

# **MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB**



**135<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2014 – 2015**

## WITH THANKS

Mercantile Rowing Club would like to take this opportunity to thank all our generous supporters and donors. Without their assistance, our club would not flourish.

Mal Batten  
James Boomer  
David Boykett  
Ian Brighthope  
Tom Buchan  
Andrew Cannon  
Sean Colgan  
Maryjane Crabtree  
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Warwick Hutchins  
Jeff Lawrence  
Harry Mahoney  
John Nickson  
Richard Oliver  
Sam Patten  
Peter Selby Smith  
Bill Webster  
E.C.White Trust  
David Yunghanns

In addition there are numerous other members who donated smaller amounts during the year. Every donation is appreciated.



'Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though chequered by failure... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a grey twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.'

– Theodore Roosevelt

## 2014 - 15 OFFICE BEARERS

### President

Mr. M. Batten OAM

### Vice Presidents

Mr. J.J. Lawrence  
Mr. D.E.G. Colvin  
Mr. D. J. Yunghanns  
Mr. D.A. Pincus  
Mr. R.B.Wilson  
Mr. W.B.Hutchins  
Mr. D.H.Boykett OAM  
Mr. A.M.Evans  
Mr. P. H. C. Edgar  
Mr. J. Tomkins OAM  
Mr. N. P. R. Batters  
Mr. W.H. Webster

### Captain

Ms. R. Selby Smith

### Vice Captain

Mr. S. Jackson  
Ms. H. Lewis

### Honorary Secretary

Mrs. J. Fraumano

### Honorary Treasurer

Mr. D. MacKinnon

### Assistant Honorary Treasurer

Mr. A. Phillips

### Safety Officer

Mr. M. French

### Club and Equipment Manager

Mr. A. Phillips

### Head Coach and Chairman Of Selectors

Mr. M. Fangen-Hall  
Simon Gadsden

### Committee

Mr. M. Groves  
Ms. H. Lewis  
Mr. A. Phillips  
Mr. M. French  
Mr. H. Edgar  
Ms. D. Bosler  
Ms. E. Biasotto

### Honorary Solicitor

Mr. J. Quill



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our crews have enjoyed a very successful year of racing. Our competition team and Masters teams continue to grow in size and our overall competitiveness remains strong. We are well on our way to achieving our goal of having full and competitive representation in Junior, Youth, U21, U23, Senior A and Masters. We plan to have Men and Women racing in all categories and classes.

### Vale

We were saddened by the passing of Phil Cayzer, a great rower and person. Phil was instrumental in the team racing in red shorts, our uniform will always recall this great Mercantilian and his desire to race well and win.

### Awards

Once more our members have received recognition for their outstanding service to the community during the Queen's Birthday Celebrations. Andy Cannon received an AM award for his services to the community including assistance to close the gap with the Aboriginal Community. Andy is an inspiration to us all to help in any way to close the gap with the first peoples of our great land.

### Giving

The foundation and future of this club is the life-long support our members commit to. We have members with over 70-60-50 year's continuous commitment to the club. These most revered members are our inspiration. It is our expectation that all competition team members will continue their connection to the club with membership following their racing efforts.

The ultimate example of our values and club members is surely Sean Colgan, (Trader AI). We acknowledge Sean for his unprecedented support of the club

with his support of our financial trust with the USD\$500,000.00 donation now in its second year of five.

The penultimate example of our values goes to several long standing members who have contributed to collectively match Sean's \$100,000.00 annual donation. We call upon other members to assist in the matching effort over the coming years.

We send our thanks to Bill Wallace, a past captain of the club, for the generous donation of an original photo showing the 1889 club members now proudly in display in the members bar.

We give thanks to Ray Brewin who donated his father's 1930's Club Blazer which so proudly sits in the hallway of the Club.

Giving can come in many forms, we thank Graham Boykett for his extensive gift of time, effort and experience to complete the installation of our memorabilia throughout the club. In true Mercantilian tradition, once the task was most confronting, Graham stepped up the pace.

Thanks also to the many other financial donations generously provided over the year, it is simple, without these donations our doors would be closed.

### Racing Teams Review

Our Domestic season commenced very well with the successful defence on our Women's senior 8 at the Head of the Yarra. The Mercs women dominated the event with a first and second for the day. Our Mercantile Youth won the Male C Division after a successful challenge to an incorrect recording of their time. Our masters also made the long step to the top with a win in the F eight. This win

illustrates the dedication of our Masters, who are on the water at least each Thursday and Sunday, every week.

Spring is with us again and it is great to see our crews preparing to once more defend their titles and regain those lost.

Mercantile was well represented in the winning circle at the 101<sup>th</sup> running of the Henley Regatta on the Yarra.

The Victorian State Championship was a great success with many medals awarded to our members, importantly we are working to increase our overall participation and medals.

Despite being conducted at the same time as the senior selection trials, Mercantile again performed brilliantly at the Championships. The top four clubs on the medal tally were:

Mercantile 23 gold, 10 silver, 8 bronze

Melbourne 12 gold, 6 silver, 4 bronze

Corowa 11 gold 3 silver 0 bronze

MUBC 10 gold, 6 silver, 4 bronze

Another outstanding performance by the Club's rowers.

The key National team racing includes NSW Champs and the Nationals.

The national regatta held in Penrith was a great success with our efforts to boat as many crews as possible rewarded by many spirited rows and raft of medals. Mercantile ended the regatta on top of the official medal tally. We aspire to this level of overall success in the future.

The culmination of the racing is of course the interstate racing. Our dominant women's team contributed by continuing their winning streak, with the 10<sup>th</sup> Queens Cup victory. Very pleasing was

the Kings Cup win, with Mercs members on board they secured Victoria's 65<sup>th</sup> KC victory. We aspire to have greater numbers of youth represented in the racing.

Mercantile colours have raced for the second year at Henley in the club 8, with a credible effort to make the quarter finals on Friday. We have unfinished business at Henley to take care of. Our women's pair also represented at the Holland Beker regatta in Amsterdam with medal winning results.

Congratulations to all the National team representatives for the 2015 season. To represent our country with distinction is our ultimate goal.

We are thrilled to confirm the growing tradition of a 100% Mercantile medal at the world championships. Congratulations to Katrina Werry, Addy Dunkley-Smith coached by our head coach, Simon Gadsden to gain a Bronze Medal win in the women's pair at the U23 worlds held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

It was great to see many of our members qualify their boats at the Senior A World Champs held at beautiful Aiguebelette course in France for the Rio Olympics. Congratulations to David Crawshay and Josh Dunkley-Smith their silver medal in the 4x and 4-. To see our members racing and medalling on the world stage is our inspiration.

We acknowledge the great work of Jennifer Cleary in the women's quad to qualify for the games. This crew will do better next year at the Olympic Games.

We now wish all our members the best of success in the coming Olympic trials as they secure their seats to Rio. The coming racing and ergo trial demands will be the most intense in their rowing career as they work to get seats or boats qualified for Rio.

### **Thanks to our coaches**

Our coaches form a disparate set of young people into a Mercantile Crew that is capable of State, National and International Success.

Without our dedicated coaching team we would not transport past the Yarra.

On behalf of the crews I thank all our dedicated coaches for another excellent year.

Our volunteer coaches give up a mass of time and personal work leave time to support the crews, David Colvin, David Pincus, Brigette Carlile, Peter Tomanovits, Tom Swann, Larry Leeming, and Ian Duthie. Particular thanks to David Pincus for his dedication to coach the Henley campaign.

Thanks go to our professional coaching staff. Head Coach Simon Gadsden has provided valuable organization and leadership. Simon is constantly working with the team for our success. Thanks to John Saunders and Brigette Carlile, our part time professionals, for leading the efforts to increase our junior and youth ranks.

Special thanks to one of our club treasures, Chipper, for his wonderful ever present support.

My thanks and gratitude to each and all of our coaches.

### **Clubhouse and Equipment**

Our club house continues to perform well and is gaining some patina of a well lived in home. Unfortunately we are waging a losing battle with graffiti taggers who are vandalising the external front façade. My thanks to Andy Cannon for supporting

the coming installation of security cameras in an effort to halt the graffiti.

We acknowledge Andy Phillips and his support as Building Manager and his work to keep the club house in good repair.

The club memorabilia is now 90% installed and now returns to the steady state of additions as our living contribution to the club walls illustrate our success.

It is a pleasure to see rowers from St Catherine's and Brighton Grammar, and members from other schools, enjoying the excellent facilities. I encourage all our members to welcome the school level rowers at all times, they are our future.

The club house is performing very well and fleet in good order.

### **Club officers and Supporters**

Our Saturday breakfast tradition literally keeps the team fuelled and ready for more. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers for their constant support. Thanks also to parents of St Catherine's for pitching in and supporting the breakfast. Special thanks to Jenny Fraumano for her leadership, Jenny is ably supported by the team: Julie Orr, Alison Legge, Monica Frawley, Marie Canty, Mariëssa Sibillin, John Duggan, Claire Clarke, Anna Marulli, Guiliana Fuscaldo.

Our thanks to Dee Bosler for the work on the newsletter.

### **With thanks to our trustees and generous supporters**

Mercantile stands to the fore because we rely on the leadership and vision of our past office bearers. We recognize and

thank the trustees for their support and governance: David Colvin, David Boykett, Jeff Lawrence, Andrew Guerin, Warwick Hutchins, Richard Wraith, Simon Morrison, John Harry and Timothy Frederico. Thanks to John Harry for his support of the overall trust consolidation.

We thank our boat race officials, who have once more umpired and officiated at the regattas. Thanks also to all the team including Dee Bosler, Billy Webster, Andrew Guerin for the excellent organisation of the Scotch – Mercantile Regatta ably supported by Jenny and Gary Fraumano.

Thanks to our executive committee for providing the steady hand to the tiller.

Particular thanks to Secretary and Team Manager Jenny Fraumano for the unending support provided to the club. To Treasurer Duncan MacKinnon for his ever reliable assistance and steady council, to Captain Robyn Selby Smith for her support, to Vice President Phil Batters for his support.

Special thanks to Andy Guerin, he like the Yarra, is always present with much wisdom and generous support.

Thank you to our Vice Captains and general committee members.

We recognize the important contribution of Henry Edgar for his service as our nominee for the liquor license. Thanks also to Andy Phillips for his work as Club house maintenance manager

We have completed a year of consolidation of our financial foundations and success on the water. Keep up to date with the Club's activities by going onto the website. There is plenty to read.

Thank you again to all the generous contributions provide by our members, office bearers and coaches.

We look forward to the coming year as we strive to continue our club core values

Excellence in all we do,

Healthy mind body and spirit for life

Respect of oneself, club members and competitors

Friendship, we form friends for life in this club.

GO MERCS !



M. Batten OAM  
President  
Mercantile RC



## CAPTAIN'S REPORT

And so a long winter ends and a new season has begun. As set out in the President's report, it has been a full and successful season for Mercantile. I endorse all Mal's congratulations and thanks to the many Mercantilians who have contributed, both on and off the water. Keeping Mercantile the club it is, is a result of the very hard work of some and the not-so-hard work of many more. Fortunately these people do not do it for the accolades, never-the-less they deserve them.

The end of the season is not only a time to look back, but a time to look forward. It is a time to reflect on the year past and review plans for the year ahead. The results of the club, as set out by Mal, are impressive and should be enjoyed by all. But it is also important to note the challenges.

I, along with many other Mercantilians, followed the results of the World Rowing Championships. They were mixed results – some very good and some not so good. Of the 14 Olympic boat classes for the 2016 Rio Olympics Australia has qualified 7 through the 2015 World Championships. There are no lightweight boats qualified and no eights. There is an opportunity for Australia to qualify boats in 2016 through the final qualification regatta. However, this is a difficult path and most crews attempting such a path will be required (I understand) to fund their own campaign. It is unique and surprising that Australia has qualified so few boats for the Rio Olympics.

To me, strong rowing countries qualify eights. The last Olympics where Australia was not represented in the men's eight was 1948 (where Australia elected not to send an eight due to

difficulties following on from World War II).

Women's rowing was introduced to the Olympics in 1976. Twenty years later, in 1996, Australia sent its first women's eight and has been in the event at every Olympics since.

I recognise that all programs have highs and lows, and if this is a low then there are certainly some highlights. But I do worry that a shrinking Olympic team size is an indication of a significant weakening in Australian rowing to come. I also worry that Australia is as quick to limit opportunities in women's rowing as it was slow to grant them.

The state of Australian rowing is relevant to Mercantile. As an elite club, we are part of the planning for the future of rowing in Australia. The high performance arm of Rowing Australia is dependent on short term results to maintain funding. This encourages a focus on a small pool of athletes (those who may be able to produce great results in the short term), rather than spreading funding more broadly to invest in future athletes (who may be able to produce great results in the medium to long term).

This leaves the elite clubs with a heavy responsibility for rowing in Australia. It is the clubs which need to invest broadly in the future of elite rowing in Australia. Though our funding is limited, we are able plan much longer term than Rowing Australia can. We are able to determine that Mercantile will welcome as many young rowers as we can, male and female. We can rationally find a balance between a large program and a targeted one (which focuses on those with the most potential).

It is through the amazing generosity of Mercantile members that we are able to



make long term, rational decisions about how to run our club and what role we wish to play in the Australian rowing community.

In the year ahead I hope that:

- all Mercantilians continue to enjoy participation in club life;
- all Mercantilians commit to our core values which are set out in Mal's report and are hanging on the walls of the club;
- Mercantile welcomes many young and enthusiastic rowers and provides

an environment in which they can excel; and

- Mercantile continues to lead women's rowing and strongly encourages Rowing Australia provide as many opportunities as possible.

GO MERCS!

**Robyn Selby Smith**  
Captain



## TROPHIES

### **Captain's Trophy**

This trophy is awarded annually to the member who has won the most Regatta and Club races during the season on the basis of one point for a win with one additional point for any championship.

For the 2014/15 season, the Captain's Trophy is awarded to Hannah Lewis and Angus Widdicombe.

### **Max Bailey Trophy**

The Perpetual Shield and Trophy is awarded to the coxswain who has won the most Regatta and Club races during the season on the basis of one point for a win with one additional point for any championship.

For the 2014/15 season, the Max Bailey Trophy is awarded to Sarah Banting.

### **Dr R. A. Cooper Memorial Trophy**

This trophy is made available by the generosity of the family of the late Dr. R. A. Cooper and is awarded annually to the member who, during the year, has rendered the most outstanding service to the Club.

For the 2014/15 season, the Dr R. A. Cooper Memorial Trophy is awarded to Graeme Boykett.

### **N. W. Cairnes Trophy**

This trophy is awarded to the most improved coxswain of the season.

For the 2014/15 season, the N.W. Cairnes Trophy is awarded to Sarah Banting

### **Jeff Wylie Memorial Trophy**

The Perpetual Shield and Trophy for the most improved lightweight rower is donated by the management and staff of Edward Lumley and Sons Pty Ltd and is awarded annually in memory of the late Jeff Wylie, a former captain of the Club.

For the 2014/15 season, the Jeff Wylie Memorial Trophy is awarded to Meghan Hester

### **F. R. Browne Memorial Trophy**

The Perpetual Shield and Trophy is donated by the family of the late F. R. Browne for presentation to the most improved oarsman.

For the 2014/15 season, the F.R. Browne Memorial Trophy is awarded to Angus Widdicombe

### **H.R. Frederico Memorial Trophy**

This trophy, made available by the late Honourable Justice H. R. Frederico, is awarded annually to the most improved oarswoman at the Club.

For the 2014/15 season, the H.R. Frederico Memorial Trophy is awarded to Hannah Lewis

### **Keith Bilney Coaches Trophy**

This trophy was established in the memory Keith Bilney who gave nearly 70 years of service to rowing as a coxswain, sculler, oarsman, administrator but, most of all, as a coach. He gave of his time freely, instilling in his charges a love of the sport, and a burning desire to win, but with a balanced approach to life.

This trophy is awarded to the coach that is not necessarily the most successful in terms of race wins, but the one who does the most to teach oarsmen & oarswomen how to row, win races and achieve their potential and in so doing develop the foundations of the Club and build and maintain the attitudes of sportsmanship, dedication and loyalty.

For the 2014/15 season, the Keith Bilney Coaches Trophy is awarded to Davis Pincus.

### Jay Loveless Trophy

This trophy was established as a result of a bequest from the estate of the late Jay Loveless. Jay was the mother of Ricky Loveless, who coxed for the Club. Ricky was tragically killed in a road accident while riding to Mercantile and

Jay remained a supporter of the club until her passing in late 2006. It was Jay's wish that a trophy be established for the Most Outstanding Oarswoman each season.

For the 2014/15 season, the Jay Loveless Trophy is awarded to Jennifer Cleary.

### Most Outstanding Oarsman Trophy

With the establishment of the Loveless Trophy, the Committee deemed it appropriate to establish a trophy for the Most Outstanding Oarsman.

For the 2014/15 season, the Most Outstanding Oarsman Trophy is awarded to Josh Dunkley-Smith and David Crawshay.



## HEAD COACH'S REPORT

The 2014/2015 season at Mercantile Rowing Club will be remembered for the strong club performances at the Australian Rowing Championships and the development of our Youth rowing program. I was privileged to be given the opportunity as Acting Head Coach at Mercantile after Mark took up the opportunity as Senior Coach at the Australian Institute of Sport, it was a challenge; however, the strong work ethic that has been instilled in the athletes as well as the initial support and athlete direction from David "Chippa" Colvin and John Saunders made a daunting task manageable. Strengthening the coaching stocks with the recruitment of David Pincus to lead our U23 men's sweep squad and Brigette Carlile to assist John with the women's youth program, would also be key to the successes in the 2015 season.

### 2014 Australian Teams

The following Mercantile members represented Australia at the World Junior Rowing Championships in Hamburg, Germany 6-10 August 2014

Name	Boat	Result
Andrew Judge (MGS)	JM4+	10th
Lachlan May (MGS)	JM4+	10th
Amanda Bateman (Firbank)	JW1x	16th
Thomas Abramowski (Coach)	JM4+	10th

The following Mercantile members represented Australia at the World U23 Rowing Championships in Varese, Italy 23-27 July 2014

Name	Boat	Result
Addy Dunkley-Smith	BW8+	4th
Katrina Werry	BW8+	4th
Sarah Banting	BW8+	4th
David McGrath (Coach)	BW8+	4th

The following Mercantile members represented Australia at the World Rowing Championships in Amsterdam, Netherlands 24-31 August 2014

Name	Boat	Result
Joshua Dunkley-Smith	M4-	Silver
David Crawshay	M8+	7th
Charlotte Sutherland	W2-	5th
Pauline Frasca	W8+	10th
Kate Hornsey	W8+	10th
Katrina Bateman	W8+	10th
Michelle Yann	W8+	10th
Jennifer Cleary	W4x	5th
John Linke (reserve)	1x	DNR
Mark Fangen-Hall (Coach)	LW2x	5th

No longer had I returned from the U21 Trans-Tasman regatta in New Zealand and the first of the Australian national event requirements was upon us with the September 3800 metre time trial at Carrum. No one has ever been selected from their performance in a pre-season time trial, however, these events provide feedback to the athletes as to where they sit in a pecking order, and how effective their winter training has been. Club stalwart, David Crawshay returned to sculling after rowing in the 8+ in Amsterdam and was the best performed sculler at the December national time trial, and Charlotte Sutherland was in the best performed women's pair. A number of Mercantile athletes were invited to attend crew boats camps on the back of their good performances at the December time trial prior to the Christmas break and in preparation for the Johnsonville camp. Our club arrived with three trailers of boats and a very large contingent of athletes and coaches in Johnsonville on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January. Our focus was to challenge the athletes with the amount of volume performed, to improve the effectiveness of our rowing and to prepare for the race season ahead, we tested athletes through a range of longer 10km and shorter 2km/1000m/500m omnium activities on the water, and a range of off water training sessions including a club ergo challenge

where teams competed to record the most distance on their teams machine over the period of the camp, the winning team clocked over 311 kilometres on their machine in the 7 day period on top of the prescribed program.

Barwon Regatta provided the first head to head race opportunity for our athletes, all be it over 1500m. The regatta provided some learnings for the athletes that proved to be very valuable in regattas later in the season. It was a solid start from a club performance we finished top of the medal table with 12 gold, 9 silver and 7 bronze medals.

The small boat events at the New South Wales State Championships were used as qualifications for attendance to senior national team trials. Majority of our athletes nominated for national selection gained invitations to senior national selection trials. The most notable performance of the regatta was the Women's eight winning the Championships Women's eight by 12 seconds.

As the Victorian State Championships clashed with senior national Australian selection trials, most of our clubs elite athletes were not present; therefore, it was a true club performance by athletes and supporting coaches that enabled Mercantile Rowing Club to be top of the medal table. We finished on Saturday at the conclusion of the open and underage events with 10 gold medals putting us on top of the medal table. The club athletes rallied in the grade racing on Sunday to achieve a further 13 gold medals to finish with a total of 23 gold medals and 41 medals in total, 11 gold medals ahead of the nearest club at the conclusion of the regatta. A fantastic effort by all involved.

Racing at the Australian Rowing Championships was not an event requirement for senior national selection however as testament to our strong club culture, led by our senior athletes, they competed in a range of events at the regatta. Our athlete and coaches aimed to achieve success and be competitive with clubs at the pointy end of the medal table, and this started to become a realisation on the

Wednesday with strong performances throughout the heats and semi-finals to achieve a number of A-final berths in centre lanes. On Thursday afternoon at the conclusion of the small boat races Mercantile Rowing Club was top of the medal table, our club maintained this position through medium and big boat events on Friday and Saturday and at the conclusion of the Australian Rowing Championships our club was equal first on top of the medal table with Mosman Rowing Club on 22 medals. Thanks to Jenny and Gary for their support by their provision of accommodation, transport, photography and communication throughout the regatta. And to John, Chipper and Pinky for their direction of the 50+ athletes during the regatta that enabled the athletes to find their best performances. The breakdown of the medals below:

### **Australian National Champions**

#### **GOLD**

- Open Women's Quad Scull -  
Jennifer Cleary
- Open Women's Coxless Pair -  
Katrina Bateman and Sophie Sutherland
- Open Women's Coxless Four -  
Sophie Sutherland, Katrina Bateman,  
Jennifer Cleary and Charlotte Sutherland
- Open Women's Coxed Eight -  
Charlotte Sutherland, Addy Dunkley-Smith,  
Katrina Bateman, Jennifer Cleary, Katrina  
Werry, Sophie Sutherland, Fiona Albert,  
Hannah Lewis and Sarah Banting
- Open Men's Lightweight Single Scull  
- James Wilson
- U23 Women's Coxless Pair -  
Katrina Werry and Addy Dunkley-Smith
- U23 Women's Coxless Four -  
Katrina Werry, Addy Dunkley-Smith,  
Olivia Sibillin and Adriana Marulli
- U23 Men's Coxed Four  
- Angus Widdicombe, Harry  
Bongiorno, Charles Dixon, Tom Hunt and  
Jordan King
- U21 Men's Coxed Four  
- Liam Donald, David Fleming, Max  
Arundel, Dylan Curnow and Jordan King

## SILVER

Open Women's Quad Scull - Fiona Albert

Open Women's Coxless Pair - Jessica Morrison and Hannah Lewis

U21 Men's Quad Scull - Alex Kinsella, Alex Clarke, Angus Maloney and Jayden Grey

U21 Men's Coxless Pair - David Fleming and Liam Donald

## BRONZE

Open Women's Double Scull - Katrina Bateman and Fiona Albert

Open Women's Coxed Eight - Rebekah Hooper, Madeline Cordner, Pia Ward and Jessica Morrison

Open Men's Single Scull - John Linke

Open Men's Quad Scull - David Crawshay, Joshua Dunkley-Smith, John Linke and James Wilson

Open Lightweight Men's Coxed Eight - James Wilson, Red Matthews, Carl Tomczak, William

On the Sunday after the Australian Rowing Championships Mercantile athletes and coaches played a pivotal role in Victoria securing the Rowing Australia Cup for best performed State at the Interstate regatta. John Linke finished second in the Presidents Cup single scull in his fastest time

of the season 6:51.3, seven Mercantile athletes: Sarah Banting, Charlotte Sutherland, Sophie Sutherland, Katrina Bateman, Katrina Werry, Addy Dunkley-Smith, Jennifer Cleary formed the nucleus of the winning Queens Cup crew. Joshua Dunkley-Smith, David Crawshay and Angus Widdicombe were part of the victorious King's Cup crew. Red Matthews and James Wilson were coached by David Fraumano in the Victorian Penrith Cup crew and David Colvin coached the Victoria Cup lightweight women's quad.

Thank you to the coaches Chipper, John, David, Ian and Brigette for the support and management of the athletes in the 2014/2015 season and Mal and the committee for their direction and guidance. Kind regards

**Simon Gadsden**  
Head Coach



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hard to believe another year has past since the last AGM

Thanks to all who have participated in the preparation of the Annual Report, with the majority of reports being sent in on time made the exercise a lot easier.

### **Worldwide Friendships**

One of the things that strikes me most re the rowing community is the ability to make long and lasting friendships all over the world.

We welcome in our international visitors to row with us for a season. During the last year Patrick Boomer joined us, from Belfast, who has now returned to London to study. I know many of our athletes have had the opportunity to stay with Paddy and his family whilst they are travelling.

This is not new. In my earlier days in the Club, the Black Sheep visited Mercantile and enjoyed racing our crews. Whilst in Henley, two years later, there they were calling out to say Hi, across the street-small world indeed.

We welcome Chloe Deyermond from Belfast this season.

When attending the Henley Royal Regatta, it is always a pleasure to meet again old friends and acquaintances of Mercantile. The support given to our crews from the Stewards, Leander Club and local supporters is greatly appreciated.

### **The Spirit of Mercantile lives on.**

The breakfasts on Saturday continue and indeed expanded. It is great now to see some of our Masters join us, mixing with our Mercantile athletes, St Catherines, Brighton Grammar, Melbourne Grammar.

The room buzzes as all from elite athletes to novices chat away and enjoy

breaky: as one coach said to me recently, it's the way it should be.

Saturday breakfast could not happen without the great team of parents and supporters, who assist.

### **Mercantile Travels**

There are certainly challenges in arranging the travel for a large team to interstate regattas.

We have developed strong relationships with local providers of accommodation and we appreciate their continued support

These relationships are largely contributed to by the respect and care that has been shown by our athletes to the accommodation

It was pleasing to see Mercantilians and parents and friends rally around to support and raise funds to support their colleges raising funds for overseas travel and representation in Under 21 and Under 23 Australian Crews.

The 2015 Henley Eight "The Brotherhood 2" once again competed in the Henley Royal Regatta.

We are indeed fortunate that we have established strong links within the Community at Henley that makes the organisation of such events easier.

### **Committee**

The work on the Committee front never seems to end and the keenness of Committee members to put up their hands to assist is fantastic.

The Mercantile Web site has had a refresh, with thanks to Andrew Guerin who is keeping us all up to date with the News. The endless number of updates certainly demonstrates what a busy club we are, with news coming in from all over the world Thanks to James Harvey for his work in keeping all the senior members up to date with happenings at the Club.

To all of our athletes who have been training hard over Winter, I wish you every success in the coming season

**Attendance at Committee Meetings**

At the time of printing, six meetings have been held since the 2014 AGM. Attendance is as follows

M Batten	1	H. Lewis	5
H. Edgar	3	S Gadsden	3
D. Bosler	1	M. French	2
P. Batters	0	R. Selby Smith	3
D. MacKinnon	6	A. Phillips	5
J. Fraumano	4	S. Jackson	1

**Jenny Fraumano  
Honorary Secretary**





## MERCANTILE KAYAK CLUB ANNUAL REPORT

### **Mercantile Kayak Club Presidents Report 2014-2015 Season**

The 2014-15 seasons was a mixed season for the Mercantile Kayak club, with a reduction in active racing members; however a large number of people continued to paddle from the kayak facility. As always we continue to attract international visitors and members of the training group, with our latest additions being Gerald from Singapore and Adam from Hungary, joining us in the last 12 months.

On the racing front Marlena Ahrens finished her final year in Under 23 racing with a series of victories in her age group within Victorian Marathon, before heading to the marathon world championships in Oklahoma City, in the USA where she finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the under 23 category.

Mathew French had a successful year racing white water marathon races around Australia picking up an 8<sup>th</sup> place in the K1 in the Avon descent in August 2014. The 2015 Whitewater marathon season started well with a close fought win in the Eildon to Alexander river race, before travelling to the Gregory

Canoe Race in far north Queensland in May 2015. Mathew took out the overall

race victory narrowly missing out on breaking the race record. Mathew again won the Australian Wild Water racing classic title in Tasmania.

On the surf front Glenn Singleton had a solid season of racing, always in the mix however luck was not on his side as he often narrowly missed the podium places throughout the season.

Whilst not racing seriously this year, Tom, Tim, Chris, James and Adam have all raced successfully at various sprint and marathon races throughout the year. This culminated in their winning the Teams pursuit title during June with new club member Stew Bennet. Where Stew in a reportedly strong performance dragged them all to the race win.

The past year has been a busy year for new fathers within the kayak club providing excuses for both Rod Mosely with a new daughter Lilah Rose Mosely and Robbie Brain with Iggy Jack Brain becoming the latest members of the mercantile kayak family.

We look forward to another memorable year within the kayak club.



## BOATS & EQUIPMENT REGISTER

A full list of the Club's equipment and the condition thereof is detailed below:

Boat	Make	Type	Year	Year	Condition
John Burford	Hudson	8+	2013		Excellent
Barry Gross	Sykes	8+	2011		Excellent
5429 <i>Unnamed</i>	Sykes	8+	2011		Excellent
Henry Edgar	Sykes	8+	2005		Excellent
David Colvin	Sykes	8+	2003		Very Good
Andrew Guerin	Sykes	8+	2003		Very Good
Geoff Barden	Ausrowtec	8+	1998		Good
JJ Lawrence 11	Sykes	8+	1997		Good
Kate Hornsey	Sykes	4-/4x	2011		Excellent
Sarah Tait	Sykes	4-/4x	2011		Excellent
Emily Martin	Sykes	4-/4x	2011		Excellent
David Crawshay	Sykes	4-/4x	2009		Excellent
Fleur Chew	Sykes	4-/4x	2009		Excellent
Richard Wraith	Sykes	4-/4x	2008		Excellent
R R Aitken	Sykes	4-	2002		Good
Warwick Hutchins	Sykes	4+	2014		Excellent
Jenny Fraumano	Sykes	4+	2014		Excellent
Carbine Club	Sykes	4+	2012		Excellent
M Teasdale	Johnston	4+	2006		Very Good
Trader Al	Sykes	4+	1994		Fair
6092 <i>Unnamed</i>	Sykes	2-/2x	2015		Excellent
5502 <i>Unnamed</i>	Sykes	2-/2x	2012		Excellent
Josh Dunkley- Smith	Sykes	2-/2x	2011		Excellent
David McGrath	Sykes	2-/2x	2011		Excellent
Bill Tait	Sykes	2-/2x	2011		Excellent
Pauline Frasca	Sykes	2-/2x	2010		Excellent
Roger Wilson	Sykes	2-/2x	2008		Excellent
John Shears	Sykes	2-/2x	2008		Excellent
Bob Lachal	Sykes	2-/2x	2006		Excellent
Peter Philp	Sykes	2-/2x	2004		Excellent
Robyn Selby Smith	Sykes	2-/2x	2004		Excellent
Andrew Cannon	Sykes	2-/2x	2005		Excellent

David Fraumano	Sykes	2-/2x	2004	Excellent
Harry Mahoney	Sykes	2-/2x	2003	Good
Lucky Tony Walker	Sykes	2-/2x	2002	Fair
Neil Hewitt	Sykes	2-/2x	2002	Good
David Douglas	Sykes	2-/2x	2002	Fair
Garth Manton	Sykes	2-/2x	2002	Fair
Ben Dodwell	Sykes	2-/2x	2002	Good
David Pincus	Sykes	2-/2x	1993	Fair
White Double	S&B	2x		Fair
The Breakfast Mums	Sykes	1x	2014	Excellent
Duncan MacKinnon	Sykes	1x	2014	Excellent
Unnamed	Sykes	1x	2014	Excellent

**Oars**

146	Croker/Con cept	Mixed sweep & sculling oars	Good
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**Ergometers**

13	Concept 2 Model D	2011	Good
22	Concept 2 Ergo Sliders	2011	Good

**Vehicles**

1BM6VX	Toyota Hilux Utility	2010	Very Good
YOM276	Nissan Navara	2011	Very Good
D61456	Sykes Boat Trailor	1997	Good



## FINANCE REPORT

With the renovation complete, and the members enjoying the fruits of the Endowment Fund and the support of our two sub-tenants, Brighton Grammar School and St Catherine's School, I am very pleased to report that the building loan, which started out at just under \$250k, has now been reduced to \$120k. This is a tremendous result and is totally due to the generosity of club members, including the major donors listed in the front of the report. To make it easy to donate and reap the benefits of tax deductibility, the Australian Sports Foundation now has an online facility. Links to Mercantile's projects are on the club's website, here: <http://www.mercantile.org.au/about/documents/>.

Thanks to the support of the Frederico Fund and the generous payment terms provided by Jeff Sykes & Associates, we've also acquired an VIII, 2 pairs, 2 ergs, 10 oars, more riggers to convert our pairs between sweep and sculling, and some wattbikes. We have also bought a second ute to assist with trailer towing.

Last year our rowers spent about \$18,000 on seat fees. Now these seat fees range from about \$15 for local regattas up to \$55 for the National Championships. If we conservatively assume that fees average \$18 per seat, then this means our athletes had 1,000 races over the season - busy times indeed!

In terms of the overall result, the auditors hadn't completed their review at the time of writing, so I am unable to provide final figures. The report will be available at the Annual General Meeting.

**Duncan MacKinnon**

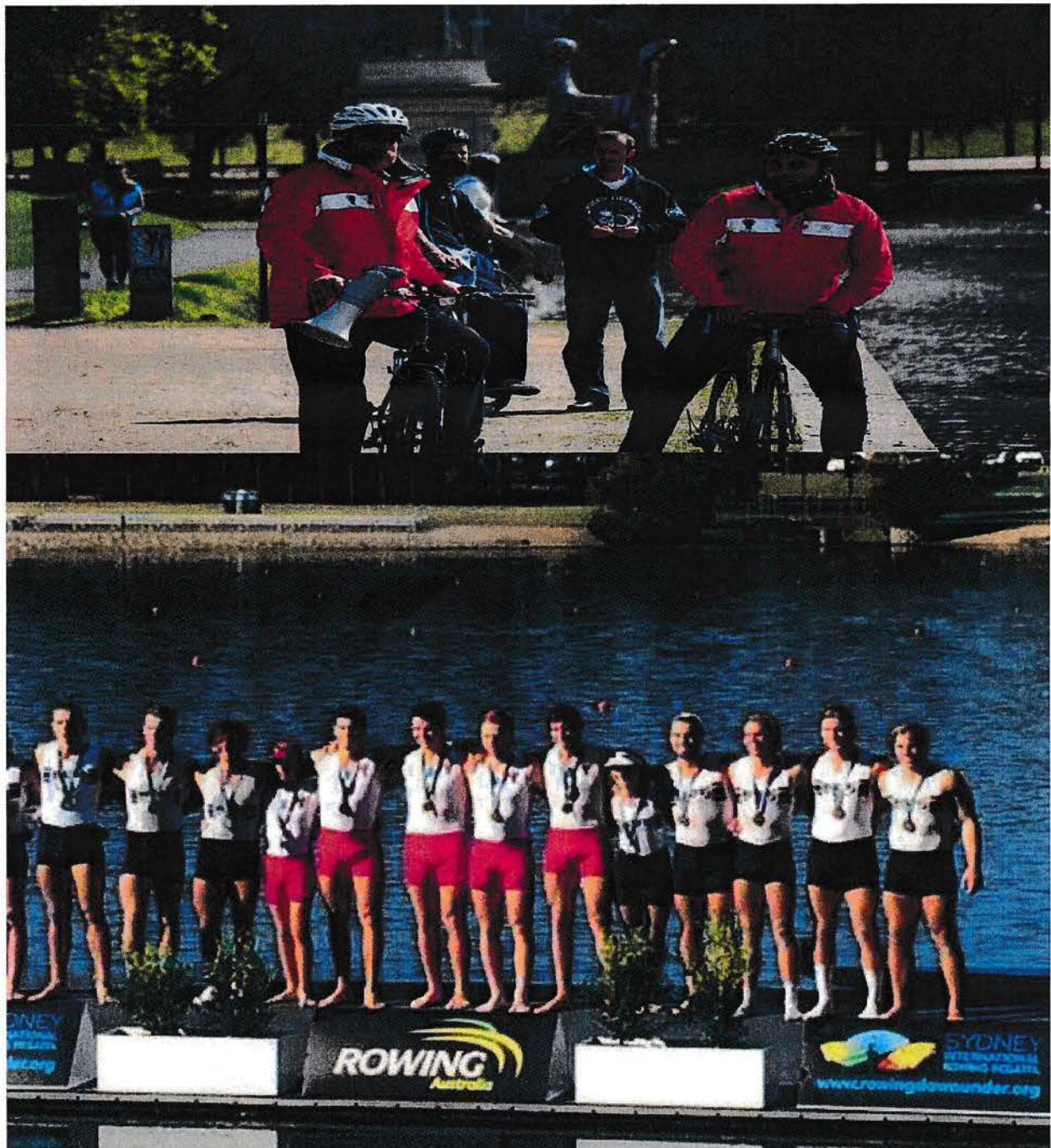
**Honorary Treasurer**



## R.A. COOPER FUND

This fund was established by the Late Dr R A Cooper in 1973 with reasonably wide objects and is used to assist members who compete in Australian teams to defray some of their seat fees. The great number of our members in these teams has meant that all the income is expended each year. The Committee hopes that the Club's success

continues and the Cooper Fund suffers from the same problem in future years. The assets of the fund are invested in growth assets to ensure that a growing income stream is generated. The trustees are David Colvin and Andrew Guerin.



## MERCANTILE ROWING CLUB ENDOWMENT FUND

This Fund was established by the Late James Sprigg in 1980 at the Club's centenary. This Fund was established to provide a financial base under the Club to better deal with any emergency which may prevail us or assist in any projects of significance to the Club. The Fund was called upon by the Club to undertake the renovations to the Clubhouse in 2013.

The task is now to replenish the fund so that it can again support renovations in another 20 years time. The main asset of the fund comprises a loan to the Club for the renovations. It is anticipated that the Club will commence repayments once the bank loan is repaid. The trustees are David Boykett, Andrew Guerin and Jeff Lawrence.



## HUBERT FREDERICO EQUIPMENT FUND

This fund was established in 2008 by our great Club benefactor Sean Colgan for the purpose of assisting the Club maintain equipment purchases consistent with a world class club. From its inception it has provided to the Club an average of \$52,000 per annum towards equipment purchases. The amount of support to the Club has been at the expense of developing the capital base

of the Fund. The issue is therefore to build up the capital of this fund so that it can be self-sustaining. A project is afoot led by Sean Colgan to build up the capital so that the fund is self-sustaining in perpetuity. The trustees are Warwick Hutchins, Tim Frederico and Andrew Guerin.



## MEMBERS 2014/15

MEMBERS 2014/15								
	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<b>Total 2015</b>	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Life				16	16	15	15	15
Senior				189	192	196	253	238
Junior				105	56	28	41	60
Country				38	33	32	42	42
Associate				18	16	10	18	8
<b>Total</b>				<b>366</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>363</b>

<b>Life</b>					
Phil	Ainsworth	40+	John	Hawkins	40+
Philippe	Batters	40+	H. Neil	Hewitt OAM	40+
David	Boykett OAM	40+	G. Ian	Holyman	40+
Sean	Colgan		Murray	Kellam AO	40+
David	Colvin		Bob	Lachal	40+
Andrew D	Cooper OAM		Colin D	Lewis	40+
David	Crawshay		Harry	Mahoney	40+
Noel	Donaldson		Garth	Manton	40+
Drew	Ginn OAM		Derek	Marley	40+
Andrew N	Guerin		Graeme W	McCall	40+
James	Harvey	40+	Victor	Mulder	40+
Jeffrey	Lawrence		Simon H	Newcomb OAM	40+
Michael	McKay OAM		Peter	O'Brien	40+
Martin	Owen	40+	Richard	Oliver AM	40+
Ted	Sorani	40+	David	Palfreyman	40+
James	Tomkins OAM		Ron H	Richardson	40+
William	Webster		John S	Rowe AM	40+
	<b>Senior</b>		John	Shanasy	40+
Arthur	Adams QC	40+	John	Shears	40+
Warwick	Anderson	40+	Tony	Walker	40+
Arthur	Atkins DFC	40+	Bill	Wallace	40+
William	Bailey	40+	Roger	Wilson OAM	40+
John B	Bostock	40+	David J.	Yunghanns	40+
Graeme	Boykett	40+	Tom E	Abramowski	
Brian	Dawes	40+	Fiona	Albert	
Ray	Dawson	40+	Roger	Allen	
Chris	De Guingand	40+	Samuel	Ballantyne	
David	Douglas	40+	Sarah	Banting	
Ian R.	Duthie	40+	Geoff	Barden	
Andrew M	Evans	40+	Graeme	Barns	
Michael	Fogarty	40+	Katrina	Bateman	
Stephen	Gillon	40+	Philippa	Batten	
Paul	Harding	40+	Malcolm	Batten OAM	



Stewart	Bennett	Simon	Gadsden
Anthony	Bergelin	Oscar	Galvin
Emily	Biasotto	Conor	Grace
Nalini	Blacker	Jayden	Grey
Harrison J	Bongiorno	Campbell	Gullock
Danae	Bosler	Greg	Hansen
John	Boulton	Simon	Harrison
Daniel	Brighthope	Blair	Hasforth
Peter	Browne	Tom	Hedditch
Donald	Burns	Meghan	Hester
Andrew	Cannon AM	Jordan	Hooper
Clare	Canty	Rachael	Hooper
Jack	Canty	Richard	Howden
Brigette	Carlile	Drew	Howell
Emily	Carmody	Thomas	Hunt
Isabella	Casey	Tom	Hutchins
Fleur A	Chew	Warwick	Hutchins
Jennifer	Cleary	Anthony	Inglis
Tim	Cleary	Shane	Jackson
Zac	Cleaver	Debbie	Jefferson
Joshua R	Clough	Sebastian	Jenner
Francis P	Corcoran	Colin	Kimpton
Madeleine	Cordner	Jordan	King
MaryJane	Crabtree	Alex	Kinsella
Tom	Creber	Charlotte	Lawrence
James	Crouch	John	Leeming
Andrew	Curnow	William	Legge
Dylan A	Curnow	Hannah	Lewis
Peter	DeGaris	John	Lincoln
David	deLang	Thomas	Lincoln
Charles	Dixon	Steven	Macek
Liam	Donald	Duncan	MacKinnon
Michael	Donovan	Joanna	Mardjetko
Alexander R B	Douglas	Adriana	Marulli
Kate	Duggan	Redmond	Matthews
Addy	Dunkley-Smith	Jennifer	Matthies
Josh	Dunkley-Smith	Bridget	McDonald
Pheris	Edelis	Douglas	McDonald
Henry	Edgar	David	McGrath
Alexander	Evans	Lachlan	McKinnon
Maddy	Farrar	Sarah	Mcleod
Bridget	Fisher	Euan	McMinn
Edwina	Flakemore	Hugh R S	McVicker
Jenny	Fraumano	James	Meadows
Darcy	Frawley	Brodie M	Miller
H. Tim	Frederico	Denis P.	Moore
Mathew	French	Stewart	Moreton
Jonathan C	Furlong	Bruce	Morrison

Jessica	Morrison	Roy	Zhang
Simon	Morrison		
Ron	Negri		
Callum	Nott		
Annabelle	Orr		<b>Junior</b>
Sam	Patten	Annie	Anezakis
Roberto	Perillo	Max	Arundel
Andrew C	Phillips	Amanda	Bateman
Susie	Phillips	Hugo A	Blomley
Peter	Philp	Sam	Blomley
Andrew J	Picken	Thomas	Bray
David	Pincus	Alexander	Clarke
Nicholas	Purnell	Luke M	Coburn
Justin	Quill	Sarina	Conti
Christopher	Ratcliffe	Geoffrey	Creber
Jack	Sadow	Alicia	Dino
Hugh	Sarjeant	Richard A N	Dunlop
John	Saunders	Tom	Ebeyan
Simon	Schoner	Jessica F	Evans
Robyn	Selby Smith	Angus D.	Farrar
Tyson	Sholl	Rebecca	Feneley
Olivia	Sibillin	Isabelle	Ferrali
Alex T	Sloan	David	Fleming
Christopher A	Smith	Nicholas L	Foster
Peter	Somerville	Millie	Fraumano
Brittany	Steele	Faith	Gasparini
Deb	Stephenson	Quentin E	Geczy
Georgia L	Stewart	Tim	Gillham
Charlotte	Sutherland	Georgie	Gleeson
Sophie	Sutherland	Stephanie	Gleeson
Thomas	Swann	Isobel M W	Graham
Bill	Tait	Fergus	Hamilton
Sarah	Tait	Sam	Hannah
Jeffrey	Thompson	Thomas P	Herbert
Peter	Tomanovits	Hunter	Hilditch
Carl	Tomczak	Caitlin	Jenning
Olympia	Ward	Sophie	Joubert
Emma R	Webley	Andrew P	Judge
Katrina	Werry	Emma	Lincoln
Colonel John	Wertheimer, AM RFD	Bella	Logie-Smith
Rosita A	Wickes	Ellyse L	Maimur
Angus	Widdicombe	Angus F	Maloney
Pernette P.	Wijnen	Sinead	Matthews
Alexandra (Didi)	Williams	Lauren	McElroy
Jennifer	Williams	Michael	McNamara
James S.	Wilson	Cate V	McNeil
Rohan	Wilson	Sean	McNeil
Richard	Wraith	Adela	Michelson

Ciara	O'Keeffe
Emilie R A	Page
Nathaniel	Poynton
Archie	Roberts
Jack D	Robertson
Alick	Rose
Emily L	Shaw
Gemma	Sibillin
Fearghus	Stewart
David M	Titeu
Benjamin G	Tunbridge
Emma	Vergano
Clare M	Ward
James M.	Waters
Alex	Wolf

**Country**

Mal	Corben	40+
E. Ted	Johnson	40+
Stewart	McArthur AM	40+
Russell	McLean	40+
Ian	Wilson	40+

William	Baillieu
Patrick	Blain
Peter	Boykett
Mark	Connolly
Tom	Daffy
Benjamin	Dodwell
J. Doug.	Donoghue
Rod	Edwards

Dennis R	Ginn
Regina	Kennedy
Jason	Kovacic
Pat	McNamara
Andrew S.	McNeil
Neville	McNeil

Celia	Patterson
George	Patterson
Paul	Schreier
Paul	Somerville
Simon	Spriggs
Tim	Young

**Associate**

Marlena S.	Ahrens
Andrew	Ambrose
Timothy	Arnold
Robert	Brain
Stewart	Collingwood
Siobhan	Crawshay
David	Curnow
Mark	Doyle
Peter	Foster
Will	Fowles
Pauline A.	Frasca
David	Fraumano
Gary A.	Fraumano
Sam	Hayden
Adam	Holovics
Paul	McGann
Richard	Moreton
Rod	Moseley
John	Nickson
Thomas J.	Nickson
Glenn	Singleton
Jan M.	Tennent
Scott	Tierney
Kayla	Whinray
Gerald	Yong



*With thanks to...*

**KellyHazellQuill**  
*Lawyers*

