

GOLDEN OAR

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PROGRAM

2026

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Foreword

Twelve months ago we finished this page with three words: We have arrived! This year we can add three more. We are staying.

Golden Oar 2025 set out to build a new tradition on Lake Burley Griffin, a world-class mixed sculling regatta inspired by Henley, Lucerne and the Head of the Charles but unmistakably Canberra. In its first year it delivered, and the rowing world noticed.

They noticed enough to come. The Open Mixed Quads bring Olympic and World champions from around ten nations, among them Adriana Adam and Simona Radiş of Romania, the Sinković brothers of Croatia, Fintan McCarthy and Philip Doyle of Ireland, Karolien Florijn of the Netherlands, Lucy Spoor and Brooke Francis of New Zealand, and Australia's own Tara Rigney, Laura Gourley, Georgie Rowe, Alex Hill and Angus Dawson, alongside athletes from the United States, Germany, Serbia and Lithuania. Between them they hold more than fifty Olympic and World Championship gold medals. We also welcome Uganda Para Rowing, here to see how the Golden Oar can become part of their pathway to Los Angeles 2028. That is Rowing for All in action.

The Golden Oar 2026, presented by Canberra Airport and hosted by Red Shed, runs from Friday 30 October to Sunday 1 November. Three days this year, not two. Friday opens Canberra's Sunset Beach and the new Canberra Coastal Rowing Arena with a beach sprint demonstration and a Mixed Doubles eliminator, crews drawn from a hat so an

Australian and an international star share every boat, racing to a final by sunset. Saturday and Sunday bring back the format that makes this regatta what it is: a 1500m side-by-side race, a 3km time trial and a 450m sprint finishing in front of the Red Shed. All five categories return, joined by a Club Mixed Eight. More than 700 athletes will race across the weekend.

The Golden Oar was never meant to be just a regatta. It is a festival. The Y brings families and kids onto the peninsula all weekend. The Pro-Am puts Olympians in the same boat as young talent and our corporate crews. Wild Swim takes it into the lake. Row Nation brings rowing to people who have never held an oar. Add live music, buskers and food along the shore, and nobody has to be a rower to belong.

We have nearly doubled the prize money. More than \$200,000 in cash prizes and athlete support is on offer, one of the largest purses in international rowing, and we will keep building it until the Golden Oar offers \$1 million. We want the best in the world circling the first weekend of November in Canberra every year, with every club, school, masters and para crew on the same water.

None of this happens without our sponsors and event partners. Last year they backed an idea. This year they have backed a result, and many more have joined them. To every one of them, thank you.

Red Shed is a not-for-profit with a simple mission: Rowing for All, Inspire Wellness and Foster Community. Every dollar the Golden Oar generates goes back into rowing and the people who take part in it. That is the point of the whole exercise.

YEAR TWO. BIGGER. BETTER. BOLDER. ENJOY THE RACING!

SARAH COOK

Chief Executive Officer,
Rowing Australia



JOHN GASSON

President,
RED SHED Inc



From our major sponsors



A Tradition Takes Shape On The Lake

Last year, Canberra welcomed rowers from around the world for the inaugural Golden Oar, and our city showed what it does best: bringing people together. Canberra Airport was proud to be there from the first stroke as Presenting Partner, and we are delighted to continue in that role for 2026.

The first regatta proved what this event can be. It brought world-class racing to Lake Burley Griffin, filled the foreshore with families and fans, and gave visitors from interstate and overseas a reason to discover the capital. As the gateway to the Canberra region, we share that ambition: a city that is outward-looking, community-minded and ready to host the world.

Getting people here is what we do best. With direct flights from Canberra and connections to more than 180 destinations worldwide, we make it easier for athletes, coaches and fans to reach the capital, and for Canberrans to chase goals of their own. Every visitor the regatta brings helps put Canberra on the international sporting calendar, with real benefits for local businesses, tourism operators and the families who call this city home.

To the competitors, teams and supporters joining us from across Australia and around the world: welcome back, or welcome for the first time. To the volunteers and officials, thank you. Your energy, care and professionalism are what turn a great idea into a great event.

On behalf of Canberra Airport, congratulations to the organisers, partners and community on bringing Golden Oar back for its second year. What began as a seed is now taking root, and we are proud to help it grow into a Canberra tradition: world-class, welcoming and community-minded.

STEPHEN BYRON
Chief Executive Officer
Capital Airport Group



We're pleased to support the Golden Oar again in 2026.

The event brings together elite athletes, community rowers and families in a genuine celebration of rowing. It reflects values that matter to us at Alceon: commitment, teamwork and enduring partnership.

Alceon was founded on the belief that private capital should be personal, principled and aligned. We build long-term relationships with the businesses and people we support, working together towards shared goals. Rowing demands much the same: trust, discipline and a crew prepared to go the distance together.

To every athlete on the water and every supporter on the shore, welcome to Lake Burley Griffin. We hope you enjoy three outstanding days of racing.

DAVID GRIBBLE
CEO and Partner,
Alceon



Construction Control are proud to support initiatives that bring people together and celebrate the unique spirit of our community. The Red Sheds' Golden Oar has quickly become a fixture on Canberra's calendar, showcasing the strength of connection and local pride that makes our city such a great place to live and work.

Events like this remind us that success is built through commitment, teamwork, and a willingness to contribute to something bigger than ourselves. These are values that guide our business every day and continue to shape the projects and partnerships we build across the region.

We congratulate the organisers, volunteers, sponsors, and participants whose dedication and continued efforts makes this event once again possible. Construction Control is honoured to support the Red Shed and proud to play a part in an event that reflects the very best of Canberra.

PETE PAYTEN
Managing Director,
Construction Control

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SUPABARN

Schedule Day 1 – Friday 30 Oct

TIME	LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN	RED SHED	PREMIUM HOSPITALITY
12:00pm	Mixed Doubles Training		Friday Afternoon
1:00pm			
2:00pm			
2:30pm			
3:00pm	GO Mixed Doubles & Corporate 'Spring Fling' Regatta		
3:30pm			
4:00pm			
4:15pm			
4:30pm			
4:45pm			
5:00pm			
5:15pm			
5:30pm			
5:45pm			
6:00pm			
6:15pm			
6:30pm		Mixed Doubles & Corporate Presentations	
6:45pm			
7:00pm			

Schedule Day 2 – Saturday 31 Oct

TIME	LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN	RED SHED	PREMIUM HOSPITALITY
8:00am	Boating & Warmup for 1500m Races		
8:30am			
9:00am	Rowing 1500m Race (Yarramundi Reach)	Food & Merch Opens	Saturday
10:00am		Casuarina Lawn: Cardboard Boat Regatta Construction (12+)	
11:00am			
11:15am			
11:30am			
11:45am			
12:00pm	Canberra Wild Swim		
12:15pm			
12:30pm	Rowing Pro-Am Dash		
12:45pm			
1:00pm			
1:15pm			
1:30pm	YMCA Cardboard Boat Regatta	Face Painting & Other Kids Activities	
1:45pm			
2:00pm	RowNation Ergometer Relay Challenge		
2:15pm			
2:30pm			
2:45pm			
3:00pm	Kids (3+) Activity Tent at Casuarina Lawn SAT & SUN 10:00am – 2:00pm	Live Entertainment	Saturday
3:15pm			
3:30pm			
3:45pm			
4:00pm			
4:15pm			
4:30pm			
4:45pm			
5:00pm			
5:15pm			
5:30pm			
5:45pm			
6:00pm			
6:15pm			
6:30pm			
6:45pm			
7:00pm			

Coffee available from 7AM!

TIME	LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN	RED SHED	PREMIUM HOSPITALITY
8:30am	GO 3km Time Trial Racing	Kids (3+) Activity Tent at Casuarina Lawn SAT & SUN 10:00am – 2:00pm	Sunday
8:45am			
9:00am			
10:00am			
11:00am			
11:15am			
11:30am			
11:45am			
12:00pm	GO 450m Sprint Racing		
12:15pm			
12:30pm			
12:45pm			
1:00pm			
1:15pm			
1:30pm			
1:45pm			
2:00pm			
2:15pm		Awards Presentation	
2:30pm			
2:45pm			
3:00pm			

Coffee available from 7AM!

PREMIUM HOSPITALITY

Right on the water, looking straight down the course, with premium catering and Laurent-Perrier behind the bar, the hospitality marquee is a fantastic option for those looking to enjoy the Golden Oar weekend in style. Four sessions across the weekend and you can take as many or as few as you like.



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BC

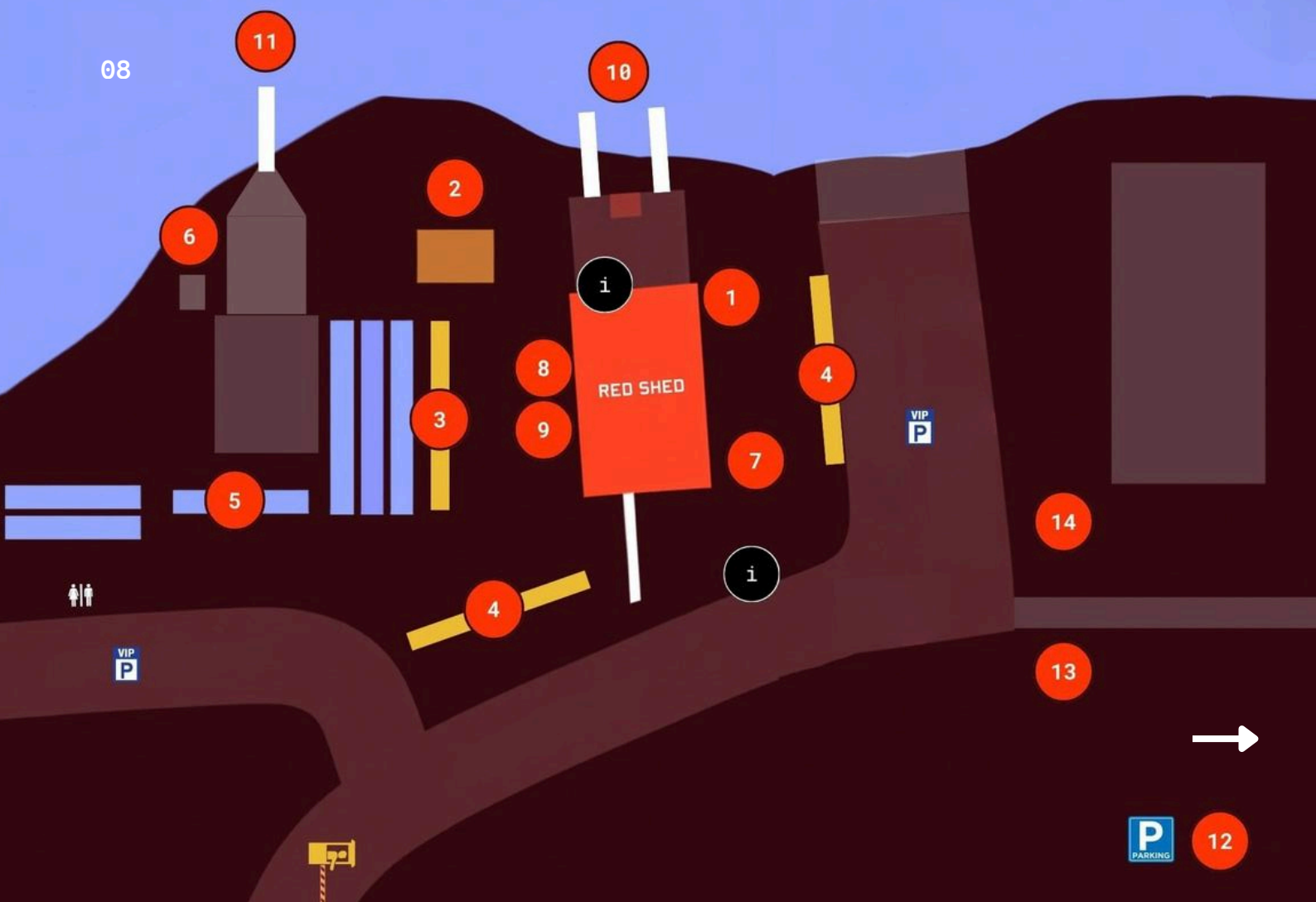
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|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
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| 2 PREMIUM MARQUEE | 7 KIDS ZONE | 12 SUNSET BEACH |
| 3 MERCH STALLS | 8 PUBLIC MANUKA | 13 LIME MOBILITY STATION |
| 4 FOOD VANS | 9 MOLTO ITALIAN | 14 TREK BIKE VALET |
| 5 BOAT RACKS | 10 RED SHED PONTOONS | 15 FINISH TOWER |

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THE SINKOVIC BROTHERS

When Martin and Valent Sinković pushed off from Black Mountain Peninsula last November, Canberra got a close-up look at rowing royalty. This year, the Croatian legends are back for more.

The Sinković brothers are widely considered one of the greatest crews in rowing history. They have won Olympic gold at three straight Games: the double sculls in Rio, the pair in Tokyo, and the double again in Paris. They are Croatia's most decorated Summer Olympians, with a string of world and European titles as well. Yet when they made their Australian debut at the inaugural Golden Oar, what people remembered most was their warmth, humour and showmanship on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin.

Their first trip down under wasn't all business. Between races, the brothers met the Governor-General, came face to face with some of Australia's famous wildlife, and took in the sights on a cruise around Sydney Harbour. It was a proper Australian welcome, and it clearly left its mark.



"The Golden Oar was amazing," the brothers said after last year's event. "Everyone was so friendly, the racing was super high standard, and the atmosphere was electric."

This year they will again line up in the Open Mixed Quadruple Sculls. Two-time Olympian Tara Rigney of Mosman Rowing Club returns to the boat. Joining them for the first time is Laura Gourley of UTS Haberfield Rowing Club, stroke of the Australian Women's Eight, who helped power that crew to World Cup gold and silver this season. It's a crew with a medal cabinet to match any on the water, and one well worth watching.

So find a spot on the bank, grab something from the food stalls, and cheer them home. The brothers are back, and Canberra is ready.



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CDC's commitment to sustainability is reflected in the way our facilities are designed and operated. We focus on energy efficiency as we work towards our commitment to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2030, while our innovative closed-loop cooling systems recirculate water throughout the life of the facility, eliminating the need for ongoing water draw from local supplies.

Beyond our operations, we're committed to creating positive outcomes in the communities where we live and work. Through sponsorships, partnerships and community investment, CDC supports initiatives that strengthen local connections, create opportunities and deliver lasting positive impact in the communities where we operate.

cdc.com



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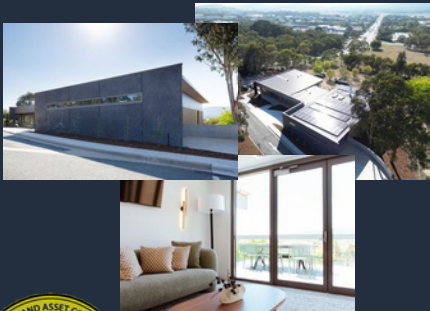
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2026 International Athletes

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Olympic	14	6	2	22
World Championship	32	13	12	57
European	37	13	8	58

NEW ZEALAND

Ella Cossill
Ben Mason
Finn Hamill
Lucy Spoors
Brooke Francis

ROMANIA

Simona Radiş
Adriana Adam
Constantin Adam
Leontin Nuţescu

CROATIA

Martin Sinkovic
Valent Sinkovic

IRELAND

Fintan McCarthy
Philip Doyle
Margaret Cremen

SERBIA

Martin Mackovic
Nikolaj Pimenov

GERMANY

Juliane Faralisch

LITHUANIA

Viktorija Senkutė

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Sophia Vitas

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Australia's Finest Take to the Water



The Golden Oar welcomes a strong contingent from Rowing Australia's National Training Centres (NTC) this weekend, with 24 of the nation's best rowers split across six mixed quads.

With the Women's NTC based in Penrith, the Golden Oar presents a rare opportunity for the Canberra-based Men's NTC to unite with their women's counterpart in the exciting mixed crew format.



Uganda returns for its second consecutive Golden Oar with a five strong squad selected through the Uganda Rowing Series. These amateur athletes carry the hopes of one of Africa's emerging rowing nations, and their journey to Lake Burley Griffin says everything about what this event is for. Watch for them on the water and give them a Canberra welcome!

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OUR VOLUNTEERS

Every regatta has its winners and records, but behind the scenes, the real champions are our volunteers. It's their energy, reliability, and goodwill that keep the boats moving, the athletes safe, and the races running on time. The Golden Oar is no exception – and as our inaugural year showed, the strength of our volunteer team has been nothing short of extraordinary.

At Red Shed, we're fortunate to have a volunteer spirit that runs deep through the community. Parents, athletes, alumni, local clubs, and friends of rowing have all come together to lend a hand – from setting up course markers and launching pontoons, to managing athlete check-in, timing, safety boats, and spectator areas. Each role, big or small, contributes to the smooth flow and festive atmosphere that make this event so special.

Volunteering at a regatta isn't just about filling a roster. It's about being part of the action – feeling the rhythm of the races, sharing in the triumphs, and helping create experiences that rowers and families will remember for years to come. Our volunteers are the ones cheering first, staying last, and always finding a way to make things work, rain or shine.

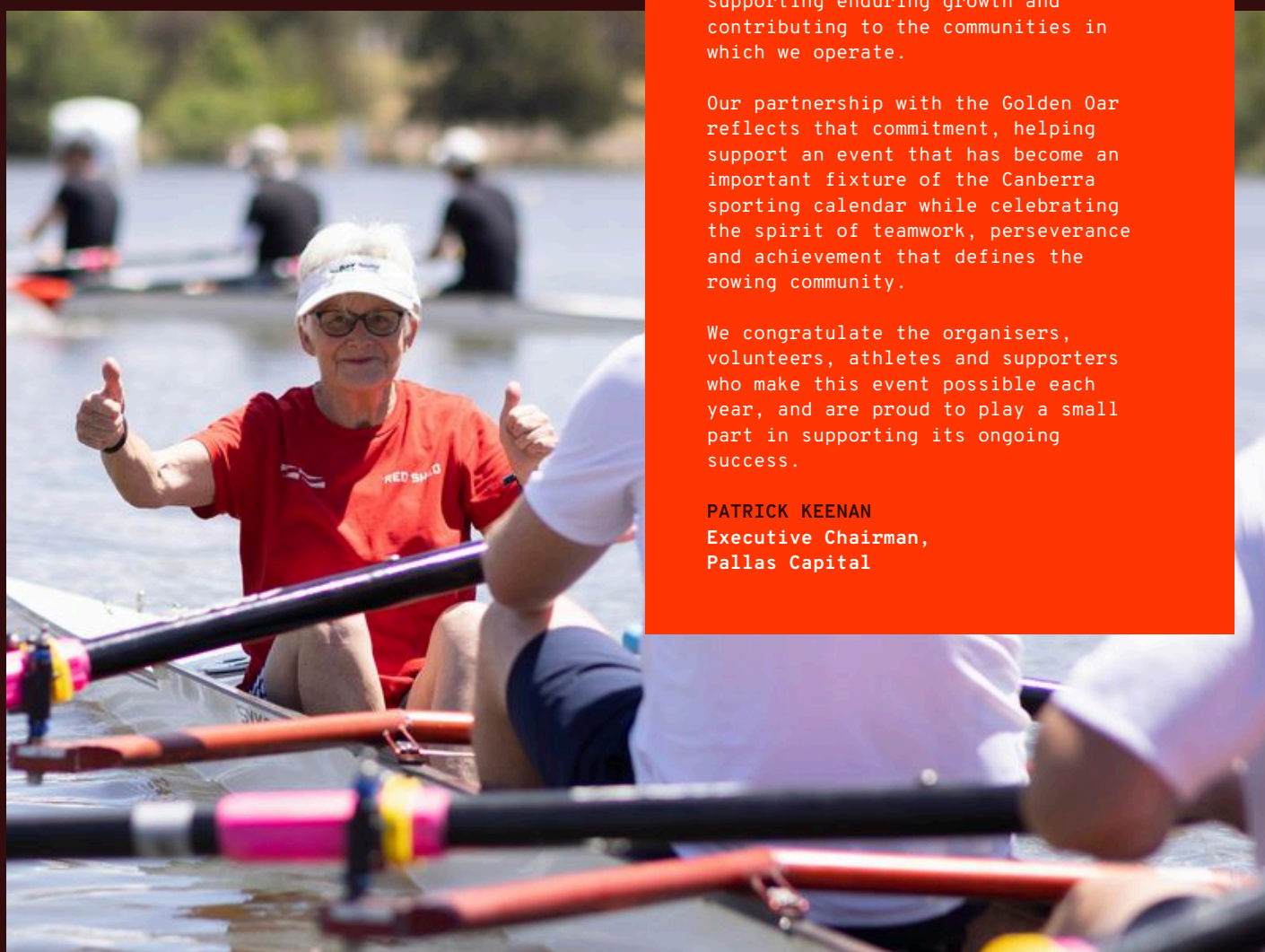
We also acknowledge the Rowing ACT officials and volunteers whose leadership and professionalism underpin every successful rowing event in the ACT. The support from Kent Peters, Catherine Khan, and Catherine Garrington has been tremendous and much needed to ensure the Golden Oar's smooth running. With each of Rowing ACT's outstanding Boat Race Officials playing an integral role in fostering excellence, fairness, and safety our competitors are in safe hands. Their calm guidance and deep commitment ensure that every race meets the highest standards of organisation and integrity.

To all those who have given their time, energy, and heart to help deliver this year's Golden Oar – THANK YOU!

Your dedication reflects the best of the rowing community: teamwork, generosity, and pride in being part of something bigger than ourselves.



OUR VOLUNTEERS



OFFICIAL VOLUNTEER PARTNER



**PALLAS
CAPITAL**

Pallas Capital is proud to partner with the Golden Oar 2026, supporting one of Canberra's most iconic community sporting events.

The Golden Oar brings together athletes, families and supporters from across Australia and around the world, fostering connection, commitment and excellence, values that closely align with our own approach to business. As a national commercial real estate debt and investment manager, we are committed to building long-term relationships, supporting enduring growth and contributing to the communities in which we operate.

Our partnership with the Golden Oar reflects that commitment, helping support an event that has become an important fixture of the Canberra sporting calendar while celebrating the spirit of teamwork, perseverance and achievement that defines the rowing community.

We congratulate the organisers, volunteers, athletes and supporters who make this event possible each year, and are proud to play a small part in supporting its ongoing success.

PATRICK KEENAN
Executive Chairman,
Pallas Capital

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▶ SPOORS & FRANCIS SUPER MUMS

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

When Lucy Spoors and Brooke Francis crossed the line in Paris, they won more than an Olympic title. They became the first crew of mothers ever to win Olympic rowing gold. This weekend, the New Zealand champions bring that story to Lake Burley Griffin.

Their partnership goes back a decade, to a quad that tried to qualify for the Rio Olympics in 2016. Both won silver at Tokyo, Francis in the double and Spoors in the eight.

Then they both stepped away from the sport to start families, and their children, Keira and Rupert, were born three months apart in 2022. Coming back was tough.

They trained on Lake Karapiro after broken nights, sometimes singing Wiggles songs on the water to get through a session. The kids came along all the way to Paris, though Lucy joked that during the semi-final they were more likely eating crackers and watching Peppa Pig than cheering.

But they were there for the final, when their mums chased down Romania's Tokyo champions to win by just 0.24 seconds. The photos of the new champions hugging their children went around the world.

Francis says they wanted to show that you can come back and excel "not despite having children but because you have children."

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A photograph of a modern, white, multi-story building with large glass windows and a flat roof. The word "BLOC" is printed in large, bold, black letters on the side of the building. Green trees are visible in the foreground and to the right.

BLOC

Alex Hill



Alexander "Hilly" Hill is one of Australia's most accomplished sweep rowers, known for his leadership from the stroke seat and an unparalleled record in the four.

A member of Adelaide Rowing Club and a three-time Olympian, he won Olympic Gold at Tokyo 2020, Silver at Rio 2016 and won World Championship titles in 2017 and 2018 and is a four-time winner of the President's Cup for South Australia.

In 2026, Hill moved from the four to the Coxless Pair with fellow South Australian Angus Dawson. The pair won gold at World Cup III in Lucerne and silver at the World Champs in Amsterdam.

Georgie Rowe



Georgie "G" Rowe is one of Australian rowing's most versatile athletes. In 2020 she broke four world indoor rowing records, three of which still stand.

Rowe debuted for Australia in 2018 and became a staple of the Women's Eight, finishing fifth at Tokyo 2020 and fourth at Paris 2024, Australia's best-ever Olympic result in the event.

In 2026, racing in the Women's Four, she stroked the crew to silver at the World Championships in Amsterdam. At April's Australian Championships, she won the Open Women's Coxless Pair with Bronwyn Cox and helped NSW to a back-to-back Queen's Cup.

Mitch Salisbury



Mitch "Mitchy" Salisbury is a bow-side sweep rower from the small town of Mungungo, Queensland.

A National Training Centre (NTC) scholar, Mitch has moved from podium performances in the Under 23 ranks to a World Championship medal with the Australian men's eight.

2026 saw Salisbury as part of the Men's Eight that won bronze at the World Championships in Amsterdam. In April, he was part of the Queensland crew that won the King's Cup at the Australian Rowing Championships Interstate Regatta, Queensland's first win in the race in 87 years, by just 0.22 seconds over Victoria.

(Images: Rowing Australia)

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At Empire, we design and build with a visionary approach. As experts in both development and construction, our projects are grounded in trust, driven by quality, and defined by innovation.



776^{BC} PRO-AM

A highlight of the Golden Oar weekend is the Pro-Am event, where Olympic heroes line up alongside Canberra's rising talent and debutants from the Red Shed Corporate Rowing Spring Fling program – a unique initiative that introduces local “pros” and community members to the sport of rowing.

The Corporate program has become a cornerstone of the Red Shed's mission to make rowing accessible, fostering teamwork, wellbeing, and connection through shared challenge and fun on the water.

The Pro-Am features six Coxed Eight crews racing over 500-metre course finishing in front of the Red Shed. The racing starts around midday on Saturday, 31 October, and will run as a first and final – winner takes all!

The result: a fast, fun, and unpredictable showcase of elite, emerging talent and corporate rowing combined.

Each crew will include:

- Two Olympic rowers, bringing world-class experience;
- Two rising ACT athletes, coming from the ACT Academy of Sport program; and
- Four rowers from the Corporate Rowing Program.
- Corporates participating:
 - Canberra Airport
 - CapCorp
 - Construction Control
 - Elevated
 - Nikias Diamond
 - O'Neill & Brown

Among the legends taking part are some of Australia's finest:

Drew Ginn – A five-time world champion, four-time Olympian and triple Olympic gold medallist, Drew first struck gold with the Oarsome Foursome in Atlanta 1996. He's also a winner of the Thomas Keller Medal, rowing's highest honour.

Cam McKenzie-McHarg – A two-time Olympian who won silver in the men's four at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Cam co-founded rowing apparel brand 776BC.

Julia Bell – Julia rowed for Australia at the 2000 and 2004 Olympics and won two world championships in the women's four and eight.

Luke Letcher – A Canberra local from Black Mountain Rowing Club, Luke won bronze in the men's quad scull at Tokyo 2020. Lake Burley Griffin is his favourite place to row.

Hayley Verbunt – A Mercantile Rowing Club coxswain, Hayley steered the women's eight to fourth at Paris 2024, as the youngest member of the entire Australian rowing team.



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Festival Highlights

The Golden Oar Festival transforms Black Mountain Peninsula into a lakeside celebration of sport, music, food, and fun. Whether you're here for the world-class racing or just the atmosphere, there's something for everyone across the weekend.

PREMIUM HOSPITALITY

All Weekend

FOOD TRUCKS

All Weekend

MERCH STALLS

All Weekend

CORPORATE REGATTA

Friday, 4:00pm

KIDS ZONE

Saturday, From 10:00am

YMCA CARDBOARD

BOAT REGATTA

Saturday, From 10:00am

CANBERRA WILD SWIM

Saturday, 12:00pm

GOLDEN OAR PRO-AM

Saturday, From 12:45pm

ROW NATION ERG RELAY

Saturday, 2:00pm



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SIMONA RADİŞ

RECORD BREAKER

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

At the World Championships in Amsterdam this August, Simona Radiș did something no rower had ever done. This weekend, she brings that form to Lake Burley Griffin.

Radiș is a two-time Olympic champion. She won gold in the double sculls at Tokyo 2020, then added gold in the eight and silver in the double at Paris 2024.

This year she went further still. Over three days in Amsterdam, she and Adriana Adam won the coxless pair, the women's eight and, just 90 minutes later, the mixed eight.

That made them the first rowers ever to win three gold medals at a single World Championships. Radiș now has 24 major championship medals, including eight World Championship golds, placing her in a club of just eight athletes in the sport's history.

Mixed racing is the heart of the Golden Oar, and Radiș arrives as the reigning world champion in the mixed eight. Now the question is whether that Amsterdam magic can travel to the Southern Hemisphere. Keep your eyes on the Romanian boat.



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WELCOME TO CANBERRA

From the lake to the laneways, Canberra is a city made for exploring. Set among stunning natural landscapes, Australia's capital combines the ease of a small city with the energy of a cultural hub – perfect for a weekend getaway built around the Golden Oar.

Getting Around

Canberra's compact layout and excellent infrastructure make it easy to explore. Free parking is available at Black Mountain Peninsula, with additional options nearby. Public transport is convenient, with TransportCanberra buses and light rail connecting major precincts including the CBD, Braddon and Gungahlin. For flexible options, ride-share, taxis, and e-scooters are readily available across the city. Or, take it slow – hire a bike and enjoy the 17-kilometre Lake Burley Griffin loop at your own pace.=



Plan your stay at visitcanberra.com.au



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COX is an Australian design practice with a global footprint and more than 60 years of improving public life.

Working across architecture, urban planning and interior design, we create spaces, buildings and cities that shape how people live, travel, play and work.



Great crews move as one. So do great partners.

At Alceon, we understand what happens when people move with shared focus and purpose. Rowing, like great partnerships, relies on rhythm, trust and precision.

We're proud to support the Golden Oar – an event that celebrates the power of moving as one.

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Chasing your goals? We'll get you there.

As a proud partner of the Golden Oar, Canberra Airport is committed to supporting the people, events and communities in our region.

Whether you're chasing a personal best, a new adventure or your next competition, Canberra Airport connects you to over 180 destinations worldwide.



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