

**Head of the Yarra 2011
Saturday 26th November**

headoftheyarra.com



**PROUDLY PRESENTED BY
HAWTHORN ROWING CLUB**

Newsletter



September 2011

***Entries close Sunday, 6 November
(3 weeks in advance)***

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For enquiries or further information, please go to www.headoftheyarra.com or contact:

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1. **Race Entries Close Sunday, 6 November**

Race entries must be lodged with the ROMS entry system by 7pm on Sunday, 6 November.

The 2011 entry fee is \$47 per oar or \$376 per crew. Do not send payment – your club / school will be invoiced directly by Rowing Victoria.

The entry fee includes Rowing Victoria levies and charges of \$6.60. The additional \$15 this year provides all rowers and coxswains with a Head of the Yarra t-shirt (*last year's selling price \$35*) and each crew with a Souvenir Race Program. (*see Newsletter #1 for more information*)

Please also refer to our Newsletter #1 from August for more details in relation to;

- the timetable for the provisional and final draws
- the meeting at Hawthorn Rowing Club on Wednesday 16 November for race draw submissions
- race categories and start order for race categories
- a summary of race day events throughout the day

2. **Club ROMS Entry Administrators**

Club and School ROMS Entry Administrators play a critical role with Head of the Yarra entries, as for all race entries. Please note the following in order to minimise problems with your entries.

- All Australian entries must be via ROMS and your Club / School ROMS Administrator. If you wish to enter the Head of the Yarra and you don't know who your Club / School ROMS Administrator is, you need to find out soon!
- All entrants must be a registered and financial member of an affiliated state rowing association or school. Near disasters frequently occur when ROMS Administrators attempt to enter new rowers, or rowers entering for the first time for the season. If ROMS cannot recognise a rower as an affiliated and financial member, their entry (*and that of the crew*) is rejected.
- Club ROMS Administrators must have all crew members up-to-date and registered with the State Rowing Association and on ROMS before the crew can be entered. Administrators should check member registration with the State Rowing Authority in the first instance if there are entry problems.
- Composite crews may be represented in Masters, Mixed and the Open categories. Composite is not permitted in school categories, or the B, C and D race categories.
- If you plan to row composite with another club, make sure ***your*** club's ROMS Administrator is aware of this. This is necessary because should a rower be entered in a composite crew by the ROMS Administrator of another club, Rowing Victoria requires the authorisation of the rower's club before the crew entry can be accepted into ROMS. ie Your club's ROMS Administrator has to certify your club will accept the entry invoice in relation to your entry.
- Please therefore plan your entries early so you have time to deal with any rower entry problems.
- Do not send payment with ROMS entries. Your club / school will be invoiced directly by Rowing Victoria.
- All entrants must wear their club attire. Composite crews therefore will be displaying multiple uniforms.

3. **International Race Entries**

International entries must be made via post or email - entry form available from the Head of the Yarra website.

Please note that international competitors are required to pay a small insurance levy to Rowing Victoria. Information about this insurance levy is detailed on the entry form for international competitors.

4. Head of the Yarra Souvenir Programs

The race program this year will again be a great souvenir for competitors, family and spectators alike. Popular features include;

- photos of 2010 winning crews at the presentations
- finish order and times for all crews in 2010
- full crew lists of all 2010 winning crews
- winning crews and times by race category for the last 5 years
- crews lists and grid positions for all 2011 crews

The 2011 Souvenir Program will be available for \$10 at the Race Eve Briefing at Hawthorn Rowing Club. On race day, it will be available,

- at the merchandise stalls at the finish line,
- from the HOY Race Registrar, near the front of Mercantile Rowing Club (City boatshed area) on race morning
- at the HOY Start Line Control Point at the start line

Roving program sellers will be at the Big Bend area at various times during race day.

5. Head of the Yarra Volunteers sought

Being the largest annual regatta in Australia brings unique challenges. Our greatest challenge is not technology, race timing or handling 200 eights racing up the river. It is securing the 160 + plus volunteers we need each year to make the event work on race day.

We are now at the point of having exhausted the capacity and goodwill of HRC members, family & friends. The same applies to Race Officials volunteering through Rowing Victoria.

This year we are therefore again putting out a call for Expressions Of Interest from volunteers to assist us on race day.

This can be done by sending a note to hoj-enq@hawthornrowingclub.com, outlining any special skills or experience you might have, as well as your rowing experience.

6. Seeking / Offering Boats, Coxswains & Rowers

For all questions, comments and communications in relation to the Head of the Yarra, we are pleased to now offer The Official Head of the Yarra Forum hosted on the Hawthorn Rowing Club website.

Its fast, easy to use and all you need to do is register and you are ready to start posting. We suggest the Forum is particularly useful for all those seeking or offering boats, coxswains and rowers.

Register today at http://www.hawthornrowingclub.com/HRC_Forum/

Just Remember always respect your fellow rower when making a post.

7. Race Category Changes Not Possible After The Final Draw Is Settled

The uniqueness of the HOY as a time trial event presents unique timing logistics for us. We cannot therefore process crew changes as for “normal regattas.”

Crew changes that change the category of your crew cannot therefore be accepted after the final grid is determined.

We need to insist upon this because moving a crew between race categories after the final draw compromises the integrity of our grid positions and puts our timing processes at risk.

8. No Coxswain Weigh In Required

Please note that there are no minimum coxswain weights for the Head of the Yarra. Accordingly, there is no weighing in requirement for coxswains.

9. Boating At Hawthorn / Finish Line Precinct

Boat trailers arriving at Hawthorn should approach the entrance to Yarra Bank Reserve from the east, ie straight on from Denham Street. (Refer Melways Map 2H Ref J6. This approach must be taken because it is not possible for a boat trailer to complete the sharp left or right turn into Yarra Bank Reserve from Creswick Street.

Please note that current advice from the local Council is that they will again *not* be issuing us with a permit to close Creswick Street (the street at the top of the Reserve) for trailer parking. We are extremely disappointed with this position and understand how this makes trailer parking difficult (*the same applies at the city end*).

It is worth noting that it would be unworkable to have trailers parked in the Reserve or in the boatshed area near Hawthorn Rowing Club.

In relation to boats, they can stay on trestles in the Reserve from Thursday afternoon until Friday afternoon when boat racks for 200 eights will be erected.

Hawthorn Rowing club is providing professional security in Yarra Bank Reserve on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to keep a watchful eye on your equipment.

10. Boating At The Princes Bridge / Start Line Precinct

Whilst we provide boat racking at the finish line, we are not able to provide this service at the Princes Bridge start line area. You may care to contact some of the Princes Bridge clubs to seek out assistance in advance if this is going to be an issue for you.

Overnight security is provided at the start line area on Friday and Saturday nights. Boats should be stored;

- in the area between Richmond Rowing Club and Princes Bridge, and
- behind Melbourne University boatshed

where security will be set up for the protection of your equipment.

11. Race Eve Briefing

We urge all crews and coxswains to attend the race eve briefing at Hawthorn Rowing Club from 6pm Friday 25 November. The briefing will address:

- advice for coxswains negotiating the race course
- race rules and safety
- emergency arrangements and obtaining medical assistance if required
- “need to know” issues for competing on race day

We will also have HOY merchandise and programs available for purchase at this time.

**12. Collection of Race Numbers and Race Packs
between 3pm – 6pm Friday 25 November**

Race packs must be collected this year because we are distributing t-shirts to all rowers and coxswains – as well as safety information and a program for each crew.

Please note that collection of race numbers and race packs on Friday night at Hawthorn Rowing Club between 3pm and 6pm is strongly encouraged. This is in line with arrangements that all other major mass participation sport events now adopt (ie triathlons and fun runs). This will ease the burden on all concerned on the morning of the race when we are all busy with getting ready to race.

Race Numbers

To collect your race numbers, we require a refundable deposit of \$20. For this you receive a bow number for your boat, a number for your bow rower and a number for your coxswain.

As a fall back measure, we will continue to have the Race Registrar in front of Mercantile Rowing Club from 8am to 10am on the morning of the race.

Race numbers should be returned to the “*Number Return Stall*” set up between the Hawthorn Rowing Club and Xavier College boat sheds from 11.30am.

Race Packs

Race packs (and T-shirts) not collected on the Friday night will be available for collection from Hawthorn Rowing Club (at the finish line) between 8am - 10am on race morning. Beyond that, we cannot guarantee having club volunteers available to meet you at a later time.

13. Scratchings and Crew Changes

Please remember that crew changes that change the category of a crew will not be accepted after the Final Draw is settled.

Scratchings or crew changes are to be provided to Rowing Victoria up until cob the Thursday before race day – 24 November. After that, scratching and crew changes (*that do not change the race category of the crew*) are to be handed to the Race Registrar at the start line area on race day.

14. Announcement of Results

Early Race Categories

We understand that race day is a very long day for those competing early. It can indeed be a long wait for results. Because of this, we will be announcing the results of the first 6 race categories as the results are determined. These categories are;

Male Masters H+, Women’s D, Women’s C, Female Masters E+, Female Masters D, Female Masters B/C

The results for these categories will be posted on a notice board at the front of Hawthorn Rowing Club as they are determined (*subject to any race protests or umpire reports to be dealt with*). However, medallions for these race categories will continue to be presented as part of the formal Head of the Yarra presentation ceremony.

Full Results

We aim to publish the full race results on the Head of the Yarra website by 6pm on race day. People leaving the regatta before the presentations can therefore check the results that evening on the internet.

15. Finish Line Safety Requirements

The highest risk factor we have is a cluttered finish line with finishing crews smashing into each other or having to stop before the finish line. In this scenario, we will have to stop the race and call all results a “no event.” This would be a terrible outcome for all concerned.

A cluttered finish line will occur if crews;

- attempt to take the closest boat rack and therefore hold up crews behind them,
- do not immediately remove their oars from the finish line staging and therefore render the staging unusable by following crews,
- are slow to remove boats from the finish line staging and stop to have a “breather” drink or chat about the race, or
- stop at the finish line and do not keep rowing to the turn around buoys upstream from the finish line.

It is therefore very important for all crews to be mindful of,

a. Crossing The Finish Line

It is important that crews do not stop at the finish line.

All crews must continue rowing lightly having crossed the finish line. We need you to keep rowing beyond the finish line bridge up to the turn around buoy. Officials will direct crews at the finish, and time penalties will be enforced for not adhering to finish line instructions.

b. Getting Your Boat Off The Finish Line Staging

We all understand how wonderful it is to finally get out of the boat after racing 8.6kms in the Head of the Yarra. But it is important for all crews to quickly clear the staging for following crews so they can get off the water. Following crews need to get off the water so that the on-water finish line does not become cluttered.

c. Removing Oars From The Finish Staging

Please remove your crew’s oars from the staging asap. This is a high priority because the staging can only hold so many sets of oars – certainly not 200 sets of eight oars! The staging area will quickly become unusable if crews do not cooperate in this regard.

d. Boat Racking

Please follow instructions from boat rack officials who will direct you to the next available boat rack. Crews by necessity cannot take the closest boat rack. Boat racks must be filled from the rear of the reserve – else we will have a traffic jam that will prevent crews getting off the staging and potentially stop the race in a worst case scenario. Please cooperate with us in following the direction of the boat rack officials.

All of the above is based on the highest risk factor we face with the event – a cluttered finish line and logjam. *In this regard, please be mindful at all times of the crews and any logjam following behind you.*

16. Head of the Yarra Housekeeping Matters

We have to ask that you be mindful of some important matters so that the race runs smoothly for all concerned.

Race Uniforms

All crews must race in official club uniforms. For composite crews, each rower must wear the uniform of his / her club. Importantly, attire promoting corporate branding such as a retailer is not permitted.

Bringing Alcohol Into Yarra Bank Reserve

Please be aware that Hawthorn Rowing Club has to obtain permits and licences to use the Yarra Bank Reserve on race day. These permits and licences come with strict conditions and obligations on HRC.

In this regard, we are responsible for controlling the responsible consumption of alcohol – especially with thousands of rowers and spectators gathering in the reserve. HRC and our security firm have an obligation to control this alcohol consumption. We are not permitted therefore to allow individuals to bring alcohol into the reserve for private consumption. This responsibility is monitored on the day by frequent police patrols. We ask that you please respect this requirement and not bring alcohol into the reserve.

Private parties, marquees and banners

With thousands of people gathering in Yarra Bank Reserve, we have an obligation to ensure open and free access and movement for all concerned. We understand private BBQs and marquees are common at other regattas. However, the HOY is unique in that we have thousands of people gathering in the reserve. Should we experience many clubs setting up private marquees and banners, free and open access and movement in the reserve will be denied to others.

Please therefore respect the benefit to all of free and open access and movement for all concerned, and refrain from staking claims to parts of the lawn area to the exclusion of others.

17. Requests for “Row Overs” and “Special Events”

Each year we receive requests for crews to row over the course / compete as a “special category.” Please note we cannot accommodate these requests.

The Head of the Yarra is essentially a normal regatta comprising the “standard” Rowing Victoria race categories. As much as we enjoy the Head of the Yarra, it is not a mass participation “fun” event such as a “fun run”.

Importantly, we have to employ sophisticated recording processes with the start timing, finish timing and calculation timing to ensure integrity of every crew’s start and finish time. Complications with boats on the course that are not competing in the race categories present enormous risks and logistical nightmares for us.

Please understand this when we decline your special requests.

18. HOY Party Advertising

Hawthorn Rowing Club is appreciative of the support provided to the Head of the Yarra by many clubs, schools and rowers. We are therefore happy to assist kindred clubs in publicising club events in the race program free of charge. Club hosted regattas and HOY after parties spring to mind. Therefore, if you send us a ¼ A4 page black and white advertisement by Melbourne Cup Day, we will commit to best endeavours to publish your advert in the race program (*subject to layout issues and printer requirements*). Our race commentators will also give your event a plug during day over the PA.

You are also of course welcome to make a post on the Head of the Yarra Forum.

The Head of the Yarra Organising Committee and Hawthorn Rowing Club wish all our competitors and visitors a successful and enjoyable day on 26 November.