

**NSW ROWING ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING OF  
8<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2008 HELD AT SPORTS HOUSE**

**PRESENT**

Andrew Rowley (President NSWRA) (Chair), Richard Stanistreet (Leichhardt Rowing Club), Barry Moynahan (Vice President NSWRA), Jane Spring (Sydney University Women's Rowing Club), Murray Clarke (UNSW Rowing Club), Owen Nix (Director NSWRA & CDRA Delegate), John James (North Shore Rowing Club), Lee Wright (Penrith Rowing Club), Keith Jameson (Vice President NSWRA), Ray Green (Lake Wallace Rowing Club), Steve Taite (Penrith Rowing Club), Alison Taite (Penrith Rowing Club), Petra Macaskill (Sydney Womens MLC Rowing Club), Stephen Irons (St George Rowing Club), Greg Pike (AAGPS), Bernard Kenny (Balmain Rowing Club), Pat Brownrigg (Old Ignatians Rowing Club) Joelle Chisholm (NSW State Team Manager) & David Evans (CEO NSWRA).

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were sustained for Mark Williams SC (Director NSWRA), Doug Donoghue (Vice President NSWRA), Tim Clare (Director NSWRA), Stephen Handley (Director NSWRA), Norma Perry (Director NSWRA), Charles Bartlett (Director NSWRA), Margaret Mackenzie (Life Member NSWRA), Wade Hewett (NSWRA Councillor to Rowing Australia), Paul Coates (Sydney Rowing Club), Yasmin L'Estrange (Sydney University Boat Club), Stephen Handley (NSWRA Director) 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 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008 be adopted as a true and correct record.

*MOVED: Barry Moynahan*

*SECONDED: Owen Nix*

*CARRIED: Resolution 015/2008*

**MATTERS ARISING**

Ray Green advised that the Minutes of the February General Meeting should indicate that the Lake Wallace Rowing Club boatshed planning was being prepared for submission to Council but a DA had not yet been submitted.

Keith Jameson requested an update on the status of the Affiliation Fee structure and whether the schedule of Fees, Charges and Levies would be processed in time for the June General Meeting. The CEO advised that through the efforts of the Director of Finance and the Governance, Compliance, Administration & Finance Commission (GCAF) the proposal for the June General Meeting would be made in compliance with the NSWRA Rules. This would include quantification of the "New & Emerging Club" status, abolishing Category A & Category B Clubs and the inclusion of the recently ratified Independently Affiliated Regional Clubs (Lake Wallace Rowing Club and Kangaroo Valley Rowing Club)

**TO CONSIDER BUSINESS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

Nil

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President provided a detailed report for the meeting covering the extensive activities of the Association since the February 2008 General Meeting.

The President praised the efforts of the GCAF with regular meetings, clearly defined objectives and the successful meeting of Club Treasurers being held on 13<sup>th</sup> February. The high level of regatta activity was discussed and in particular the successful 2008 NSWRA Championships Regatta where the Association experienced an excellent response from volunteers and delivered a financially successful regatta due to great entry levels. The President was delighted with the positive feedback from competitors, coaches and officials.

The President made special mention of the NSWRA Hosted Regattas such as the NSWRA Kings PLC where thanks were extended to Jenny Clarke PLC & NSWRA Georgie Lee, Marg Mackenzie & NSWRA Volunteers, the Combined Universities Regatta where Leichhardt Rowing Club took responsibility for managing the regatta and the inaugural NSWRA Schoolboy Head of the River where a fantastic level of support from ACT Schools, Kinross Wolaroi, Redlands and our volunteer workforce witnessed a great day of racing.

The Metropolitan Clubs and Regions have also been very active with the Leichhardt Rowing Club and CDRA Championships on 15<sup>th</sup> March being two highlights. Owen Nix provided the meeting with a summary of the CDRA Championship Regatta. The Schoolgirl Head of the River was another full and exciting day and the work of Lyndall Jesse, the School Rowing convenors and Marg Mackenzie was applauded.

The President reported that negotiations with Canada Bay Council will need to continue and the CEO supported this advising that a recent site visit had resulted in additional compliance requirements being demanded in the form of Car Park Traffic Control Plans. The NSWRA plans to recommence negotiations with upper management at Canada Bay Council.

The President praised the contributions of his fellow Organising Committee members, Charles Bartlett (Chairman), Norma Perry, & David Evans in the delivery of an outstanding 2008 Australian Rowing Championships. The work of the Team Leaders, Tony Brown, Wade Hewett, Georgie Lee, Margaret Mackenzie, Owen Nix and Phil Titterton along with the fantastic group of volunteers throughout the week was imperative to the result achieved.

The Meeting supported the comments of the President and a number of delegates provided further comment. Mr John James described it as a tragedy that Rowing Australia insists on not using the course properly. In particular he cited instances of racing over the first five days that were virtual processions and also was of the opinion that only the last two days were a success in terms of a spectacle. The President responded that while the NSWRA was proactive for change and has been working with fellow State Rowing Associations to change the regatta program in this way the efforts to date have been unsuccessful.

Mr James also noted that the course was becoming a little tired and needed a bit of a lift. The President advised that the NSWRA was regularly meeting with the Department of Sport & recreation on this issue and also was keen to see more regattas held at SIRC to assist in justifying continued Government expenditure.

Mr Barry Moynahan commented on the positive media coverage in the Cumberland Press on the proposed developments on the Nepean River and those involved deserve acknowledgement. The President advised that he hopes to be able to speak on this development in greater detail at the June General Meeting. Further discussion on the potential growth in North West Sydney and the complementary training opportunities on the Nepean to world class competition facilities at SIRC

ensued. The President advised the meeting that the NSWRA Facilities Development Group had only recently revived meetings with Penrith City Council and having been buoyed by the success of those meetings is now planning a series of meetings with other key stakeholders with clubs in the region and Government.

Mr Keith Jameson congratulated the NSWRA Board and Organising Committee and assessed the 2008 Australian Rowing Championships as the best he has attended. The initiatives of the Organising Committee showed what can be achieved at the venue and how well the NSWRA can host and run a regatta. Mr Jameson reiterated the opinion expressed by Mr James and that there were problems with the format of the regatta stating that through the utilisation of the full eight lanes the regatta could be run over as few as four days.

Mr Murray Clarke supported the comments of Mr Jameson and Mr James and recommended that Rowing Australia be formally advised of the concerns of the April General Meeting of the NSWRA.

The April General Meeting of Constituent and Registered Members of the New South Wales Rowing Association requests that the Board of the NSWRA advise Rowing Australia of the concern that the current format of the Australian Rowing Championships is not allowing the event to be presented to its potential and that Rowing Australia implement format changes accordingly.

*MOVED: Murray Clarke*

*SECONDED: Keith Jameson*

*CARRIED: UNANIMOUS*

*Resolution 016/2008*

In relation to the allocation of National Regattas in 2009 the President advised the Meeting that the NSWRA had received an email from Rowing Australia a little earlier in the day that advised:

“Following the Board meeting last night, RA is pleased to announce that the 2009 National Championships will be held in their current format (i.e. as they were conducted this year at SIRC) at Lake Barrington, Tasmania and will conclude on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Additionally, RA is pleased to announce that the 2009 Youth Cup will be held at SIRC. A final decision on the location and date for the 2009 Masters has been deferred to allow for further consultation between the appropriate stakeholders.”

This announcement now makes the claim that the Australian Rowing Championships would be split into separate School and Club regattas redundant.

Mr James advised the meeting that the Board of Rowing Australia was not able to allocate a host for the 2009 Australian Masters Championships as the RA Regatta Commission had not considered the recommendation of the RA Masters Commission when making their submission.

Mr Jameson sought confirmation that the Australian Youth Olympic Festival would again be held in January when it is next scheduled, for 2009. The CEO confirmed this and the dates are now noted as being from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

## **REPORT OF THE STATE TEAM MANAGER**

The President introduced Joelle Chisholm who alongside Paul Coates managed the 2008 New South Wales State Team for the Interstate Regatta. Joelle described the experience as a great first introduction with the team harmony and atmosphere culminating in such a wonderful result. Joelle took the opportunity to deliver her report to the meeting standing next to the King's Cup that was on display through the cooperation of Rowing Australia. While Joelle expressed a desire to have selections finalized earlier she praised the outstanding work of the coaches who were ultimately

selected. The use of the funds generated by the Sky Blues Committee resulted in additional team uniform items being purchased and the feedback in relation to the uniforms and the dinners at Sydney Rowing Club and the Regatta Kitchen & Bar were all very positive.

The President thanked and congratulated Joeline Chisholm and Paul Coates on their efforts and supported Joeline's delight with the result. Andrew thanked the supporters of the State Team Dinner including John Coates AC, John Boulton, Gordon Bray AM and past President NSWRA Mr Chris Noel. Andrew also reported that it was only the second time the NSWRA had won the Rowing Australia (Zurich) Cup, the third time in twenty four years we have won the King's Cup and this coupled with Dan Noonan winning the President's Cup the atmosphere on the pontoon on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March was sensational.

### **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT**

The CEO delivered a brief report on behalf of the Director of Finance who was unable to make the meeting. The CEO advised the meeting of the successful project application to the Australian Sports Foundation for a High Performance Fund. That there is an expected surplus from hosting the Australian Rowing Championships but this may be affected by payments sought by Rowing Australia. The CEO thanked the volunteers who assisted during a very busy February and March where both the Australian Rowing Championships and NSWRA Championship Regatta were hosted with excellent results in terms of delivery and results against budget. The CEO also commended the work of the Director of Finance and the GCAF in working through the three year plan to merge Category A and category B Clubs and also to implement fee increases that support strategic objectives of the four NSWRA Commissions, the Regatta Commission, Athlete & Coach Development Commission, Growth & Development Commission and the Governance, Compliance, Administration & Finance Commission.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Mr John James expressed concern over the status of planning for the 2008-2009 Regatta Season and that traditionally the Regatta Commission had met before this stage of the year or any proposed Forum such as that scheduled for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

The President acknowledged the concerns but sought to defer the issue to the Chairman of the Regatta Commission, NSWRA Director, Mr Tim Clare.

Mr Greg Pike shared the concerns of Mr Jameson and also the process of allocating dates for various regattas as indicated on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January Memorandum to Regatta hosts.

Mr Jameson supported Mr James in highlighting that the Regatta Commission should have met and seems behind schedule. Both Mr Jameson and Mr Pike sought confirmation that they were in fact still members of the Regatta Commission. The President undertook to resolve the issues raised with the Chairman of the Regatta Commission as a matter of urgency.

Mr Stephen Taite spoke in relation to the Weir Reserve development and sought input into the discussions that are due to take place. The President reiterated the NSWRA through the Facilities Development Group would now proceed to meet with all stakeholders and for the exciting project to be delivered we need everyone on board.

Alison Taite advised the meeting of the affect on the Nepean by severe weed growth and the efforts to have government take responsibility for the clean-up. Alison explained she had sent 34 letters on New Years day and a further follow up of 15 in February and had received 12 replies including those from Karyn Paluzzano and David Bradbury. An amount of \$500,000.00 was identified as being

required to have the weed removed and come January when schools conduct camps on the Nepean this will become a safety issue if not addressed.

The President responded that all aspects of management of weed, pontoon access and the like would be addressed by the facilities Development Group. The President advised that he would be meeting with Karyn Paluzzano on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April with the CEO and Wade Hewett to discuss these very concerns.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting.

Meeting Closed at 8.22pm  
Next Meeting Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Approved

Chairman / /2008