



BMRC Newsletter – April 2022

What lovely autumn rowing conditions we have had this month! Good luck and good rowing to those crews who are preparing to race in the Victorian Masters Rowing Championships, the Australian Masters Rowing Championships and the first of the 2022 ACT Winter Time trial series.

Main points from Committee Meeting – April

- Yvonne Poels has kindly agreed to act as 'locum' club Secretary from April to June this year. Thanks to Yvonne for undertaking this vital role.
- There continues to be a (live and furry) rat lurking in the shed and eating any food it can find. Please don't leave snacks for the rat! If you have home grown goodies to share, please put them in the fridge and leave a note on the bench about your offering. Rat eradication action will continue.
- Rowing ACT has sought feedback on the 21/22 regatta season in the ACT. Specifically RACT seeks comment on:-
 - Number and timing of standard regattas in Canberra;
 - The way regattas are organised, including the order of events; and
 - The conduct of the ACT Championship regattas, and particularly the splitting of the junior championship events and the open/masters events into two regattas.

If you have comments to contribute to the RACT review, please give them to the President, or one of the Club captains.

- The club has established a new ASF Donation page for contributions towards the purchase of the two new doubles sculls (and oars) which have been ordered. As the end of the financial year approaches, now might be the time to decide to make a donation – thanks 😊.

From the Captains

Congratulations to Paloma Padovan on her fantastic efforts at the recent National Championships. Paloma rowed with the CGGS Composite 4 and 4+ finishing just outside the medals. The Black Mountain/Orana Quad then rowed from the outside (tough draw) in the windy lanes to secure a slightly better lane 5 in the reps, raced really well in the reps to finish 3rd in tough conditions, and into the Semis. A super race in the semis winning by .1 of a second and placing them in the D Final. Another solid row and a PB in their final to finish 2nd. All in all, 19th out of the 40 crews that entered in the schoolgirl quad scull. They were awesome in their approach to their first nationals and showed themselves they had the heart to take it further.



Congratulations to all our Orana members who competed.

The club has taken delivery of a used Filippi quad suitable for 90-95kg crews. The boat is a red dot boat.

The club working bee was successfully held on 13 March – lots of rubbish was removed and some boat maintenance was carried out. Many thanks to the workers both before and during the working bee, and to the chefs who cooked bacon and egg rolls.

New members

Welcome to all our recent new members.

Coaches Corner with Dazzell

Love that hull

Most damage to rowing boat hulls comes from lifting the boats in and out of the water and when racking the boat. Boats can be very easily damaged when they are lifted onto or out of racks in the shed, and also when rolling the boat to clean the hull and allowing the hull to strike the trestle. Damage may also occur in a collision and sometimes if the boat hull is struck by an oar while on the water. In particular, it is very important not to allow the boat to come into contact with any riggers of boats above or below when moving them in and out of the shed. (So please take care when attaching the rigger covers before you put your boat away.)

Almost all rowing boats hulls are now made up of a sandwich type construction of a honeycomb core, face sheets and a top-coat. This allows the hull to be made lightweight and rigid. Most hulls are less than 3mm thick and each hull is very fragile - not unlike an eggshell.

Different boats use different layups and the material chosen depends largely on cost. Cheap boats can use paper as the core material and, if damaged, will adsorb water. The face sheets can be fibreglass, carbon fibre cloth or sheeting, and/or kevlar sheeting that is impregnated with epoxy resin. The outer surface of the hull can be gelcoat or, more recently, Polyurethane 2 pack paint that is very durable and hard.

If a boat hull is damaged, then it is crucial to get it out of the water as soon as possible.

Failure to do so will result in water wicking its way into the honeycomb core and, depending on the type of material used in the core, it can either soften the core or set up a rot that will destroy the integrity of the core material and weaken the hull.

So, if you suspect you may have damaged the hull (in order of priority):

1. Have a good look. Get the boat out of the water and dry it off around the damaged section.
2. Even if you think the damage is just a scratch, cover the damage as in 4 below.
 - Often a scratch on proper inspection reveals that the outer layer of the hull has been crushed and may be cracked and or penetrated.
3. Report the damage to the club Captain or Vice Captain. The Captain can then decide if the boat can be rowed again or needs urgent attention/repair by a competent boatman.
4. If the damage is considered relatively minor, the damage should be covered by good quality gaffer tape or a cellulose waterproof tape. The boat can then be used until a repair can be effected.

And some maintenance tips:

- Always clean the inside of the hull and keep it as dry as possible.

- Never use a silicon-based polish on a hull. It is almost impossible to paint as part of a repair after that!

Safe rowing,

Dazzell

Upcoming Events 2022

April

30 April NSW Masters Championships (Clarence River, Grafton)

May

7-8 May Victorian Masters Championships (Nagambie)

14/15 May 1st 2022 ACT Winter Time Trials

19-22 May Australian Masters Rowing Championships (Lake Wendouree)

June

18/19 June 2nd 2022 ACT Winter Time Trials

From the Editor

Newsletters are published roughly once per month after club committee meetings. Short articles or photos about club life are always welcome for inclusion. Please contact me on 0417668916 if you would like to send in a contribution. Regards, Leslee