



CLUB Update APRIL 2020

From the President

Wow! What an interesting month it has been.

The Committee and I have received many emails reflecting how passionate members are about rowing. And I thank you for them. It is your Club, and it is important to get your feedback. It has given the Committee an idea of your feelings about the closure, and the majority of feedback has supported our decision. I could condense the emails into a short novel. There would be a chapter on Safety Measures: hand washing, social distance and comparisons with other sports, a chapter on Insurance Matters, another on Fees and Compensation, another on personal opinions of Rowing ACT, and my favourite chapter - Suggestions on What to Do Instead of rowing! One of the gems - *Yep, just stay home and self- isolate unless you are part of the essential champions. Do star jumps for a few weeks then see where we are at!*

Club closure

The Committee held a Special Meeting on Wed 25 March. We gathered as much information as we could on safety measures, insurance, feedback from members and recommendations from RACT, Rowing Australia and ACT Government guidelines. The Committee listed risks and benefits of several options, and a unanimous decision was made to close the shed to all rowers.

Since then, RACT has developed a COVID-19 policy, and with Rowing Australia hosted a Skype discussion session, explaining their position on the situation. Some members have submitted proposals to reopen the shed to limited rowing, meeting the ACT Govt. guidelines, and I have sought legal advice. There has been continued discussion relating to all aspects of the closure.

The Committee met again on Wednesday 15th April. We reviewed our decision based on additional information gathered. Rowing Australia and RACT have the resources, personnel and experts to undertake a thorough and ongoing assessment of the situation. The Committee voted to follow RACT COVID-19 policy guidelines. The shed is closed to all rowing until further notice. Members may row their private singles, if stored elsewhere and following strict guidelines. The Committee will continue to monitor this advice in conjunction with changes in the stance of Rowing Australia/ RACT and The ACT Govt.

The Committee's responsibility is '*to control and manage the affairs of the Club in the best interests of the Club*'. Opening the shed to allow some access to rowing would be in the best interest of a minority of members, but not of the Club as a whole. In contravening RACT policy we would potentially expose members and their contacts to the risk of COVID-19, to unsafe rowing conditions (Canberra winters in singles with no back-up tinnies and few other rowers), and the Committee, and thus the Club to litigation. The risks may be minimal, but the consequences serious.

Fees

The Committee is not yet able to make an informed decision on fees in relation to the closure, as we are only 3 weeks into the closure, and we don't know how long it will last. We have therefore made a decision to consider refunds on an individual basis. If you are suffering financial hardship due to the COVID-19 situation, please contact the Committee stating your case. This will be reviewed by the President, Treasurer and Secretary only. Email to secretary@bmrc.org.au

Hoodies

Pam has been researching options for a BMRC hoodie over the last few months, and has come up with a winner! But I won't steal her thunder. Pam will be asking for expressions of interest, so look out for more information coming to you soon. Thanks Pam.

Photos:

Must say I have enjoyed the photos on Facebook. Thanks Ian for the suggestion! There were some good looking lads and lasses back in the day.....not that you all aren't good looking now..... just in a more mellowed way!

Newsflash!

Hi all, a new BMRC Facebook page challenge started today! If you are on Facebook, please get on board

If I wasn't rowing I would be.....What are you doing while the shed is closed

Post a picture, any picture! (well..... **nearly** any picture) from reading, to gardening, to home improvements, to alternative exercise....

Ian

Good News:

The pre-loved double/pair purchased from ANU to replace the boat previously known as Mary Quilty has arrived and is safely tucked up in the shed. We have kept the name Mary Quilty for this new acquisition.

Stay safe,

Mary B

Community News

The Canberra Relief Network

The Canberra Relief Network is a collaboration of community service organisations in the ACT supported by the ACT Government in response to the sudden and overwhelming demand for food and non-perishable household essentials item that is occurring and is expected to increase as a direct result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

If you know someone who is having difficulties putting food on the table suggest they call this number. They may be eligible to receive food hampers.

1800 43 11 33