



153rd Annual
General Meeting

BARWON ROWING CLUB

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President's Report

I am honored to present the President's Report for the 153rd year of Barwon Rowing Club. Congratulations to Lee Rendle and Michael Du Vallon on having the newest additions to the fleet named after them for the support they have shown to the club over many years.

Whilst last season's success on the water hasn't been great congratulations must go to all members who competed in the blue and white hoops and a special mention Tom Hastings for his success in the Penrith Cup. This has continued a long tradition of Barwon members who have tasted this success in this event at the highest national level. However, success is not solely measured by trophies and wins on the water. It is also defined by the growth and development of our club. In the coming year, my aim is to build and strengthen our membership base. We must actively reach out to the wider community, engage with schools, many of whom we have had past relationships and encourage the next generation of athletes to join what I believe is the premier rowing club in Geelong. To do this we must foster a culture of inclusivity and provide opportunities for all skill levels, regardless of age or experience. This will ensure the longevity of the Barwon Rowing Club.

Whilst mentioning on water achievements congratulations to one of our members Brook Parsons who this year became a qualified national level umpire. Congratulations Brook.

Volunteers are the backbone of any club. The club is not possible without volunteers, a special thanks to the dedicated group who every Monday come down and clean the shed. We require volunteers to assist on the committee, catering at regattas, boat race officials at regattas, driving the boat trailer, coaching, Learn to Row programs, working behind the bar and every other job that needs to be completed to keep the club running. I am very proud that when a request goes out, we generally can fill these requirements but all too often it falls to the same members. Can I ask that all members when able, volunteer to assist so that we are not relying on the same people to fill the roles required to keep the club running successfully.

I mentioned above that one of the main focuses for the next 12 months will be to build our membership base. Barwon Rowing Club is in a similar position to a lot of other clubs that memberships have dipped since the COVID era. People have found other hobbies, are travelling more or the habit of coming to and supporting a club or local sporting event has dropped. If anyone has any ideas for the development of programs or recruitment practice's that will assist in building our membership base and would like to be part of this plan, please let me know.



If we can increase our membership, offer pathway programs and development opportunities this will also place us in a stronger position when funding applications are submitted in the future.

Over the last 12 month we have purchased 2 boats which have been christened tonight and are included in our fleet. Some of our existing fleet has been refurbished and repairs completed, and this will ensure the longevity of our equipment and ensure our athletes have access to the best equipment we can provide. Some of you might have noticed we have also purchased 10 ergometers as part of the equipment roll over plan, this is to ensure our members have the best training equipment possible.

I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation at our retiring committee members being Lauren Myers, Maxine Fogarty and Geoff Boucher. Thank you for your time and input over the last 12 months and I wish you well with your future endeavours. I look forward to seeing you at the club and be ready for the phone calls seeking advice.

You might have noticed we are in the process of upgrading the furniture in the social room. This is to make the area multi-use and to maximise the potential use of this area. A special thanks to the Sunday Sippers who have conducted raffles to raise valuable funds which have been donated to the club to assist in purchasing this furniture.

Barwon Rowing Club like most other sporting clubs rely on memberships, fundraising, and sponsorship to survive. Whist we are in a strong financial position we are always looking for sponsorship opportunities to enhance the position of the club. If anyone knows of an individual or business who would be interested in a partnership, please contact one of our committee members with the details. We are putting together a sponsorship package at the moment while also developing a social media strategy to promote the brand of the Barwon Rowing Club over various platforms.

In conclusion, the 2022-2023 season has been another chapter in the long history of Barwon Rowing Club. I would like to thank the outgoing committee and welcome in the new committee and I look forward to working with you all to develop and enhance the reputation of the Barwon Rowing Club as the premier rowing club in the Geelong region.

As has been said many times before, “Well Rowed Barwon”.

Thank you,

Sean Drew
President



Secretary's Report

While somewhat missing the large-scale successes we have in the pre-COVID years, 2023 has brought about some hard, quantifiable wins for the Barwon Rowing Club. You'd count where we're at today as a phase of rebuilding. Not just rebuilding our resources but similarly our culture as well. And my belief is that this is key not just to a rowing club but any sporting club.

But rowing is about progress and not perfection. And when I reflect on 2023 I do very much see how the Barwon Rowing Club has been changing in a way which I hope is for the better. Our facilities and resources grew and improved during 2023, with our first new boat purchases in years and additional refurbishments to boats that were in dire need of the same.

We've embarked on a campaign to slowly but surely update our social facilities as well, a part of the club which can be overlooked but does hold a great amount of importance in helping retain all membership levels. It's normally hard to quantify how these improvements are affecting the club financially and instantaneously but we have both seen an improvement in total memberships and club revenue. Now I would note that 2023 is the first year where rowing participation has returned to the similar level as it was pre-COVID.

My belief is that if we continue to forward plan and strategise in a similar manner to how the 153rd committee has been then we will eventually see the successes on-water that we crave. It's important to note as well that the only issue that we see with on-water activities is the competition participation. We have seen an increase overall in on-water rowing and this was despite the floods which took our off-water for almost 2 full months late last year.

It would also be remiss to note the successes we have had on-water. Like Tom Hasting's thrilling third-time lucky Penrith Cup win, in a crew coached by our Vice-President Michael Cushion. Or the forever diligent training and competition of a select group of Barwon masters; Chris Bishop, Stewart, Sam and Geoff. And the refreshed and renewed strategy surrounding our younger junior program which I hope to see competition from during the 2024 season.

So I end this season as secretary, handing my position over to another and continuing in support as assistant secretary with the same attitude I had coming into the position. Progress, not perfection, that is what we all as a club should be striving for, and that is what will allow us to bring about long term success.

Go Barwon,

Marcus Tomczak
Secretary



Captain's Report

The 2022-23 season saw the return of relatively normal on-water operations at Barwon Rowing Club following 3 highly disruptive years of COVID. While we were all relieved that this was the case, the year still threw up several challenges, particularly with the river flooding in late 2022 preventing on-water training for approximately 2 months. Despite this, the active membership base did a great job in continuing with their training. Thankfully, the river level had subsided in time for the racing season.

In total, Barwon Rowing Club was represented at 23 regattas both locally and interstate, with 54 athletes racing. These numbers were noted to be slightly lower than last year despite healthy club membership numbers. Sadly, this resulted in minimal attendance at the Victorian State Championships. The club will look towards turning this around in the coming season. As per most recent seasons, the Junior Program was the best represented at regattas, both in athlete numbers and in race outcomes. Hopefully this program has given those involved the motivation to push their rowing pursuits to the next level.

As always, on-water operations would be impossible without the selfless contributions of coaches and coordinators. In particular, the following people deserve recognition for the countless hours they put in towards developing our competitive rowers: Michael Cushion, Adrian Keats, Jan Keats, Peter White, Wayne Nitschke, Tony Lawless, Rebekah De Grandi, Roman Tomczak and Brooke Parsons. Brooke deserves a special mention as she has become a fully licensed Rowing Australia umpire this season, consistently helping Barwon Rowing Club to fulfil our obligation to provide volunteers to run regattas.

Regarding elite rowing at Barwon, Thomas Hastings once again proved a force to be reckoned with. Despite breaking both wrists in the off-season and the downtime in training due to floods, Tom (coached by Michael Cushion) was able to pull off a feat that Barwon Rowing Club hasn't experienced since 2014 – winning an interstate regatta race (Lightweight Men's Coxless Four). He also competed in the Barwon colours throughout the week of national championships with results tabulated below.

Summary of Events at the Australian National Championships

Event	Athlete	Position
OLM2x	Thomas Hastings (Composite)	Silver
OLM4-	Thomas Hastings (Composite)	4th
OLM8+	Thomas Hastings (Composite)	Silver
ISLM4-	Thomas Hastings (Victoria)	Gold



In regard to masters rowing, there was a very limited number of members competed. Those that competed, including Ross George, Paul Gorell, Christopher Bishop, Andrew Cleary, Samuel Bailey, Stewart Cowey and Geoff Boucher. These masters brought home several wins over the 3 local masters regattas. I strongly encourage more of our masters members to get involved with racing in the coming season in some capacity.

Equipment (condition, repairs, and purchases)

2 new boats have been purchased over the past season – a new lightweight women’s double scull (named the Lee Rendle) and a second-hand coxed four/quad (named the Michael Du Vallon). The Rendle is primarily to be used by the junior program to provide a quality racing hull suited to this weight class. The Du Vallon is to be a replacement for one of our outdated, training coxed fours/quads.

There were no substantial boat damages or crashes reported over the past 12 months. However, there were many minor repairs required, most commonly due to scratched or penetrated hulls. While it is pleasing that our active members avoided any major collisions, it is worth the reminder that with sufficient care and diligence, most of these minor repairs could be avoided. I encourage all to continue to assess river/weather conditions, stay in the correct lane while training, handle boats/oars carefully and use boat lights when visibility is low. Please also continuing report any damages using QR codes located at the end of the boat bays, or by notifying myself.

Over the past few months a few other equipment tasks have been completed, including fitting the coach’s boat with a new bung (as the previous one was loose in the hull) and reconditioning all four watt bikes in the gym. A huge thank-you goes out to Joe Plunkett for voluntarily stripping the watt bikes back to their frames, removing all rust and repainting them with a more durable coating.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the support and help of Michael Cushion and Rob Cockayne in keeping on top of equipment repairs throughout the season. Their work has made this task smooth and simple, ensuring our fleet remains one of the best in the state.

Carl Tomczak
Captain



Treasurer's Report

Financially season 2022/23 has been successful with an end of year net profit of \$XXXXXX.

Club membership numbers for this season totaled 141. This figure is made up of 35 full members, 29 associates, 30 students, 23 social, 7 coxswains, 4 coaches, 1 concession and 12 life members (refer to list at end of report).

Income for the year was \$XXXXXX. The club's catering endeavors' were once again profitable. The club catered at the 2 day Barwon Regatta with a profit of approximately \$XXXX. The Club attended the APS HOR regatta and made a healthy profit of \$XXXX for clothing sales. This includes a reimbursement of \$XXXX from an over-charging from our supplier from the previous year. Many thanks must go to the volunteers in our fundraising events.

We managed to hire out the Gym area to Firbank Girls school at the Head of the Schools Regatta which generated \$XXXX (not include in profit and loss as not paid by end of financial year). We also hired out a couple of boats to interstate crews. Expenditure for the year was \$XXXXXX.

Major Purchases

2nd hand Coxed quad with aluminum riggers, lightweight Women's Double Scull. We have also turned over our aging Ergometer machines and replaced them with new ones. There are still a few of the older ones for sale to members. Changes were made this year with the purchase of a "Square" POS system to make reconciliation and recording of sales an easier process for all our volunteers. It was used very successfully at the APS Head of River regatta to keep an accurate count of all stock sold.

Building maintenance of the shed has been minimal this year.

To row in a regatta you need to be a club member in either the full or student categories. Keeping track of Rowing Victoria invoices and gathering the rowing fees is an ongoing challenge. As overall there were small increases in costs like insurance and utilities, the committee decided to maintain its membership fees for season 23/24.

A full membership is \$505, student \$340, associate \$365, coxswain \$55, coach \$50 and social \$50.

Rob Gardner
Treasurer

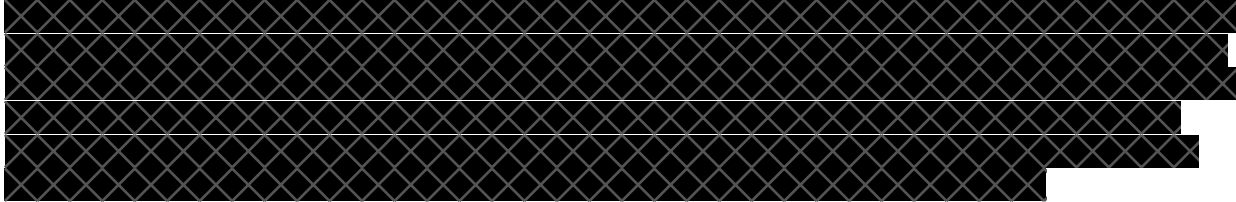


Barwon Rowing Club Membership List 2022-2024

Life Members(12)

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Full Membership (35)

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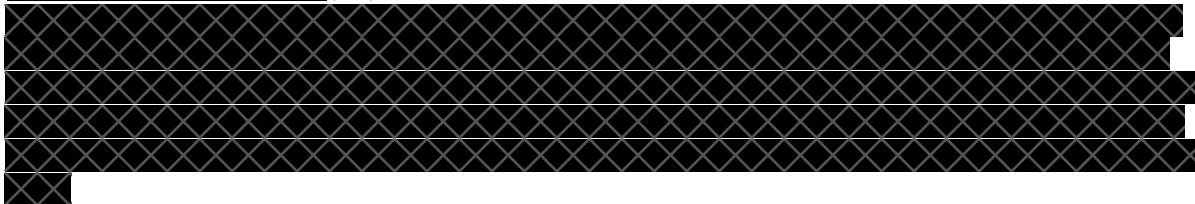
Concession Membership (1)

A single-row table that is completely redacted with a black and white cross-hatch pattern.

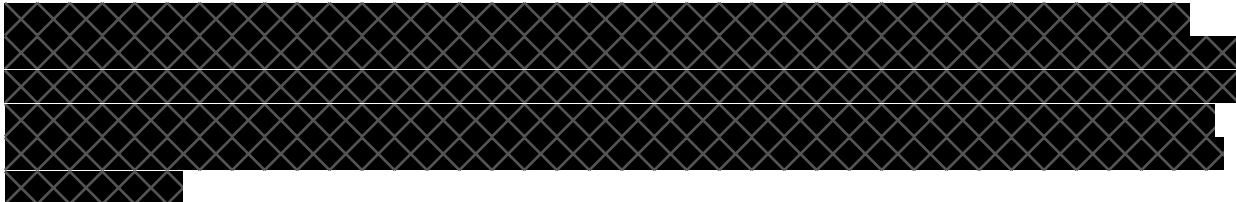
Coxswain Membership(7)

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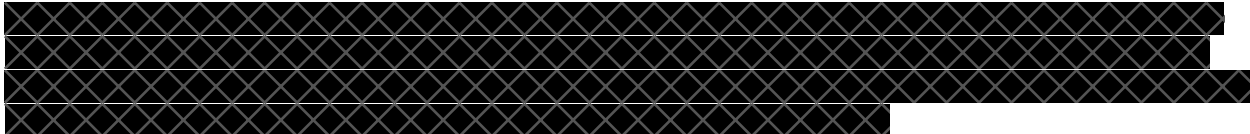
Associate Membership(29)

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Student Membership(30)

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Social Membership (23)

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Coach Membership(4)

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