



BMRC Newsletter March 2023

Summer's warm days are coming to a close. I hope you are out there and enjoying balmy rowing!

From the President

Welcome to the March newsletter.

We are now well into the business end of the season with the ACT Championships in Canberra this weekend. All the best to the Club members then making the long journey to the Australian Rowing Championships in Perth later in March.

For the masters competitors we have the NSW Masters Championships and Australian Masters Championships in Penrith. Ian is also looking at additional racing opportunities in Penrith, including the Edward Trickett grade regatta in April.

For those who prefer a longer event, the ACT Winter Time Trial series will start in May. The Winter Time Trials, over a 4K course from Scrivener Dam to Yarralumla, are a good opportunity for rowers and scullers to consolidate skills

It is pleasing to see good progress on the Red Shed. John and Jeanette are keen for Club members to understand more about the Red Shed project, and Q&A updates circulated by email will provide useful context. Please contact a Committee member if you have a question to propose for inclusion.

Across the last few months the Committee has met three times to progress normal business, as well as a specific update meeting on the Red Shed.

Safety has been a key focus, and you will have seen a number of emails from Rowing ACT stressing the importance of complying with the Lake Traffic Flow protocols.

Thanks again to Leslee for compiling this Newsletter. I hope you find the information interesting and useful, and I invite you to suggest material for inclusion in future.

See you around the shed

Leigh Gordon

Member survey: format of Club Annual Dinner

Would you like to see a different format for the BMRC Annual Dinner and Awards Night? Or do you love the tried and true ways? You will have the chance to give some feedback and ideas in a survey to be circulated to members soon. Please give us your thoughts!

Main points from Committee Meetings – March

- The Committee is progressing a review of the **Club Boat Storage and Boat Allocation policies**. A link to the new policies will be sent to members when this work is finalised.
- Club members have been involved in multiple **incidents** while rowing on the course in the last few months, with some resulting in serious injury.
 - Please submit a RACT 'incident report' (via the RACT website) for any safety incidents you are involved in or witness on the Lake. Without information about the frequency and level of these incidents, BMRC cannot hope to take action to try to improve safety procedures within the Club and for all Lake users. Contact a Committee member if you don't know how to submit an incident report.
 - Remember to **stay out of lanes 2 and 3 when training on the course– in either direction**. While not guaranteeing your safety, this practice is the one of the best ways for all BMRC members to avoid collisions on the course.
 - Henry Bridgewater is the Club Safety Officer. Please let Henry know if you have safety concerns about club equipment or on-water activities.
- The National Capital Authority has agreed in principle to replace **the pontoons**. The next step is preparation of a budget business case by the NCA Lake Manager for a 2023/24 funding allocation. BMRC and Daramalan have both provided information for that submission.
 - As the replacement pontoons are unlikely to be installed this calendar year, the Committee is investigating an interim pontoon flotation solution (inserting small empty drums under the pontoons), to try to address the safety hazards of water, slime or ice on the pontoon particularly as temperatures cool
 - In the meantime, **take care when using the pontoons** – particularly when they are wet.
 - Thanks to Peter Wright for progressing this issue with Daramalan and NCA
- The Committee noted that all **the fleet** is currently in good order, but that maintenance must be ongoing to for this to continue. In particular, there is a good range of red-dot and non-red-dot boats available to meet the varying needs of members.
 - The Club has ordered several new sets of sculling blades to ensure all boats have allocated blades and that any broken oars are replaced.
 - Please **take care** when taking boats from the racks in the shed (or putting boats away).
 - Move SLOWLY, check the passage is clear and make sure the gates on your boat and the boat on the rack above have their protective sleeves firmly attached and take care not to scratch the hull when putting boats on and off slings.

- Make sure you have adequate numbers to move a boat on and off the water.
 - Take care not to let bows and sterns of any boat (but particularly single sculls) hit the ground, or the concrete on the pontoons.
- If you notice a defect in a boat which you cannot confidently address yourself, please make a note in the **maintenance book** kept in the Club Room at the shed.
 - For example, if you notice the shoes in a boat are not correctly connected to the footplate, or the rudder adjustment is out of whack and you don't know how to fix it, make a note in the book. If you would like to be shown how to adjust the shoes or rudder, note that in the book too!
- Club boats are set up with a 'standard rig' (span/gearing/pitch on oars) which is satisfactory for most Club members who are of an appropriate size for a particular boat. If you would like to have the rig of a Club boat reviewed or reassessed (and sometimes the rig does need to be re-measured and adjusted), please note that request in the maintenance book, or raise the matter with the Club Captains.

Red Shed

Excavations on the Red Shed site continue apace (despite some hiccups). Check the notice board at the shed for building progress reports and other information about new rowing activities at the Red Shed. Architects' impression of the wonderful new facility below.



You should also have received recent emails with some information about the Red Shed, in Q&A format. In the latest of those emails, you have been invited to register for a *Red Shed Newsletter*, direct from the Red Shed management. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please click [here](#)

From the Captains

Low light, fog – and boat lights

With autumn upon us, the sun is getting up much later, and there is always the chance of morning fog. Please use boat lights (on the bow **and** stern canvas) when the light and visibility are poor.

- If the **street lights on Lady Denman Drive** are still on, you should put boat lights on before you go out to row.
- If you cannot **clearly see the end of Weston Park** because of fog, you should **not** row in club equipment. Enjoy an erg session instead!
- If you use Club lights, please take care to attach them securely to the boat and return them to the charger after use.
 - Written instructions on how to use and charge the Club lights are kept near the lights. If you are unsure, please ask someone – there is sure to be someone else in the shed at the time to show you how it's done.

Racing tips – RACT fines for failure to scratch from a race.

RACT has started fining crews who do not arrive at the start of a race and **who have not scratched at least 30 minutes before the race**. This applies to **all local summer regattas and the Winter Time Trial** series. BMRC expects any fined crew to pay the amount themselves (or explain to RACT directly why the fine should not be imposed).

You can scratch up till 5pm on the day before a regatta via the BMRC Regatta Secretary – Jane Robinson.

For summer regattas, on regatta days you can scratch **via text message to RACT on 0416 197 157**. This number is noted on the bottom of the RACT draw for a regatta (on the RACT website) and also on the bottom of the boat allocation email sent to competitors by the Captain.

The scratching process for the Winter Time Trial series will be published before the first Time Trial

New members

Welcome to all our recent new members.

Here are a few words from new member **Colleen Chapman**:

Hi everyone, I have been rowing for 5 years in Sydney and am currently competing with Drummoyne. My family and I will be relocating to Canberra in December 2023 and I have managed to get a job in Canberra. I am splitting my time between Canberra (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) and Sydney (Thursday to Sunday), so very keen to row or sub in to any crews on these Canberra mornings, bright and early before work.

I row in all classes of boats both sweep and scull (prefer stroke side but happy to jump on bow side when needed) and am currently learning the dark art of a pair. I love to compete,

improve my technique and be busy at regattas. I also love to train in some form every day, so the erg got quite a work out during the rainy summer!!

I've loved how welcoming everyone has been and I'm looking forward to jumping into more boats with you all!

Colleen



Upcoming Events 2023

March

18 March ACT Open and Masters' Championship Regatta

April

5 April Rowing NSW Trickett Regatta – Penrith (SIRC)

May

20-21 May NSW Masters' Championships Regatta – Penrith (SIRC)

June

1 June Australian Masters' Championships Regatta – Penrith (SIRC)

From the Editor

Newsletters are published roughly once per month after Club Committee meetings. Photos and short articles about Club life are always welcome for inclusion. Please contact me on 0417668916 if you would like to send in a contribution. Regards, Leslee