



MEMBERS' HANDBOOK (DRAFT)

December 2014

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1.0 Introduction

The Wendouree-Ballararat Club Members' Handbook provides information to our members which will facilitate the safe enjoyment of competitive and recreational rowing in our club. This includes the objectives of our club, its management, procedures, specific club facilities, requirements and risks.

It is vital that all members, new and continuing, understand their responsibilities and the rules and procedures that all members (and their supporters) are required to follow. This applies to rowing activities, the gymnasium as well as club management and other activities. Please seek further information from club coaches or the Captain. A contact list is provided at the conclusion of the handbook.

Changes to this document may be issued from time to time as the need may arise and will be distributed to coaches, posted on the boatshed notice boards and on the club's website.

2.0 About the Wendouree-Ballararat Rowing Club

Wendouree - Ballarat Rowing Club is the amalgamated rowing clubs of the Ballarat Rowing Club formed on 20th November 1861 and the Wendouree Rowing Club formed on the 15th of October 1883 making it the oldest rowing club in Ballarat and one of the oldest in the country.

Wendouree-Ballararat Rowing Club has the honor of producing Ballarat's first Olympic Medalist, as well a strong history of success at National and International Championships. The Club and its membership are dedicated to the promotion of rowing excellence, participation, sportsmanship and the promotion of rowing as a sport to be enjoyed by all.

3.0 Strategic Plan

During the 2014/15 season the Committee will be undertaking a review of the club's rowing activities which will include consultation with members and other stake holders within the club and more broadly. The purpose of this review and consultation is to develop a well-defined strategy for the operation of the rowing club over the next 10 years.

Following the adoption of the draft 2014-2024 Wendouree-Ballararat Rowing Club Strategic Plan by the Committee, the strategy will be implemented.

4.0 Vision for the Wendouree-Ballararat Rowing Club

Whilst the Club is currently formalising its vision through its Strategic Planning process, the underlying qualities of members of the club are demonstrated through its record of achievement, perseverance and leadership since its historic beginnings in 1883.

Without pre-empting the clubs formalising of its vision, it would be key to state the club aims to build and support high quality programs and facilities that promote access to rowing, promote excellence in rowing, and use rowing as a means to foster physical activity, health, leadership, and community engagement.



5.0 Club Programs

With a fleet of boats and volunteer coaches, together with a strong club spirit, we aim to be the rowing club of choice for people living, working and studying in and around Ballarat.

Our members make the Wendouree-Ballarat Rowing Club strong and afford the opportunity for all to achieve success. We ask you to challenge yourself and see what you can achieve.

We encourage cooperation and teamwork throughout our club and encourage our members to develop attitudes and habits essential for success at the highest level both in rowing and in their personal lives.

The club competes in a number of regattas across the State and consistently receives success in a range of events.

5.1 Development Squad (under development)

The Club are planning on formalising opportunities for young athletes to build their skills and physiological capacity in a strong team environment. The Development Squad is the typical pathway into competitive rowing for young athletes who wish to continue rowing after finishing school.

5.2 Junior Development Program (including School based Program)

Our Junior Development Program aims to take athletes aged from 14 years and guide them through a program that will progress each athlete to their personal best. The program aims to develop athletes into the club's development and competitive club squads, whilst also competing with their respective school rowing programs.

5.3 Masters Rowing Squad

The aim of the Masters Rowing Squad is to allow each member the opportunity to achieve the most they can within the sport.

This is a friendly and relaxed group who enjoy the benefits of competitive rowing. We are keen to take on new members particularly those who wish to return to rowing following time out of the sport.

Our Masters Group competes across a range of age categories in the Victoria, National and World Rowing Master's Regattas.

5.4 Gymnasium

Located within the rowing shed, the gym consisting of ergometers are available for all active members to use. The gym is equipped for off water rowing training and general strength and conditioning.



6.0 About Rowing

Rowing is one of the most demanding forms of exercise with nearly every muscle in the body being used in the rowing motion. It is also one of the best, low-impact, cardio-vascular exercises.

Rowing is a sport that attracts people of all ages and from all walks of life, with the youngest starting at around 13 years of age to 70 and 80 year old veteran rowers who still enjoy the sport.

Rowing can be undertaken individually or as part of a crew. Participation can be on any level you choose: for recreation and a form of exercise, for social interaction as part of a crew, for individual challenge and to compete at a local level, or as an elite competitive athlete at the World Championships or Olympic Games.

7.0 Esprit de Corps of Wendouree-Ballarat Rowing Club

The club aspire to have a strong community feel between our members. Our intention is to improve the experience for all our members and increase the involvement and contribution to the club by the Wendouree-Ballarat Rowing Club community for the benefit of that community.

The following values are fundamental for the interaction between all people associated with the club. These values are the foundation for the “esprit de corps” that the club is striving for.

- Desire to support other members in all their endeavours within the limits of practicality.
- Respect for others and their property
- Honesty
- Courtesy
- Pursuit of excellence
- Enthusiasm



8.0 Joining Wendouree-Ballararat Rowing Club

A completed membership application form (available on the Wendouree-Ballararat Rowing Club website) **together with the necessary membership fees needs to be forwarded to the Secretary.**

It is important that applicants under the age of 18 years must have a parent or guardian complete the information on the back of the membership application form.

Membership applications are reviewed at the monthly Wendouree-Ballararat Rowing Club Committee meeting. Prospective members may be interviewed by a member of the Committee to discuss the applicant's objectives for seeking to join the club. Applications are subject to the approval of the club's Committee. Membership fees are refunded if your application is unsuccessful.

The club's rules govern the conditions of membership and the operation of the club.

9.0 Physical Activity Readiness

It is the personal responsibility of each member to ensure their health and fitness is appropriate for the level of athletic activity they propose to undertake.

To row for Wendouree-Ballararat Rowing Club members must be able to swim 100 metres in rowing clothes.

Members may be required to undertake a swimming test.

Members may be required to satisfy the club as to their health and readiness and/or capability for rowing or use of the club's facilities. This may include but is not limited to a swimming test, rowing capability test or medical examination and report.



10.0 Code of Conduct

The Wendouree-Ballarat Rowing Club's general standards of conduct and behaviour apply to all categories of members of the club. The Club's Code of Conduct is attached.

In addition to this it is the responsibility of every member to familiarise themselves with and to comply with the Rowing Victoria Code of Conduct and Rowing Australia Code of Conduct available at the website <http://www.home.rowingvictoria.asn.au/>

11.0 Illicit Drugs in Sport

Wendouree-Ballarat Rowing Club endorses the Rowing Australia Illicit Drugs in Sport Policy, details of which are available on the Rowing Australia website.

It is the responsibility of members, parents and coaches to ensure they are familiar with the Rowing Australia Illicit Drugs in Sport Policy details of which can be found on the Rowing Australia website.

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12.0 Use of Club Equipment

The Captain and Vice-Captain of Boats coordinates the use of boats and oars. Equipment priorities may be changed from time to time.

A clear process for progression through rowing and assignment of boats is required to;

- Ensure boats appropriate to rowers abilities are used
- Provide new rowers a chance to learn at their own pace
- Allow existing crews to build on skills and continue rowing
- Protect the club's equipment from damage, or misuse
- Provide a clear and transparent process for booking and allocating boats
- Ensure the most competitive crews are entered in races with the equipment most suited to them
- Allow less competitive crews the chance to enter races where possible
- Allow the club to manage the fleet effectively, in conjunction with the *Boat Rigging Policy*

Refer to the Club's Boat Allocation Policy – Training and Racing is attached.

Refer to Appendix A for a list of club equipment and its status.

Please check the Equipment Allocation Board before taking out equipment. The board is located on the Noticeboard in the gymnasium. Refer to this board before using any equipment. Please don't take out equipment during a period it's allocated to someone else even if it's still on the rack, they may just be late!

Please return boats and oars to the same rack you took them from.

Under no circumstances should members use a privately owned boat without the owner's consent.

Adjustments to club boats. Rigging of club boats is set to standard settings which are suitable for use by any of our members. Please refer to the Wendouree-Ballarat Rigging Policy

If club equipment is damaged or is unserviceable for any reason, please report the problem **immediately to the Captain, Vice Captain of Boats or the Club President.** You may be asked to complete **an Equipment Repair Form.** This is essential so we can arrange repairs and efficiently manage our fleet.

If you are involved in an accident you must complete an Incident Report Form and if necessary assist the Captain or Committee member in assessing potential risks and for completing an insurance claim.

13.0 Safety and Risk Management

The club's Committee is concerned about the personal safety of our rowers on the water, as well as the need to minimise the risk of damage to equipment. We expect and rely on everyone – members, coaches, guests, juniors and adults, rowers, scullers, and coxswains alike – to use



common sense in their approach to safety on the water, particularly in situations that are not specifically covered by policy or procedure.

Failure to follow safety policies and procedures is a very serious matter and may be grounds for suspension of member privileges or expulsion.

On the Water

Follow the club's rules regarding boat lights and safe navigation.

- If in doubt about whether or not something is safe, assume it isn't.
- Know your capabilities and those of the people with whom you are rowing.
- Always consider the conditions before going on the water.

DO NOT row if

- There are electrical storms about (e.g. lightning / thunder).
- The weather is stormy or squally.
- The waves have "white caps".
- There is thick fog.
- It is extremely cold or hot.

13.1 Safe Navigation (Develop Policy?)

Errors in steering and rowing on the incorrect side of the Lake are the primary cause of accidents. Our Safe Navigation policy and procedure is intended to provide guidance so that all members are aware of the most common risks and how they can be avoided or mitigated.

The policy is attached and applies to all members steering coxed and coxless boats including single sculls. Adherence to these procedures is mandatory. Please read these procedures and ensure they are followed. All members of a crew are equally responsible to ensure these procedures are followed to ensure the safety of the crew.

13.2 Boat lights (Develop policy?)

The purpose of this policy is to improve the visibility of rowing boats to other lake users.

As a condition of the use of the club's facilities, the following minimum standard for navigation lights applies. This requirement applies to all boats which are launched or recovered from the club's premises and which are used on the water between sunset and sunrise.

Wendouree-Ballararat Rowing Club Minimum Standard for Navigation Lights on Rowing Shells

- Two constant white lights visible all around which must be firmly attached to the boat on the deck or canvas at either end of the crew compartment.
- Lights must be of sufficient brightness to be visible at a distance of one kilometre.

The following lights are not acceptable and must not be used:

- Strobe lights.
- Small directional LED lights.



- Lights attached to the rower's body, head, hat or other clothing.
- Torches or other lights which do not display an all-round (360°) white light.
- Red or yellow lights of any type.
- Lights which are not visible at a distance of one kilometre.

Members must provide their own lights and batteries. Appropriate lights are available from marine shops, ships chandlers or through the Internet.

It is the responsibility of all club members to ensure that the correct lights are used. Breaches of the policy must be reported to the Club Captain or Club President.

To convey the seriousness of this matter to all members and staff, the following consequences will be applied to those people who fail to display the correct lights

Members:

First occasion – Written warning.

Second occasion – A fine of \$100 per seat (i.e. single scull \$100, 8+ \$900). The member or members concerned will be automatically suspended from the club until the fine has been paid.

Coaches:

First occasion – Written warning

**Second occasion – Suspension from the club for one month.
Subsequent breaches will be dealt with under the club's general rules.**

13.3 Getting on and off the water

The jetty can be very busy at peak times and members are asked to apply the "two minute rule" and take less than two minutes to get on or off the water.

Members who continually break the two minute rule may be required to avoid getting on or off at peak times.

Jetty Priority

Crews or scullers training as part of a designated squad and under the supervision of a club coach may from time to time be afforded priority access to the pontoon to ensure the squad is kept together. Members are requested to give way if requested to do so by a club coach. **This privilege is not to be abused by serial late comers.**

Pontoon Procedure

Members and particularly coaches are asked to ensure crews follow these procedures at the pontoon.



Scullers are asked to use the ends of the pontoon so your oars can be fully extended for stability.

Crew Boats

- **All crew boats (sweep and sculling) must pull their oars across the boat rather than passing them forward. This is a safety requirement to minimise the risk of capsizing on the pontoon by improving stability. It also allows you to use your oar to push off against the pontoon deck.**
- **The Stroke must give clear commands so that crew actions are properly coordinated**
- **Half the crew hold the boat and half get the oars.**
- **Those getting the oars get in first while the others hold the boat.**
- **Boat holders get in and push off with your oar against the pontoon deck. There should be no need to pass the oars back unless there is a strong westerly wind.**
- **The crew should then row clear of the pontoon and adjacent shore.**

13.4 Use of Speed boats for coaching

Club coaching boats can only be used for purposes related to the club's programs. Exceptions may be made, but must be approved by the club captain. In addition, people using our coaching boats must do so in compliance with Victorian Maritime regulations.

Any person driving a coaching boat must have a current Victoria Waterways boat driver's licence (or equivalent interstate licence). Club coaches and honorary coaches must provide a photocopy of their current licence for the club's records.

- Boats must be operated safely at all times.
- Keep a constant all around lookout; don't just focus entirely on your crew.
- Keep a safe distance from your crew so you can avoid them if they stop without warning.
- If approaching a crew or a person in the water you must do so with care to avoid any possibility of injury from the propeller.
- You must not reverse towards a person in the water.
- Boats do not have brakes. Reverse gear is for going astern not for stopping.
- Avoid shallow water; running aground will damage the motor.
- Be courteous to other rowing crews, where possible minimise your wash.
- When tying boats to the pontoon or wharf, ensure the wind or current will not take the boat under the deck.
- Take care when bringing the boat out of the water, particularly when putting boats on the trailers at the speed-boat shed.
- Put boats away if you use them.
- **Report any damage or other problems on an Equipment Repair form available from the club's website.** This is essential to ensure our equipment is kept in good order.



14.0 Safe Recovery of Persons or Equipment in the Water

From time to time you may need to recover persons or equipment in the water while you are driving a coaching boat.

You must ensure the safety of all people involved before you attempt to recover equipment. Boat drivers must be aware that **there is a significant risk of injury to persons in the water as a result of propeller strike**. Special precautions are necessary to eliminate this risk.

14.1 To recover people from the water.

Approach to within about 15 metres of crew or boat requiring assistance and assess the risks before making any attempt to move in close.

This includes wind, tide, river traffic, rocks, wharves, pylons, other coaches in boats.

If there is a more experienced person in attendance ask how you can assist and follow instructions. Otherwise take control of the situation by informing others who may be attempting to help what you propose to do.

Explain to the person/crew how you will recover them from the water.

Approach into (towards) the wind and/or tide so your boat will blow away from the risk if the motor is stopped. *Otherwise your risk will become part of the problem and not the solution. In particular you may need to restart your motor which is a serious risk to persons in the water.*

Under no circumstances should you ever reverse towards a person in the water.

Manoeuvre very slowly, generally at idle.

Reverse gear is for going astern, not for stopping the boat.

Switch off your engine. This is essential so the throttle cannot be accidentally applied by someone knocking the lever as the person is climbing into the boat.

Once you're close to the person you are assisting, call to the person to swim to your boat. **It is not sufficient to put the boat into neutral.**

Ensure your boat remains stable and recover one person at a time.

Avoid overloading your boat. Take people to safety and come back for more if necessary.

Follow the necessary first aid procedures once the people are safe.



14.2 To recover a boat.

Once the crew has been recovered you may then attend to their equipment. Oars are best left on the gates for stability and buoyancy.

Consider how the boat will be affected by wind and tide while it is being towed. Work with the wind and tide. It is difficult if not impossible to tow against wind and tide.

To tow the boat, wrap a rope around the bow or stern three or four times, finish with a half hitch and tie off to a rigger.

Look for an accessible or pontoon or lakeside in the general direction of the boat's drift and guide the boat in that direction. Let the wind and tide do most of the work and use your boat and engine to steer.

The boat will be difficult to turn so plan how you will need to manoeuvre.

Once alongside the beach or pontoon secure the boat to a mooring or buoy or if people are available to help, get the boat out of the water.

Tilt the boat and very slowly to let the water run out. The boat will be too heavy to lift until it is practically empty.

If the weather is poor, tie the boat down and return later to collect it.

15.0 Club Clothing

A range of Wendouree-Ballarat Rowing Club clothing is available from the Regatta Shop. This includes zooties, polo shirts, tracks suits, caps and a range of other items.

Visit the Regatta Shop website to view available clothing.

www.designerpaintworks.com.au/theregattashop.html

16.0 Our Gymnasium

Our gymnasium (ergo room) is contained within the boatshed is available to all active members.

1. Shirts and athletic shoes must be worn at all times.
2. Rowing suits may be worn whilst using the ergometers but must be pulled up.
3. To avoid clutter, please don't bring mobile phones, bags or clothes into the gym whilst working out, place them in the change rooms.



17.0 Coaching at the Wendouree-Ballarot Rowing Club

All coaches at Sydney Rowing Club (other than staff coaches) must be members of the club and adhere to the Club's Coaches Code of Behaviour (attached).

18.0 Regattas

18.1 Race Entries.

A procedure will be agreed and documented by Captain and coaches setting out how various groups of members lodge race entries. Race entries fees are charged to members' accounts.

18.2 Club Uniform

To ensure we present a positive image of the club at regattas please follow these guidelines:

- Have a clean and tidy appearance.
- Wear club uniform around the boat park. The club's zootie, and cap are readily available from the Regatta Shop.
- Wendouree-Ballarot racing zooties must be in good condition. Replace any worn or faded zooties.
- If you wish, you may wear a white undershirt.
- Only Club hats may be worn whilst racing.
- Compete with respect and courtesy to other competitors.

18.3 Trophy Presentations

It is expected that Wendouree-Ballarot crews will attend the presentation ceremony, or advise the regatta officials if they are unable to do so.

18.4 Boat Loading and Unloading

Boat loading and unloading for each regatta is the shared responsibility of all members who are participating in the regatta. Everyone's co-operation is required. Each member is responsible for rigging and de-rigging of their equipment ready for loading.

A date and time for boat loading as well as a trailer plan will be communicated to participating crews to regattas.



19.0 Volunteer Work

Our members' contribution to the operation of our club is a key objective in our Strategic Plan. This is essential for our club to be successful and is a vital and enjoyable aspect of being a member of our club.

Members are asked to commit to voluntary work to assist in the running of the club. This may include coaching, subcommittees, boat maintenance, acting as a Rowing Victoria Boat Race Official, running the club's regattas and various working bees.

20.0 Boatshed Club Room and Kitchen

The upstairs Clubroom and kitchen are available for members use where required. Please keep this area clean and tidy. In particular, wash and dry crockery and cutlery.

21.0 Annual Dinner Club Fundraiser

The Annual Dinner Club Fundraiser provides an opportunity for our members to become familiar with the social members of the club and raise funds that can be put towards expenses related to training and competing for Wendouree-Ballarat Rowing Club.

22.0 Storage of Privately owned Equipment

The Club has adopted a policy on the storage of privately owned equipment which is attached in Appendix E. This policy also applies to the transport of privately owned equipment on the club's boat trailer. Storage of equipment is subject to the terms of that policy. In summary;



Members seeking to store privately owned equipment must apply to do so in writing to the Club Captain or Head Coach prior to bringing your equipment to the club.

Equipment is stored entirely at the member's own risk. The club will not be liable for damage or loss how so ever arising. These private items are not insured by the club. We recommend members obtain their own insurance.

Due to the demand for storage of private sculling boats (particularly those which can be stored in readily accessible positions), private equipment must be regularly used. The following minimum usage must be fulfilled beginning from July 1st each year.

☑ Members actively engaged in the club's designated training and competition programs, 1000 km per year.

☑ Members under 45 years of age 800 km per year

☑ Members under 45 to 55 years of age 650 km per year

☑ Members under over 55 of age 400 km per year

23.0 History of our Club

The President and Committee of the Wendouree Ballarat Rowing Club gratefully acknowledge the time and effort of our life member and long serving past President, Mr. Jack Barnett, who compiled the history of the Wendouree Rowing Club.

An indignation meeting of the Ballarat Rowing Club was called on account of certain members of the Club not having paid their annual subscriptions for many years, and it was at this meeting that the dissatisfied members decided to sever their connections with the old Club and form a new club together. The first meeting was held on October 15th. 1883. at "The Nag's Head" Hotel in Armstrong Street South. and on the motion of Mr. Frampton. it was decided that the name of the new club be Wendouree.

The then Mayor of the City, John Hickman. was elected first President. Vice Presidents: Major Smith, J. G. McDonald. W. H. Hennah; Captain: H. Oxlade; Vice Captain: H. Whitelaw; Secretary-Treasurer: O. E. Wilson; Committee: Messrs. J. McDonald, F. McGeary, C. P. Bennett, J. Murray, G. Robertson. G. Armstrong, R. Chinnery. D. Mann.

The Committee at that time were handicapped by not having a boat shed. so Mayor Hickman offered for £40. the shed used by the Union Foundry for housing their Screw Steamer. an offer the Committee gladly accepted.

Many obstacles were overcome by those pioneers who worked hard to make their Clubhouse comfortable, and at the same time laid a foundation in the Rowing world that was soon to make your Club one of the foremost in the Colony.

As early as November. 1884. it was recorded in the Courier that the draw for the scratch fours event would be held at Shillington's City Bngade Hotel. Medals were offered by Mr. E. R. Cutter; 60 Members were entered for these events.

1884.

The season passed without a win to the new Club.



1885

Four pioneer representatives were successful in winning the Senior four and Sunbury Cup at Ballarat Regatta. Senior four at Geelong. Senior four and Nicholls Challenge Cup at the Upper Yarra Amateur Regatta. hence it will be seen that the Club was winning Senior races before it had recorded a win in maiden or junior events.

In the first five years of the Club's history. winning crews were as follows: Maiden fours 2. Maiden eights 4. Junior four 1. Senior four 1. Senior eight 2.

1888

The first of what was to be the annual contest for the four oared Championship of Victoria was held on the Saltwater River (Lower Yarra). The Club entered a crew on the inducement of an advertisement in the Press some months before the event, that the prize for the Centennial Fours would be £100.

The crew selected was seated W. Gheirk, stroke, who had an excellent reputation as a stroke with the Williamstown Club's Senior Eight, J. Mathieson (1), W. Archibald (2). S. Wilson (bow), H. Kampf (cox).

The course was from about 200 yards below the Williamstown Ferry to a point opposite the Stanley Arms Hotel on the Saltwater River. a distance of .11,4 miles. Wendouree took the lead shortly after the start and went on to win by 10 lengths to Banks and 10 lengths to Corio Bay, in a time of 19 mins . .12 sec. At the social evening held at Young and Jackson's Hotel that evening. the crew was presented with not a £ 100 prize, but medals to the value of .10 shillings.

Season 1888 it became necessary to increase the size of the shed. It was decided to build a large dressing room, on the south side of the shed, the work being carried out by Messrs. T. Egginton & Co. at a cost of over 5~ 100. The total value of the Club's property at the time being over £538.12.0. Thus from nothing. the Club had come to occupy the leading position amongst the Ballarat Clubs in just 5 years.

1889

Your representatives in winning the Maiden Eight event at Ballarat Regatta were to start a run of success unparalleled in the Club's history. The crew seated J. Donald (str.), T. Lingham (7). C. Donald (6), J. Mahar (5), F. Clennel (4)' Arch Dawson (Jl. F. Hassell (2), H. Lingham (bow). A. Watson (cox). The crew was to become known as the "Wendouree Snipes". They went on to win twelve races. including six Senior Eights and trophies to the value of ~£90. The crew had an average weight of less than 10 stone. The heaviest man in the crew was James Donald at 10 stone.

James Donald justly deserved the title of "Prince of Oarsmen". His record in eight oared events is outstanding. He rowed in eleven of these races stroking ten, winning on eight occasions and second on two.

Charles Donald rowed in eight crews in the Australian eight oared titles being successful in seven and second once.



Both the Donalds transferred to Albert Park R.C. and would have won most of their races with that Club.

1894

The three heavier men, Jack Blaikie, Jim Rogers and Wally Dawson were added to the "Snipes" crew to win the Champion Eight of Victoria.

1901

From the Club Annual Report -"It is with great pleasure that we draw attention to the fact that in the Intercolonial eight race. held in Adelaide in May last. the winning crew Victoria and the third crew Queensland were stroked by two former Wendouree Club oarsmen, James Donald and Arthur Watson".

1901 Saw the appointment of Alfred Clarke as coach at a fee of £2 a week: his services were terminated after only 5 weeks, suffering the fate of an unsuccessful professional coach.

1903

Two new practice pairs were purchased at a cost of £110. Also purchased were 20 new oars. at a total cost of £272.0. Members' attention was drawn to this expensive item and the members asked to exercise care in their use.

1904

Mr. Andrew Taylor who had served the Club as Committeeman and Treasurer for many years. had the foresight to realise that if the Club was to progress, a new Clubhouse was needed, and to this end he started a fund to build and update the boatshed without having to borrow money. £200 was raised in the first year, but funds were hard to raise: in

1907

The funds stood at only £265. The target to start the new shed was £400. It was not until April 9th. 1907. the following tenders were offered:

- H. Armour £615
- Mills & Harris £675
- A. Hattrick £698
- H H. Swain £795
- E. Doherty £607
- R. Ludbrook £589
- H. Brown £645

Mr. Taylor presented a financial statement showing the sum of for the erection of the new shed.

Not only the success of the 'Club in the past. but its very existence today is due to the work of men like Andrew Taylor.



1914

The start of the European War which was soon to have our members involved in 'hat terrible conflict. Seventy six members of the Club enlisted for active service. Nearly all the young men of the Club were soon to be on their way to the fields of Flanders. the mud of the Somme, the Battle of Pozieres. where -Major Eric Brind. a successful oarsman and Secretary of the Club for many years. lost his life. In all. eleven of our members lost their lives.

With so many: away at the War. regatta racing was abandoned for the duration of the War. Activity at the Club was confined to Club braces.

On the return of the Troops at the end of the War, and with new oarsmen recruited in the past few years, Wendouree was to enter the 1920's and create a decade of success, the like of which we have not seen before or since.

1920-1929

"The Golden Age". During the 1920's, Wendouree experienced a period of success that is unparalleled in its one hundred year history. The club won races at all levels of competition. the most notable successes being those of the senior crews.

Many well known and experienced oarsmen competed for Wendouree during the 1920-s. hut the dominating influences were Jack Jopling and Ray Todd whose names became synonymous with excellence in the sport of rowing. As a pair-oared combination. Jopling and Todd won the State senior title on five occasions (1921-22. 1922-2]. 1923-24, 1925-26 and 1926-27). Whilst winning these five titles. they were also winning races in senior fours and eights. Indeed. between 1921 and 1927, Jopling and Todd each figured in ten State title wins.

Wendouree won the Victorian Senior Four title during the 1922-2] season with a crew which comprised Harry Hawkins (str.), Ray Todd (3) Jack Jopling (2), Fred Walshe bow and Joe O'Keane Cox!. They repeated the win during the 192.1-24 season with a crew seated Jopling (str.). Todd (3). Gordon "Clarrie" Hutchins (2). Walshe (how) and O'Keane (Cox).

In each of the seasons 192]-24. 1924-25 and 1925-20. the Club won the Champion Senior Eight of Victoria race's.

The 1920-24 crew was seated J. Jopling (str.!). R. Todd (7). G. Hutchins (0). F. Yates (5). A. Hall (4). R. PiL.rc.... 1.11. R. Merriman (2). F. Walshe (bow) and D. O'Keane (Cox) Alex Hall Sen.. formerly of the Ballarat Club. was coach.

Immense local pride was generated by the Wendouree eight's win. One staunch supporter. "Aunty Taylor". wife of Boh Taylor. "The Harbour Master of Wendouree". presented the crew members with gold medallions to commemorate their win. She probably found the exercise rather expensive because' there is no record of her repeating).! the presentation in the the following years.

This Wendouree crew represented Victoria in the King's Cup of 1924 in Adelaide. It is recorded that in the King's Cup race. "the boat sank at the mile post on the~ Port Adelaide River course hut they were.' leading at the time". The boat this crew' \\ used was the "Norman Booth". a streak eight which is still in the shed. To help raise the £25



needed to buy the Norman Booth Gus Edwards. the boat builder. a raffle was held. Tickets sold at threepence each.

When Fred Walshe, the bow man of the 1923-24 crew shifted to Adelaide, Stan (Sandy) McGorm came in to the boat for the next two seasons. McGorm had transferred from the Sandhurst Club after winning the State sculling title in 1923. He later joined the Ballarat Rowing Club. Alex King of the Ballarat Rowing Club also came into the 1925 and 1926 crews. He replaced Dan O'Keane as coxswain.

Wendouree was again represented in the 1929 King's Cup. In that year the Victorian Rowing Association decided that the selected King's Cup crew should be subject to challenge for the right to represent the State. A challenge was issued by a combined crew from the three Ballarat Clubs and on Saturday the 13th April, the race was rowed on the Lower Yarra. Apparently the Ballarat crew won, "as they pleased". and the sole selector, Mr. McVilly, informed the V.R.A. that the Ballarat Club's crew would be the Victorian representative. This crew consisted of G. Hutchins (str.). W.R.C S. McGorm (7). B.R.C., H. Grace (6) B.R.C., F. Yates (5) W.R.C., 1. Beattie (4) B.R.C., L. Zillies (3) B.R.C., E. Panther (2), B.R.C., J. Andre (Bow) B.R.c., A. Wilson (cox), J. B. Suffren (coach) B.R.e.

Two other State titles came the way of the Club in the 1920's. Gordon (Clarrie) Hutchins and Alex Hall won the senior pair title in 1927-28, whilst in 1928-29 Hutchins combined with Fred Yates to win the title again.

After the Club's string of successes in eights, fours and pairs it was little wonder that a Wendouree crew comprising 1. Jopling (str.), R. Todd (J), G. Hutchins (2) and R. Merriman (how) was selected by the Victorian Rowing Association to represent the State in a series of races in New Zealand. The crew borrowed a boat and coxswain from the Avahmo Club at Wanganui. In the first race over two miles at Wanganui, Wendouree finished second and then on the same day won over 1 1/2 miles against the same crews. They then went on to win the senior four race at Wellington and a few days later finished second over a two mile course in the New Zealand championships. On the same day they won the consolation race.

Ray Todd described the tour thus: "Two wins and three seconds from five starts -a very successful tour".

Altogether during the 1920's, the Club won twelve State titles and four Victorian Senior Premierships; the latter titles were won in the 1922-23, 1923-24, 1924-25 and 1925-26 seasons.

There were amongst the oarsmen, some outstanding achievements. Jack Jopling stroked more than 40 winning crews for the Club and no doubt Ray Todd was in the same boat for most, if not all of these wins. These two oarsmen rowed in ten of the State titles out of the twelve that the club won during this period.

Another outstanding oarsman of this period was Gordon. "Clarrie" Hutchins. Amongst his wins were "The Champion Sculls of Ballarat". and Champion Senior Eight and Pairs races. All in all he won twenty-nine events during his career before taking up coaching with the Club. His career as an oarsman with Wendouree spanned seventeen years. At the 1915 Ballarat Regatta he won the Maiden Sculls and in 1932 he and Ray Pierce, with L. O'Brien (cox). were successful in the Senior Pairs at the Ballarat Regatta of that year.



Ray Pierce rowed for at least ten years with the Club. It is interesting to note that Ray won a novice four race in January 1922, and then went on to row the following season in the Club's Champion Senior Eight.

Of the coxswains of the period, several shared the honours of steering the top crews. J. Halliday. J. O'Keane, J. Gercovich. 1. Creelman and T. Hewitt steered Jopling and Todd to wins in State Senior Pairs titles. Dan O'Keane steered the 1923-24 Champion Senior Eight. whilst Alex. King. then of the Ballarat Club. steered the Senior Eight in the two following years.

Other Club crews competed very successfully during the 1920's. Unfortunately it is not within the scope of this booklet to detail their successes, however. a look at the Ballarat Regatta results for the 1920's will serve to show the type of success the Club was experiencing. Wendouree crews won 24 events at Ballarat Regattas during the decade. More than any other Club.

Travelling to regattas in the 1920's was not just a matter of loading the boats on a trailer. hitching it to a vehicle and setting off. as is done today. Wendouree travelled to many regattas on Taylor's bus which was fitted with solid rubber tyres. On other occasions the Railways provided special trains for travel to Barwon and Colac regattas. Boats were taken from the lake to the Railway Goods' Yard. stacked. one on top of the other on a hand truck. They were then loaded on to open rail trucks for the journey. At the other end the boats had to be collected from the Goods' Yard and carted once again on the hand truck to the regatta: the whole procedure had to be repeated at the end of the day to get the boats home. This method of transporting boats was, however. an improvement on the pre World War One method of carrying the boats by hand to the Station.

From 1901 to 1926 the Club was led by the Hon. Alexander Bell. M.L.C.. This highly respected President was presented with an illuminated address on the occasion of his retirement from office. The address. which still hangs in the Club house. expressed the strong feelings that Club members held for their President. The Hon. Alexander Bell was followed as President by Mr. Norman Booth who held office from 1926-29. Although he was President for a relatively short period of time, Norman Booth had by the time he was elected, become a highly respected member of the Club. Indeed he was held in such esteem that the boat used by the champion senior eight of 1924-25 and 26. carried his name.

Working with these men was Mr. Jack Rawlings who was Secretary from 1924 to 1935. Mr. Rawlings was also responsible for organizing most of the social activities which took place in the Club during that period.

Many others were involved in the administration side of Club activities, during the twenties. These people, together with those who have been mentioned, combined with skilled oarsmen and knowledgeable coaches to create "The Golden Age" of the Wendouree Rowing Club.

1930

Annual Report. "Interest is being taken in the young sons presented to Messrs. Jopling and Todd during the season. We trust that history will repeat itself. and that in years to come Jopling jun. and Todd jun., will make a name for themselves in the Rowing World".



During season 1930-31, your Club suffered a severe loss with the death of the Hon. Alexander Bell, M.L.C. Mr. Bell had occupied the position of President for 25 years.

The 30's were difficult times with many of our members without constant employment, but that great disadvantage seemed to bind the members closer together in their effort to keep the Club active and successful in regatta racing.

A well organized Social Club, that not only looked after the social activities of the Club, but also gave: wonderful financial assistance to the Club was a great asset to the committee in those difficult days.

1933

Jubilee Year. January 21 St. the occasion. the Champion Pair race, rowed on Lake Wendouree. Bob Taylor's "Gem" was chartered for the use of the "old timers" to follow the race. What a great occasion. when friendships were renewed after many years. That evening they gathered at "The Wattle". 180 past and present members from every State in the country: one can feel the atmosphere of that reunion dinner when old warriors met after time had separated them from their deeds of 30-40-50 years ago.

1934

Saw the Club return to winning of championships with a great win in the open lightweight eight: E. Greed (str.). A. Welsh (7). A. Sarah (6), J. Taylor (5), G. Bright (4). A. Heighway (LI)' M. Dunstan (2). E. Powell (how). L. Edwards (Cox).

A transport problem was solved by an invention of Club member Jack Bannon, whereby a frame fitted to a motor bus enabled crews and boats to travel to regattas. saving the Club financially and the members a lot of hard work. It was not surprising to see most of the other Clubs follow our example.

Once again the world was to be plunged into War.

25 members were to enlist for active service as in the First World War -the Club was to lose its Secretary. Sgt. Max Whiteside, who lost his life during the operations on the island of Crete in May. 1941.

Only a few regattas were held during those war years. the Club being run by a few stalwarts under President J. R. Jopling.

1948

Most outstanding success was the winning of the Blue Riband Maiden Eight event at Ballarat and Barwon Regattas. at Ballarat. 18 crews faced the starter: what a sight as this huge field of crews fought their way down the Lake. with Wendouree winning by a clear margin at the finish. The crew coached by Jim Weston and stroked by Jack Nevett was: George Jones (7). Jack Reynolds (6). Bill Williams (5). Jock Heys (4). Don McKenzie (.11) Ron Curnow (2). Bob Carroll (bow), Doug Mayberry (cox). This crew was to repeat a fine double in the junior eights in 1949. coached by Clarrie Hutchins.



The test race for Olympic selection was held on Lake Wendouree on January 3rd. 1951. The Victorian crew coached by Club member. Ray Todd. was successful. gaining the right to represent Australia at the Games in London.

The same year saw the connection of the sewerage and a new shower room no more cold showers with cold wind blowing up through the floor. This room was soon to be put to better use in the dispensing of refreshments on Sunday mornings and on regatta days.

It was decided to change from fixed poppets to swivels in readiness for the 1949-50 season.

Early 1950 saw a change in boat housing to enable a badminton court to be used by Club members and also by other Clubs of the Badminton Association. This court proved a big financial boost to the Club's fund for many years.

1952

Obituary was recorded with deep regret, the passing of Mr. P. D. F. Elliott, our late President and Life Member. Mr. Elliott was a successful oarsman at the turn of the Century and very popular and efficient administrator for many years. The name of Elliott has figured prominently in Wendouree's history, still carried on today by his son Ted, a highly respected Life Member of the Club.

1954

Wendouree won its first Championship for many years when a Junior Four won the Championship on the Lower Yarra against a field of ten crews. The crew comprised: J. Jopling (str.), J. Barnett (3), B. Menzies (2), J. Thomas (bow), R. Widgery (cox), G. Hutchins (coach).

1956

Olympic Games at Ballarat. Wendouree members were to the forefront in helping to stage the greatest rowing event ever to grace Lake Wendouree. Once again, one of Wendouree's most famous sons, Ray Todd was appointed Manager of the Australian team. All the members were proud to see Ray return as an Australian team member to the lake he loved so much. Wendouree were to organise the Olympic Ball at the Civic Hall at the close of the games rowing events -a social occasion enjoyed by members of competing nations as well as Club members and supporters of rowing in Australia.

1958

Our first motor boat was built by Club President Charlie Rimmington, a man who devoted a lot of his time and talents in the administration of the Club for many years.

1960

The first of Australia's National regattas was held on Lake Wendouree with success coming to our coxed pair, P. Fraser and V. Gingell. With one exception, we have competed at every National regatta with a good deal of success.



1963/64

Years that your Club won the Victorian Country Premierships, due to the efforts of a crew that was to become known as the "Cockies Eight", in winning a number of maiden and junior events, and even to row its way to the final of the Champion Eights of Victoria: John Menzies (str.), John Coutts (7), Bill Coutts (6), Ken Fraser (5), Alan Swindon (4), Peter Duffy (3), Melville Charles (2), Graham Wright (bow), Tony Bryant (cox). Eric Waller and Ron Widgery, Coaches.

1965

An interesting achievement was at the Colac Regatta when our crews won every event in which they were entered; five entries, five wins.

1966

The first of our 48 hour rowathons whereby sponsored crews would row for two hour intervals around the lake day and night; a very successful way of raising money.

Projects, 1964 to convert the balcony to a social room and Committee room, with an excellent view of the lake.

Our boat transport problems were solved by the building of a tandem wheel trailer.

1968

A very difficult year; because of the low level of Lake Wendouree our crews had to transfer their training to Lake Burrumbeet.

1972

Saw the incorporation of the Ballarat Rowing Club with the Wendouree Rowing Club. Thus forming the Wendouree Ballarat Rowing Club, together again after 89 years.

1974

National Regatta on our home course. Our Junior Four rowed a magnificent race to come from behind to win the final. The Australian champion crew were: A. McKinley (str.), R. Blanchfield (3), J. Faulkner (2), W. Rickard (bow), R. Young (cox), B. Sarah (coach).

1975

During this year a start was made in restoring the Clubhouse. Over the years the shed was slipping off its foundations. A big job to reblock the entire shed and replace floors at an estimated cost of 525,000.

The ladies of the Club formed the Wendouree Ballarat Associates, and in the years since have not only raised a lot of money for the Club but have helped in the conduct of social evenings for everyone's enjoyment.



1977

For the first time since the 1920's a Wendouree crew was to represent Victoria, coached by Jock Heys. The crew was: B. Horney (bow) -Barwon, J. Burzacott (2), P. Shorten (3). R. Tomczak (4) -Barwon. P. Scott (5), G. Gullock (6), A. Heys (7), M. Cunningham (Str), M. O'Brien (cox), D. J. Cunningham (emergency).

They rowed well both in the Junior Eights and the Youth Eight Championship of Australia. But unfortunately without success. The most notable performance for the season was that of Andrew McKinley. in his first year of sculling he recorded two Maiden Scull wins, a third in State Single Scull Championships, won the Victorian Lightweight Scull title and the Australian Lightweight Sculling Championship in Perth.

Andrew was to successfully defend his title on the Huon River in Tasmania in 1978, and in so doing, was selected to represent Australia in the Lightweight Scull at the World Championships in Copenhagen. Thus becoming the first Wendouree oarsman to represent his country as a competitor.

1979

Our scullers continued their successful run from the 1977-78 season. Bruce Sarah had graduated from junior to senior ranks, winning nine senior races for the season and was selected as Victoria's No.1 sculler for the President's Cup.

Andrew McKinley was selected as the No. 2 sculler and recorded a creditable third placing in the President's Cup behind Ted Hale and Dick Reddall of N.S.W. He then went on to win his third Australian Lightweight sculling championship in the National Regatta.

1980

King's Cup and National Regatta at Ballarat. capped off a good year for Club sculler Gary Gullock, in winning the Junior Sculling Championship of Australia. In all, Gary won nine races for the season, including the South Australian Junior Championship, and was selected to represent Victoria in the Colts team to race against New Zealand in Penrith.

Stuart Moreton was also selected to row in the Colts Eight at the same regatta. Stuart also represented Victoria in the King's Cup crews of 1982-1983.

1983

Gary Gullock won the Champion Scull of Victoria at Lake Wendouree and was selected to represent Victoria in the President's Cup in Perth. Gary finished third in a great race.

If the example set by men like the Hickmans. Dawsons. Donalds. Mahars. Taylors, Elliotts, Todds. Joplings. Halls, Hutchins. Trahars, Rimmingtons. Walters, Widgeys. Rawlings, Gingells is followed by the present day members. then perhaps the brightest page of Wendouree's history has still to be written.' J. Barnett.



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Appendix One

Members Code of Conduct

The Wendouree Ballarat Rowing Club (WBRC) is a community not-for-profit rowing club, which aims to facilitate access to the sport of rowing. All club officials and coaches are volunteers. The club aims to provide a positive sporting environment for the benefit of all members. All participants, coaches, parents, supporters and committee members have a responsibility at all times when representing the club or during any activity held by or under the auspices of WBRC to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, consistent with this Code.

GENERAL CODE

Club Members will:

1. Be a positive role model.
2. Be fair, considerate and honest when dealing with others.
3. Be responsible especially when dealing with people under 18 years of age.
4. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their level of participation, gender, race, cultural background, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability.
5. Not tolerate any harassment, bullying, abuse of, or aggression towards, others.
6. Consider the safety and well-being of participants at all times and contribute to ensuring a safe environment for rowing, training or other activities.
7. Care for and respect all boats, equipment and property.
8. Promote fair play and participation and not a win at all costs approach.
9. Abide by Rowing Victoria (and where appropriate Rowing Australia) rules, regulations and policies.
10. Abide by the local river or other waterway laws, regulations and rules.
11. Respect the role of regatta officials in ensuring that competition is conducted fairly and according to the regatta rules.
12. Abide by the letter and the spirit of WBRC's rules, policies and standards particularly safety policies and respect the decisions of Club Officials.
13. Refrain from any behaviour that may bring WBRC or the sport of rowing into disrepute.
14. Not use performance enhancing drugs or illegal substances.
15. Abide by any Code of Conduct adopted by Rowing Victoria and Rowing Australia from time to time.

COACHES CODE

In addition to the General Code, WBRC Coaches are expected to:

1. Encourage rowers to be frank and honest concerning health issues, illness and injury; encourage rowers to seek medical advice when required; be concerned and cautious with sick or injured athletes.
2. Respect the confidentiality of information that comes to them in the course of their coaching role.
3. Provide feedback to rowers in a manner sensitive to their needs; focus on effort and performance rather than winning or losing.
4. Treat all rowers fairly but as individuals: respect their talent, development stage and potential.



5. Encourage and facilitate rowers' independence and responsibility for their own training, performance, decisions, behaviour and actions.
6. Involve the rowers in decisions that affect them.
7. Encourage rowers to respect one another as individuals regardless of their level of participation.
8. Ensure that the tasks and training set are suitable for the age, experience, ability, goals and physical and psychological conditions of the rowers.
9. Ensure any physical contact with rowers is appropriate to the situation.
10. Avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with persons under 18 years of age, wherever possible.
11. Know and abide by WBRC's rules, policies and standards, in particular safety policies, and encourage rowers to do likewise.

ROWER'S CODE

In addition to the General Code, WBRC rowers (including coxswains) are expected to:

1. Respect the talent, potential and development of fellow rowers and competitors.
2. Be frank and honest with coaches concerning health issues, illness and injury and ability to train within the program requirements.
3. Be responsible for, and be positive in attitude to, their own training and competition.
4. Show concern towards others who may be sick or injured.
5. Cooperate with coaches in the development of training programs.
6. Respect the directions and decisions of coaches.

CLUB OFFICIAL'S CODE

In addition to the General Code, WBRC Officials are expected to:

1. Know and abide by WBRC's rules, policies and standards, and encourage all members to do likewise.
2. Resolve conflicts fairly and promptly in accordance with WBRC's rules, policies and standards.
3. Maintain impartiality.
4. Respect the confidentiality of information which comes to them in the course of their duties.
5. Be aware of WBRC's legal responsibilities.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE

In addition to the General Code, Parents/guardians of junior members of WBRC are expected to:

1. Remember that children participate in sport for their own enjoyment.
2. Focus on effort and performance rather than winning or losing.
3. Provide support without pressure, and encouragement without criticism, to their children and crew members at all times.
4. Never ridicule any child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
5. Show appreciation for good performance by all rowers (including opposing rowers).
6. Respect coaches' or officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
7. Assist coaches to make rowing a safe and positive experience for all participants.
8. Know and abide by WBRC's rules, policies and standards, in particular safety policies and teach children to do likewise



Appendices

Code of Conduct

Code of Behaviour for Coaches

Contact List

Complaints Handling Procedure

Illicit Drugs in Sport

Boat and Equipment

Equipment Allocation List

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