

**NSW ROWING ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING OF
12th FEBRUARY 2008 HELD AT SPORTS HOUSE**

PRESENT

Andrew Rowley (President NSWRA) (Chair), Neil Holmes (Nepean Rowing Club), Richard Stanistreet (Leichhardt Rowing Club), Barry Moynahan (Vice President NSWRA), Paul Coates (Sydney Rowing Club), Sue Philpot (Leichhardt Rowing Club), Jane Spring (Sydney University Women's Rowing Club), Murray Clarke (UNSW Rowing Club), Norma Perry Director of Finance NSWRA), Owen Nix (Director NSWRA & CDRA Delegate), Yasmin L'Estrange (Sydney University Women's Rowing Club), John James (North Shore Rowing Club), Lee Wright (Penrith Rowing Club), Charles Bartlett (Director NSWRA), Keith Jameson (Vice President NSWRA), Jannet Pendleton (Drummoyne Rowing Club), Ray Green (Lake Wallace Rowing Club) & David Evans (CEO NSWRA).

APOLOGIES

Apologies were sustained for Joe Zammit (Sydney Women's MLC & Director NSWRA), Doug Donoghue (Vice President NSWRA), Bernard Kenny (Balmain Rowing Club), Tim Clare (Director NSWRA), Mark Williams SC (Director NSWRA), Stephen Handley (Director NSWRA), Terry Baskett (Nepean Rowing Club), Chris Noel (Sydney University Rowing Club) and Margaret Mackenzie (NSWRA Life Member).

PROXIES

Nil.

WELCOME

The President called the meeting to order and opened the meeting.

THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

That the minutes of the General Meeting of the 12th June 2007 be adopted as a true and correct record.

MOVED: Charles Bartlett

SECONDED: Barry Moynahan

CARRIED: Resolution 006/2008

MATTERS ARISING

Nil.

TO CONSIDER BUSINESS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

3.1 NSWRA Board and Governance, Compliance, Administration & Finance Commission

3.1.1 Tara Boat Club Application for Affiliation.

NSWRA Director, Charles Bartlett spoke in support of the application and it was noted that the school is currently rowing out of UTS Rowing Club who also support the application for affiliation. Copies of the detailed submission were tabled and circulated for reference.

That the Tara Boat Club be accepted as a Constituent Metropolitan Member Club.

MOVED: Charles Bartlett

SECONDED: Owen Nix

CARRIED: Resolution 007/2008

3.1.2 Lake Wallace Rowing Club Inc Application for Affiliation

The President invited Ray Green to speak. Mr Green provided the meeting with an overview of the status of Lake Wallace Rowing Club explaining that it will draw upon the population of Bathurst, the Blue Mountains and Lithgow regions. Delta

Energy is providing seed money for a boat shed to be constructed on Lake Wallace and the DA is being prepared for submission.

That the Lake Wallace Rowing Club be accepted as an independently affiliated Regional Club.

MOVED: Keith Jameson

SECONDED: John James

CARRIED: Resolution 008/2008

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President reported at length on the activities of the Association since the 2007 Annual General Meeting, the last forum of the membership.

Following the Annual General Meeting a forum of the Constituents was convened to review the recommended Rules and Laws of Boat Racing amendments. The meeting endorsed the amendments that were then approved at a Special General Meeting in October 2007. The President thanked Murray Clarke and Keith Jameson for their input into this exercise.

It was noted that the season to date has been very successful with all regattas being well attended and well managed. In addition to the two successful NSWRA coordinated regattas, the Spring Regatta and Sprint Championships the organisers of the Head of the Clarence in Grafton (Neville and Margaret Doughan) and the Port Macquarie and Manning River Regattas were acknowledged and thanked.

The President invited Charles Bartlett to provide the meeting with an review of the Rowing Australia Annual General Meeting and Strategic Forum where the NSWRA was represented by Wade Hewett (Councillor), Andrew Rowley (President), Charles Bartlett (Director), Stephen Handley (Director), Tim Clare (Director), Mark Williams SC (Director) and David Evans (CEO). Charles Bartlett also took the opportunity to report to the meeting on the status of the 2008 Australian Rowing Championships planning in his capacity, Chairman of the Organising Committee. It was noted that the hosting of the Championships imposes a significant responsibility and workload on the staff and a core group of experienced volunteers.

Charles detailed some of the innovations that would be implemented for the 2008 Australian Rowing Championships to both improve viability and level of presentation of the regatta. These innovations include the retraction of the lower level of the grandstand for the Thursday through Sunday of the regatta to create a premium ticketed area. During this period of the regatta grandstand seating will be available only through the purchase of tickets. There will be live video feed during the regatta to the scoreboard screen and on strategically located screens around the venue. This will be done using economical technologies negotiated with ACE Communications.

The Organising Committee and Team Leaders, Charles Bartlett, Norma Perry, Andrew Rowley, David Evans, Margaret Mackenzie, Phil Titterton, Georgie Lee, Tony Brown, Wade Hewett and Owen Nix were recognised for their outstanding contribution to what is promising to be a great regatta.

The President made special mention of the NSWRA Councillor, Mr Wade Hewett and thanked him for the work he has done in this role on behalf of the Association.

In response to a question from Keith Jameson the meeting was advised that Rowing Australia had yet to allocate a host or dates for the 2009 Australian Rowing Championships.

The President advised that preliminary review information was being collated by the Chairman of the Regatta Commission, Mr Tim Clare in preparation for a Regatta Planning Forum to be held in April.

The President reported that negotiations with Canada Bay Council are progressing but will require considerable effort for a resolution to be reached in favour of the rowing community.

Recent meetings with the Minister for Sport & Recreation, Graham West and the General Manager of the Department of Sport & Recreation have been positive and we have good relationships and open communication channels in place.

A project submitted to the Australian Sports Foundation is set for approval; the "High Performance Fund" will raise funds for State Teams and other High Performance initiatives and will be driven by a Committee chaired by Mr Chris Noel, the "Kings Cup Committee". The registration of this project will allow for Tax Deductible donations to be made, a feature that is not available with the Trust Funds we currently have in place. Tony Blower was thanked for his work in preparing the project application and establishing the fund.

The President called on Owen Nix to provide the meeting with an overview of the Sky Blues Committee. Owen explained that the Committee had been established with a charter to improve the camaraderie within State Teams and to enhance the pride in the Waratah. In addition to assisting with State Team dinners and team outfitting the Committee held a Christmas Quiz night at Balmain Rowing Club to raise funds to enable some additional expenditure to be made on team uniform items identified as being desirable but outside the scope of the usual budget. Balmain Rowing Club was thanked for providing the clubrooms for a very well attended and enjoyed evening.

The meeting was advised of the appointment of the State Team Managers, Paul Coates and Joelle Chisholm.

Murray Clarke was invited to speak to the meeting in relation to the Victoria Road Upgrade and matters in relation to NSW Maritime. Murray advised the meeting of the status of the Victoria Road Upgrade that appears to definitely be going ahead and that working with the RTA and developers to get the best result for rowing is the most pragmatic way forward. NSW Maritime is in agreement with NSWRA on the preferred structure of the bridge (two piers at the extremities of the construction). Drilling work has commenced to extract sediment samples, this has involved the placement of a barge and warning buoys near existing piers. The activity is being carried out with the developers conscious of the need to avoid interference with regattas. NSW Maritime have identified that the buoying is insufficient and that a line of 20 buoys 5 metres apart is required.

Andrew informed the meeting that the 2008 NSWRA Championships Regatta to be held on the forthcoming weekend would see a record level of entries and would also be held in conjunction with Rowing Australia Selection Events. A special thanks to all who have volunteered to assist was made. The President completed his report to the Meeting and introduced Norma Perry, the NSWRA Director of Finance to deliver the Finance Report.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

The Director of Finance informed the meeting that the current financial situation of the Association is quite healthy. In relation to the 2008 Australian Rowing Championships the level of risk has been contained and the projected worst case scenario is to meet the budgeted break-even outcome.

The Meeting was reminded that the Governance, Compliance, Administration and Finance Commission would hold a meeting with Club Treasurers on Wednesday 13th February to explain the

2008-2009 Budget process and the philosophy of the schedule of Fees, Charges and Levies as they relate to the final year of the current three year plan.

This plan sees the third incremental increase in Registered Member fees and the amalgamation of Category A & Category B affiliation fees and the quantification of “New & Emerging Club” status.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Murray Clarke provided the Meeting with an update on the status of meetings with NSW Maritime and in particular the new “Code of Conduct for Lights”. In brief there would no longer be a need for the light to be on a pole but the light may be fixed directly to the boat. While the Code of Conduct has been accepted by the Waterways Rowing Steering Committee it will take approximately six weeks to be approved through NSW Maritime processes. In response to a query from Neil Holmes, Murray advised that Stephen Handley can supply a light that is compliant and that the NSWRA is working on the compilation of a list of suppliers that will be published when the Code of Conduct is approved by NSW Maritime.

Of concern is the proposed Kendall Bay Marina, the NSWRA has written to Minister West detailing our concern that this development would result in over 170 Cruiser vessels regularly impacting on the 12 small boat and passive aquatic clubs that operate within only 2 kilometres of the proposed site. This would have a major impact on rowing on Hen & Chicken Bay and around Breakfast Point. Barry Moynahan provided further advice and comment. Murray also advised that an Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared and that the impact on users must be a component of this report.

The Meeting expressed their concerns that contaminated sediments from the dumping of waste by factories on the Parramatta River around Iron Cove would be disturbed and create a significant health risk. It is not known if the Government has commissioned testing as a part of this proposed development.

John James alerted the meeting to the proposal by Rowing Victoria to increase the seat fee for the 2008 Australian Masters Rowing Championships from the \$27.50 charged by NSWRA in 2007 to \$33.00 as a result of increases in infrastructure costs at Nagambie. It was also raised that Rowing Victoria was considering a proposal to review Masters Handicaps.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Approved

Chairman / /2008