

**CLUB OF THE YEAR 1999**  
***Rowing Australia***  
**NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Awarded to: YWCA Rowing Club**

***The Citation:***

**The YWCA Rowing Club** was nominated by the Victorian Rowing Association for embracing **Active Australia** [promoted by the Australian Sports Commission] and for implementing a number of successful initiatives designed to increase participation in rowing and to promote the sport to a wider range of target groups.

In the process, the club demonstrated a systematic approach to planning with a strong orientation to strategic thinking. Having relocated to new facilities at Albert Park, the club now occupies modern premises within a new complex, expanding its fleet of boats and caters especially for the needs of beginners.

It has developed a number of new programs to accommodate changing life styles, work patterns and recreational interests.

While many rowing clubs have adopted one or two approaches similar to those of YWCA, the noteworthy aspects are the scale and comprehensiveness of the club's activities and the deliberate provision for women of all ages. As a consequence a range of programs has been devised to meet the specific needs of particular target groups.

**YWCA Rowing Club has clearly demonstrated a willingness to respond to a rapidly changing environment in innovative ways that challenge established practices and position the club for a bright future. The sport of rowing is stronger and richer as a result.**

*Berry H Durston*  
*Rowing Australia Awards Committee*