



CLUB Update March 2021

From the President

The Committee continues to do some great work behind the scenes to ensure the continued operation of a viable club, with the discussions on the boat fleet rollover plan being a good example. As detailed below, we have decided to purchase a new double and quad to add to the fleet, with delivery likely in the spring. Both these boats will be for general use – rather than red dot.

At the end of this newsletter I have repeated some of the considerations on the boat fleet rollover plan as presented to the Committee, and I would like to thank Ian Mongan, Jenny Simmons and Kate Freebody for their excellent work on the plan.

We are approaching the competitive end of the regatta season with ACT Championships this weekend, and both NSW Masters and Australian Masters scheduled for Penrith in May. I think autumn brings some of the best rowing and sculling conditions in Canberra, and I look forward to seeing you on the water.

Leigh Gordon

Main points from the Committee Meeting March 3rd

- Annual dinner. We have had a few people express an interest in organizing the annual dinner. Contact Judith if you would like to be involved.
- Ian, Jenny and Kate presented a Boat Rollover Program 2021-2023. The focus is to reinvigorate the non-red-dot fleet up to date. This involves purchasing a 75k double and 75k quad in the coming year.
- Boat usage was discussed, using the sign-in sheets to gather data.
- Rope ladders have been purchased for the 3 tinnies. These are to help people board the boat from the water. Draft guidelines have been completed (see attachment) but we are waiting for cleaner water before we put them to the test.



Recent events

The high-pressure water pump has been purchased and put through its paces. The pontoons are looking much cleaner – thanks to those wielding the hose.



We were able to hold the much-delayed boat naming ceremony. The lightweight quad was named in honour of Yvonne Poels, in recognition of her contribution the Club over the years – in her official capacity on the Committee, her strong representation on the water, and for being an all round good person!

Upcoming Events

March						
13/3/2021	Sat-Sun	ACT Open & Masters Championships	Rowing ACT	Lake Burley Griffin	Championship	Info..
22/3/2021	Mon-Sun	Australian Rowing Championships	Rowing Australia	Lake Barrington, TAS	National	Info.. Events Event Website...
April						
11/04/21	Sun	BMRC Working Bee				
May						
15/5/2021	Sat-Sun	NSW Masters Championships		SIRC, NSW	Masters	Info.. Events
27/5/2021	Thu-Sun	Australian Masters Rowing Championships	Rowing Australia	SIRC, NSW	Masters	Info..

The **BIG CANBERRA BIKE RIDE** is on 21 MARCH. Access to the shed will be scheduled as below.

Time in/out before 7:10am, Then in/out between 7:30am – 8:00am, Then in/out 8:30am – 9:00am

The last group of riders should be coming through just before 10:00am, but sometimes things get delayed.

From the Safety Officer

SAFETY GUIDELINES - from A practical guide for Australian Rowing Clubs (May 2010) 8. The use of safety lights is required in the following conditions: • Periods of low visibility, such as during heavy rain or periods of fog • Periods of low light, including heavily overcast skies • Period of time prior to and in the immediate time after sunrise & sunset.

So check what time sunrise is, and check your batteries!

Introducing New Members

Mhairin (Merryn) Hilliker



I joined BMRC in November with no rowing background and no idea of what I was in for. Rodney put on a gruff front for our first “learn to row” lesson, and I was scared of both drowning and my new coach. Rodney informed me I would be competing in a regatta in just over two months. Despite my incapacity to leave the pontoon, he was right. My sudden awareness of everything I never knew I never knew about rowing had me behaving as Judith had warned I would - obsessively. An instructional video on “how to get back into a capsized single skull” was studied diligently and I’m thankful

it’s yet to be put into practice.

After many early mornings and a LOT of learning, correcting and re-learning, it was race day. I couldn’t wait to race after injury stopped all sport for me for 18 months. My first race was, on the timesheet, very average. Staying in my lane and in my boat was achievement enough and Club members’ congratulations for my first race made it feel like a much bigger victory.

Now I had a time to beat and a coach who was determined I would. Two weeks later, after some tailored training sessions, my second regatta was a comedic success. I had a miserable start, hit several buoys and dodged a swan – and through this had still managed to improve enough to knock 30 seconds off my pb. I couldn’t help but laugh at the ongoing contrast of rowing being a sport of beauty and chaos (for a beginner at least). I took home bronze for my race and had a smile big enough to compete with my increasingly radiating sunburn.

It has been fab getting to know the sport and getting to know the Club. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me so warmly, particularly Rodney for his continued coaching, Mary Quilty for her social coaching on weekends, members for their cheers as I have a crack at a race, and everyone who has patiently helped me carry a boat. As a soccer player, I was concerned about how much of a “team” environment I would be able to gather through rowing. Little did I know how unfounded my concern was, and that stopping talking about rowing to anyone who would listen was the real challenge.

Looking forward to seeing you all out on the water and getting to know you as I continue to learn your sport (how do you all make it look so easy!)

Martin Lascelles



“Good to be back rowing again, and a great welcome from BMRC, Marty”

Shout outs



A big congratulations from the Club to Luke Letcher on his selection in the Men's Quadruple Scull in the 2021 Australian Rowing Team. In the media release on team selection, Rowing Australia states:

"We are really positive about the athletes and crews that have been selected today, and this has been an important step on the way towards Tokyo. Over the coming months we will work to refine our strategy and thinking in the lead up to the Games before nominating our crews to the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) and Paralympics Australia (PA)."



A shout out to Rick Martin for attacking and cleaning the cobweb and other greebly-infested light above our red door. Barely visible for quite some time, it actually looks like this!



Key Considerations in the Fleet Rollover Plan

Context:

Historically, the replacement of boats has been managed by rolling down boats. That is, when a new boat is purchased, a red dot is removed from a boat. However, not all boats are suitable for all rowers. A boat purchased as a racing boat for competitive members is not always enjoyable/suitable for those members who do not race, or for recreational, novice rowers or LTR.

In recent years, the boat rollover program has been reviewed annually including:

- Fleet size, makeup, age and usage of individual boats;
- The rowing (and racing) patterns/requirements of the membership;
- The rolling down of boats versus the replacement of boats (new or secondhand);
- Restoration/refresh of functionality of selected boats (robust, regularly used) through the maintenance program;
- Expected disposal value of boats; and
- Availability/opportunity to procure secondhand boats eg through the established Fleet Rollover programs of ANU, AIS etc.

Assumptions:

- Number of Club members will remain roughly the same over the next five years
- Patterns of racing (e.g. preference for sculling over sweep) will remain the same in this period
- Assumes junior and non-master numbers will remain low (e.g. no need to purchase coxed quads)

Relevant observations:

- There is an emerging need to restore and invest in the non-red-dot fleet of the Club and in particular the quad fleet. In recent years, the Club has invested in addressing the HW and LW red-dot quad and doubles fleet, including boosting the singles fleet for non-red-dot boats through Steve Fairfax Fund and opportunistic purchases of second hand singles.
- The Kieran Kelly double (non-red-dot) was written off and needs to be replaced this year. Insurance recoveries of \$3,800 were received in 2020.
- The workmanship/quality of boats has declined compared to boats built 20-30 years ago. We should not expect boats such as the Ian Mongan and Judith Abercromby to have the lifespan we have achieved with the Gudgenby and Flanagan. This means rolling over boats within the fleet that are older than 10 -15 years (as opposed to 16-25yrs).
- Where practical, boats should be sold and replaced while they still have a reasonable secondhand value thus allowing the purchase of a new boat or suitable secondhand boat, with a lower cost outlay for the total transaction.
- Secondhand market for boats suitable for our needs is limited. Some good sources of secondhand boats do come available (such as the ANU Fleet rollover) but there is heavy competition for these boats. (This can be of benefit to BMRC when it comes to selling boats).
- As boats are replaced, oars should either be sold with the boat or rolled over to another boat in the fleet.
- Should the number of junior members increase there is a good secondhand market in coxed quad/fours.

