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INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

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Newsletter No. 2

October 18, 2016

Race Day November 26th 2016

**Entries close 7pm, Sunday, November 6,
(3 weeks in advance)**

Our sponsors:



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

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Andrew Vogan: 0418 397 423

hoy-enq@hawthornrowingclub.com

1. Race Entries Close Sunday, 6 November

Race entries must be lodged with the ROWING MANAGER entry system by 7pm on **Sunday, 6th November**.

The 2016 entry fee is **\$50 per oar or \$400 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 and provides all rowers and coxswains with a Head of the Yarra t-shirt and each crew with a Souvenir Race Program.

Go to www.headoftheyarra.com for more information including the updated overtaking rule.

The Head of the Yarra Organising Committee is proud to announce that this year's event will include an **LTAMix8+** event.

Athletes wanting to compete in this year's **LTAMix8+** event must hold a Rowing Australia Provisional or National Class-action. If you are unsure of your classification status or require classification, please contact Rowing Australia - thuntly@rowingaustralia.com.au. All other enquiries should be directed to Lachlan Nichols - lachlan.m.nichols@hotmail.com

This year we have also added one category, **Female Masters E**.

Please also refer to our Newsletter #1, Updated October 18, 2016 and originally published July 14, 2016 for more details in relation to;

- the timetable for the provisional and final draws
- race categories and start order for race categories
- race start is 10.30 am
- a summary of race day events throughout the day

The following is a summary of Race Categories & Eligibility, Race Categories and Start Order for 2016

Start Order	Race Category	Eligibility
1	+ Male Masters H-K	MMH+8+ Composite permitted. Average age of crew is 70 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
2	Female D	FD8+ Composite NOT permitted. Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.50.

Start Order	Race Category	Eligibility
3	Female C	FC8+ Composite NOT permitted. Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.00.
4	+ Female Masters E (New Event)	FME8+ Composite permitted. Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
5	+ Female Masters F-K	FMF+8+ Average age of crew is 60 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
6	* Female School Open Division 3	FSCH8+03 Year 10
7	* Male School Open Division 3	MSCH8+03 Year 10
8	+ Female Masters D	FMD8+ Composite permitted. Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
9	+ Female Masters A-C	FMAC8+ Composite permitted. Average age of crew is 27 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
10	+ Mixed Eight E-K	XME8+ Composite permitted. Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more, no minimum age for individual rowers
11	+ Mixed Eight D	XMD8+ Composite permitted. Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more, no minimum age for individual rowers.
12	+ Mixed Eight A-C	X8+ Composite permitted. Average age of crew is 49 years of age or less, no minimum age for individual rowers. All crews that have an average age of 27 or under are subject to the Masters A handicap (scratch).
13	Female School Open Division 2	FSCH8+02
14	Female School Open Division 1	FSCH8+01
15	+ Male Masters F-G	MMFG8+ Composite permitted. Average age of crew is 60 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
16	+ Male Masters E	MME8+ Composite permitted. Average age of crew is 55 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.

Start Order	Race Category	Eligibility
17	Female B	FB8+ Composite NOT permitted. Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 2.50.
18	+ Male Masters D	MMD8+ Composite permitted. Average age of crew is 50 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
19	+ Male Masters A-C	MMAC8+ Composite permitted. Average age of crew is 27 years of age or more with a minimum individual age of 27 years.
20	Male School Open Division 2	MSCH8+02
21	Male D	MD8+ Composite NOT permitted. Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.50.
22	Male C	MC8+ Composite NOT permitted. Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 3.00.
23	Male School Open Division 1	MSCH8+01
24	Male B	MB8+ Composite NOT permitted. Open to crews with a Rowing Score equal to or greater than 2.50.
25	Female Open	FO8+ Composite permitted. Open to rowers of all ages and Rowing Scores.
26	Male Open	MO8+ Composite permitted. Open to rowers of all ages and Rowing Scores.
27	LTAMix8+ (New Event)	XLTA8+ Must hold a Rowing Australia Provisional or National Class action. The order of this event will be determined by entries.

+ Indicates Masters handicaps apply

* Indicates schools must enter their top ranked crews in Div. 1 before entering crews in Div. 2 and 3.

Where a school has 10 rowers they may be entered in Div. 3.

For your planning, please note that it will not be possible to accommodate requests to move crews to the rear of the grid to facilitate boat / coxswain recycling. This is an outcome of racing the Head of the Yarra in race categories.

Grid Positions

HRC wishes to implement a transparent ranking system for the HoTY race order.

It is recognised that a starting position at the front of a class is an advantage for a crew. HRC seeks to use historically based ranking to reward clubs who have supported the event and classes previously. Fastest first also should extend boat separation along the course, rather than to compress boat separation. Compressed boat separation may cause collisions and may also prejudice fair racing and the orderly conduct of the race.

Previously, an attempt was made to consider crew composition for the current entry with the previous year's result. Often the crew would change and it would be difficult for the HOTA Organising Committee to rank multiple crews from the same club.

The entries are made by the clubs following each club's selection policy.

The requirement for 2016 will be that clubs rank their entries 1, 2, etc. 1 is the highest ranking.

For example, a club would nominate particular crew as MD8+ 1, and then the next ranked crew as MD8+ 2 and so on. This may mean that rowers in reorganised crews move up or down the rankings compared to the previous year.

Composite crews will be nominated by the club providing most rowers in crew, or if equal highest, the club providing the stroke will nominate.

Such composite crews will form part of the ranking sequence of the nominating club.

The general principle is that the ranking advantage is held by the entering club. Individuals or part crews should negotiate with their own club about ranking order if there are multiple entries in the same class. The HOTA OC will not interfere with the club ranking. Clubs should be aware that the rankings submitted at the close of entries will be final, and that it may be prudent for clubs to control entries for the race closely in order to avoid clubs being disadvantaged by conflicting entries. Best efforts will be made in 2016 to resolve such issues if they occur.

The process for 2016 will be that the clubs rank their crews and that this ranking will be linked by the HOTA OC to the finishing order of that club's boats in 2015 irrespective of individual rowers. So, the 2016 entries will be ordered by pairing with the 2015 results where possible. This linkage will create the top crew rankings for 2016. Some clubs will not enter in 2016 and their place will disappear from the 2016 race order.

Clubs with no history in the HOTY, or additional crews to the previous year's entry of a club will be randomly ordered after the club ranked crews are ordered.

The HOTY OC reserves the right to provide preferential ranking for international and representative first time crews based upon their expected performance.

The requirement for 2016 will be that clubs rank their entries 1, 2, etc. 1 is the highest ranking.

2. Club ROWING MANAGER Entry Administrators

Club and School ROWING MANAGER 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 ROWING MANAGER and your Club / School ROWING MANAGER Administrator. If you wish to enter the Head of the Yarra and you don't know who your Club / School ROWING MANAGER 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 ROWING MANAGER Administrators attempt to enter new rowers, or rowers entering for the first time for the season. If ROWING MANAGER cannot recognise a rower as an affiliated and financial member, their entry (*and that of the crew*) is rejected.
- Club ROWING MANAGER Administrators must have all crew members up-to-date and registered with the State Rowing Association and on ROWING MANAGER 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.
- Clubs must order their own crews in the same class. This is a **change** for this year. See **Grid Positions** in Section 1 above.
- 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 ROWING MANAGER Administrator is aware of this. This is necessary because should a rower be entered in a composite crew by the ROWING MANAGER Administrator of another club, Rowing Victoria requires the authorisation of the rower's club before the crew entry can be accepted into ROWING MANAGER i.e. Your club's ROWING MANAGER 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 ROWING MANAGER 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 winning crews at the presentations
- finish order and times for all crews in 2015
- full crew lists of all 2015 winning crews
- winning crews and times by race category for the last 5 years
- list of crews and grid positions for all 2016 crews

The 2016 Souvenir Program will be available for \$5 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 HotY Race Registrar, near the front of Mercantile Rowing Club (City boatshed area) on race morning
- at the HotY Start Line Control Point at the start line

Rowing 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.

Please respond through this link:

<https://www.trybooking.com/MZRD>

Or this can be done by sending a note to hoy-eng@hawthornrowingclub.com, outlining any special skills or experience you might have, as well as your rowing experience.

6. Seeking / Offering Boats, Coxswains & Rowers

We ask clubs and rowers to use the Head of the Yarra Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HeadoftheYarraPage> to make requests or offers concerning boats, crew members, coxswains, etc. Requests and offers will also be placed on the HOTY website at <http://headoftheyarra.com/special-messages/> (email webmaster@hawthornrowingclub.com).

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 HoTY 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 5pm Thursday 17th November**.

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. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

Refer to document **2016 Traffic Management and Security Arrangements** which has been sent with this email and is also available on the HOTY Webpage.

10. 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.

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

Race packs must be collected 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 Nov 25, 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 do not require a refundable deposit. You will receive a bow number for your boat, a number for your bow rower and a number for your coxswain.

Additionally, we will continue to have the Race Registrar in front of Mercantile Rowing Club from 8am to 12pm on the morning of the race. Crews are encouraged to collect their numbers well before race start time.

All bow numbers are to be returned to Recovery Officials upon leaving the water.

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 - on race morning to 2pm. Beyond that, we cannot guarantee having club volunteers available to meet you at a later time.

12. 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. 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.

13. 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 aim to announce the results of these early race categories as the results are determined. The categories are:

Male Masters H-K, Female D, Female C, Female Masters F-K, Female Masters E, Female Masters D, Female Masters A-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.

14. 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 turnaround 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 turnaround 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.*

15. Crews Returning to the City

The Yarra River will be OPEN after the regatta. Those crews returning to Princess Bridge rowing sheds must observe Yarra River navigation rules.

In particular, **all crews must travel downstream of Princess Bridge before turning to approach the boat landing.**

Do not turn upstream of the Princess Bridge as you may endanger yourselves and others.

This area is shared with the powered four boat operators.

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. We will however allow composite crews to wear novel strips provided these have been approved in writing by the Organising Committee.

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.

Those marquees that have been authorised must not use stakes in the ground anywhere due to damage to irrigation and other services.

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. Accommodation

Looking for accommodation for the 2016 Head of the Yarra?
Go no further than the Amora... situated right on the finish line with great access to the river and City trams & go into the draw to win a free nights accommodation in a Deluxe Courtyard Queen Room including breakfast valued at approximately \$395. Book early for accommodation & Dinner or space for post-race drinks & canapés
03 9246 1200

res.@melbourne.amorahotels.com.au

Amora Hotel Riverwalk -supporting Hawthorn Rowing Club and the Head of the Yarra

19. 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 HOTY after parties spring to mind. Therefore, if you send us a ¼ A4 page black and white advertisement by October 25, 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 race day.