

N.S.W. Union of Old Oarsmen Inc. 73rd Annual Report

Gentlemen,

On behalf of the President and Executive Committee of the Union we are pleased to report that N.S.W. won the King's Cup for the first time since 1984, the crew (Stephen Stewart, James Stewart, Geoff Stewart, Stuart Welch, Tom Laurich, Robert Jahrling, Nick Baxter, James Chapman, Marty Rabjohns with Tim McLaren Coach) defeating Victoria by 2.82 seconds with Queensland 3rd.

NSW also won the Queen Elizabeth II Trophy for Women's Eights the crew (Julia Wilson, Kristina Larsen, Jodi Winter, Kirsten Winkley, Alex Doyle, Monique Heinke, Victoria Roberts, Kyeema Doyle, Jo Burnand) defeating W.A. by 5.91 seconds with Victoria 3rd. **Congratulations!**

2004 Athens Olympic Games

Australian Rowing once again competed with distinction at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games with 7 crews qualifying for the finals:

Gold Medal (Men's Pair Oar Drew Ginn & James Tomkins);

Silver Medal in the Men's Lightweight Four (Glen Loftus, Anthony Edwards, Ben Cureton, Simon Burges).

Bronze Medal in the Men's Eight (Stefan Szczeniowski, Stuart Reside, Stuart Welch, James Stewart, Geoff Stewart, Boden Hanson, Michael MacKay, Steve Stewart, Michael Toon).

Bronze Medal in the Women's Quad Sculls (Dana Faletic, Rebecca Sattin, Kerry Horne, Amber Bradley).

4th in the Men's Four without coxswain (David McGowan, Robert Jahrling, Tom Laurich, David Dennis);

4th in the Women's Lightweight Double Scull (Sally Newmarch, Amber Halliday)

6th in the Women's Eight (Sarah Outhwaite, Jodie Winter, Catriona Oliver, Monique Heinke, Julia Wilson, Sally Robbins, Vicky Roberts, Kyeema Doyle, Katie Foulkes).

The men's Olympic Rowing Team was ranked 1st in the World. **Congratulations all representatives!**

Support of the NSWRA

A number of members of the Union were involved in competition and the delivery of the N.S.W. Rowing Association State Championships and the Australian Masters Championship Regatta held at Sydney International Regatta Centre from 28th to 30th May, 2004. Similarly our members are involved in the delivery of the season's regatta program at both club and school level through their involvement as Boat Race Officials, volunteers, coaches and competitors.

The Union was supported by the NSWRA and evaluated all replies to the Rowing Support Questionnaire which was undertaken last year. Additionally each respondent received a letter from the Union thanking them for their interest and inviting them to join the Union, and in the case of women, the NSW Union of Oarswomen. The Union has had regard to the responses in the framing of its revised objectives.

New Trophy

Your Union presented the "Kevyn Webb OAM Memorial Trophy for the Champion Quad Scull of NSW" to the NSWRA at the Association's Presentation Dinner on the 29th October at Sydney R.C.

Kevyn was a great advocate of quad sculling and introduced the boat class to regattas in Australia in the late 1960's.

Since there wasn't a N.S.W.R.A. Championship Trophy for this event, it was only fitting that the Quad event should bear his name.

Executive Report

The Executive Committee had a very busy year and met on 7 occasions for the 12 months ending November 2004.

Members attendances were: Ken Bell (1), Tony Brown (2 resigned 3/04), John Campbell (2), Dr Eric Carter (0 appointed 3/04), Don Croot AM (4), Michael Daffy (6), Jim Goulding (0 resigned 1/04), Richard Hunt (0), David Longhurst (2), Graham Lorking (0), Bob Main (2), Iain MacDonald (0), Terry Maher (7), Robert McColm (4 appointed 1/04), Tony McFarlane (0 resigned 2/04), Geoff McIntyre (3), Barry Moynahan (7), George Neilson (1), Dr. Phil Sharp (5 appointed 1/04), David Sollom (3 appointed 4/04), Peter Stroud (6), David Ward (3), Dr. Bill Webb OAM (1 appointed 4/04).

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Retirements and Appointments

Don Croot AM after 17 years devoted service as Honorary Secretary of the Union handed his badge of office to Terry Maher at the 2003 Annual Meeting.

The Executive made a presentation of a Whiskey decanter set to Don and Shirley in appreciation.

Tony Brown performed an outstanding job as Honorary Treasurer for the past 16 years. Tony retired from the position on the 1st March and Robert McColm has filled the vacancy.

Jim Goulding resigned from the Executive to slowly mobile home around Australia.

Tony McFarlane, another long serving member also resigned from the Executive on 1st March

Thank you Don, both Tonys and Jim for your wonderful contribution to the wellbeing of the NSW Union of Old Oarsmen. We know that they will always be available to give advice and lend a hand.

Four Vice Presidents were appointed in April: Iain MacDonald, Dr. Phil Sharp, David Sollom and the late Dr. Bill Webb OAM. Dr Eric Carter was also invited to join the Executive.

Membership Drive

A ongoing membership drive was embarked upon in November resulting in 38 new members. Although encouraging in reality our newcomers only maintain our numbers covering losses through members not renewing or passing away. Hence an ongoing recruiting drive stemming from the "all inclusive" concept of the revised Constitution is required.

A new membership database was established recording membership type; date of birth; the year commenced rowing; clubs and/or Schools competed for/member of; spouse/partner name; amount paid and date and contact details. This information is kept private and not passed on.

Many current and new members opted to take up the \$ 100 Permanent Membership formally known as the Centenary of Federation Membership.

Review of the Constitution

The Union's Constitution dates back to its inception in 1931 and was therefore in need of updating.

A Sub-Committee comprising Barry Moynahan, Don Croot AM, Geoff McIntyre, Dr. Phil Sharp and Terry Maher completed a review of the Constitution, with the expert assistance of Justice Greg James, and their final draft (3a) was recommended by the Executive Committee for your consideration at the Annual General Meeting (see copy enclosed with this report).

To summarize the proposed major changes:-

- Name to become N.S.W. Union of Rowers Inc.
- Opening membership to rowers of all ages including women.
- Compliance with current legal requirements

Should the recommendation be passed, the incoming committee will need to re-register the Union's incorporation and re-register the Union's taxation status with the A.T.O.

Come Forward Newsletter

A tabloid format newsletter titled *Come Forward* was introduced this year with the diary/calendar of events and a listing of new members included with Union news and interest items.

Rowing Australia no longer publishes the Australian Rowing Magazine which has left a vacuum and with regular contributions from members we would like to expand the content in *Come Forward* to in a small way fill the void.

Come Forward is posted on the website with past editions available in pdf format.

In the future we hope to publish in colour (as it appears on the web) with more photos and articles on rowing personalities. We seek the donation/sponsorship of a colour laser printer to achieve this goal.

Website

The new website www.nswrowers.com became active in August after a concerted effort by Stephen Croot and the Secretary to have it operative before the start of the new rowing year.

Several updates and changes have been since made and news (Stop Press) and items of interest will be constantly changed to keep the site 'alive.'

The site index includes: home (with stop press items), mission, history, constitution, membership, scholarships, news, diary; clubs, schools, boats types, glossary, contact us & links (to other national & state websites including the NSWRA 2004-05 regatta program).

A special thanks to Stephen Croot for his hard work and expert assistance establishing our site.

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Youth Development Awards

A record twenty nine applications were lodged for Youth Development Scholarships this year.

Five members of the Union's Executive Barry Moynahan, Michael Daffy, Peter Stroud, Dr. Phil Sharp and David Ward formed a panel to evaluate the applications, all of which were of a high standard.

There findings and recommendations were considered at the Executive Meeting on 6th September and it was resolved to present five scholarships of \$500 each this year.

The recipients for this year are : Melissa Bowling (South Grafton), Huw Grenfell (Manning River), Alexandra Handley (Leichhardt), Natalie Matthews (Nepean) and Joshua Scharfegger (Sydney).

The awards (with the exception of Melissa's) were presented at the NSW Union of Old Oarsmen's Annual Dinner held on 22nd September, at the Sydney Rowing Club. (see photos on the website).

Congratulations to the successful applicants and thank you and best wishes for the future to all this years applicants.

Level 2 Coaching Scholarship

The Executive Committee endorsed a proposal to underpin the current Youth Development Awards with coaching scholarships. A serious shortage of Level 2 Accredited Coaches at club level was identified as a factor limiting the development of aspiring young rowers.

Broadly, the fees and out of pocket expenses for coaches to attain Level 2 Accreditation would be paid under the program.

Allan Phillips of Race 1 Racing Shells has generously offered to sponsor one scholarship and the Executive applied to the NSW Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation for funding assistance to provide another three scholarships. Unfortunately our application for funding support was unsuccessful.

We look forward to receiving the first applicants in the coming season.

Functions & Excursions

1. Follow and Meet the State Eight

Members of the Union were afforded the chance to see all the best rowers in action by joining a bus and following the Champion Eights races at the NSWRA Championship Regatta on Sunday, 15th February at Sydney International Regatta Centre.

Thirteen members took up the offer and followed the Champion Women's Eight to the 1000 metre mark then returned to follow the Champion Men's Eight for the full race which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The success of the viewing will make this outing a permanent calendar item. Thank you State Team Manager Michael Smith for your assistance with arrangements.

2. Spectacle Island RAN Historical Collection

Thirty six members and guests joined the excursion to Spectacle Island to visit the Royal Australian Navy's fascinating Historical Collection on Thursday, 22nd April 2004.

Noteworthy people in attendance included bow of the Olympic Eight Stefan Szczurowski and Australian Rowing Team Doctor for the past 5 Olympic Games the late Dr. Bill Webb OAM. New member Raymond Jones was also present.

Ernie Chapman OAM won the bottle of Scotch and a very enjoyable day was had by all.

A sumptuous lunch was prepared by Jack Sampson and Brian and Stephen Guthrie. Many thanks gents. Drummoyne Sailing Club extended its hospitality providing the downstairs Sailors Bar, balcony and its barbecue facilities.

3. Fort Denison Tour & Dinner

A group of thirty one took the ferry trip to Fort Denison on Saturday, 16th October and enjoyed a very informative historically interesting guided tour of "Pinch Gut"

On return 21 took the short walk to the Glenmore Hotel and enjoyed a very pleasant dinner at the rooftop bistro taking in the terrific panorama of the Rocks, the Quay and the city backdrop.

Family Day Luncheon

The Union's Family Day Luncheon at Leichhardt Rowing Club on Sunday 6th June had a small attendance due to clashes with Balmain Rowing Club's Annual Meeting and UTS's Old Boys Day.

The timing of the dinner will need to be considered more closely next year and perhaps should be held on the same day as a J. B. Sharp Series Regatta.

Thank you to Leichhardt Old Boys, especially Ross Ullo and Kevin Bond for providing the catering and to Leichhardt Rowing Club for their fine venue and hospitality.

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Union Annual Dinner & Olympic Review

A highly successful and well attended 2004 Annual Dinner was held at Sydney Rowing Club on Wednesday, 22nd September 2004.



President Barry Moynahan required ten minutes to acquaint the dinner with the phenomenal sporting, academic and coaching success of our Guest of Honour and speaker, Olympian Tim McLaren OAM.

Tim responded by captivating a packed Regatta Lounge with his views, observations and impressions on current high performance rowing and the outcomes and importance of the Olympics.

The over 150 members and supporters, who including the rowing members of the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Team; five members of the 2004 Olympic Rowing Team; senior members of the rowing fraternity and award/presentation recipients, were entertained and enthralled by Tim who also answered a number of questions from the floor.

Youth Development Awards followed which were presented by Olympian's wives to :-

- Huw Grenfell (Manning River R.C. & St. Clare H.S.) by Jennifer Chapman;
- Alexandra Handley (Leichhardt/Sydney R.C. & Pymble L.C.) by Melva Cayzer;
- Natalie Matthews (Nepean R.C. & Cambridge Park H.S.) by Patricia Anderson and
- Joshua Scharfegger (Sydney R.C. & Sydney Boys' H.S.) by Karen McLaren.

Melissa Bowling (South Grafton High School R.C.) was unable to attend and her scholarship has since been mailed to her.

50 Year Service Pewters were presented to :-

- The late Dr. Bill Webb OAM (President NSWRA, Nepean, Sydney University B.C., Balmain) by Don Croot AM and to
- Bill Monaghan (Leichhardt R.C.) by May Agnew who turned a spritely 93 recently.



A great Olympian photo opportunity was not to be missed ie. **1952** (Prof. David Anderson, Phil Cayzer OAM, Ernie Chapman OAM, Nim Greenwood & Geoff Williamson) **+52 years** (James & Steve Stewart, Stefan Sczuruowski, Tim McLaren OAM & John Coates AO) = **2004 success**.

A successful raffle helped balance the exchequer. Thank you Ray Jones and Michael Daffy for donating prizes. Michael Daffy, Dr Phil Sharp and Treasurer Robert McColm sold the tickets, well done!

Thank you to Sydney Rowing Club for your hospitality; to Tim and Karen McLaren our Guests of Honour and to all members and supporters who attended and contributed to the success of the evening.

Archives Committee

The Executive established the Archives Committee at its September Meeting comprising Dr. Phil Sharp (Chair), Ernie Chapman OAM (NSWRA Hon. Historian and Archivist), Jim Goulding, Barry Moynahan and Terry Maher.

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Members of the Committee has met with the State Library (Alan Davies) on its role in helping collect, preserve and store historical material and memorabilia from members that might well be lost or discarded with the passage of time.

Phil Sharp has prepared a report which in part stated “All rowing memorabilia should be kept. Don’t let ‘helpful friends’ cull. We are in a unique position to collect both sporting and lifestyle information that relates to social activity. This material may be in the form of regatta programs and results, photographs, club minutes, reports, trophies etc.”

Members and family of the rowing fraternity are asked to contact the Archives Committee Members or the Secretary to advise them of any collections or items in their possession which need to be preserved.

Other Initiatives & Challenges

1. Country Re-Union

A luncheon is proposed to involve our many country members at the Manning River/Port Macquarie Regattas next January. Watch the ‘Come Forward’ for details.

2. 2005 Australian Rowing Championships

The NSWRA will be hosting the 2005 Australian Rowing Championships at Sydney International Regatta Centre from Monday 7th to Sunday 13th March.

Such a major regatta requires an ‘all hands on deck’ approach to deliver a outstanding event.

As has always been the case Union members will be called upon to volunteer for the many tasks involved and if not in a position to physically assist to support the Championships and show our many interstate guests our hospitality and depth of support.

50 Year Pewters

The Executive Committee at its meeting on the 2nd August resolved to present seven 50 Year Pewters to members of the Union who have given sterling service to the sport since or before 1954.

Those selected to receive pewters were: Ron Beattie, Iain MacDonald, Bill Monaghan, John Sypkens, Greg Thompson, Charles Watson and Dr. Bill Webb OAM. A distinguished group of staunch believers! Congratulations on reaching your 50th year in our wonderful sport and being awarded a pewter.

Obituary

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of: Frederick Archer, Ted Bromley (Mosman), George Cook (former World Professional Sculling Champion Glebe, Drummoyne, Sydney), Dr. Brian Curtin (Sydney), Alf Duval Senior (Sydney); Kevin Evans (Mosman), Ray Mayer (Balmain), Dr. Ian O’Rourke (Riverview, Colleagues), Gwen Rosevear, Val Stride, Bob Sutton OAM (Kings, Leichhardt, UNSW, Colleagues), Bruce Tory (Sydney), Dr Bill Webb OAM, (President of NSWRA, Rowing Australia Principal Medical Officer, Nepean, Sydney University, Balmain) and wife Helen. Dr. Bill Webb passed away suddenly on 12th October aged 67 from a heart attack whilst bush walking in King’s Canyon, Northern Territory. A true friend of all rowers and sportsmen and women his contribution to our sport is immeasurable and he will be greatly missed.

To their family and friends and those of anyone we may have inadvertently omitted in this year’s listing we extend our condolences.

Appreciation

The Executive and Committee appreciate the work undertaken by all members in the organization of social functions, the running of the traditional raffles and families luncheons.

Thanks also to the NSW Rowing Association for the underwriting of costs associated with our 2003 survey and the Chief Executive Officer, David Evans for his cooperation.

We are particularly grateful for the cooperation shown by Tim McLaren in ensuring our membership had access to his crews leading up to the Kings Cup and the Olympics, together with his Olympic Review with team members.

We are indeed very grateful to those very senior members and our elder statesmen who continue to honour us with their presence at all our functions.

Barry Moynahan
President 2003-04

Terry Maher
Honorary Secretary.