his sisters Margaret and Diana, his wife Heather and his children Rebecca, Alistair and Rachael. His funeral took place on 5 November, in Taunton, United Kingdom, with his ashes to be scattered at a later date.

# AWARDS

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AWARDS

### ERIK HORRIE OAM

Five-time para-rowing **World Champion** Erik Horrie received a Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division (OAM) for services to rowing in the Australia Day Honours of January 2020. Horrie, who is a member of **Sydney Rowing Club** and **New South Wales Institute of Sport**, has won multiple National and International titles while competing the PR1 Men's Single Scull category. Horrie is also a Lifeline Community Custodian as part of the inaugural **AIS/Lifeline campaign** that launched in 2010 and is a member of the **Rowing Australia Athletes' Commission**.

### JASON BAKER OAM

Coach of Erik Horrie, Jason Baker also received a Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division (OAM), in January, for services to rowing. Baker has coached Horrie since the end of 2012 and has overseen the Penrith-local's rise and rise in the PR1 Men's Single Scull. A former coach of **Sydney Rowing Club**, Baker is now Head Coach at **The Scots College**, Sydney.

### COLIN BECKETT AO

**Swan River Rowing Club** member, Mr Colin Beckett, received an Officer in the General Division (AO) for distinguished service to business in the energy, gas and oil production and infrastructure sectors, and to tertiary education.

Beckett is the former Chancellor of **Curtin University** in Western Australia. He has held numerous roles at **Western Power**, **Beach Energy** (Adelaide), **Australian Petroleum Producers and Explorers Association**, **Chevron Australia**, **Shell**, **BP** and **Mobil Australia**. He has also been the Non-Executive Chairman of Perth Airport, a member of the **Western Australian Technology and Industry Advisory Council** and was previously Chairman of the **Energy and Transportation Sector Advisory Board**, **CSIRO**. His recognition comes distinguished service to business in the energy, gas and oil production and infrastructure sectors, and to tertiary education.

### NEVILLE HOWELL OAM

Olympian Neville Howell was honoured with an Order of Australia in the General Division (OAM) for services to rowing. Howell was born in Victoria and began his senior rowing career from 1951 with **Banks Rowing Club** in Melbourne. In 1956, he was in the six seat of the Australian boat that won bronze in the Men's Eights event at the **1956 Melbourne Olympic Games**.

Four years later, in Tokyo, he competed in the Men's Coxed Pair event, missing out on making the A-Final, after racing the repechage. In 1962, he went on to win a gold medal in the Men's Eight event at the **Perth Commonwealth Games**.

He has worked tirelessly for all his rowing clubs, **Banks**, **Bendigo** and latterly **Nagambie**. Mr Howell's service to **Banks Rowing Club**, along with his outstanding record as an oarsman, resulted in him being elected a Life Member of Banks, a unique honour as there has only been 28 Life Members elected by the club since it was founded in 1866.

Meanwhile, Mr Howell has also dedicated his efforts to **Bendigo Rowing Club** and has been instrumental in ensuring it continues to flourish. Founded in 1872, the club's membership and engagement drew to a standstill in the late 1950s, mainly due to lack of interest from the community. From 1965 onwards, the club was pulled out of its rowing slump by the efforts of Olympian Mr Howell, alongside then Club President Harold Griffiths.

The 90-year-old Masters rower is now a member of **Nagambie Rowing Club**, and continues to compete locally and as recently as 2017 he competed in the **Australian Masters Rowing Championships** in Victoria. He has won the **King's Cup** six times representing Victoria, is a member of the **Rowing Victoria Hall of Fame** and is McVilly-Pearce pin number 95.

### PHILIP TITTERTON OAM

Phil Titterton is a stalwart of New South Wales and Australian rowing – a regular volunteer at **Australian and New South Wales Championships**, he is a passionate Masters rower, sitting on **RA's Masters Commission**, and has also been a member of **Mosman's SES Unit**. Titterton was awarded a Order of Australia in the General Division (OAM) for services to rowing.

### BRIGADIER ALISON CREAGH (RETD) AM CSC

In the June Queen's Birthday Honours, Brigadier Alison Creagh (Retd) AM CSC, was honoured with a Member of the Order of Australia, General Division (AM) for significant service to veterans and their families, and rowing.

Brigadier Creagh has worked, and continues to work, significantly with many service and ex-service organisations – including as a Services Member on the **Veterans Review Board**, as Chair of the **ACT Ministerial Advisory Committee** for Veterans and their Families and as a Trustee of the **Commando Welfare Trust** to name but a few of her roles.

Within rowing, Brigadier Creagh has been President of **Rowing ACT** since 2019, was the Team Manager for the **2019 Australian Defence Force (ADF) King's Cup Team** that travelled to the **2019 Henley Royal Regatta**, was the Assistant Indoor Rowing Coach of the Australian Rowing Team at the **2018 Invictus Games**, is a Founding Member and Patron of the **ADF Rowing Association** and is an accredited National and International Para-rowing Classifier.

### PETER TOON OAM

Queensland's Peter Toon has coached and volunteered significantly within the State's community and in June was honoured with an Order of Australia in the General Division (OAM) for services to rowing. He has coached at many Brisbane rowing clubs including **Commercial Rowing Club**, **Toowong Rowing Club** and most recently the **University of Queensland Boat Club**. He is a former rowing coach of **St Joseph's College** and **All Hallows School** and a current coach at **Brisbane Boys College**.

Mr Toon is a former Board Member, Team Manager and Selector for **Rowing Queensland** and has contributed significantly to the sport of rowing in his community, he is also the father of Olympic rowing coxswain, Dr Michael Toon.









## ROWING AUSTRALIA LIFE MEMBERSHIP

In May 2020, Rowing Australia appointed five new Life Members. Details of which can be found below. Life Membership of RA is the sport's highest honour. It is reserved for those who have demonstrated significant, sustained and high quality service that enhances the reputation and future of rowing by virtue of their considerable contribution to rowing nationally. The Board and Council of RA felt it fitting this year to bestow the honour on five prolific members of the Australian rowing community.

### KATH BENNETT

Kath Bennett has had an illustrious and long rowing career that began back in 1965. Bennett has held many roles in Australian rowing, including being the Women's Team Manager at the 1975 **World Rowing Championships** and coaching multiple Victorian interstate and club crews.

Bennett, a proud Victorian, and member of **YWCA Rowing Club**, is known well for the great work she undertook in the rejuvenation of women's rowing in the late 1960s to early 1970s, which led to her instrumental role in the amalgamation of the men's and women's federations during the period of 1979 to 1982 (Rowing Australia).

### NOEL DONALDSON

Noel Donaldson, is one of Australia's most successful Olympic rowing coaches. Under Donaldson's guidance, Australia's Men's Four won gold at the 1992 and **1996 Olympic Games**. In addition, Donaldson coached multiple Australian crews to **World Championships** success and recently returned from New Zealand to take up the position of Head Rowing Coach at the **Victorian Institute of Sport** – a role that sees him help develop Australia's up and coming rowing talent.

### DOUG DONOGHUE AM

Doug Donoghue AM is a former coach and administrator who has dedicated decades of his career to supporting and promoting the sport of rowing. A coach of both **Sydney Boys High** and **Sydney Rowing Club**, Donoghue worked for over 20 years at the **Australian Olympic Committee** and was instrumental during the **Sydney 2000 Olympic** bid.

Donoghue was a Member of the **Venue Advisory Committee** of the Sydney International Regatta Centre, while in 1995/6 when the **AOC** and **AIS** took over the running of **Rowing Australia's HP Program**, Donoghue, alongside fellow RA Life Member, John Boulton AM, ran the **High Performance Commission of Rowing Australia**.

He is a former Vice President of the **NSW Rowing Association** and a previous Member of the **NSW Sports Advisory Council**. Prior to his role on the **AOC's** Executive Board, Donoghue was a rowing commentator for **ABC Radio** at the **Montreal 1976 Olympic Games** and commentator for **Network 10** for rowing and canoeing at **Los Angeles 1984 Games** and again in **Seoul in 1988**.

### NICK GREEN OAM

Two-time Olympic gold medallist, Nick Green OAM, was a member of Australia's **'Oarsome Foursome'** at the **1992** and **1996 Olympic Games**. He is also a four-time **World Rowing Champion** who regularly looks to help build the profile of rowing. A member of the **Melbourne University Boat Club**, Green continues to be heavily involved in the sport including his role as National Industry Practice Lead – Sport, with RA partner, **Aon**.

### ROBIN POKE AM

Robin Poke AM is a Canberra-based sports historian and journalist. He previously published the widely acclaimed biography, Peter Antonie: Out of His Shell, in 2007. He has had a long-time involvement in Australian rowing as an oarsman and administrator.

He founded the national magazine, **Australian Rowing**, and was media liaison officer with the Australian team at the **Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 Olympic Games**. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2013 'For significant service to the sport of rowing and the Olympic movement as an administrator, journalist and author'.

Mr Poke recently published his PhD, a book on the history of Australian Rowing and Volume 1 covers the period from Early Settlement to pre-War Success 1770-1939. He was on the **ACT Olympic Council** for 11 years (stepping down in 2016) and was made President in 2005.





SKINNY

# AROUND THE STATES



## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020 proved to be a year of new experiences for ACT rowing. As we faced the challenges posed by the January bushfires, hailstorms and the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACT rowing community came together to support each other and find creative new ways of engaging with the sport. As rowers were largely constrained to training at home, we saw them engage in cross training, zoom sessions, virtual competitions, and a surge in sharing training tips and results on social media.

A number of our rowers and coaches across the ACT rowing community have been helping the community through these challenging times. **Kathryn Ross** and **Nikki Ayers** (both High Performance rowers with the ACTAS program) have worked as nurses throughout the pandemic while continuing to train. This level of dedication shows their passion, not only for rowing, but for the community.

Despite the Sydney International Rowing Regatta being cancelled for 2020, the ACT was proud to name its largest ever representative team, including filling every women's boat for the Centenary of Women's Rowing in Australia. Many of the team has continued to train throughout the year under the watchful eyes of **Dave Fraumano**, **Renae Domaschenz** and **Nigel Harding** and cannot wait to race in 2021!

Parts of the ACT rowing community became more actively involved in Indoor Rowing in 2020 with rowers continuing to train and race on the ergometer even when they were able to get back out on the water. Canberra once again had the highest number of competitors participating at the 2020 Australian Indoor Rowing Championship. Many records were set on the day, including **Kathryn Ross** breaking her own world record for the Women's PR2 30-39 Years 2000m erg event! Thanks to **Vicky Spencer** and the volunteers at **Radford College** for delivering this successful event.

We also ran **Rowing ACT's Veterans & Families Indoor Rowing program**, where a group of 30 veterans and their family members were introduced to the rowing machine and to the rowing community. After a short introductory program, they now train regularly and have competed at the **2020 Australian Indoor Rowing Championship** and the **Oceania Indoor Rowing Championship**. This community program was recognised as a finalist in the Innovation in Sport category at the **2020 ACT CBR Sports Awards**. At the same awards **Kathryn Ross** was recognised as a finalist for Para Athlete of the Year, while **Nick Hunter** was awarded with an **Outstanding Service to Sport Award** for his dedication to rowing both in the ACT, Australia and internationally.

We managed a limited rowing season in 2020. Once on-water rowing resumed our rowers showed their passion for the sport by competing in record numbers for the Winter Time Trial series. **Luke Letcher** broke the course record twice to take out the Men's single sculler trophy, while **Zoe Bond** took out the Women's event! In our 2020 premiership results, **ANU Boat Club** won the Women's Premiership, while **Radford College** won both the Men's Premiership and the 2020 ACT Premiership.

Our High Performance program saw a new intake of rowers through Talent Identification testing days, while our experienced rowers continued to push themselves to achieve results at National trials. Working with Head coach **Dave Fraumano**, Development coach **Renae Domaschenz**, and the support team at **ACTAS**, the team is preparing for the **Australian Rowing Championships in 2021**.

At the end of 2020, we farewelled Executive Officer **Stuart John**, who had been in the role since October 2018. We also farewelled **Katrina Wiseman** who had been with us for three years as High Performance Coordinator and a short stint as Acting Executive Officer. Both Stuart and Katrina have made valuable contributions to the ACT rowing community.

**Rowing ACT** would like to thank everyone who has supported the ACT rowing community and made rowing possible in 2020. The **ACT Government** has provided support throughout the pandemic. Our clubs, schools, BROs, volunteers and officials, staff and Board have collectively supported the ACT rowing community in 2020 and we look forward to seeing the community grow and develop in 2021.

## BRIGADIER ALISON CREAGH (RETD) AM CSC

President - Rowing ACT





## NEW SOUTH WALES

2020 has been a challenging year for Australia dealing with COVID-19 and this has had an enormous impact on all areas of our NSW rowing community.

**Rowing NSW** was lucky enough to host the annual NSW State Championships early in the year but was impacted by a once in 20 year rain event which caused the early cancellation of racing.

With the increasing health restrictions **Rowing NSW** was forced to cancel the remainder of the season, in particular the **2020 Schoolboy and Schoolgirl Head of the River, Edward Trickett Grade Championships** and **NSW State Masters Championships**. With state wide cancellation of all mass gatherings and organised sport, **Rowing NSW** and our clubs were forced to adapt, with clubs moving their training online and onto the ergometer as well as single scull on water training in small groups.

It was excellent to see the community rising enthusiastically to the challenges. **Rowing NSW** was able to create two new competitions of **Club vs Club** and **School vs School**. These groups competed for metres rowed, run, cycled and swum. Over 18 clubs and 30 schools participated providing an opportunity for the community to remain competitive during lockdown.

Throughout 2020, **Rowing NSW** has continued to work with **Rowing Australia** on the National Pathways program working with our partners **New South Wales Institute of Sport (NSWIS)** and our four High Performance Clubs: **Sydney Rowing Club, UTS Rowing Club, Sydney University Boat Club** and **Mosman Rowing Club**. We wanted to ensure the road to Australian representation remains strong for NSW athletes throughout the challenging COVID-19 lockdown period and the knock on effects of limited travel and competition opportunities.

For the 12 months to 30 June 2020, **Rowing New South Wales** reported a small surplus of \$1,594.00. On June 29 2020, **Rowing NSW** received confirmation from the **NSW Office of Sport** that the organisation and its affiliation clubs and associations had been identified as eligible to receive funds under the **NSW Government Community Sport COVID-19 Recovery Program**. This support encompassed Sport and Recreation Sector Support and the Grassroots Sports Fund. COVID-19 related funding of \$252,700 was received by **Rowing NSW** to be used throughout the next two years from the date of issue to ensure the sport of rowing remains strong in NSW.

The end of 2020 saw competition begin to return to a more normal level with the addition of COVID-19 safety plans and reduction in regatta sizes. A credit to each and every member, committee and club in the rowing community has been their ability to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances and the new conditions we will face going forward.

**Rowing New South Wales** is now focused on the rejuvenation of our Strategic Plan with the objective to identify regatta opportunities, regional club development, athlete growth, development of new disciplines, school rower retention programs and coach development.

### STEPHEN DONNELLEY

President - Rowing New South Wales





## QUEENSLAND

In the face of the disruption to everyday life and the uncertainties imposed on activities by the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020 proved to be a consolidation period for **Rowing Queensland (RQ)** with the organisation finishing the year in a strengthened position.

Before the interruption caused by COVID took effect **RQ** was able to complete a number of very well attended regattas including its **State Championships, club series** and the full **GPS Boy's regatta series** culminating with the **Head of the River** on the eve of "lock-down" in mid-March.

Immediately on lock down, **RQ** took a pro-active stance by endeavouring to support its community, from high-performance to recreation rower, by assembling a series of well-resourced webpages and targeted communications. **RQ's** website was used by the **Queensland Government** as a resource and example to other community-based sporting organisations in the support of their members. The rowing community was provided with a variety of individual training programs across several disciplines, mental health resources and community support resources. The take up of these initiatives was evidenced by Queensland winning the **Rowing Australia 2020 Indoor Interstate Regatta**, on ergometers, with high levels of participation and some outstanding individual efforts.

**RQ** actively engaged with the Queensland Authorities in the management of the Pandemic, with the effect that it led to the resumption of community-based sporting activities. In working closely with **Queensland Health**, Member Clubs were able to resume on water training from their facilities in a managed format in the first week of May. Modified regattas followed in mid-July and as restrictions eased activity was ramped-up.

In the second half of 2020 **RQ**, working closely with Clubs across the State, managed to provide 56 regatta events for its community which included the development of several modified and novel formats to take account of the prevailing restrictions. A number of the modified event formats were considered so successful they will be carried forward into the regular calendar. By working very closely with the host Associations and **Queensland Health RQ** was able to conduct a regatta series the **Brisbane School Girls Rowing Association** and the **Gold Coast Regional All Schools Rowing Association**. Both series culminated with Head of the River Regattas.

Through regular communication with Clubs in collective and individual format, **RQ** were able to gain feedback on the best way to support its community and apply that information to the design of an accessible regatta program. Resulting from this approach **RQ** has been able to maintain its membership and grow regatta participation.

**RQ** continues to engage with its Regional Clubs and develop new relationships which will result in new regional based events, including the planned inaugural **Head of the Outback Regatta** in Longreach in 2021. Another regional regatta which is growing year on year is the **Maryborough Bridge to Bridge Head Race**. This year's event will be significant as it recognises the 140th anniversary of the **Wide Bay Rowing Club**.

Queensland maintains an active and vibrant high-performance programme with record numbers participating in the national and pathway trials. Aspiring athletes are supported off-water with a strength and conditioning program and other educational support. Categorized athletes are supported through **RQ's** strong partnership with the **Queensland Academy of Sport**.

Development activities are maintained across the State with the current focus on providing access to rowing for non-traditional participants and coaching accreditation. These activities include school age rowing, ergo programs and adaptive rowing. Strong demand for ergo activities through the **GRow program** from veteran communities matched by demand from school aged participants through the **Sporting Schools Riggers Program** has underwritten the success. Coaching uptake has been very positive, the standout being over 58 Level 2 accreditations across eight workshops.

**RQ** staff and volunteer Board and members took advantage of the COVID restrictions to undertake continuous improvement activities at the Queensland State Rowing Centre, Wyaralong.

**Rowing Queensland** is fortunate to finish the challenging 2020 year in a much stronger position than it started and 2021, to date, has confirmed a positive trend.

Across the State, the organisation's boat race officials, volunteers, staff members and Board's commitment to the wellbeing of rowing in Queensland is unquestionable. We extend our sincere thanks to all.

### NICK PARR

Chairman - Rowing Queensland Limited





## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

2020 proved to be a very different 12 months and I thank the Board and the **Rowing SA** staff for their ongoing support and innovative thinking through the COVID-19 challenges. **Andrew Swift** was appointed CEO in February 2020 and settled in well and engaged with all levels of stakeholders very quickly.

The 2019/20 season will be remembered as the season that was cut short due to the COVID-19 outbreak worldwide and the Government restrictions that were put in place. Although four regattas in SA had to be cancelled, we were fortunate to run 28 regattas.

I want to congratulate and thank the rowing community in SA for their support in following and adapting to the Government rules and restrictions, playing our part in providing a safe environment for our community. It was great to see the level of engagement in **Rowing SA's 12-week Professional Development program** starting in April 2020 with many metro and regional clubs taking part in the organised challenges and education sessions.

The Board's current strategic plan expired at the end of 2020. Our CEO led a process to begin the preparation of the next three-year strategic plan which was adopted by the new Board elected at the 2020 AGM. The consultation process this year was facilitated by an independent leader and member of the rowing community, Barnaby Eaton, and involved workshops with club and school representatives and the Board. The process was excellent and produced a sound direction for our next strategic plan.

### **The 2019/20 Season has again been successful under challenging circumstances:**

- Participation (whilst interrupted) has been strong with around 1768 registered rowers.
- Participation and interest in the **Masters State Team Program** has continued to strengthen.
- The ongoing demand for increased boat storage signals that the sport is healthy and growing.
- Increased club engagement and coach development. The online materials rolled out in the "**12 week professional development challenge**" were highly innovative and very well received.
- **Murray Bridge Rowing Club** has been successful in funding a new facility that will provide a sport-wide facility supporting rowing at Murray Bridge.

The presence of our **12 Week Development Program** on social media was overwhelmingly positive in keeping our members engaged, involved and active in a time where other sports had stepped back from their members where they could not run their competitions. This initiative to respond to COVID has been supported by the live feed videoing of all regattas. It is likely that both these initiatives will become a permanent part of our offering to members.

The '**Indoor Interstate**' competition was subscribed well by SA who, with limited access to ergs, rowed 5,386,765m over two weeks with 113 participants involved. This initiative boosted the profile of indoor rowing nationally while other sports had completely shut down their training and competition.

Rowing Australia continues its increased focus on a collaborative approach with the State Associations and Clubs throughout the country. We thank them for the leadership they have provided during COVID-19 and acknowledge the difficult decisions that were made in relation to the cancellation of key annual events. We look forward to continuing our strong responsibility to grow the sport in SA.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed throughout 2019/20 and I look forward to working with you as we head into the 2020/21 season.

## PHILIP PATERSON

Chairman - Rowing South Australia



## TASMANIA

The season once again commenced on a very successful note and we were heading towards record numbers of entries across our Club and School competition.

I would like to start by thanking my Board who has been operating under the new Constitution. They have been very busy in the development of the Governance of our sport and adapting to the ongoing changes. We have been formalising the new Commissions that will operate under the Board and hopefully in the coming season we will see people volunteer for positions as they are called for.

During the season **Rowing Tasmania** took over the operations of the **Tasmanian School Rowing Association** and their accumulated funds were transferred across to **RT**. I would like to thank all those who have fulfilled positions with the **TSRA** over many years and we look forward to working with the new Schools Commission in the coming season.

**Rowing Tasmania** in conjunction with **Kentish Council** was successful in obtaining a Federal grant under the **Community Development Grants Program** of \$750,000 for upgrades to our facilities at Lake Barrington. Most major facilities at Lake Barrington have been in operation for over 30 years and were in need of major development. I would like to thank the **Federal Government** for making funds available so that we can improve our facilities, which was well outside our financial capabilities.

This project is well underway, which will see the refurbishment of Davies Bay Lodge, Finishing Tower, and replacement of seating and bollards around the regatta grounds.

The rotunda is being replaced, a new shower and toilet block provided in the camping ground, and the redevelopment of the Sam Le Compte building into a museum and coffee lounge. In addition to this, a new storage shed will be built to accommodate our ever-growing fleet of motorboats and equipment.

During the season **Rowing Australia** announced its successful negotiations with the **Tasmanian Government** in receiving funding to conduct a **King's Cup** and **Australian Championships** and two **Australian Masters Championships** at Lake Barrington over the coming eight years. This was a tremendous achievement and I thank the **Tasmanian Government** in taking the initiative to be part of this new approach of conducting these events around the Australian States once again.

Unfortunately, as you are all aware our rowing community was dramatically affected by Covid-19, as was every part of our daily lives, both here and across Australia. The **Australian Masters' Championships** which were to be held at Lake Barrington in April 2020 have been postponed to 2024 with another Championship allocated to 2028. At the time of writing we are preparing for the **Australian Rowing Championships** in March 2021.

**Tasmania** was lucky in the fact that we conduct our regattas from October to April so we were able to run most of our Club events, excluding some Masters events. Unfortunately, we were only partway into our School program and one of the hardest decisions made was to cancel all remaining School events for the season. It was disappointing that our new junior school rowers missed out on the opportunity to compete and our seniors' did not have the opportunity to finish their school rowing careers on a high.

Covid-19 has definitely affected all aspects of our life, including the activities of our rowing community. It has been a very demanding time for all those involved, especially when we have to close down all our School and Club rowing facilities. The Board of **Rowing Tasmania** has taken all steps to keep our community informed of restrictions and our slow return to rowing. This was made possible by the extensive work done by Rob Prescott. The tremendous involvement in the indoor rowing competitions can be attributed to the hard work done by Grant Pryor and his small team.

The Board has held regular Zoom meetings with Presidents and School Rowing Directors to keep them abreast of the ever-changing environment in which we are operating. I would like to thank all Clubs and Schools for their contribution to making sure that our sport operates within Covid-19 restrictions. We will continue to communicate with our members in what will be a difficult season, working within the restricted numbers, social distancing, and personal hygiene for the coming season.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisations that we have worked with during the year, being **Rowing Australia, Department of Community Sport and Recreation, Tasmanian Institute of Sport, Kentish Council and Parks and Wildlife Service**.

Once again, the **State Government** has supported our sport with our annual grant plus an additional grant from the Covid-19 support package and the waiver of our three-month **Hydro** account. We have also been able to access funding under the **Federal Government Covid-19 schemes**, and without this assistance, our financial situation would have been much worse than it currently is.

The sport of rowing in Tasmania would not be in the strong position it is in if not for all our volunteers and staff who contribute numerous hours to our sport. Thank you very much for your passion of our sport; it would not be what it is without all your combined efforts. Every member is important to the sport, whether your contribution is at school, club, and state level, rower, coach administrator, volunteer, or staff.

**JAMES S GIBSON - OAM**

President - Rowing Tasmania





## VICTORIA

On behalf of the **Rowing Victoria (RV)** Board, I am pleased to present the **Rowing Victoria** State report for the year 2020.

Our season entering 2020 was challenged with the bushfires and heat ravaging the south eastern seaboard and then significantly compromised as the COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of the final regattas of the '19/'20 season with state driven restrictions ceasing our ability to compete, and then train.

Our primary focus is to serve our members, in good times and bad. Through 2020, we had focused our efforts on improving our service delivery and communication to our members whilst continuing to deliver world class events.

As a Board, we are fully committed to meeting the needs of the sport and have become a more visible feature of rowing in Victoria. We are proud to reflect gender equality and believe the group fairly represents each segment of our community.

**Rowing Victoria** continues to forge closer working relationships with local and **State Government Departments** to ensure safe and reliable access to lakes and rivers for our members to train and compete. This successful collaboration has been highlighted as we were one of the first of a handful of sports able to reestablish both training and competition opportunities under ever changing government COVIDSafe restrictions.

Our well-established Umpires, Competition, Members and Pathway Commissions have been instrumental in ensuring the success of our competitions through the seasons. Ensuring our regattas deliver relevant, safe and fair racing environments has been a central focus of the commissions.

As we emerged gradually from the strictest of COVID related restrictions, **RV** was able to provide safe and relevant racing opportunities. This was highlighted by the inaugural **RV Ballarat Omnium** which provided our members with the opportunity to choose racing opportunities and distances relevant to their fitness levels all within the one venue, and as per the government directives, enabling our athletes to "get in, compete, go home"

**RV** continued its partnership with **Rowing Australia (RA)** in developing pathways for athletes to move from school through to the elite programs. Within the strictest of COVID related lockdowns, our elite pathway athletes were able to continue training in their own hub at the **National Water Sports Centre** in Carrum ensuring they could enter the 2020/21 season with limited disruption to their preparation.

This year also saw significant change within the **RV** Office. Following 10 years of leadership and service, our CEO Nick Gall was farewelled with our best wishes for his future success. Ian Jickell has been welcomed as the new CEO and we look forward to working with him as he leads our sport's response to the challenges of moving out of these unprecedented times.

Whilst working collaboratively with **Rowing Australia**, **RV** remains in a strong position to serve its passionate members with strong reserves, a dedicated Board of Directors, professional staff and an engaged volunteer community.

## JOSEPH JOYCE

President - Rowing Victoria



## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Following a remarkably successful 2019, the global, national and state response to the COVID-19 pandemic saw us mark time in 2020.

State border closures and restrictions on mass gatherings, resulted in the cancellation of the national regatta in Sydney, cancellation of the **PSA** and **IGSSA Heads of the River**, deferral of the **Tokyo Olympic Games**, and a delayed start to the **WA Pennant** regatta season. Fortunately, WA's normally accursed remoteness and isolation turned out to be a blessing in a pandemic, allowing us to resume activity earlier than most, staging a compressed regatta season and the **WA State Championships**.

The resilience of our elite rowers, whose sacrifice of time and dedication to rowing excellence gives us so much pride and joy, has been truly tested. Our top school rowers forever denied their opportunity to shine in **Heads of River**, and our State and National level rowers left suspended in time, have reason to question their sacrifices. I am writing this message in mid-December 2020 as nerves are once again tested by sudden border closures, and I pray, for the sake of our youth, that a way will be found to stage a successful **National Regatta** and a truly great **Olympic Games** in 2021. I can only implore our rowers to stay the course and reap the rewards once this thing is over.

The highlight of the year has undoubtedly been the pragmatic and cool-headed manner by which **Rowing WA** staff and our rowing clubs adapted to the Government's State of Emergency Declarations. This saw our clubs move quickly into closure in March and reopen in June with COVID Safety Plans in place. Crews were quickly back on the water in mid-June and the season-opening regatta at the recently upgraded Canning Bridge foreshore on 4th July was a great success. My thanks go to all Club Presidents and Committees, the **RWA Regatta Committee**, **RWA** staff, and Boat Race Officials for the professional manner in which this was managed.

Meanwhile, the **Making Waves** program continued to deliver during 2020. It is testament to the **Making Waves** team and the commitment of the participant schools that the program only missed one term of activity in the year. In the background, the focus continued to be on establishing a separate **Making Waves** entity, constitution, and Board, as a key plank in ensuring growth and long term sustainability of the program.

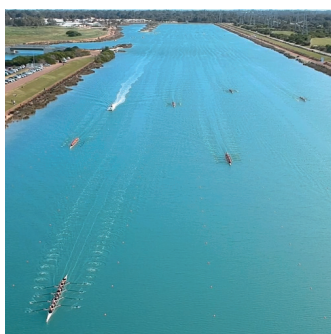
In 2021 our strategic focus will remain on continuous improvement of member programs, including the **Pennant regattas program**, the **high performance program**, **regional regattas**, and the upgrade of facilities at Champion Lakes and Canning Bridge. COVID-19 aside, the underlying strength of our great rowing clubs in a changing regulatory, community and sporting environment remains the most important challenge facing the sport. The dedicated pool of club volunteers and regatta officials is stretched, and needs a boost through innovative thinking, to set up for the decades to come. **Rowing WA** will be working closely with clubs on this challenge in 2021.

Finally, let me acknowledge a committed and highly capable team of **Rowing WA** staff, led by our talented and passionate CEO, Daniel Tackenberg, and also my fellow Board members who have worked tirelessly (and increasingly through Zoom!) to navigate an extraordinary year. This year will see the retirement of Craig James OAM from the **Rowing WA** Board. Craig retired as President in 2015, after 17 years in the role. He graciously continued on the Board, and in the ensuing six years has provided great wisdom and corporate memory to Board deliberations. I am particularly in Craig's debt for his wise counsel and support to me personally during this time. Craig will continue as WA's representative on the **Rowing Australia Council**.

As if suspended in time, I repeat my message from last year in wishing all rowers a successful 2021 at all levels and especially wish our WA representative crews great success in Barrington and on the sport's greatest stage for the **2020 Tokyo Olympics** in 2021.

### DAVID ROSE

President - Rowing WA







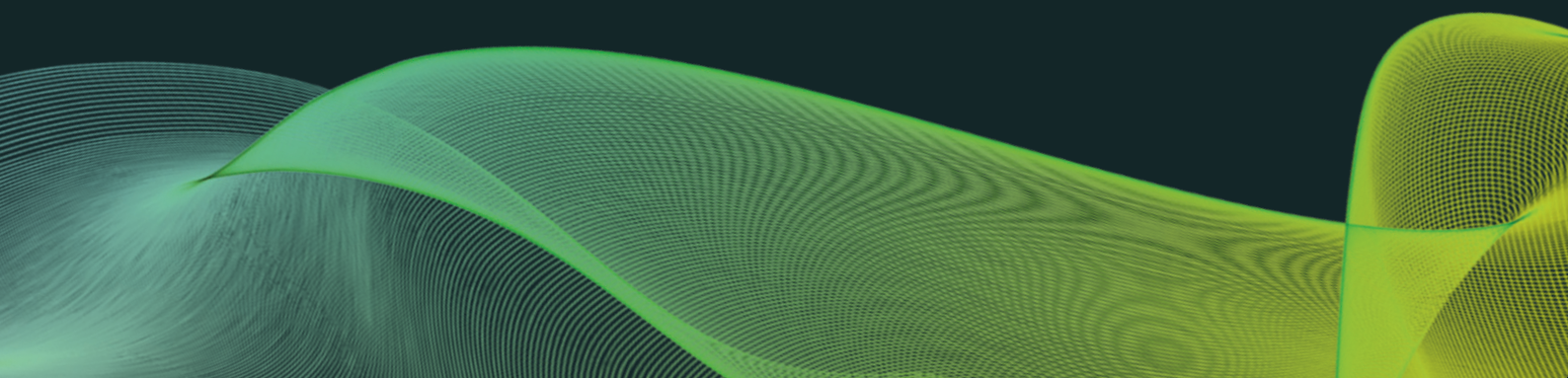






ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2020

ROWING AUSTRALIA LTD.  
ABN 49 126 080 519



The Directors present their report, together with the financial statements, on the Company for the year ended 31 December 2020.

## DIRECTORS

The following persons were directors of Rowing Australia Limited during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

**Andrew Michelmore**

**Andrew Rowley** (term ended on 1 May 2020)

**Benjamin Dodwell**

**Bryan Weir**

**Carmen Wearne** (term ended on 1 May 2020)

**David Crawshay** (commenced on 1 November 2020)

**Flavia Gobbo**

**Georgia Beattie** (commenced on 1 May 2020)

**Hannah Every Hall** (term ended on 31 October 2020)

**Peter Merrick Howes**

**Robert Scott**

**Sarah Wehr-Candler** (commenced on 1 May 2020)

## DIVIDENDS

There were no dividends paid, recommended or declared during the current or previous financial year.

## REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

The surplus for the Company after providing for income tax amounted to \$403,905 (31 December 2019: loss of \$876,492).

## SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE STATE OF AFFAIRS

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company during the financial year.

## MATTERS SUBSEQUENT TO THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

The Directors are not aware of any events that have occurred since the end of the reporting period that requires adjustment or disclosure within the financial statements.

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2020 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the Company's operations, the results of those operations, or the Company's state of affairs in future financial years.

## LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Information on likely developments in the operations of the Company and the expected results of operations have not been included in this report because the Directors believe it would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Company.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

The Company is not subject to any significant environmental regulation under Australian Commonwealth or State law.

## SHARES UNDER OPTION

There were no unissued ordinary shares of the Company under option outstanding at the date of this report.

## SHARES ISSUED ON THE EXERCISE OF OPTIONS

There were no ordinary shares of the Company issued on the exercise of options during the year ended 31 December 2020 and up to the date of this report.

## INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE OF OFFICERS

The Company has indemnified the directors and executives of the Company for costs incurred, in their capacity as a director or executive, for which they may be held personally liable, except where there is a lack of good faith.

During the financial year, the Company paid a premium in respect of a contract to insure the directors and executives of the Company against a liability to the extent permitted by the Corporations Act 2001. The contract of insurance prohibits disclosure of the nature of the liability and the amount of the premium.

## INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE OF AUDITOR

The Company has not, during or since the end of the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify the auditor of the Company or any related entity against a liability incurred by the auditor.

During the financial year, the Company has not paid a premium in respect of a contract to insure the auditor of the Company or any related entity.

## PROCEEDINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COMPANY

No person has applied to the Court under section 237 of the Corporations Act 2001 for leave to bring proceedings on behalf of the Company, or to intervene in any proceedings to which the Company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Company for all or part of those proceedings.

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 is set out immediately after this Directors' report.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of Directors, pursuant to section 298(2)(a) of the Corporations Act 2001.

On behalf of the Directors



Rob Scott - Director



Merrick Howes - Director

22 April 2021



The Directors  
Rowing Australia Limited  
21 Alexandrina Drive  
Yarralumla, ACT, 2600

Dear Board Members,

## Rowing Australia Limited

In accordance with section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the directors of Rowing Australia Limited.

As lead audit partner for the audit of the financial statements of Rowing Australia Limited for the financial year ended 31 December 2020, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- i) the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- ii) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Yours sincerely



DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU



**Nathan Furness**  
Partner  
Chartered Accountants  
22 April 2021







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### General information

*The financial statements cover Rowing Australia Limited as an individual entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is Rowing Australia Limited's functional and presentation currency.*

*Rowing Australia Limited is a Company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Its registered office and principal place of business are: 21 Alexandrina Drive, Yarralumla, ACT 2600*

*A description of the nature of the Company's operations and its principal activities are included in the Directors' report, which is not part of the financial statements.*

*The financial statements were authorised for issue, in accordance with a resolution of Directors, on 22 April 2021.*

# Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	NOTE	2020 \$	RESTATED 2019 \$
Revenue	4	11,935,877	14,991,452
Other gains and losses	5	474,980	187,063
Administration expenses		(1,304,740)	(626,507)
Marketing expenses		(1,062,239)	(577,630)
Bromley Trust		-	(32,120)
Development expenses		(382,857)	(420,606)
High performance expenses (including Para-Rowing)		(9,257,116)	(12,917,923)
Events		-	(1,480,221)
Total expenses		(12,006,952)	(16,055,007)
<b>Surplus/(Loss) before income tax expense</b>		403,905	(876,492)
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Surplus/(Loss) for the year</b>		403,905	(876,492)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive surplus/(loss) for the year</b>		403,905	(876,492)

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes



# Statement of financial position

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	NOTE	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	8	5,775,013	4,559,748
Trade and other receivables	9	46,197	249,275
Inventories	10	272,337	202,257
Other financial assets	11	904,258	758,730
Other Assets	12	670,299	581,327
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>7,668,104</b>	<b>6,351,337</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	13	2,907,335	2,291,909
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>2,907,335</b>	<b>2,291,909</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>10,575,439</b>	<b>8,643,246</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and Other Payables	14	1,197,728	949,835
Contract liabilities	15	3,770,483	2,583,415
Provisions	16	458,667	500,141
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>5,426,878</b>	<b>4,033,391</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provisions non-current	16	182,403	47,602
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>182,403</b>	<b>47,602</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>5,609,281</b>	<b>4,080,993</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>4,966,158</b>	<b>4,562,253</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained profits		3,937,618	3,533,051
Bromley Investment reserve		589,557	590,219
Olympic Boat Funds reserve		438,983	438,983
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>4,966,158</b>	<b>4,562,253</b>

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

# Statement of changes in equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	<b>BROMLEY INVESTMENT RESERVE \$</b>	<b>OLYMPIC BOAT FUNDS RESERVE \$</b>	<b>RETAINED PROFITS \$</b>	<b>TOTAL EQUITY \$</b>
<b>Balance at 1 January 2019</b>	478,855	438,983	2,820,073	3,737,911
Adjustment from the adoption of AASB15 and AASB1058	-	-	1,700,834	1,700,834
Adjusted balance at 1 January 2019	478,855	438,983	4,520,907	5,438,745
Loss after income tax expense for the year	-	-	(876,492)	(876,492)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	(876,492)	(876,492)
Transfers to/from reserves	111,364	-	(111,364)	-
Balance at 31 December 2019	590,219	438,983	3,533,051	4,562,253
<b>Balance at 1 January 2020</b>	590,219	438,983	3,533,051	4,562,253
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	-	-	403,905	403,905
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	403,905	403,905
Transfers to/from reserves	(662)	-	662	-
Balance at 31 December 2020	589,557	438,983	3,937,618	4,966,158

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes



# Statement of cash flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	NOTE	2020 \$	RESTATED 2019 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from grants		9,156,498	11,885,957
Receipts from other organisations & persons		4,117,136	6,005,178
Payments to suppliers and employees		(11,223,257)	(17,329,258)
Interest received		26,194	13,407
Dividends received		26,194	(13,554)
Net cash from operating activities	17	2,102,765	561,730
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Proceeds on disposal of property, plant and equipment		520,270	75,699
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(1,111,580)	(1,205,064)
Payments for investments		(146,190)	(15,607)
Net cash used in investing activities		(737,500)	(1,144,972)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Repayments of borrowings		(150,000)	-
Net cash used in financing activities		(150,000)	-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		1,215,265	(583,242)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		4,559,748	5,142,990
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	8	5,775,013	4,559,748

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 DECEMBER 2020

## NOTE 1. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Rowing Australia Ltd is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Australia on 29 June 2007.

The nature of operations and principal activity of the Company are the administration of the sport of rowing in Australia.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 22 April 2021 by the Directors of the Company.

## NOTE 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

### BASIS OF PREPARATION

In the Directors' opinion, the Company is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the Corporations Act 2001 requirements to prepare and distribute financial statements to the Directors of Rowing Australia Ltd. The Directors have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the Directors of Rowing Australia Ltd.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements', AASB 107 'Statement of Cash Flows', AASB 108 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors', AASB 1048 'Interpretation of Standards' and AASB 1054 'Australian Additional Disclosures', as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities. The Company does not comply with the requirements of AASB 10 'Consolidated Financial Statements'.

### AMENDMENTS TO AASBS THAT ARE MANDATORILY EFFECTIVE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

There are no new or amended standards that became effective in the current year, which would have a significant or material impact on the recognition, measurement or disclosures of the various account balances and classes of transactions pertaining to the Company. Consequently, there is no significant or material effect on the disclosures within these financial statements.

### REVENUE RECOGNITION

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Revenue is reduced for rebates and other similar allowances.

To determine when to recognise revenue, the Company follows a 5-step process:

1. Identifying the contract with a customer
2. Identifying the performance obligations
3. Determining the transaction price
4. Allocating the transaction price to the performance obligations
5. Recognising revenue when/as performance obligation(s) are satisfied.

#### **Grant revenue**

Revenue from grants is recognised either on receipt of the funds, where there are no identifiable on-going performance obligations, or over time where there are identifiable and specific performance obligations set out in the contract. The Company recognises a contract liability for consideration received in respect of unsatisfied performance obligations and reports these amounts as other liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position.

#### **Sponsorship**

Revenues from sponsorship is recognised over time when specific performance obligations are satisfied.

#### **Sale of goods**

Revenue from the sale of goods and services is recognised at a point in time when the Company has dispatched goods or provided the service, as this corresponds to the satisfaction of the performance obligation under the contract and the customer obtains control of the asset.



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**Other revenue**

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the relevant performance obligation is satisfied.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

**Other income – interest**

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

**INCOME TAX**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

**CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and at bank together with short-term deposits with original maturity of three months or less that are readily convertible to known cash amounts subject to insignificant risk of change in value.

**FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS****Recognition, initial measurement and derecognition**

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument and are measured initially at fair value adjusted by transactions costs, except for those carried at fair value through profit or loss, which are measured initially at fair value. Subsequent measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities are described below.

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or when the financial asset and all substantial risks and rewards are transferred. A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished, discharged, cancelled or expires.

**Classification and subsequent measurement of financial assets**

Except for those trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component and are measured at the transaction price in accordance with AASB 15, all financial assets are initially measured at fair value adjusted for transaction costs (where applicable).

For the purpose of subsequent measurement, financial assets other than those designated and effective as hedging instruments are classified into the following categories upon initial recognition:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)
- equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)
- debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

All income and expenses relating to financial assets that are recognised in profit or loss are presented within finance costs, finance income or other financial items, except for impairment of trade receivables which is presented within other expenses.

**Classifications are determined by both:**

- The Company's business model for managing the financial asset
- The contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets

**Subsequent measurement of financial assets****Financial assets at amortised cost**

Financial assets are measured at amortised cost if the assets meet the following conditions (and are not designated as FVPL):

- they are held within a business model whose objective is to hold the financial assets and collect its contractual cash flows
- the contractual terms of the financial assets give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

After initial recognition, these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The Company's cash and cash equivalents, trade and most other receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

**Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)**

Financial assets that are held within a different business model other than ‘hold to collect’ or ‘hold to collect and sell’ are categorised at fair value through profit and loss. Further, irrespective of business model financial assets whose contractual cash flows are not solely payments of principal and interest are accounted for at FVPL and is included in the ‘other gains and losses’ line item. All derivative financial instruments fall into this category.

**Impairment of Financial assets**

AASB 9’s impairment requirements use more forward looking information to recognise expected credit losses – the ‘expected credit losses (ECL) model’. Instruments within the scope of the new requirements include loans and other debt-type financial assets measured at amortised cost and FVOCI, trade receivables, contract assets recognised and measured under AASB 15 and loan commitments and some financial guarantee contracts (for the issuer) that are not measured at fair value through profit or loss. The company considers a broader range of information when assessing credit risk and measuring expected credit losses, including past events, current conditions, reasonable and supportable forecasts that affect the expected collectability of the future cash flows of the instrument.

**Classification and measurement of financial liabilities**

The Company’s financial liabilities include trade and other payables and contract liabilities. Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, and, where applicable, adjusted for transaction costs unless the Company designated a financial liability at fair value through profit or loss. Subsequently, financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method except for derivatives and financial liabilities designated at FVPL, which are carried subsequently at fair value with gains or losses recognised in profit or loss. All interest-related charges and, if applicable, changes in an instrument’s fair value that are reported in profit or loss are included within finance costs or finance income.

**INVENTORIES**

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to inventories on an average cost basis.

**PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

Property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value, less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset. The expected useful lives are as follows:

<i>Office &amp; Computer Equipment.....</i>	<i>2.5 - 10 years</i>
<i>Training Equipment.....</i>	<i>3 - 8 years</i>
<i>Motor Vehicles .....</i>	<i>3 years</i>
<i>Olympic Boats.....</i>	<i>5 years</i>
<i>Leasehold improvements .....</i>	<i>20 years</i>

The carrying values of property, plant and equipment are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

If any such indication exists and where the carrying values exceed the estimated recoverable amount, the assets or cash-generating units are written down to their recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

**Short-term employee benefits**

Provision is made for the Company’s obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages and salaries. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled. Sick leave is expensed as incurred.

**Other long-term employee benefits**

The Company classifies employees’ long service leave and annual leave entitlements as other long-term employee benefits when they are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Provision is made for the Company’s obligation for other long-term employee benefits which are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures and are discounted at rates applicable to national government securities at reporting date, which most closely match the terms of maturity of the related liability.



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## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX ('GST') AND OTHER SIMILAR TAXES

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

## ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Company is dependent on the Australian Sports Commission - Sport Australia ('the Commission') for the majority of its revenue. At the date of this report the Directors have no reason to believe the Commission will not continue to support the Company.

## COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

The following comparative amounts have been restated in the current period for presentation purposes:

### *Other gains and losses*

In the current period, Other gains and losses has been added as Note 5 within the financial statements. The Sundry Income line within Revenue Note 5 has been restated to \$73,551 (previously \$149,250), to reclassify the gain of disposals of property, plant and equipment of \$75,699 to Other gains and losses. The statement of cash flows has been adjusted accordingly with the addition of Proceeds on disposal of property, plant and equipment amounting to \$75,699 within Cash flows from investing activities and the removal thereof from Receipts from other organisations & persons within Cash flows from operating activities. The effects of this are disclosed in the table below:

	<b>RESTATED</b> \$	<b>PREVIOUSLY REPORTED</b> \$
<b>Statement of profit of loss and other comprehensive income</b>		
Revenue	14,991,452	15,067,151
Other income	-	111,364
Other gains and losses	187,063	-
<b>Statement of cash flows</b>		
<b><i>Cash flows from operating activities</i></b>		
Receipts from other organisations & persons	6,005,178	6,080,877
Net cash from operating activities	561,730	637,429
<b><i>Cash flows from investing activities</i></b>		
Proceeds on disposal of property, plant and equipment	75,699	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,144,972)	(1,220,671)

### NOTE 3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The preparation of financial statements necessarily requires the determination and use of certain critical accounting estimates, assumptions, and management judgements that have that potential to cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. Such estimates, judgements and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in future periods as relevant. The following are considered key accounting estimates:

#### **Allowance for expected credit losses**

The allowance for expected credit losses assessment requires a degree of estimation and judgement. It is based on the lifetime expected credit loss, grouped based on days overdue, and makes assumptions to allocate an overall expected credit loss rate for each group.

#### **Estimation of useful lives of assets**

The Company determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives.

#### **Employee benefits provision**

As disclosed in note 2, the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

### NOTE 4. REVENUE

	2020	RESTATED 2019
	\$	\$
Grants		
- Australian Sports Commission - High Performance	7,949,419	9,346,199
- Australian Sports Commission - HP Project Funding - Personal Excellence	51,261	7,125
- SIRR	-	1,300,000
Accreditation Fees	28,597	22,770
Affiliation Fees	83,015	83,249
Merchandise Sales	24,871	98,438
Sponsorship	3,525,724	2,938,367
Dividends/distributions received	26,194	31,672
Entry Fee Income	25,706	214,610
Interest Received	26,194	13,407
Insurance Recovery	1,500	11,956
Sundry Income	193,332	73,551
Ticket Sales	-	307,201
Team Income	64	542,907
Revenue	<u>11,935,877</u>	<u>14,991,452</u>

#### **Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers**

The Company derives revenue from the transfer of services over time and at a point in time as follows:

Revenue from transfer of services over time	11,311,083	13,591,691
Revenue from transfer of services at a point in time	624,794	1,399,761
	<u>11,935,877</u>	<u>14,991,452</u>



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**NOTE 5. OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	475,642	75,699
Net (loss)/gain arising on financial assets designated as at FVTPL	(662)	111,364
	<u>474,980</u>	<u>187,063</u>

**NOTE 6. SURPLUS/(LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAX**

Included within expenses are the following items:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Employee benefits expenses	4,622,802	4,684,821
Depreciation and amortisation of property, plant and equipment	451,537	364,227

**NOTE 7. AUDITORS REMUNERATION**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Audit of the financial statements - Grant Thornton (i)	-	35,000
Audit of the financial statements - Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (ii)	37,000	-
Other services - Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (ii)	10,500	-
	<u>47,500</u>	<u>35,000</u>

(i) *Audit fees settled by way of reciprocation of sponsorship services*

(ii) *Indicative audit fees provided on a pro bono basis*

**NOTE 8. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Cash at Bank - Rowing Australia	5,773,523	4,436,199
Cash at Bank - The Bromley Trust	-	108,226
Cash on Hand	1,490	15,323
	<u>5,775,013</u>	<u>4,559,748</u>

**NOTE 9. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Trade Debtors	46,197	241,387
Distributions Receivable	-	7,888
	<u>46,197</u>	<u>249,275</u>

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**NOTE 10. INVENTORIES**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Uniforms - At Cost	272,337	202,257
	<u>272,337</u>	<u>202,257</u>

**NOTE 11. OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>RESTATED</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>2019</b>
		<b>\$</b>
<b>Financial assets held at fair value through profit and loss</b>		
Units held in managed funds – at fair value	904,258	758,730
	<u>904,258</u>	<u>758,730</u>

*In September 2020, investments managed by Australian Foundation Investment Co Ltd, Argo Investment Ltd and the General Property Trust were transferred to Beulah Capital. This investment relates to funds held in the E R Bromley Trust Fund, owned by Rowing Australia Ltd.*

**NOTE 12. OTHER ASSETS**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Deposits Paid	144,474	96,992
Prepayments - Other	581,325	359,357
Prepayments - SIRR	-	124,978
	<u>670,299</u>	<u>581,327</u>

**NOTE 13. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Office & Computer equipment - at cost	363,064	336,702
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(324,021)	(296,304)
	<u>39,043</u>	<u>40,398</u>
Training Equipment - at cost	586,143	484,691
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(379,419)	(254,297)
	<u>206,724</u>	<u>230,394</u>
Olympic Boats - at cost	2,010,344	1,205,666
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(433,828)	(252,749)
	<u>1,576,516</u>	<u>952,917</u>
Motor Vehicle - at cost	71,809	71,809
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(71,809)	(59,081)
	<u>-</u>	<u>12,728</u>
Leasehold Improvements - at cost	1,257,301	1,165,256
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(172,249)	(109,784)
	<u>1,085,052</u>	<u>1,055,472</u>
	<u>2,907,335</u>	<u>2,291,909</u>



Rowing Australia Limited entered into an agreement with Rowing New South Wales Incorporated and New South Wales Institute of Sport for the construction of a national training centre in Penrith. Rowing Australia Limited has contributed

\$940,887 to the construction of the facility which is included in leasehold improvements above. The land has been leased from the Penrith City Council by Rowing New South Wales Incorporated which has a sub-licence with New South Wales Institute of Sport. Rowing Australia Limited has entered into a sub-licence with New South Wales Institute of Sport for use of the facility. The sub-licence arrangement represents a peppercorn lease. Rowing Australia has applied the exemption under AASB 16 to not fair value the lease payments. It has therefore not been accounted for under the new leasing standard.

On 30 June 2018, the Australian Sports Commission transferred 145 boats with a fair value of \$1,530,942 to the Company at no cost. These assets have been recognised in the Statement of Financial Position by deducting the fair value of the grant (\$1,530,942) in arriving at their carrying value of \$nil. In addition, the Australian Sports Commission provided a cash grant of \$1,291,923 to cover the depreciation of the assets for the 36-month period 30 June 2018 to 30 June 2021. This was recognised as revenue in the 2018 financial period.

During 2020, the Company disposed of 64 out of the 145 boats transferred for consideration of \$532,250. As the boats had nil carrying value this has been recognised as Other Income in the Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Movements in carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

#### YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020

	OFFICE & COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	TRAINING EQUIPMENT	LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS	MOTOR VEHICLES	OLYMPIC BOATS	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of year:	40,398	230,394	1,055,472	12,728	952,917	2,291,909
Additions at cost	30,174	84,119	92,045	-	905,242	1,111,580
Disposals	(1,718)	(5,475)	-	-	(37,433)	(44,625)
Depreciation	(29,811)	(102,314)	(62,465)	(12,728)	(244,210)	(451,527)
Balance at end of year	39,043	206,724	1,085,052	-	1,567,516	2,907,335

#### YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019

	OFFICE & COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	TRAINING EQUIPMENT	LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS	MOTOR VEHICLES	OLYMPIC BOATS	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of year:	71,714	194,775	889,714	36,662	258,207	1,451,072
Additions at cost	14,026	111,726	216,595	-	862,717	1,205,064
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	(45,342)	(76,107)	(50,837)	(23,934)	(168,007)	(364,227)
Balance at end of year	40,398	230,394	1,055,472	12,728	952,917	2,291,909

**NOTE 14. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
NSWIS Contribution	-	150,000
Trade Creditors	907,550	421,547
Accruals	175,107	98,178
Other Amounts	115,071	280,110
	<u>1,197,728</u>	<u>949,835</u>

**NOTE 15. CONTRACT LIABILITIES**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Income Received in Advance - Australian Sports Commission	3,122,566	1,516,748
Income in Advance - SIRR	200,000	650,000
Income Received in Advance - Other	447,917	416,667
	<u>3,770,483</u>	<u>2,583,415</u>

**NOTE 16. PROVISIONS**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Provision for Annual Leave	415,350	413,120
Provision for Long Service Leave	43,317	93,563
Provision for FBT	-	(6,542)
	<u>458,667</u>	<u>500,141</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Provisions for long service leave	182,403	47,602
	<u>182,403</u>	<u>47,602</u>



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**NOTE 17. RECONCILIATION OF LOSS AFTER INCOME TAX TO NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Cash at bank	5,773,523	4,544,425
Cash on hand	1,490	15,323
	<u>5,775,013</u>	<u>4,559,748</u>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>RESTATED</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>2019</b>
		<b>\$</b>
Surplus/(Loss) after income tax expense for the year	403,905	(876,492)
<b>Non-cash adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation and amortisation	451,527	364,227
Net fair value movement on investments	662	(111,364)
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(475,642)	(75,699)
AASB 15 and AASB 1058 transition adjustments	-	1,700,834
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
<i>Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables</i>	203,078	(47,212)
<i>(Increase)/decrease in inventories</i>	(70,080)	5,264
<i>Increase in other assets</i>	(88,973)	(161,237)
<i>Increase in trade and other payables</i>	397,893	138,151
<i>Increase/(decrease) in contract liabilities</i>	1,187,068	(420,990)
<i>Increase in other provisions</i>	93,327	46,248
Net cash from operating activities	<u>2,102,765</u>	<u>561,730</u>

**NOTE 18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

During the year the Company made lease payments of \$113,420 (2019: \$44,514) to the Olympic Boat Fleet Trust for the use of boats.

**NOTE 19. ENTITY INFORMATION**

The registered office and principal place of business of the Company is: 21 Alexandrina Drive, Yarralumla, ACT 2600.

**NOTE 20. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

There are no known contingent assets and liabilities as at the reporting date.

**NOTE 21. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD**

The Directors are not aware of any events that have occurred since the end of the reporting period that requires adjustment or disclosure within the financial statements.

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# DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

In the Directors' opinion:

- The Company is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. Accordingly, as described in note 2 to the financial statements, the attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the Corporations Act 2001 requirements to prepare and distribute financial statements to the Director of Rowing Australia Ltd.
- The attached financial statements and notes comply with the Corporations Act 2001, the Accounting Standards as described in note 2 to the financial statements, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements;
- The attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Directors made pursuant to section 295(5)(a) of the Corporations Act 2001.

On behalf of the Directors



Rob Scott - Director



Merrick Howes - Director

22 April 2021



## Independent Auditor's Report to the directors of Rowing Australia Ltd

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Rowing Australia Ltd (the "Company") which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 2 and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



### *Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting*

We draw attention to Note 2 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the *Corporations Act 2001*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### *Other Information*

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Director's report for the year ended 31 December 2020 but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### *Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report*

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 3 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the ability of the Company to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.



# Deloitte.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu*

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU



Nathan Furness  
Partner  
Chartered Accountants  
Brisbane  
22 April 2021



