



**NSW ROWING ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2009
KEN BROWN ROOMS, SPORTS HOUSE
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK**

PRESENT

Andrew Rowley (President NSWRA) (Chair), Neil Holmes (Nepean Rowing Club), Wade Hewett (NSWRA Councilor to RA), Norma Perry (NSWRA Director), Barry Moynahan (NSWRA Vice President), Miranda Bennett (UTS Rowing Club), Yasmin L'Estrange (SURDC/SUBC), Tim Wainman (Northern Rivers Rowing Association), Adam Vine-Hall (UTS Rowing Club), Joseph Grech (Balmain Rowing Club), Richard Stanistreet (Leichhardt Rowing Club), Pamela Hubert (The Lakes Rowers), Mick Daffy (Sydney Rowing Club), Petra Macaskill (Sydney Women's MLC), Keith Jameson (NSWRA Vice President), Time Clare (NSWRA Director), Owen Nix (NSWRA Director/Central Districts Rowing Association), Alexander Weilsmann (Balmain Rowing Club), Jannet Pendleton (Drummoyne Rowing Club), Jane Spring (NSWRA Vice President & SUWRC), Steve Taite (Penrith Rowing Club), Mark Williams (NSWRA Director), Mark Campbell (Mosman Rowing Club), James Taylor (Mosman Rowing Club), Sue Philpot (Leichhardt Rowing Club), Murray Clarke OAM (UNSW Rowing Club) & David Evans (CEO NSWRA).

OBSERVERS

Greg Shore (Dobroyd Sailing Club), Michael Morrissey (Victoria Road Community Committee), Alex Elliott (Victoria Road Community Committee), Peter Billington (Dobroyd Aquatic Club) and Alison Taite

APOLOGIES

Apologies were sustained for Torq Murray (Mosman Rowing Club/NSWRA Honorary Solicitor), Doug Donoghue AM (NSWRA Vice President), Margaret Mackenzie (NSWRA Life Member), Greg James (NSWRA Director), Charles Bartlett (NSWRA Director) and Lee Wright (Penrith Rowing Club).

PROXIES

Nil.

WELCOME

The President called the meeting to order and opened the meeting. The President introduced the observers to the meeting advising that an invitation was sent to sporting clubs and Associations affected by developments affecting Sydney Waterways such as the Victoria Road Upgrade, Birkenhead Point Marina Development and Kendal Bay Marina.

THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL GENERAL MEETING

That the minutes of the General Meeting of the 10th June 2008 be adopted as a true and correct record.

MOVED: Barry Moynahan

SECONDED: Wade Hewett

CARRIED: Resolution 006/2009

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

TO CONSIDER BUSINESS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

That the application for membership as a Constituent Member, Regional Club from Kinross Wolaroi be accepted.

MOVED: Mark Williams

SECONDED: Tim Clare

CARRIED: Resolution 007/2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President paid tribute to the work of the staff; David Evans, Georgie Lee, Kellie Neville and Paul Coates along with the Boat Race Officials and volunteers in organising and hosting the 2009 NSWRA Championships and Youth Day. The sponsors, the University of Sydney Faculty of Economics and Business were delighted with the outcome of their involvement. In particular the President praised the work of those involved in planning for contingencies as a result of the forecast extreme high temperatures that were ultimately faced over the weekend. It was acknowledged that the State Championships are a major event requiring considerable effort from many people and the temperatures that were reached over the weekend only made for more work under very trying conditions. The meeting was advised that the Australian Rowing Championships were scheduled to commence at Lake Barrington, Tasmania on Monday 2nd March and the announcement of the New South Wales Team to compete at the Interstate Regatta on Sunday 8th March will be announced tomorrow, Wednesday 11th February.

CEO'S REPORT

The CEO reiterated the sentiments of the President in relation to the efforts of those involved in the delivery of the 2009 NSWRA Championships and "YOUTH DAY". Securing a naming rights sponsor was a major achievement and those involved in bringing about the partnership with the University of Sydney Faculty of Economics and Business are to be congratulated. The CEO thanked the office staff; Georgie Lee, Paul Coates and Kellie Neville for their contribution during an exceptionally busy period as we have been working concurrently with the Kings Cup Committee to organize the Kings Cup Lunch at the Four Seasons Hotel on Friday 13th February along with State Championships, Waterways issues and a full regatta season. The CEO introduced the President, Mr Andrew Rowley to the representatives of clubs and Associations affected by overdevelopment of waterways and asked that each of them introduce themselves to the meeting. Greg Shore (Dobroyd Sailing Club), Michael Morrissey (VRCC), Alex Elliott (VRCC) and Peter Billington (Dobroyd Aquatic Club) introduced themselves to the NSWRA February General Meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chairman introduced Murray Clarke to the meeting and asked that he deliver a report. Murray provided the meeting with a list of issues and some proposed actions in an attempt to halt the considerable overdevelopment that is impacting rowing and other non-motorised activities on the Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River. Murray spoke in relation to:

Development around Rozelle & Blackwattle Bays including the impact of the dry boat store and superyacht marina. The proposed removal of the old Glebe Island Bridge and opening this area to larger vessels and the relocation of dragonboats from Blackwattle Bay

Developments threatening rowing and safe navigation around Iron Cove including the compromised Balmain course, the Victoria Road upgrade new bridge and the effect of destroying the 2,000 metre rowing course, the expansion of the Birkenhead Point Marina, additional activity from Drummoyne Sailing Club, Jim Wawn's facility and other users being forced into the area such as dragonboats.

The Parramatta River has become a safety hazard for passive aquatic users and small recreational vessels. The proposed Kendall Bay Marina is inappropriate for the area as are proposed ramps and Dry Boat Storage in Homebush Bay. The waterways do not have adequately located or serviced boat ramps and with Waterways being self funded they are keen to see marina development proceed.

Murray reported on the status of negotiations and the regular meetings with NSW Maritime and also the structure of NSW Maritime. Murray reported on the regular Maritime forum where NSWRA and constituent clubs meet, that Maritime is self funded and will approve permission to lodge development applications for marina and dry boat storage projects and that regular meetings and debate is held with Maritime Managers such as the CEO Steve Dunn, Commercial Vessels Manager Howard Glenn, Property Manager Bruce Green and Recreational Vessels Manager Trevor Williams.

Murray advised the meeting that the NSWRA had commenced a strategy where letters have been sent to Ministers who have some impact on the development processes and waterways. These include; Frank Sartor, Joe Tripodi, Angela D'Amore, Verity Firth and Barry O'Farrell along with representatives from local councils such as Sydney City Council – Councillor Marcelle Hoff, Leichhardt City Council – Mayor Jamie Parker and City of Canada Bay Mayor – Angelo Tsirekas

Looking ahead Murray recommended that the NSWRA join the Boat Owners Association, that NSWRA members create a passive boating organization and that both the NSWRA and the passive boating association become more politically active.

The Meeting debated the issue of engaging the Opposition in its lobbying efforts and the general consensus was that the Association should pursue all avenues of redress. There is a need for a Sydney Harbour Plan to be developed and this should be referred to the NSWRA Board or Bay Clubs Forum.

Alex Elliott (VRCC) addressed the meeting and stated that from his experience with the Bridge to Bay Alliance and in relation to the Victoria Road Upgrade appeasement (of politicians) will not work. Regular meetings can be held with Councils, RTA and others but there is little or no likelihood of change resulting from such meetings. Alex believes it is naïve to expect the RTA or Government to change the proposed structure of the Iron Cove Bridge.

Jane Spring provided the meeting with an update of meetings that have been held with the Member for Balmain, Verity Firth and the outcome of the Callan Park issue. Jane supported the move to lobby more widely and recommended that a series of emotive pieces be written to highlight areas of the sport that will be affected such as youth rowing and the success of our Olympians who have used this area for over 100 years.

Barry Moynahan suggested that a public protest be staged, preferably on the water and possibly from Breakfast Point to the Bridge. Barry also raised concerns over the cost of hire for the Sydney International Regatta Centre and that losing the 2,000 metre Iron Cove course may see an increased reliance on SIRC and an associated increase in financial burden on the NSWRA and its members.

Petra Macaskill raised the issues of public perception of rowing such as being seen as “elitist” and that the majority of the general public do not identify with the sport. Any lobby or protest must be seen to include all rowers and provide a broad cross-section to show the full impact on a wide range of people.

Jannet Pendleton lent her support to any passive water users group that may be formed as a result of discussions at this General Meeting.

Mark Campbell spoke in relation to the safety issues on the Parramatta River and also that waterways are public open space and not the exclusive domain of ferries and other motorized craft.

Murray Clarke stressed that while Iron Cove is the base of rowing and location of the course we must be careful that other waterways are then declared “no row zones”. The Bay Clubs Forum (Bay Clubs Alliance) will need to address this issue.

The Chairman suggested that this meeting was the first step in creating a lobby group from all affected users of the metropolitan waterways and that an appropriate name should be given and membership sought from as wide a range as possible.

Jane Spring recommended that a website be developed and interested parties could join electronically. Involvement in the Rally to be held on Sunday 29th March by the VRCC would be encouraged.

Greg Shore (Dobroyd Sailing Club) stated that there were many issues being faced by the sailing club including wash and boat speed.

That NSWRA club involvement in the Victoria Road Community Rally on Sunday 29th March be allowed.

MOVED: Jane Spring

SECONDED: Norma Perry

CARRIED: Resolution 008/2009

That the NSWRA assist in the formation of an alliance and the calling for expressions of interest.

MOVED: Jane Spring

SECONDED: Jannet Pendleton

CARRIED: Resolution 009/2009

The Chairman clarified that the group would be at arms length from the NSWRA and would seek to comprise members from Yachting, Canoeing, Dragon Boat, Outrigger Canoe clubs and Associations.

That the NSWRA join the Boat Owners Association.

MOVED: Murray Clarke

SECONDED: Norma Perry

CARRIED: Resolution 010/2009

Jane Spring extended her thanks and congratulations to those involved in the 2009 NSWRA Championships and "YOUTH DAY" on their fair and sensible decisions in relation to cancellation of races stating that the circumstances were very well handled.

Murray Clarke echoed the sentiments and stated that those who reviewed the program are to be congratulated for doing a fantastic job of reviewing the events to be contested in the shortened program.

The CEO advised the meeting that those most heavily involved and to be recognized were Paul Coates, Greg Smith and Tim Wainman.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

Next General Meeting: Tuesday 14th April 2009

Approved

Chairman / /2009