

VICTORIAN
ROWING ASSOCIATION

1876-1954



SEVENTY - EIGHTH

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

BALANCE SHEET

SEASON 1953-1954

Hon. Secretary: N. W. CAIRNES *Asst. Hon. Secretary:* J. A. McBEAN *Hon. Treasurer:* C. E. JAMES

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION

The Seventy-eighth Annual General Meeting of the above Association will be held at the Amateur Sports Club, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, at 8 p.m., on Thursday, 28th October, 1954.

BUSINESS:

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Seventy-seventh Annual General Meeting held on 21st October, 1953.
2. To receive the Annual Report and Balance-sheet.
3. To elect Office-bearers, viz., Patron, President, eight Vice-Presidents, two Honorary Auditors.
4. Presentation of Premiership Certificates.
5. Presentation of Championship Medallions for Season 1953-1954.
6. To consider the following motion, of which due notice has been given, viz.:—

By Mr. G. Cecil Burke:

The following portion of Rule XXIX to be deleted:—"Provided that no other business shall be transacted at such meetings unless notice in writing of such business shall have been given to the Secretary of the Association at the meeting of the Committee next preceding such Annual Meeting."

7. General.

All affiliated members of the Association are entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting.

Amateur Sports Club,
Melbourne.
September, 1954.

N. W. CAIRNES,
Honorary Secretary.



A. J. SHEPHERD, ESQ.

OBITUARY

With deep regret the death of our President, Arthur J. Shepherd, on 19th May, 1954, is recorded. Mr. Shepherd's interest in rowing commenced 70 years ago, when he was Secretary of the Maribyrnong Rowing Club. This club disbanded in 1885 and was re-formed as the Essendon Rowing Club with Mr. Shepherd as its first Secretary. Leaving the Essendon district in the 'nineties, Mr. Shepherd transferred to the Banks Rowing Club, of which he was a vice-president for many years prior to his death. As an oarsman and a coach he had a fine record, rowing in the Victorian crews of 1891 and 1892, in the latter year winning at Brisbane from New South Wales and Queensland. He was regarded as a coach of exceptional knowledge and ability, and was a keen advocate of swivels at a time when all Victorian Clubs used poppets. He coached the Victorian crews of 1911 and 1912, the latter crew winning rowing with swivels at Perth in 15 minutes 33 seconds, which is still the record for the three-mile Swan River course.

Mr. Shepherd was first associated with the Victorian Rowing Association in 1892, when he was elected as a representative of the Banks Rowing Club. He was elected a vice-president of the Association in 1904 and in 1944 he succeeded the late Sir Stephen Morell as President. His generosity was outstanding, and his will contains bequests of £1,000 each to the Victorian Rowing Association, Banks Rowing Club, Essendon Rowing Club and the Amateur Sports Club of Victoria, of which he was also President.

The passing of our late President, who has contributed so much to the advancement of rowing over such a long period, as an oarsman, coach and administrator, is mourned by all members of the Victorian Rowing Association.

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION

LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS

Patron:

His Honor SIR HAYDN STARKE

President:

A. J. SHEPHERD, Esq. (Deceased 19th May, 1954)
A. L. DOBBIE, Esq. (Elected 7th July, 1954)

Vice-presidents:

J. M. MACFARLANE, Esq.	E. KENNY, Esq.
A. L. DOBBIE, Esq.	R. J. MARCH, Esq.
H. T. JAMES, Esq.	W. R. B. TODD, Esq.
A. M. KING, O.B.E. (Deceased)	M. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.
F. E. FINDLEY (Elected 7th July, 1954).	H. B. KIRSCH (Elected 7th July, 1954).

Hon. Treasurer:	Asst. Hon. Secretary:	Hon. Secretary:
C. E. JAMES, Esq.	J. A. McBEAN, Esq.	N. W. CAIRNES, Esq.

Hon. Auditors:

G. O. HEYWARD (Deceased), J. TAYLOR, Esq., A.A.S.A., and
A. D. VALE (Elected 7th July, 1954)

Elected Members:

	Elected	Retires		Elected	Retires
H. B. KIRSCH	1952	1954	R. R. AITKEN	1953	1955
R. J. MARCH	1952	1954	J. COGHLAN	1953	1955
J. A. McBEAN	1952	1954	E. R. DUNN	1953	1955
W. McILROY	1952	1954	G. HARDING	1953	1955
M. S. WILLIAMS	1952	1954	H. T. LAMBIE	1953	1955

Executive Committee:

	Elected	Retires		Elected	Retires
E. R. DUNN	1952	1954	L. A. J. WILKINSON	Elected	1954
D. J. MORGAN	1952	1954		3/2/54	
N. RIDLEY	1952	(Resigned)	G. HARDING	1953	1955
F. A. SMITH	1952	1954	E. KENNY	1953	1955
			N. F. WILKINSON	1953	1955

Representative Members of Affiliated Clubs:

Albert Park	R. B. DUNCAN	Melbourne	J. J. O'NEILL
Antwerp			F. X. MURPHY
Ballarat	R. JELBART	M.U.B.C.	P. N. EVERIST
	P. MARXSEN	Mercantile	B. J. DOYLE
Ballarat City	J. BEATTIE		H. P. SHEARS
	D. A. CALDER	Mildura	R. W. THURSFIELD
Bairnsdale	J. J. MULCAHY		S. G. RICHARDSON
Banks	J. TWINING	Nagambie	R. R. SULLIVAN
	E. JOHNSTON	Nestanglo	A. W. McLEISH
Barwon	L. HAGGER	Power House	I. H. MUNRO
	W. WHEATLAND	Preston	R. MARSHALL
Bendigo	T. RODDA	Richmond	J. DILLON
Camperdown	—		F. PETERS
Corowa	F. EASTON	Rutherglen Lake	W. MORRISON
Corio Bay	D. R. SALMON	Sale	B. R. CONINGSBY
Dimboola	A. A. FORTINGTON	South Melbourne	R. D. WILLIAMSON
Eaglehawk	T. S. FLINT	Wahgunyah	A. E. CHANDLER
Essendon	C. CHALMERS	Warmambool	J. BEST
	W. NICHOLSON	Wendouree	A. WELCH
Footscray City	B. D. SHIELDS		J. R. ELLIOTT
	J. DRIVER	Yarrowonga	D. S. STIRLING
Hawthorn	S. R. JEFFERY	Yarra Yarra	J. PRIME
	G. L. CODE		D. A. COE
Lake Colac	J. EVANS	Yea	J. J. DONALD
		Wentworth District	E. C. WHITE

SEVENTY-EIGHTH
ANNUAL REPORT and BALANCE SHEET

of the
VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION

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TO THE MEMBERS,
GENTLEMEN,

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting for your consideration the Seventy-eighth Annual Report and Balance-sheet of the Victorian Rowing Association.

This has been another successful year for Australian and Victorian Rowing, Australia winning two events out of four entries at the Empire Games in Vancouver, Victoria having its third successive victory in the Australian Eight-oared Championship at Hobart, and the Melbourne University winning the Inter-University Boat Race at Perth.

The Premierships were very closely contested, Albert Park winning the Senior Premiership from Mercantile, following a season of very keen competition, during which the lead changed several times; Mercantile was again successful in the Junior and Lightweight Premierships, only winning the Junior Premiership at the Easter Regattas after being closely pressed by Corio Bay. Albert Park, by the tenacious manner in which it has pursued the Senior Premiership over the past three years, has set an example which may well be followed by all Clubs. It has proved that a Club prepared to enter crews at all regattas, and to keep trying despite defeat, will eventually achieve a success worthy of its efforts and the sport. The congratulations of the Association are offered to the Albert Park and Mercantile Rowing Clubs on premiership victories.

The formation of the High Schools Rowing Association during the year should have beneficial results for rowing in Victoria and it behoves all Clubs with High Schools in the district to contact the Head Master and give every assistance to the coaching and boating of the crews. This Association has already conducted two very successful well-patronised regattas, and in order to assist the movement, the Victorian Rowing Association has included a four-oared event for School Crews on the program for its Melbourne Regatta on Saturday, 20th November, 1954.

The competition in Maiden ranks has been keen and the prospects of increased entries in the forthcoming season augurs well for rowing in the future. However, the failure of Clubs to promote successful junior oarsmen to senior ranks could cause a drift away from the sport and at the same time weaken the State's King's Cup prospects.

With the object of providing young oarsmen with experienced coaching and competition a series of five events for Maiden Pairs was conducted during the winter period, the points won by the successful crews to count in the 1954-1955 Junior Premiership. These events were well patronised, an average of 6.6 crews competing in each event, and providing those Clubs which were represented with the nucleus of a four- or an eight-oared crew for the opening regattas.

It was unfortunate that the timing of some of our Championship events conducted on the Lower Yarra was upset by shipping movements and it is hoped that by making a later start this trouble will be obviated in future. The Association was assisted in the conduct of the Championships by Messrs. Jack Walsh and Victor Pedler, of the Little Ships Club, in Mr. Walsh's fast motor launch, providing accommodation for the umpire and a safety precaution against accident to the crews.

It is disappointing to report that the membership of the Association, after having increased last year, has slumped during the year under review. The loss of 90 members during the year is accounted for partly by the failure of Preston, Antwerp and Eaglehawk to pay any affiliation fees during the season.

	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
Metropolitan	899	1,003	919
Country	483	544	538
	<u>1,382</u>	<u>1,547</u>	<u>1,457</u>

It is regretted that continued indifferent health has prevented Mr. H. T. James (vice-president) taking his usual active part in the work of the Association. Since joining the Committee as an elected member in 1913 Mr. James has been a regular attendant at all meetings for forty years and was a prominent racing official at regattas, Head of the River races and the Australian Championships.

BRITISH EMPIRE GAMES — 1954

The success of the Australian representatives in the rowing and sculling events at the British Empire and Commonwealth Games, held at Vancouver, Canada, on 3rd and 4th August, 1954, was most gratifying. Only a small team consisting of M. T. Wood and M. S. Riley (double sculls); P. M. Evatt (single sculls); D. R. Anderson and G. Williamson (coxswainless pairs) and L. Robberds (coxswain), managed by Mr. R. W. Thursfield, was sent to the Games. The double scull, consisting of M. T. Wood and M. S. Riley, was successful, and a coxed four, M. T. Wood (bow); P. M. Evatt (2); G. Williamson (3); D. R. Anderson (stroke), L. Robberds (cox), won this event. All members of the team won a gold medal. The congratulations of the Victorian Rowing Association are extended to all members of the rowing team who so ably represented Australia, and to our own members, Mr. R. W. Thursfield, who managed the Rowing Section, and Mr. E. Kenny, who was Assistant Manager of the Australian team.

AUSTRALIAN EIGHT OARED CHAMPIONSHIP (THE KING'S CUP)

The Australian Eight Oared Championship was rowed over a course of three miles on the Derwent River, Hobart, Tasmania, on Saturday morning, 1st May, 1954. All States were represented.

Messrs. R. R. Aitken and R. J. March were elected Selectors, and they appointed Mr. N. W. Cairnes Coach and third Selector.

Victoria was represented by D. M. Christie (Albert Park), 11st. 11lb., bow; L. S. Williams (Mercantile), 13st., 2; A. C. Monger (M.U.B.C.), 13st. 2lb., 3; W. O. Granowski (Mercantile), 12st. 4lb., 4; G. O. V. Manton (Mercantile), 13st. 10lb., 5; W. N. Howell (Banks), 13st. 8lb., 6; J. S. Rowe (Mercantile), 12st., 7; B. J. Doyle (Mercantile), 12st., 2lb., stroke; J. B. Mitchell (M.U.B.C.), 8st. 7lb., cox; M. F. Shaw (Albert Park), 11st. 11lb., emergency; N. W. Cairnes (Mercantile), coach, and W. R. B. Todd (Banks) manager.

Victoria won the race in the record time of 14 minutes, 14 seconds, lowering the course record by 16 seconds.

The race was postponed 30 minutes because of rough conditions, a strong following north-westerly making the last mile of the course very rough.

All crews were away to a good start, and after covering half-a-mile, Victoria rating 38 had a length lead from Queensland and Tasmania with New South Wales a length further back. At the half-way mark Victoria had a comfortable two-length lead from Queensland and New South Wales with Tasmania and Western Australia

almost level in fourth place some lengths further back. In the rough water over the last half-mile Victoria showed excellent oarsmanship, and maintained a rating 34, while New South Wales rated 38 in an effort to make up the leeway and shake off the tenacious Queensland crew. After the finish of the race South Australia swamped and sank while all the other boats had shipped water over the last three-quarter mile of the race.

Victoria won by one and a half lengths from New South Wales with Queensland a quarter of a length further back third, followed by Tasmania, West Australia and South Australia.

The congratulations of all members of the Association are extended to the crew and emergency on the excellent performance in winning the King's Cup for the third successive year. The success of the crew was due to the enthusiastic manner in which all members applied themselves to training both in and out of the boat. The emergency, Max Shaw, was required to row in various seats of the boat almost continuously for a fortnight prior to leaving Victoria, and while not called on to row while in Tasmania, he was as fit as any member of the crew.

The crew was accommodated at the Beltana Hotel, Lindisfarne, about 100 yards from the boat shed. The accommodation left nothing to be desired and Mrs. Ritchie, the wife of the proprietor, did everything possible to make the crew comfortable and contented.

The Tasmanian Rowing Council and the Honorary Secretary, Mr. M. Will, are to be congratulated on the excellent organisation of the King's Cup Regatta, and for the manner in which they entertained the crews during training and after the race.

The Victorian crew were fortunate in once again having Mr. Harold Vernon as Liaison Officer. He was in attendance at the boat club every day and at the service of the crew at all times throughout the stay in Tasmania. Our thanks are also due to Mrs. Vernon, who entertained the crew in her home after the race.

Thanks are due to the President of the Tasmanian Rowing Council, Mr. J. Berkery, for the manner in which he entertained all visitors and for the buffet dinner with which he entertained officials and visitors the Wednesday evening prior to the race.

Mr. S. Hammond was host in his home to officials and visitors with a party which will long be remembered by all. He also extended an invitation to the crews to use his billiards table on any evening. This offer was greatly appreciated by members of the Victorian crew who availed themselves of it.

A trip to the Huon and a visit over the Cool Stores and orchard of Mr. A. J. Shields on the Sunday prior to the race was greatly appreciated. The picnic at New Norfolk on the Sunday after the race, at which Bruce Mitchell, Brian Doyle, John Rowe, Garth Manton, Adrian Monger, and Max Shaw all managed to win trophies in the foot races, completed a most happy visit to Hobart.

The crew was greatly assisted in its training by the loan of the Best Eight of the Banks Rowing Club, which was of a similar build to the boat the crew took delivery of in Hobart.

AUSTRALIAN SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP (THE PRESIDENT'S CUP)

Victoria was not represented in this event, which was won by G. Hubbard (Western Australia), by 15 lengths from B. Green (Queensland), with P. M. Evatt (New South Wales) 12 lengths further back third, and B. J. Foster (Tasmania) fourth. Time: 16 minutes 12 seconds.

The race started in smooth water and after a mile and a half only two lengths separated the four competitors, but coming into the rough water a mile from the finish the two lighter scullers drew away and G. Hubbard, sculling a shorter stroke, won convincingly.

AUSTRALIAN PAIR OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

An entry of three crews was received for this event, New South Wales, Tasmania and Queensland, with only New South Wales and Tasmania starting. The race was won by New South Wales by two and a half lengths from Tasmania, in 8 minutes 44 seconds.

AUSTRALIAN DOUBLE SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP

For the second time this event has been conducted it attracted only one entry, and was won on a walk-over by L. R. Alp and G. Frizzell (West Australia), in 7 minutes 37 seconds.

**VICTORIAN EIGHT-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP
(NORWICH SHIELD)
(SIR THOMAS NETTLEFOLD MEDALLIONS)**

(Holders—Mercantile Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2½ miles. 20th February, 1954.

Won by Mercantile Rowing Club. Time 12min. 18 3/5sec.

W. WALLACE (bow), C. B. DAWES (2), J. MORGANTI (3), L. S. WILLIAMS (4), G. O. MANTON (5), W. O. GRANOWSKI (6), J. S. ROWE (7), B. J. DOYLE (stroke), P. HARRISON (cox), N. W. CAIRNES (coach).

Won by eight lengths—Albert Park second, and South Melbourne/Banks third.

VICTORIAN FOUR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Mercantile Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2,000 metres. 12th December, 1953.

Won by Mercantile Rowing Club. Time 7min. 34sec.

W. WALLACE (bow), B. DAWES (2), S. J. ROWE (3), B. J. DOYLE (stroke), P. HARRISON (cox), N. W. CAIRNES (coach).

Won by five lengths—Albert Park second and Footscray third. Banks also started.

VICTORIAN PAIR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Albert Park Rowing Club)

Rowed on Lake Nagambie. Course 1 mile. 26th December, 1953.

won by Albert Park Rowing Club. No times taken.

R. B. DUNCAN (bow), B. D. DICKSON (stroke), J. LIBBIS (cox), H. R. DUNCAN (coach).

Won by three lengths—Banks second and Mercantile third. Lake Colac also started.

VICTORIAN SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holder—R. V. RAWLINS, Melbourne Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2½ miles. 20th February, 1954.

Won by D. DUDGEON, Richmond Rowing Club. No times taken.

D. Brook (Essendon) second, and J. Webster (South Melb.) third. J. Williams (Mercantile) and P. Begehle (Yarra Yarra) also started.

VICTORIAN 2,000 METRES SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holder—D. TUCKER, Melbourne Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2,000 Metres. 27th March, 1954.

Won by D. DUDGEON, Richmond Rowing Club. Time 8min. 11sec.

Won easily—P. Begehle (Yarra Yarra) second, and D. Brook (Essendon) third.

VICTORIAN JUNIOR EIGHT-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Mercantile Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2,000 Metres. 27th March, 1954.

Won by Corio Bay Rowing Club. Time 6min. 19 2/5sec.

R. MORELL (bow), W. HUNTER (2), M. WATSON (3), E.

PARTRIDGE (4), A. SCENEAY (5), J. GEORGE (6), G. COWEY (7), J. EVANS (stroke), D. RICHES (cox), W. MELOUREY (coach).

Won by 1 foot—Mercantile second and Hawthorn third.

VICTORIAN JUNIOR FOUR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Banks Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2,000 metres. 12th December, 1953.

Won by Corio Bay Rowing Club. No times taken.

G. COWEY (bow), J. GEORGE (2), A. SCENEAY (3), J. EVANS (stroke), R. MOORE (cox), A. B. BELL (coach).

Won by two lengths—Footscray second and Mercantile third. Barwon, South Melbourne, Richmond, Albert Park, Hawthorn and Banks also started.

VICTORIAN JUNIOR PAIR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Lake Colac Rowing Club).

Rowed on Lake Nagambie. Course 1 mile. 26th December, 1953.

Won by Mercantile Rowing Club. No times taken.

J. DARTNELL (bow), D. BOYKETT (stroke), G. LAWRENCE (cox), R. AITKEN (coach).

Won by two lengths—Wendouree second and Lake Colac third. Essendon, South Melbourne, Ballarat, and Nagambie also started.

VICTORIAN LIGHTWEIGHT EIGHT-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Barwon Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2,000 metres. 27th March, 1954.

Won by Mercantile Rowing Club. Time 6min. 32 4/5sec.

P. LEGGETT (bow), J. PELL (2), A. BATISTE (3), R. McCUBBERY (4), G. ROBERTSON (5), V. SHARP (6), C. LEWIS (7), R. RICHARDSON (stroke), L. BUTTERFIELD (cox), R. R. AITKEN (coach).

Won by 3½ lengths—Barwon second and Ballarat third. Banks and Wendouree also started.

VICTORIAN LIGHTWEIGHT FOUR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Mercantile Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2,000 metres. 12th December, 1953.

Won by Mercantile Rowing Club. Time 8min. 28sec.

G. ROBERTSON (bow), V. SHARPE (2), C. LEWIS (3), R. RICHARDSON (stroke), L. BUTTERFIELD (cox), R. R. AITKEN (coach).

Won by 2½ lengths—Banks second.

VICTORIAN LIGHTWEIGHT PAIR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Banks Rowing Club)

Rowed on Lake Nagambie. Course 1 mile. 26th December, 1953.

Won by Ballarat Rowing Club. No time taken.

R. KIRSOPP (bow), W. C. TAINSH (stroke), I. GODFREY (cox), E. LAUGHTON (coach).

Won by three-quarters of a length—Banks second and Yarra Yarra third. Mercantile, South Melbourne and Ballarat City also started.

The sincere congratulations of your Committee are extended to the winners of the foregoing Championships.

PREMIERSHIPS

The points scored in the respective premierships were:—

SENIOR

	Wins	Points		Wins	Points
Albert Park	19	68	Footscray City	1	4
Mercantile	8	64	Lake Colac	2	4
South Melbourne	2	8	Essendon	1	3
Banks	2	6	Yarra Yarra	2	2
Richmond	3	6	Melbourne	1	1

JUNIOR

	Wins	Points		Wins	Points
Mercantile	12	86	Banks	1	8
Corio Bay	10	64	Richmond	1	8
Essendon	14	42	Melbourne	2	8
Lake Colac	7	34	Mildura	1	8
Ballarat	5	26	Wendouree	2	6
Footscray City	7	26	Hawthorn	2	4
Yarra Yarra	7	20	Sale	1	2
Barwon	4	18	Ballarat City	1	2
Nagambie	2	16	Albert Park	1	2
South Melbourne	3	12	Dimboola	1	2

LIGHTWEIGHT

	Wins	Points		Wins	Points
Mercantile	12	70	Ballarat	1	4
Yarra Yarra	8	22	Rutherglen Lake	1	2
Barwon	1	12	Richmond	1	2
Ballarat City	4	12	Wahgunyah	1	2
Banks	1	10			

UNIVERSITY ROWING

Inter-Universities Race: The University Boat Race for the Oxford-Cambridge Cup was rowed over the two-mile course on the Swan River, Perth, in June, and was won by Melbourne University from Western Australia, by 1 1/3 lengths, with Sydney third, and Adelaide fourth. Time 11 minutes 38 seconds. The Melbourne University was represented by M. D. G. Murray (bow), I. E. Douglas (2), J. R. Colville (3), W. M. Somerville (4), J. A. Hunt (5), S. N. Johns (6), A. C. Monger (7), C. J. Smith (stroke), R. G. Hyett (cox), H. F. Smith (emergency), D. R. Salmon (coach).

Inter-Universities Sculls: This event was won by B. D. Adams, of Sydney, by 5 lengths from E. N. Maslen, Western Australia, with H. F. Smith, Melbourne third.

Inter-Collegiate Races: The races for the Mervyn Bourne Higgins Shield and the John Lang Cup were rowed on the Henley course, 27th to 29th April, 1954. Trinity College defeated Queen's College to win the Shield, and went on to win the John Lang Cup from Extra-Collegiates.

HEAD OF THE RIVER

Our congratulations are extended to the Geelong Grammar Crew for their excellent performance in winning the Head of the River, 1954.

REGATTA AND CHAMPIONSHIP DATES FOR SEASON 1954-55

Sept. 18	Metropolitan (Novice) Regatta.
Nov. 6	Dimboola and Victorian Four-Oared Sprint Championship (non-qualifying).
" 20	V.R.A. (Melbourne) Regatta.
" 27	Henley on the Yarra.
Dec. 11	Victorian Four-Oared Championships (2,000 metres).
" 27	Nagambie.
" 27	Warrnambool.
" 28	Yarrawonga.

1955

Jan.	1	Rutherglen.
"	1	Colac and Victorian Pair-Oared Championships.
"	3	Camperdown.
"	29	Yea.
"	31	Albert Park.
Feb.	19	Champion Eights and Champion Sculls, 2½ miles.
"	26	Ballarat.
Mar.	5	Barwon.
"	12	} Henley on the Yarra (two-day regatta).
"	14	
"	19	Bendigo and Victorian Pair-Oared Sprint Championship (non-qualifying).
"	26	Victorian Junior and Lightweight Eight-Oared Championships and 2,000 metres Sculling Championship. (2,000 metres).
Apr.	9	Bairnsdale.
"	9	Mildura.
"	11	Sale.
"	11	Wentworth.
—	—	King's Cup Race—South Australia.
May	21	Metropolitan (Novice) Regatta.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES

The following amendments to the rules were made at the Annual General Meeting held on 21st October, 1953.

Deletion of Weights from Entry Forms: The second schedule (Entry Form) was amended by the deletion of the column titled weight.

Distribution of Trophy Orders: Regatta Regulations and Laws of Boat Racing Number 28a was deleted and the following substituted:—

"Except where individual trophies of a specified nature are presented by the Regatta Committee, the winners of all races shall receive orders from the Secretary of their respective clubs to select their trophy or trophies, but on no account is the winner to take delivery of the trophy or trophies except through the Secretary of his club and upon his written authority. The Secretary of any club when issuing a trophy order shall first satisfy himself that goods to the full value of the amount named in the order have been selected and that the type of trophy is in accordance with the list of permissible trophies, published by the Victorian Rowing Association from time to time.

"In the case of regattas for which trophy orders are issued to winning oarsmen and coxswains, the full amount of the trophy money together with a schedule of all winning crews, shall be forwarded by the Regatta Committee to the Victorian Rowing Association within fourteen days of the date of the regatta. Lists showing the names of individual winning oarsmen and coxswains of each successful club and the value of the trophy due to each shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the clubs concerned by the Treasurer of the Association, together with a cheque to the full value of the trophies won by the members of such clubs. A notice shall be printed in all regatta programmes notifying the value of each individual trophy and indicating that same will be available on application to the Secretary of the club of which the winning oarsman or coxswain is a member. No commission or discount shall be sought or accepted by any club or regatta committee in connection with such trophy orders. Before the 31st August each year the Secretary of each club shall forward to the Association a list showing the name of each successful member of such club and the type and value of each trophy collected by the member. This list shall be signed by the President, Captain and Secretary of the club."

COMMITTEE DECISIONS

Change of Regatta Dates

At the request of the Geelong Rowing Association and the Ballarat

Rowing Association, the Regatta dates were changed to Barwon Regatta, 27th February, 1954, and Ballarat, 6th March, 1954; to fit in with the Royal Visit Program.

Victorian Selectors

That the Committee will elect two selectors of the Victorian Crews and Scullers, who shall appoint the coach, such appointee to become the third selector. If the selectors fail to agree on the appointment of the coach, the Executive is empowered to appoint a coach. Should the coach appointed by the selectors or the Executive be one of the selectors the Executive is empowered to appoint as third selector the nominee for selector who finished third in the ballot.

Champion Pairs and Double Sculls of Australia

After the selection of the eight-oared crew and sculler, Clubs may nominate crews for the Champion Pairs and Champion Sculls of Australia, and the Victorian Selectors are empowered to select from such nominations a pair, and, or, Double scull crew to represent Victoria if they consider a crew or double scull nominated is of the necessary standard.

The crew or crews selected must—

1. Arrange their own finance without making an appeal to the Association, affiliated Clubs or members of the Association.
2. Provide their own equipment, including blazer pockets.

Country Premiership

It was decided to hold a premiership among all Clubs outside a radius of 20 miles of the G.P.O., the aggregate of points scored in the Senior, Junior and Lightweight Premierhips to count for the Country Premiership.

Maiden Pairs in the Off Season

It was decided to conduct a series of pair-oared events for Maiden Oarsmen during the off season, points to count in the Junior Premier-ship for Season, 1954/55.

Metropolitan Area: 5 events to be held on 3rd, 17th, 31st July; and 7th, 21st August, 1954.

Ballarat: 3 events.

Geelong: 2 events.

Nagambie & Colac: 1 event each.

March Regatta for Henley on the Yarra

The Melbourne City Council and the City Development Association having invited the Melbourne Amateur Regatta Association to stage Henley during March as a feature of the proposed Moomba Carnival approval was granted for the conduct of a two-day regatta on the Labor Day week-end, 12th and 14th March.

Rowing Section—Olympic Games, 1956

Invitations were issued to Regatta Officials to submit their names to the Association if they are prepared to make themselves familiar with the International Rules on Boat Racing, in preparation for the examination set by the International Federation which must be passed by all officials for the rowing events at the Olympic Games.

SERVICES RENDERED

The sincere thanks and appreciation of your Committee are extended to the following for services rendered to the Association during the year under review:—

Dr. Percy Shelton for again carrying out in an honorary capacity the examination of the members of the King's Cup Crew.

Mr. J. Coghlan for his assistance with transport and housing the coaching launch.

Mr. T. Rodda for his assistance in marking the Championship Course on the Lower Yarra.

Mr. R. J. March for his care, maintenance and driving of the coaching launch.

Little Ships Club for the provision of a launch at all Championship Events on the Lower Yarra.

Messrs. J. Taylor, A.A.S.A., and A. D. Vale for services as Honorary Auditors.

Members who acted as officials at the various regattas and championships throughout the year.

Messrs. Balfe, Todd, Flint and Coningsby for their efforts to publicise the sport during the year.

The Town Clerk of Melbourne, the Melbourne City Council, the Melbourne Harbor Trust Commissioners and the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works for assistance and co-operation throughout the year.

DONATIONS

The sincere thanks of your Committee are extended to the following generous donors who displayed their interest in a practical manner which is appreciated by all members of the Association.

King's Cup Fund.—Mr. M. S. Williams, £80 for a set of oars; Mr. D. J. Morgan, for his efforts in raising £154/16/3; Captain Ivan Holyman, £25; Mercantile Rowing Club, £10; To the memory of the late J. South, £7/10/-; J. H. O'Reilly, £5; W. R. B. Todd, £2; and Barwon Bus Passengers, £2.

Boat Fund.—Mrs. W. D. Kerr, £5; anonymous, £3.

Victorian Rowing Association.—The late Mr. A. J. Shepherd, £5/5/-.

Empire Games Fund.—Mr. J. Webster, £3.

Broadcast Box.—Upper Yarra Amateur Regatta Association, £5; Messrs. H. B. Kirsch, £7; R. W. Thursfield, £7; W. L. Podmore, £5; the late Mr. A. Girling, £5.

Tow Path.—Associated Public Schools, £80; Upper Yarra Amateur Regatta Association, £30; Melbourne Rowing Club, Mercantile Rowing Club, Banks Rowing Club, Yarra Yarra Rowing Club, Richmond Rowing Club and Melbourne University Boat Club, £15 each.

OBITUARY

In addition to the great loss sustained by the death of our President, Mr. A. J. Shepherd, referred to earlier in this report, the Association and the sport have lost a great supporter in Mr. Alec M. King, O.B.E., of Ballarat, Vice-President, who died suddenly on 19th May, 1954, at the age of 80 years. Mr. King did great work for rowing as honorary secretary of the Ballarat Rowing Association and the Ballarat Regatta for many years. He was a former Mayor of Ballarat.

On 4th December, 1953, the Association lost another of its former prominent and efficient officials by the death of Mr. J. P. Rorke at the age of 77 years. He held the position of honorary treasurer for 25 years, a record period of service for any executive official.

Mr. Jack South, of Mercantile, who represented Victoria in five King's Cup crews, two of which were successful. He was a successful coach of Mercantile crews, and at the time of his death had been a State selector for five years.

Mr. R. Grover Heyward, who represented Victoria in two King's Cup crews, and has been honorary auditor of the Association for a number of years, passed away towards the end of last year.

Another old official of the Association in Mr. W. T. Wilkinson, a past honorary secretary, also passed away during the year.

Mr. Alec F. Girling, a Vice-President of Richmond and a strong supporter of Victorian rowing, passed away during the year.

Mr. W. J. Cahill, a Vice-President of Melbourne, who died suddenly on 23rd May, 1954, was an active member of the committee of the V.R.A. from 1916 to 1927.

The passing of so many prominent supporters of rowing is greatly regretted and our deepest sympathy is extended to the relatives.

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Ten Executive and eleven Committee meetings were held during the year. Attendances were as under:—

Executive.—N. W. Cairnes, D. J. Morgan, F. A. Smith, 10; E. R. Dunn, C. E. James, N. F. Wilkinson, 9; E. Kenny, 8; G. Harding, 7; J. A. McBean, L. A. Wilkinson, 5; L. Hanna, 2. Average attendance, 8.4.

Committee.—J. R. Beattie, N. W. Cairnes, J. J. Donald, S. R. Jeffery, H. B. Kirsch, S. G. Richardson, F. A. Smith, 11; R. R. Aitken, A. L. Dobbie, G. Harding, C. E. James, W. Morrison, J. J. O'Neill, F. Peters, T. Rodda, H. P. Shears, D. S. Stirling, R. W. Todd, M. S. Williams, D. J. Morgan, 10; B. R. Coningsby, E. R. Dunn, E. Kenny, P. Marxsen, J. A. McBean, W. Nicholson, D. R. Salmon, R. W. Thurstfield, N. F. Wilkinson, L. A. Wilkinson, E. C. White, 9; R. B. Duncan, B. J. Doyle, J. Dillon, A. A. Fortington, 8; J. Coghlan, D. A. Calder, R. J. March, W. McIlroy, 7; J. Best, G. L. Code, J. R. Elliott, T. S. Flint, R. Jelbart, H. Lambie, R. R. Sullivan, J. Twining, 6; P. N. Everist, L. Hagger, F. X. Murphy, A. W. McLeish, J. Prime, W. Wheatland, R. D. Williamson, 5; F. Easton, 4; C. Chalmers, J. Evans, L. Hanna, G. Hutchins, I. H. Munro, G. Rogers, B. Shields, A. D. Vale, A. Welch, F. S. Way, 3; J. Driver, E. Johnston, H. T. James, J. B. Mitchell, 2; W. Burton, J. Butcher, D. A. Coe, H. Coe, J. Cullen, J. Colville, W. McLean, E. Kerby, N. Cash, J. Webster, 1. Average attendance 45.5.

On behalf of the Committee,

N. W. CAIRNES,

Honorary Secretary.

ADDENDUM

This report would be incomplete without a reference to the Executive Officers of the Association. Mr. Norman Cairnes, in his first year of office as honorary secretary, has proved a worthy successor to Mr. Harry Butler, who retired in 1953 through illness after ably carrying out the secretarial duties for 20 years. Not only has Mr. Cairnes proved a most efficient secretary, but he has been also a driving force on the practical side of the sport by coaching the Victorian crew which won the Australian Eight-Oar Championship and the King's Cup this year. The fact that Mr. Cairnes has been able to make time for such an important coaching position in addition to his heavy secretarial duties is ample evidence of his enthusiasm and love for the sport. The Association is grateful and most appreciative of his successful efforts and trusts that his services will be available for many years to come.

Mr. Cotter James, our honorary treasurer, has proved an equally efficient officer on the financial side and the Association is indeed fortunate in having another enthusiastic lover of the sport in this important office. Mr. James, despite heavy costs, has been a driving force in keeping the finances of the Association in a very healthy condition and our sincere thanks are tendered to him for his much-appreciated work.

Mr. J. A. McBean ably assisted Mr. Cairnes with the secretarial work. It is regretted that his services will not be available for the coming season. However, he has accepted the very important position of assistant honorary secretary of the Melbourne Amateur Regatta Association, and in thanking him for his services to V.R.A. it is a pleasure to know that he will still be doing a fine work for rowing by helping to make Henley Regatta the outstanding feature of the annual carnival week which is to be organised for Melbourne.

A. L. DOBBIE,

20th September, 1954.

President.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND

RECEIPTS

To Bank Balances, 1st September, 1953—			
E. S. & A. Bank	£1,847	3	6
State Savings Bank	826	8	0
			<u>£2,673 11 6</u>
„ Club Contributions			369 17 0
„ Registration Fees—			
Regattas	77	14	0
Coxswains	29	15	0
			<u>107 9 0</u>
„ Regatta, 21st November, 1953—			
Entry Fees	54	5	0
Programmes	38	9	0
Pair-Oared Races	7	5	0
			<u>99 19 0</u>
„ Trophy money			814 13 6
„ Championships			49 15 0
„ King's Cup Race, Hobart, 1954—			
Donations	51	10	0
Set of Oars (Mr. M. S. Williams)	80	0	0
Seat Fees	90	0	0
Entry fee levy	94	8	6
Special Efforts (Mr. D. Morgan) ..	154	16	3
Collections (Mr. N. S. Muir) .. .	40	0	0
Perth Levy (1953)	3	16	0
			<u>514 10 9</u>
„ Miscellaneous—			
Donations, V.R.A.	5	5	0
„ Boat Fund	8	0	0
„ Broadcast Box	29	0	0
„ Tow Path	200	0	0
„ Empire Games Fund	3	0	0
Unclaimed Trophy Money	27	10	0
Racing Eight	550	0	0
Levy	73	6	0
Staging Fee	31	10	0
Weight Bags	4	13	0
Interest (Bonds)	3	17	6
„ (Ordinary)	15	6	8
Sundries	7	6	8
			<u>958 14 10</u>
			<u>£5,588 10 7</u>

Audited and found correct,
 J. TAYLOR, A.A.S.A.,
 A. D. VALE, Hon. Auditors

DISBURSEMENTS — SEASON 1953-54.

DISBURSEMENTS

By Regatta, V.R.A., 21st November, 1953—		
Trophies	£94 10 0	
Programmes and Posters	53 3 3	
Amplifiers	8 8 0	
Guns and Ammunition	4 16 6	
	<hr/>	£160 17 9
„ Trophies, other Regattas		1,571 18 6
„ King's Cup Race, Hobart, 1954—		
Accommodation	£267 15 0	
Fares	187 4 0	
Speed boat (Melbourne)	25 13 0	
„ (Hobart)	32 0 0	
Racing Eight	483 3 9	
Freight and packing	65 17 6	
Pockets	21 11 6	
Oars	78 15 8	
Freight, 1954, and W.A., 1953	7 2 4	
Meals, Melbourne	10 8 0	
Bus and Bus Fares, Hobart	5 18 6	
Presentation Rudder	3 9 5	
Sundries	13 18 6	
	<hr/>	1,202 17 2
„ Miscellaneous—		
Printing and Postage	£103 6 8	
Honoraria	40 0 0	
Insurance	35 9 10	
Premiership Certificates	9 9 0	
Affiliation and Booking Fees	49 14 6	
Bank charges and cheque book	3 0 0	
Medallions	29 5 6	
Broadcast Box	150 0 0	
Tow Path	250 0 0	
Expenses Empire Games Trial	10 0 0	
Donation, Empire Games	13 0 0	
Staging Fee	31 10 0	
Repairs Boat Cover	5 10 0	
Sundries	7 6 6	
	<hr/>	732 12 0
„ Bank Balances, 31st August, 1954—		
E. S. & A. Bank	1,069 13 0	
State Savings Bank	845 12 2	
	<hr/>	1,915 5 2
		<hr/>
		£5,588 10 7

C. E. JAMES, Hon. Treasurer.
Melbourne, 1st September, 1954.

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION—Balance-sheet as at 31st August, 1954.

LABILITIES

Outstanding Trophy Money	£1,616 16 3
Boat and Oar Replacement Fund	550 0 0
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	241 0 2
	<u>£2,407 16 5</u>

ASSETS

Bank Balances—		
E. S. & A. Bank	£1,069 13 0	
State Savings Bank	845 12 2	£1,915 5 2
Treasury Bond		100 0 0
Savings Certificates		160 9 6
Amount due on Broadcast Box		25 3 0
Association Property—		
Buoys	£1 0 0	
Embossing Dies	1 0 0	
Stationery	2 0 0	
Typewriter	10 0 0	
Filing Cabinet	7 0 0	
Filing Cabinet	10 18 9	
Motor Speed Boat	150 0 0	
Trailer Motor Boat	25 0 0	
	<u>206 18 9</u>	
		<u>£2,407 16 5</u>

Audited and found correct,

J. TAYLOR, A.A.S.A.,

A. D. VALE, Hon. Auditors.

C. E. JAMES, Hon. Treasurer,

Melbourne, 1st September, 1954.