



THE MELBOURNE ARGONAUTS QUEER ROWING CLUB

sponsorship and giving

2023

ROWING CLUB IN THE QUEER COMMUNITY & QUEER CLUB IN THE ROWING COMMUNITY



We invite you to support the Melbourne Argonauts Queer Rowing Club - a proud and visible community that provides a physical, mental, and emotionally healthy space for LGBTQIA+ people to gather, exercise and socialise.

We are a 100% volunteer-run organisation, and for a group of people with consuming day jobs, we manage to get a lot done for our community. The Argonauts give the opportunity to LGBTQIA+ people to learn, enjoy and compete in rowing in a safe and inclusive environment.

The club is a vital outlet for many Argonauts - people of all walks of life. We are unique as we exist without the reliance on college or university programming, like the majority of other rowing clubs. The Argos overrepresent and compete in many events and regattas. The club represents the future of rowing in Australia and is widely recognised in the rowing circles for the inclusive and diverse community it fosters.

Founded in 2001, the Melbourne Argonauts is Australia's first LGBTQIA+ rowing club that champions the spirit of community, equality, health and inclusion for all. The historical stigma surrounding sexuality and gender diversity continues to limit access to community sport for queer people. The health of LGBTQIA+ people is worse than that of most Australians, with poor mental health identified as a significant burden across the community. The Argonauts know the power of having a team behind you and a place to call home. Our reach extends across Australia through the regional and national regattas we attend.

To support the many endeavours of the club which include our Learn-to-Row program, a community-based social calendar, regatta attendance across the country and outreach programs to under-represented groups, we depend on the generosity of our donors and sponsors. Allying your organisation with our club would enable us to continue to expand our work, whilst also providing an opportunity for you to make a significant impact to the LGBTQIA+ community. Your generous support will also signal your commitment to equality and inclusion to your workforce, your clients and the broader community.

ARGOS





Our MEMBERS



As a club of over 100 active rowers, we are an engaged community that regularly travels around Victoria and Australia for regattas representing the passion and collective jubilant spirit of the broader queer community. Our past members "Friends of the Argos" have grown to a collective of over 500. We build friendships and connections that are incredibly strong and very lasting. The Argonauts also role model inclusive behavior and attitudes to the rest of the rowing and sporting community. The Argonauts is the change we want to see in the world.



Club membership fees only cover our basic operating costs and do not raise any funds towards capital expenditure. This means that we must rely on other revenue streams, such as grants, sponsorship and your donations, to be able to afford the purchase and maintenance of boats, oars, rowing machines and coaching equipment. For instance, a new four/quad costs in excess of \$20,000, a cox-box can cost over \$1,000 and an oar goes for more than \$500.



*Sponsor
the Argos*

*Support
the Boat
Fund*

*Promote Your
Brand and Your
Commitment to
Equality, Diversity &
Inclusion*

*Collaborate
with the
Argonauts*

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES



major event principal partner - \$5,000

Promotional message in Argonauts' newsletter
Your branding and promotional material in gift bags
Verbal acknowledgement on the night by host
A learn-to-row 'Splash and Giggle' team building event
Logo in promotional messaging and on tables
Social media shout out

new boat naming rights - POA

With our boats named after founding members, figures of Greek mythology and our club patron, the Hon. Michael Kirby, you could secure naming rights for a new Argonauts' boat

off-water uniform branding - \$4,000

Worn by the Argonauts while commuting, training, between races at regattas, and whenever else they like, your logo will be featured on our t-shirts, polos, hoodies, jackets and caps

marquee / trailer branding - \$1,000-\$2,500

Argonauts' marquee and trailer are an integral part of our regatta arsenal. With exposure to hundreds of rowers and spectators at each event, and thousands of road users, your logo will be featured on the marquee's canvas and on the rear and side of the trailer

bespoke sponsorship opportunities

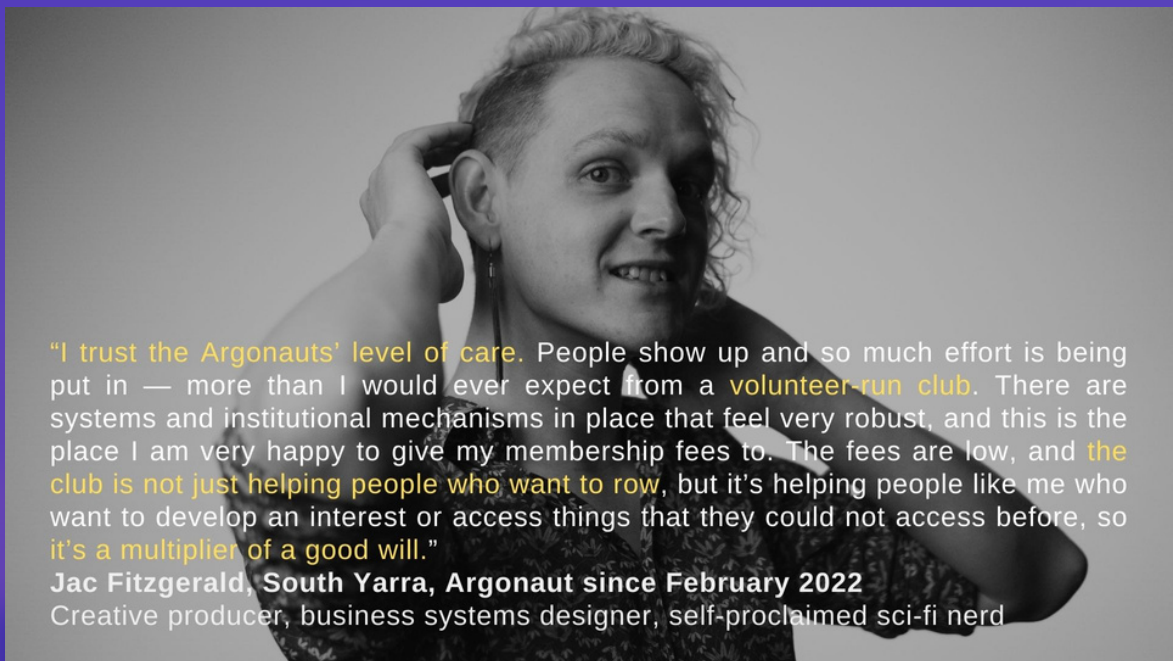
We are open to collaboration whether it be a bespoke program, an initiative, or a digital campaign. If you would like to explore many ways in which you could support the Argonauts, please contact us at rowing@maqrc.org

MELBOURNE ARGONAUTS BOAT FUND



Since 2001, when the club was founded, we have been determined to provide a safe, reliable fleet and equipment that is accessible to all our Argonaut members. Our club aims to develop rowing and coaching skills, as well as Argonauts' competition ability.

By supporting the Melbourne Argonauts Boat Fund, you can help the Argonauts to sustain and grow a strong rowing club for the LGBTQIA+ community and its friends – for people just like Jac.



"I trust the Argonauts' level of care. People show up and so much effort is being put in — more than I would ever expect from a volunteer-run club. There are systems and institutional mechanisms in place that feel very robust, and this is the place I am very happy to give my membership fees to. The fees are low, and the club is not just helping people who want to row, but it's helping people like me who want to develop an interest or access things that they could not access before, so it's a multiplier of a good will."

Jac Fitzgerald, South Yarra, Argonaut since February 2022

Creative producer, business systems designer, self-proclaimed sci-fi nerd

We partner with the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) so that anyone can make a gift to the ASF with the funds be directed to the Melbourne Argonauts Boat Fund. Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible for Australian taxpayers. Our immediate needs this year include:

- Racing four (approx. \$20,000)
- Racing single scull (approx. \$10,000)
- Sculling oars (approx. \$4,000)
- Coaches' Tinny - motorboat (approx. \$5,000)

Thank You

We would be delighted to explore how you or your organisation can make a meaningful impact to the Argonauts and our community

Please don't hesitate to contact us to discuss giving and sponsorship opportunities with us

e: rowing@maqrc.org / president@maqrc.org
p: 0421 357 462 (Alex, fundraising coordinator)
melbourneargonauts.com.au/support
[instagram.com/melbourneargonautsrc](https://www.instagram.com/melbourneargonautsrc)
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We look forward to working with you