

VICTORIAN
ROWING ASSOCIATION

1876-1955



SEVENTY-NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT
AND
BALANCE SHEET

SEASON 1954-1955

Hon. Secretary: N. W. CAIRNES *Asst. Hon. Secretary:* S. R. JEFFERY *Hon. Treasurer:* C. E. JAMES

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION

The Seventy-ninth 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 Wednesday, October 26, 1955.

BUSINESS:

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Seventy-eighth Annual General Meeting held on 28th October, 1954.
2. To receive the Annual Report and Balance-sheet.
3. To elect Office-bearers, viz., Patrons, President, eight Vice-presidents and two Honorary Auditors.
4. Presentation of Premiership Certificates.
5. Presentation of Championship Medallions for Season 1954-55.
6. To consider the following recommendation from the Committee, viz.:—

Rule XXXIV to be amended as follows:—

after "Maiden Sculls: 2 points for winning sculler."

insert the following two lines:

"Novice Events: 1 point per man for winning crews."

"Beginners' Events: 1 point per man for winning crews."

The above amendment to be retrospective to 1st September, 1955.

7. To consider the following Notices of Motion:—

By Mr. C. E. JAMES:

That the Rules of the Association be amended as follows:

- a. Rule XIII be deleted and the following substituted therefor: "Rule XIII—No Club within a radius of twenty miles of the General Post Office, Melbourne, shall appoint a representative member to the Committee unless there shall have been paid to the Treasurer of the Association on behalf of the said Club, the sum of eight shillings in respect of every member of such Club. No Club without a radius of twenty miles of the General Post Office, Melbourne, shall appoint a representative member to the Committee unless there shall have been paid to the Treasurer of the Association on behalf of the said Club, the sum of five shillings in respect of every member of such Club."
- b. Rule XXXI to be deleted and the following substituted therefor: "Rule XXXI—At General Meetings of the Association the members of any rowing club within a radius of twenty miles of the General Post Office, Melbourne, shall not exercise a greater number of votes than one for each eight shillings paid by the Club under Rule XIII, and the members of any rowing club without a radius of twenty miles of the General Post Office, Melbourne, shall not exercise a greater number of votes than one for each five shillings paid by such Club under Rule XIII."
- c. That Article II of the Constitution be amended by deleting the words "six shillings" appearing in the third line and substituting therefor the words "eight shillings."

d. That Article VI of the Constitution be amended by deleting the amount "£13/10/0" appearing in the tenth and thirteenth lines and the amount "£7" appearing in the sixteenth and nineteenth lines and substituting therefor the amounts "£20" and "£12/10/0" respectively.

By Mr. G. CECIL BURKE.

That the following portion of Rule XXIX 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."

8. General.

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

N. W. CAIRNES,
Honorary Secretary.

Amateur Sports Club,
Melbourne.
September, 1955.

OBITUARY

With the death of our President, the late Mr. A. L. Dobbie, on 29th December, 1954, rowing lost a leader who devoted more than fifty years of his life to the advancement of the sport.

Mr. Dobbie was our President for only a short period, having been elected on the death of the late Mr. A. J. Shepherd in May of last year, but his long association with rowing as an oarsman and an administrator has long endeared him to all members of the Association.

He commenced his rowing career with the Mercantile Rowing Club in 1902 and successfully represented Victoria in 1904, and has been active in the affairs of the Victorian Rowing Association since 1905, when he became a delegate, later as an Elected Member, Vice-President, a member of the Executive and Chairman of the Committee for the past eleven years.

Mr. Dobbie was President of the Mercantile Rowing Club for twenty-two years and Chairman of the Committee of the Melbourne Amateur Regatta Association. In addition to the coaching of many Mercantile crews he was also a coach of Scotch College for a number of years.

During his long association with the sport Mr. Dobbie was at all times an inspiration to young oarsmen, taking a great personal interest and encouraging them in their rowing careers.

All members of the Victorian Rowing Association mourn the passing of this dearly loved friend and extend their sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION

LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS

Patrons:

His Honor SIR HAYDN STARKE
SIR THOMAS NETTLEFOLD, O.B.E.

President:

A. L. DOBBIE, Esq. (Deceased 29th December, 1954)
M. S. WILLIAMS, Esq., LL.M.

Vice-presidents:

J. M. MACFARLANE, Esq.	M. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.
H. T. JAMES, Esq. (Deceased)	W. R. B. TODD, Esq.
E. KENNY, Esq.	R. J. MARCH, Esq.
H. B. KIRSCH, Esq.	F. E. FINDLEY, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer:	Asst. Hon. Secretary:	Hon. Secretary:
C. E. JAMES, Esq.	S. R. JEFFERY, Esq.	N. W. CAIRNES, Esq.

Honorary Auditors:

J. TAYLOR, Esq., A.A.S.A., and A. D. VALE, Esq.

Elected Members:

	Elected	Retires		Elected	Retires
R. R. AITKEN	1953	1955	G. L. CODE	1954	1956
J. COGHLAN	1953	1955	R. J. MARCH	1954	1956
E. R. DUNN	1953	1955	J. A. McBEAN	1954	1956
G. HARDING	1953	1955	W. McILROY	1954	1956
A. D. VALE	1954	1955	M. S. WILLIAMS	1954	1956

Executive Committee:

	Elected	Retires		Elected	Retires
G. HARDING	1953	1955	E. R. DUNN	1954	1956
E. KENNY	1953	1955	D. J. MORGAN	1954	1956
N. F. WILKINSON	1953	1955	F. A. SMITH	1954	1956
			L. A. J. WILKINSON	1954	1956

Representative Members of Affiliated Clubs:

Albert Park	R. B. DUNCAN	M.U.B.C.	P. N. EVERIST
Ballarat	R. JELBART	Mercantile	B. J. DOYLE
	P. MARXSEN		H. P. SHEARS
Ballarat City	J. BEATTIE	Mildura	R. W. THURSFIELD
	D. A. CALDER		S. G. RICHARDSON
Bairnsdale	J. J. O'NEILL	Nagambie	R. R. SULLIVAN
Banks	V. W. BRADBY	Nestanglo	A. W. MCLEISH
	W. S. ESCOTT	Power House	I. H. MUNRO
Barwon	L. HAGGER	Preston	E. WILLISS
	W. WHEATLAND	Richmond	D. J. FAULKNER
Bendigo	T. RODDA		F. PETERS
Camperdown	—	Rutherglen Lake	W. MORRISON
Corowa	F. EASTON	Sale	B. R. CONINGSBY
Corio Bay	D. R. SALMON	South Melbourne	R. D. WILLIAMSON
Dimboola	A. A. FORTINGTON	Wahgunyah	A. E. CHANDLER
Eaglehawk	T. S. FLINT	Warrnambool	J. BEST
Essendon	C. CHALMERS	Wendouree	A. WELCH
	A. R. PROWSE		J. R. ELLIOTT
Footscray City	F. WHITE	Yarrowonga	D. S. STIRLING
	J. TRETHERWEY	Yarra Yarra	J. CLIFFORD
Hawthorn	J. R. MASON		H. COE
	N. G. CASH	Yea	J. J. DONALD
Lake Colac	J. EVANS	Wentworth District	E. C. WHITE
Melbourne	J. J. O'NEILL		
	F. X. MURPHY		

SEVENTY-NINTH
ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET
of the
VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION



TO THE MEMBERS,
GENTLEMEN,

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

The Senior Premiership provided the most interesting contest for many years, resulting in a tie between Albert Park Rowing Club and Mercantile Rowing Club, the result being in doubt right up to the last regatta of the season, at which both club competed. Mercantile Rowing Club was again successful in winning the Junior and Lightweight Premierships for the third successive year. The Country Premiership, which was conducted for the first time, resulted in a win for Ballarat City Rowing Club.

It is regretted that the Senior Eight events in the early part of the season could attract entries from only one club, as a result of which no points were awarded for the senior eights at the V.R.A. (Melbourne) and Henley Regattas. The failure of clubs to boat senior crews and the falling off in maiden entries led to the appointment of a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. T. S. Flint, H. P. Shears and L. A. Wilkinson to report on ways and means of improving the standard of Victorian rowing. The report proved to be a valuable guide to your Committee in making decisions for the betterment of rowing in Victoria. The action decided on by the Committee included "amendments to the fifty-fifty Junior Rule, awarding points for beginners and novice oarsmen in the Junior Premiership" and the sanctioning of qualifying regattas over short courses.

Victoria having held the King's Cup for the past three years, it was disappointing for our crew to lose the Australian Eight-oared Championship to the fast finishing West Australian crew, who passed the Victorian eight in the last half-mile to win the King's Cup. The second place of the Victorian crew was no disgrace, and on behalf of all Victorian rowing men the West Australian Rowing Association has been congratulated on the success of its crew.

In the Australian Pair-oared Championship the Victoria pair, R. B. Duncan (bow), B. D. Dickson (stroke), R. Trezise (cox), gave a perfect exhibition of pair-oared rowing to win this event and earn the congratulations of all Victorian oarsmen.

The forthcoming regatta season will be the most important in the history of Victorian rowing, with the King's Cup Regatta, Olympic Rowing Test Trials and the Olympic Games Rowing being held at Lake Wendouree, Ballarat. For the first time Australia should be represented in all rowing events at an Olympic Games, providing a large number of young oarsmen with an opportunity to win a place in the Australian Olympic team.

The most pleasing feature of the past season was the record number of school crews which competed in regattas and the success of Wesley College winning a Maiden Eight treble. This type of competition is good for rowing and we look forward to the schools taking an increasingly active part in our regattas in the coming season.

A series of Maiden Pair-oared events was again conducted throughout the winter months, three events being held on the

Yarra River and one event at Yea, nineteen crews competing in the Metropolitan events and three crews at Yea. This response proved the events worthwhile and should provide the nucleus of trained oarsmen for a number of maiden crews at the opening regattas of the 1955-56 season.

The membership of the Association has shown a slight improvement in spite of the loss of the Antwerp Rowing Club, which has disbanded, and the fact that Power House, Camperdown and Warrnambool have not been included because of their failure to pay affiliation fees.

	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
Metropolitan	1003	919	966
Country	544	538	509
	<u>1,547</u>	<u>1,457</u>	<u>1,475</u>

Thanks to Mr. Frank Dennis, the president of the Hawthorn Rowing Club, rowing will have a radio session each Saturday morning at 10.15 over 3XY during the coming season. This session has already commenced and members are advised to be listening in for the latest news on rowing.

AUSTRALIAN EIGHT-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP (THE KING'S CUP)

The King's Cup race was conducted by the South Australian Rowing Association on the Port River, Port Adelaide, over a three mile course on Saturday, 7th May, 1955.

Victoria was represented by D. M. Christie (Albert Park), 11st. 12lb., bow; M. Shaw (Albert Park), 11st. 12lb., 2; J. Dartnell (Mercantile), 13st. 2lb., 3; W. O. Granowski (Mercantile), 12st. 6lb., 4; G. O. Manton (Mercantile), 13st. 12lb., 5; W. N. Howell (Banks), 13st. 5lb., 6; A. Monger (University), 13st. 5lb., 7; B. J. Boyle (Mercantile), 12st. 5lb., stroke; N. Hewitt (Mercantile) coxswain; C. B. Dawes (Mercantile), 13st. 3lb., emergency; N. W. Cairnes (Mercantile), coach.

The selectors were Messrs. R. R. Aitken and R. J. March, who appointed Mr. N. W. Cairnes coach and third selector.

All States competed in the race, which was rowed in perfect weather and was won by Western Australia in 15 minutes 40.5 seconds.

Victoria led throughout the race until, with only a quarter of a mile to go, Western Australia put on a tremendous burst and took the lead. All six crews got away to a perfect start, with Victoria taking the lead rating over 40 strokes to the minute. After the crews settled down Victoria held the lead by half a length from Queensland with New South Wales third, closely followed by Western Australia, Tasmania and South Australia. At the mile mark Western Australia had moved up into second position three-quarters of a length behind Victoria, with Queensland third, followed by New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia, the first mile being covered in 4 minutes 40 seconds. At the half-way mark Victoria still led from Western Australia, with New South Wales third falling back. With half a mile to go Western Australia quickened its rating to 38 and crept up on the Victorian crew, taking the lead with 300 yards to go and went on to win by two and a half lengths, with Victoria three lengths in front of New South Wales, followed by Queensland, Tasmania and South Australia.

The congratulations of the Association are extended to the West Australian crew on their fine performance in winning the King's Cup again after seventeen years.

The Victorian crew, although beaten, put up a fine perform-

ance and were not disgraced. Your committee extends thanks to all members of the crew on behalf of the State.

The crew was welcomed and looked after by Mr. F. Emsley and the Torrens Rowing Club. Members of the club were always on hand to provide transport and assistance. Mr. Emsley entertained the crew at his home and the Torrens boys took the crew for a run in the hills the Sunday prior to the race. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bollen entertained the supporters at their home and Jack was a source of help to the crew coach and manager.

Excellent accommodation was provided at the Semaphore Hotel, Semaphore, the licensee and his wife making the crew very welcome and did everything possible to make the party comfortable.

The supporters entertained the crew at the Largs Pier Hotel on the night of the race, providing a most enjoyable evening, not only for the Victorian crew but all other competitors. These functions, which have been organised annually by the Victorian supporters for a number of years, are proving invaluable in cementing rowing friendships throughout Australia.

On the Sunday after all crews were taken to a picnic.

The thanks and appreciation of your committee are extended to everyone who assisted the Victorian crew in their preparation for the King's Cup race.

AUSTRALIAN SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP (PRESIDENT'S CUP)

South Australia was the only State not represented in this event, Victoria being represented by D. Dudgeon, of Richmond.

The five scullers got away well together, with M. Wood (N.S.W) taking the lead early from G. Hubbard (W.A.), B. Green (Q.), D. Dudgeon (V.), and B. Foster (T.), Wood holding his lead with a rating much lower than his opponents. At the half-way mark Wood was still leading, with Green increasing his rating to try and overtake Hubbard, who was second at this stage. Wood appeared to have the race won and it developed into a duel for second place between G. Hubbard (W.A.) and B. Green (Q.), with Green gradually gaining the ascendancy. Green, with a wonderful finishing burst, finished second four length behind M. Wood (N.S.W.), with G. Hubbard (W.A.) a length further back third, followed by B. Foster (T.) and Dudgeon (V.), the 2½-mile course being covered in 15 minutes 55.5 seconds.

The congratulations of the Association are extended to M. Wood on his success and it is sincerely hoped that he will again represent Australia in the Olympic Games.

AUSTRALIAN PAIR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

Three entries were received for this event from Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria, Victoria being represented by R. B. Duncan (Albert Park), 12st., bow; B. D. Dickson (Albert Park), 12st. 7lb., stroke; R. Trezise (Albert Park), coxswain, and H. R. Duncan (Albert Park) coach.

The pairs' race was rowed over 2,000 metres, being won by Victoria in 8 minutes 3 seconds. Victoria gave a perfect exhibition of pair-oared rowing, taking the lead at the start and, by rowing well within themselves, never looked like losing, winning by two and a half lengths from New South Wales, with Tasmania three lengths further back third.

The congratulations of all members of the Association are extended to the crew on their excellent performance in winning this event.

VICTORIAN EIGHT-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP (Norwich Shield)

(Sir Thomas Nettlefold Medallions)

(Holders—Mercantile Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. 19th February, 1955.

Won by Mercantile Rowing Club. Time 12 min. 51 $\frac{2}{5}$ sec.

H. FREDERICO (bow), D. BOYKETT (2), J. MORGANTI (3), C. B. DAWES (4), G. O. V. MANTON (5), W. O. GRANOWSKI (6), J. DARTNELL (7), B. J. BOYLE (stroke), N. HEWITT (cox), N. W. CAIRNES (coach).

Won by one length—Albert Park second, Melbourne University/Banks combined crew third.

VICTORIAN FOUR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Mercantile Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2,000 metres. 11th December, 1954.

Won by Albert Park Rowing Club. Time 8 min. 19 $\frac{1}{5}$ sec.

R. B. DUNCAN (bow), J. A. SUMMERS (2), D. M. CHRISTIE (3), B. D. DICKSON (stroke), R. TREZISE (cox), H. R. DUNCAN (coach).

Mercantile second, M.U.B.C. third. Essendon also started.

VICTORIAN PAIR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Albert Park Rowing Club)

Rowed on Lake Colac. Course 1 mile. 1st January, 1955.

Won by Albert Park Rowing Club. No times taken.

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

Won by two lengths, Lake Colac second, Melbourne third. Others starters: Essendon, South Melbourne.

VICTORIAN SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holder—D. Dudgeon, Richmond Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. 20th February, 1955.

Won by D. DUDGEON, Richmond Rowing Club. Time 16 min. 40 $\frac{4}{5}$ sec.

G. J. Barker (Melbourne) second, P. Begelhole (Yarra Yarra) third. J. Webster (South Melbourne) also started.

VICTORIAN 2,000 METRE SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holder—D. Dudgeon, Richmond Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2,000 metres. 26th March, 1955.

Won by D. DUDGEON, Richmond Rowing Club. Time 8 min. 42 sec.

G. J. Barker (Melbourne) second, N. Hadji-yaklumi (Mercantile) third. Others Starters: P. Begelhole (Yarra Yarra), D. Brooke (Essendon).

VICTORIAN JUNIOR EIGHT-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Corio Bay Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2,000 metres. 26th March, 1955.

Won by Mercantile Rowing Club. Time 7 min. 6 $\frac{4}{5}$ sec.

C. D. LEWIS (bow), D. OLIVER (2), W. S. ARNOLD (3), W. I. WILSON (4), C. DeGUINGAND (5), H. J. WALKER (6), S. S. SMITH (7), R. H. RICHARDSON (stroke), G. LAWRENCE (cox), R. R. AITKEN (coach).

Won by two lengths, Hawthorn second, Banks third.

VICTORIAN JUNIOR FOUR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Corio Bay Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2,000 metres. 11th Dec., 1954.

Won by Wendouree Rowing Club. Time 8 min. 35 sec.

I. THOMAS (bow), B. MENZIES (2), J. BARNETT (3), J. JOP-LING (stroke), R. WIDGERY (cox), C. HUTCHINS (coach).

Won by one length, Hawthorn second, Yarra Yarra third. Other starters: Mercantile, Footscray City, Barwon, Essendon, South Melbourne, Richmond, Banks.

VICTORIAN JUNIOR PAIR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Mercantile Rowing Club)

Rowed on Lake Colac. Course 1 mile. 1st January, 1955.

Won by Albert Park Rowing Club. No time taken.

R. LIBBIS (bow), K. EDDY (stroke), J. COCKBILL (cox), F. EASTON (coach).

Won by two and a half lengths, Footscray City second, Lake Colac third. Others starters: Yarra Yarra, Wendouree, South Melbourne.

VICTORIAN LIGHTWEIGHT EIGHT-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Mercantile Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2,000 metres. 26th March, 1955.

Won by Mercantile Rowing Club. Time 7 min. 10 ³/₅ sec.

J. SOUTH (bow), P. WHITE (2), J. SPARK (3), D. BALL (4), R. McCUBBERY (5), W. J. PELL (6), P. LEGGETT (7), V. A. SHARPE (stroke), P. HARRISON (cox), G. ROBERTSON (coach).

Won by two lengths, South Melbourne second, Ballarat City third.

VICTORIAN LIGHTWEIGHT FOUR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Mercantile Rowing Club)

Rowed on the Lower Yarra. Course 2,000 metres. 11th Dec., 1954.

Won by South Melbourne Rowing Club. Time 9 min. 6 sec.

T. SUMMERS (bow), L. GALLAGHER (2), G. TAYLOR (3), W. STEVENS (stroke), A. CAMPBELL (cox), J. WEBSTER (coach).

Won by two lengths, Mercantile second, Ballarat City third.

VICTORIAN LIGHTWEIGHT PAIR-OARED CHAMPIONSHIP

(Holders—Ballarat Rowing Club)

Rowed on Lake Colac. Course 1 mile. 1st January, 1955.

Won by South Melbourne Rowing Club. No time taken.

G. TAYLOR (bow), W. STEPHENS (stroke), A. CAMPBELL (cox).

Won by 2½ lengths, Ballarat City second, Ballarat third. Banks also started.

PREMIERSHIPS

The points scored in the respective premierships were:—

SENIOR

	Wins	Points		Wins	Points
Albert Park	20	76	Yarra Yarra	4	4
Mercantile	9	76	Melbourne	-	2
Lake Colac	6	14	Banks	1	1
Essendon	3	8	Sth. Melbourne	1	1
Richmond	3	5			

JUNIOR

	Wins	Points		Wins	Points
Mercantile	22	124	Melbourne	3	6
Banks	11	70	Barwon	1	4
Hawthorn	5	42	Nagambie	1	4
Yarra Yarra	9	28	Sth. Melbourne	2	4
Albert Park	8	20	Warrnambool	1	4

Footscray City	8	20	Essendon	1	4
Wendouree	5	16	Ballarat City	1	4
Lake Colac	3	16	Bairnsdale	2	4
Richmond	4	12	Sale	2	4
Wentworth	3	12	Corio Bay	1	2
Nestanglo	2	6	Mildura	1	2
Preston	2	6	Yarrowonga	1	2
Yea	2	6			

LIGHTWEIGHT

	Wins	Points		Wins	Points
Mercantile	8	62	Lake Colac	1	4
Ballarat City	8	42	Albert Park	1	2
South Melbourne	7	30	Ballarat	1	2
Hawthorn	2	8	Nestanglo	1	2
Barwon	2	8	Mildura	1	2
Yarra Yarra	3	6			

COUNTRY

	Wins	Points		Wins	Points
Ballarat City	9	46	Nagambie	1	4
Lake Colac	9	34	Warrnambool	1	4
Wendouree	5	16	Sale	2	4
Barwon	3	12	Bairnsdale	2	4
Wentworth	3	12	Corio Bay	1	2
Nestanglo	3	8	Ballarat	1	2
Yea	2	6	Yarrowonga	1	2
Mildura	2	4			

UNIVERSITY ROWING

Inter-Universities Race: The University Boat Race for the Oxford-Cambridge Cup was rowed on the Hamilton Reach three-mile course of the Brisbane River on Saturday, 4th June, 1955, being won for the sixth successive year by Melbourne University, with Queensland University second and Sydney University third, the time being 17 minutes 54.5 seconds.

The congratulations of the members of the Association are extended to Melbourne University on its remarkable success this year and its contribution to rowing in Victoria.

The Melbourne University was represented by J. G. Gibb (bow), I. E. Douglas (2), J. R. Colville (3), H. F. Smith (4), A. M. H. Aikman (5), J. G. Howden (6), A. C. Monger (7), C. J. Smith (stroke), R. G. Hyett (cox), L. S. Williams (coach), and A. R. Bartram (emergency).

Inter-Universities Sculls: This event was cancelled because of the lack of entries.

Inter-Collegiate Races: The Mervyn Bourne Higgins Shield was won by Ormond College from Trinity College by two lengths on the Upper Yarra Course, and the following day Ormond College was defeated by one length by Extra-Collegiate for the John Lang Cup.

HEAD OF THE RIVER

The Head of the River was won by Geelong College against very strong opposition, and the congratulations of the Association are extended to the Geelong College crew and coach, Mr. A. B. Bell.

REGATTAS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS — SEASON 1955-56

1955

- Oct. 8 — Novice Regatta.
Nov. 5 — Dimboola Regatta.

- Nov. 19 — V.R.A. (Melbourne) Regatta.
 Dec. 10 — Upper Yarra Regatta.
 Dec. 17 — Victorian Four-oared Championships, Open Coxswainless Pair, Open Eights.
 Dec. 26 — Nagambie Regatta and Victorian Pair-oared Championships.
 Dec. 31 — Yarrowong Regatta.
- 1956**
- Jan. 2 — Rutherglen Regatta.
 Jan. 2 — Lake Colac Regatta.
 Jan. 28 — Yea Regatta.
 Jan. 30 — Albert Park Lake Regatta.
 Feb. 11 — Victorian Eight-oared Championship and Sculling Championship.
 Feb. 25 — Ballarat Regatta.
 Mar. 3 — Barwon Regatta.
 Mar. 10 }
 Mar. 12 } Henley on the Yarra.
 Mar. 24 — Bendigo Regatta.
 Mar. 31 — Mildura Regatta.
 Mar. 31 — Bairnsdale Regatta.
 April 2 — Wentworth Regatta.
 April 2 — Sale Regatta.
 April 14 — Victorian Lightweight and Junior Eight-oared Championships and Open Coxswainless Pairs.
 May 4 — King's Cup Regatta at Ballarat.
 May 5 — Australian Eight-oared and Sculling Championship.
 Oct. 11 }
 Oct. 13 } Olympic Games Test Races—Ballarat.
 Nov. 27 }
 Nov. 23 } Olympic Games Rowing—Ballarat.

AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR ROWING COUNCIL

The following decisions were made at the Annual Meeting of the Australian Amateur Rowing Council held at Adelaide on 5th May, 1955:—

Champion Fours of Australia: Queensland was given authority to conduct Champion Fours of Australia during the month of December, 1955, with a minimum of three crews and three starters.

Cancellation of Champion Fours, Pairs and Double Sculls: Because of the poor entries received for the Australian Champion Fours, Pairs and Double Sculls it was decided to cancel these events as from 1st January, 1956.

COMMITTEE DECISIONS

Four-oared Championships at Geelong: On the completion of the four lane 2,000 metres course on the Barwon River, Geelong, the Victorian Four-oared Championships will be allocated to that course for a period of at least five years and the opportunity to conduct the Pair-oared Championships in rotation with other Regatta Committees.

Victorian Selectors: The Committee at the November meeting 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 the coach. Should the coach appointed by the selectors or the Executive be one of the selectors, the Executive is empowered to appoint as 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 Double Sculls of Australia, and the Victorian selectors are empowered to select from such nominations a pair and/or double scull to represent Victoria if they consider a pair or double scull of the necessary standard.

The crew or crews selected must:—

(a) Arrange their own finance without making an appeal to the Association, affiliated clubs or members of the Association.

(b) Provide their own equipment, including blazer pockets.

Assistant Honorary Secretary: Mr. J. A. McBean resigned as assistant honorary secretary and Mr. S. R. Jeffery was appointed to the position.

President: M. S. Williams, Esq., LL.M., was elected president of the Association on 2nd March, 1955.

Winter Maiden Pairs: Three pair-oared events to be conducted during the winter months for maiden oarsmen, the points won to count in the Junior Premiership for season 1955-56. The events to be held on 25th June, 16th July and 6th August, 1955.

Country centres desirous of conducting similar events to make application, all such events to be completed by 24th September, 1955.

Coxswainless Pairs: Competition for coxswainless pairs to be encouraged by the inclusion of an event on the programme at the V.R.A. Regatta and the Four-oared Championship programme and the Victorian Junior and Lightweight Eight-oared Championship programme.

Sub-Committee for the Betterment of Rowing: Messrs. T. S. Flint, H. P. Shears and L. A. J. Wilkinson were appointed a sub-committee to report on ways of improving Victorian rowing. The report proved most comprehensive and helpful and the Committee adopted the following recommendations:—

Novices and Beginners:

(a) The principle of novices and beginners scoring points for premiership.

(b) Definition of Beginner—An oarsman in his first six months membership of a rowing club who has not previously rowed in a school crew.

(c) Definition of a Novice—An oarsman who has not won a senior, junior, maiden or lightweight race, a Head of the River (Public School) race or an Inter-Collegiate (University) race, provided that he shall not win more than one novice pair, four and eight.

Events for School Crews:

(a) Events for school crews to be included in regatta programme.

(b) Definition of a School Crew—A crew comprised of boys genuinely attending any recognised primary, secondary or technical school as full-time day students.

Qualifying Regattas on Short Courses: To be approved in special circumstances.

Supervision of Regatta Programmes: Events at certain regattas to be restricted, the Executive Committee to recommend such restrictions.

Doubles and Trebles: Present rules to remain and doubles and trebles to be restricted by regatta dates and restricted programmes.

50/50 Junior Rule: To be deleted and the following suggestion adopted — Junior oarsmen to win any event in their class three times subject to the condition that if a crew already had two wins to its credit it would still be eligible to compete at and win at an allowed double or treble.

Amendment to Regatta Regulations and Laws of Boat Racing: In order to implement the above recommendations Clause 2 of Regatta Regulations and Laws of Boat Racing was deleted and the following substituted:

2. (a) Senior races shall be open to all amateurs.
- (b) Junior eight-oared races shall be open to all amateurs who have never won a senior race with oars, or not more than two junior eight-oared races.
- (c) Junior four-oared races shall be open to all amateurs who have never won a senior race with oars, or not more than two junior four-oared races.
- (d) Junior pair-oared races shall be open to all amateurs who have never won a senior race with oars, or not more than two junior pair-oared races.
- (e) Junior sculling races shall be open to all amateurs who have never won a senior sculling race, or not more than two junior sculling races.
- (f) Notwithstanding anything contained in the last four preceding sub-regulations, a junior oarsman who has not, prior to entries closing for two regattas to be conducted as a double or three regattas to be conducted as a treble, won more than two events in the class for which he is entered is permitted to win at all regattas for which he enters.
- (g) Junior championship races shall be open to all amateurs who have never won a senior race.
- (h) Maiden eight-oared races shall be open to all amateurs who have never won a maiden eight-oared race or junior or senior race with oars.
- (i) Maiden four-oared races shall be open to all amateurs who have never won a maiden four-oared race or a junior or senior race with oars.
- (j) Maiden pair-oared races shall be open to all amateurs who have never won a maiden pair-oared race or a junior or senior race with oars.
- (k) Maiden sculling races shall be open to all amateurs who have never won a maiden, junior or senior sculling race.
- (l) Lightweight eight-oared races shall be open to all amateurs weighing 10st. 5lb. or under who have never won a lightweight eight-oared race.
- (m) Lightweight four-oared races shall be open to all amateurs weighing 10st. 5lb. or under who have never won a lightweight four-oared race.
- (n) Lightweight pair-oared races shall be open to all amateurs weighing 10st. 5lb. or under who have never won a lightweight pair-oared race.
- (o) Notwithstanding anything contained in the last three preceding sub-regulations, a crew, not more than half the members of which have previously successfully competed in the same crew at an event to which these sub-regulations apply, may compete in such an event.
- (p) Notwithstanding anything contained in the last four preceding sub-regulations, lightweight championship races shall be open to all amateurs weighing 10st. 5lb. or under.
- (q) A novice race shall be open to all amateurs who have

not won a senior, junior, maiden or lightweight race with oars, a Head of the River (Public School) race or an inter-Collegiate (University) race, provided that he shall not win more than one novice eight, four and pair.

- (r) Novice sculling races shall be open to all amateurs who have never won a sculling race sanctioned by the Victorian Rowing Association, or who have never entered for such a race except during the season they first competed as a novice.
- (s) Beginners' races shall be open to all amateurs in their first six months' membership of a rowing club, and who have not previously rowed in school crews, provided that he shall not win more than one beginners' eight, four and pair-oared race.
- (t) Anyone who has been in a winning representative inter-State crew (except school, college, university or club) shall not be eligible to row in a maiden or junior race with oars.
- (u) Anyone who has won an interstate sculling race (except school, college, university or club) shall not be eligible to compete in a maiden or junior sculling race.
- (v) A school crew comprised of boys genuinely attending any recognised primary, secondary or technical school as full-time day students may enter events for school crews or any qualifying events for which they may be eligible, provided they enter in the name of the school.

SERVICES RENDERED

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

- Dr. Percy Shelton for making a medical examination of the State representatives in the Australian Championships.
- Mr. Eric Armstrong for providing a launch for the coaching of the King's Cup crew and his services in driving the launch. Mr. Armstrong is importing a motor and building a boat for coaching Victorian crews in the forthcoming season.
- Messrs. Jack Walsh, Keith Guthridge and Victor Pedler for providing a launch for the umpire at all championship events on the Lower Yarra.
- Mr. Tom Rodda for his assistance in preparing the Lower Yarra course for championships.
- Mr. Jack Coghlan for his assistance in transporting the King's Cup crew while in Adelaide.
- Mr. Max Youngmans for dyeing singlets for the King's Cup crew.
- Messrs. J. Taylor and A. D. Vale for services as honorary auditors.
- Members who acted as officials at regattas and championships throughout the year.
- Messrs. Balfe, Coningsby, Flint and Todd for the publicity they have given rowing throughout 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 during 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, £78; Tattersalls Sweep Consultations, £50; Richmond Rowing Club, £5/5/-; Mr. A. W. McLeish, £5; Barwon Bus, £4; Mr. W. R. B. Todd, £3; Mrs. W. D. Kerr, £2/2/-; Messrs. S. Gugger, £1/1/-; G. Harding, £1/1/-; F. P. Morris, £1/1/-.

Power Megaphone: Mr. S. R. Bell, £10.

Broadcast Box: Mr. J. J. O'Neill, £7/4/-.

OBITUARY

In addition to the loss of our president we suffered the loss of many old and valued members during the year, and to their families we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

We mourn the passing of:

Mr. H. T. James, of the Albert Park Rowing Club and a vice-president of the Victorian Rowing Association, who joined the Association as an Elected Member in 1913, and attended meetings regularly and was a tireless worker for rowing right up to his last illness.

Sir Leslie McConnan, president of the Banks Rowing Club.

Mr. Norman Purnell, secretary of the Geelong Rowing Association and a member of the Corio Bay Rowing Club.

Mr. P. B. Borwick, secretary of the Lake Colac Rowing Club.

Mr. Arthur Cambridge, a former champion sculler who represented Victoria in the Australian Sculling Championships in 1925, 1926 and 1927, winning the President's Cup in 1925.

Mr. D. Cunningham, of the Footscray City Rowing Club.

Mr. T. S. Barnfather, of the Barwon Rowing Club.

Mr. W. Pincott, coach of the Geelong Grammar School for many years.

Mr. W. J. Wilkinson, South Melbourne Club, honorary secretary of the Victorian Rowing Association, 1908-9 season.

Mr. T. Davies, Banks Club, who had the remarkable record of five starts and five wins with Victoria in the Australian Eight-oared Championship, 1896-1900.

EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Eleven Executive and ten Committee meetings were held during the year. Attendances were as under:—

Executive: N. W. Cairnes, C. E. James, F. A. Smith, L. A. J. Wilkinson, 11; E. Kenny, D. J. Morgan, 10; E. R. Dunn, G. Harding, 9; S. R. Jeffery, N. F. Wilkinson, 8. Average attendance: 9.2.

Committee: N. W. Cairnes, E. R. Dunn, G. Harding, C. E. James, S. R. Jeffery, H. B. Kirsch, J. A. McBean, P. Marxen, T. Rodda, S. G. Richardson, F. A. Smith, D. Stirling, L. A. J. Wilkinson, 10; J. Beattie, B. R. Coningsby, J. Coghlan, G. L. Code, D. A. Calder, F. Easton, J. R. Elliott, A. A. Fortington, E. Kenny, F. Peters, D. Salmon, R. R. Sullivan, R. W. B. Todd, N. F. Wilkinson, 9; R. R. Aitken, V. W. Bradby, J. Clifford, E. R. Dunn, B. J. Doyle, J. J. Donald, D. J. Morgan, W. McIlroy, W. Nicholson, J. J. O'Neill, H. P. Shears, A. D. Vale, M. S. Williams, E. C. White, 8; W. S. Escott, R. F. English, F. E. Findlay, A. W. McLeish, W. Morrison, 7; L. Hagger, R. W. Thursfield, 6; P. N. Everist, T. S. Flint, R. Jelbart, R. J. March, W. Wheatland, F. White, 5; H. Coe, N. Cash, F. X. Murphy, I. Thompson, R. D. Williamson, 4; J. Best, C. Chalmers, D. Faulkner, 3; A. L. Dobbie, E. W. Handley, I. H. Munro, A. C. Monger, J. Prime, A. F. Wilson, W. Waterfield, 2; J. Evans, J. Mason, W. J. Pell, R. Richardson, W. A. Thomas, A. Welch, J. Webster, E. M. Wilson, 1. Average attendance: 49.6.

On behalf of the Committee,

N. W. CAIRNES,

Honorary Secretary.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND

RECEIPTS

To Balances, 1st September, 1954—				
	E. S. & A. Bank	£1,069	13	0
	State Savings Bank	845	12	2
				<u>£1,915 5 2</u>
„	Club Contributions		381	19 6
„	Registration Fees—			
	Regattas	94	10	0
	Coxswains	27	10	0
				<u>122 0</u>
„	Regatta, 20th November, 1954—			
	Entry Fees	53	14	6
	Programmes	27	16	0
	Pair-oared Races	5	5	0
				<u>86 15 6</u>
„	Trophy Money		898	18 0
„	Championships		45	10 0
„	King's Cup Race, Adelaide, 1955—			
	Donations	72	10	0
	Donation (Set Oars), Mr. M. S. Williams	78	0	0
	Seat Fees	100	0	0
	Entry fee levy	88	3	0
	Special Efforts (Mr. D. J. Morgan)	47	7	0
	Collections (Mr. N. S. Muir)	21	0	0
	Unclaimed trophy money	104	10	6
	Sundries	3	0	0
				<u>514 10 6</u>
„	Miscellaneous—			
	Donations	17	4	0
	Broadcast Box (Mr. B. R. Coningsby)	17	19	0
	Staging Fees	31	10	0
	Weighbags	6	13	0
	Motor Boat	120	0	0
	Olympic Games Reservations	755	18	0
	Olympic Rules	2	12	0
	Bonds	100	0	0
	Interest (Ordinary)	16	12	3
	„ (Bonds)	4	16	8
	Levy	74	7	0
	Sundries	12	0	2
				<u>1,159 12 1</u>
				<u>£5,124 10 9</u>

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

Hon. Auditors

DISBURSEMENTS — SEASON 1954-55

DISBURSEMENTS

By Regatta, V.R.A., 20th November, 1954—

Trophies	£98	0	0
Programmes and Posters	47	16	3
Amplifiers	3	3	0
Guns and Ammunition	7	0	0
			<u>£155 19 3</u>

,, Trophies, other regattas 1,223 3 6

,, King's Cup Race, Adelaide, 1955—

Accommodation	261	7	0
Fares	138	19	0
Launch	34	10	0
Freight	44	14	0
Oars	80	10	8
Singlets	22	18	6
Pockets—1955	27	1	6
„ 1954	3	12	0
Inscribing Oars—1954	17	10	0
Boat Hire	30	0	0
Sundries	20	4	0
			<u>681 6 8</u>

,, Miscellaneous—

Printing and Postage	90	8	1
Honoraria	45	0	0
Affiliation and booking fees	48	1	0
Premiership Certificates	9	9	0
Insurance	3	14	7
Trophies Maiden Pairs (two years)	16	16	3
Annual Reports	44	10	0
Olympic Games Bookings	755	19	0
A. J. Shepherd Cup	24	0	0
Championship Medallions	28	9	0
Power Megaphone	33	19	11
Staging fees	31	10	0
Weightbags	24	3	9
Sundries	32	3	8
			<u>1,183 4 3</u>

,, Bank Balances at 31st August, 1955—

E. S. & A. Bank	908	16	0
State Savings Bank	967	1	1
			<u>1,875 17 1</u>

£5,124 10 9

VICTORIAN ROWING ASSOCIATION

"A. J. SHEPHERD" BEQUEST

Received from the Estate of the late A. J. Shepherd	£650 0 0
	<hr/>
	£650 0 0
Commonwealth Bonds	£500 0 0
Balance at Bank	150 0 0
	<hr/>
	<u>£650 0 0</u>

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 31st AUGUST, 1955
ASSETS

Bank Balances—	
E. S. & A. Bank	£1,058 16 0
State Savings Bank	967 1 1
	<hr/>
	£2,025 17 1
Treasury Bonds	500 0 0
Savings Certificates	165 7 9
Association Property—	
Buoys	1 0 0
Embossing dies	1 0 0
Stationery	5 0 0
Typewriter	10 0 0
Filing Cabinet	7 0 0
Filing Cabinet	10 18 9
Oars	60 0 0
	<hr/>
	94 18 9
	<hr/>
	<u>£2,786 3 7</u>

LIABILITIES

Outstanding Trophy Money	£1,292 10 9
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	1,493 12 10
	<hr/>
	<u>£2,786 3 7</u>

 Audited and found correct—

 J. TAYLOR, A.A.S.A.
 A. D. VALE

Hon. Auditors

 C. E. JAMES, Hon. Treasurer.
 Melbourne, 1st September, 1955.