These notes document the years when Jill Talbot was involved with SA Womens RA and SARA to support her nomination as an Honorary Life member of Rowing SA in 2021.

Jill Talbot was a member of the SAWRA general committee in 1971 and she was a member of the SA womens state team that year and raced for SA each year until 1978.

In those days rule 1 on page 1 of the SARA rule book stated: “no Club admitting women to active membership shall be eligible for admission to the Association”.

Jill started rowing at the Port Adelaide RC but in 1975 was part of the group of women who founded the Metropolitan Ladies RC to continue their careers.

Jill continued as a member of SAWRA general committee for more than 10 years and in those days that committee ran their womens sport with monthly meetings and more meetings for special events and other committees as were needed. Jill did not drive in those days so cycled to rowing meetings all over the city and suburbs.

One of her successful projects was to mentor and guide the creation of the Unley High RC and she was instrumental in the introduction of school girl rowing races at SARA regattas which saw SA as the first state to conduct schoolgirl races at regattas and also the first state to have schoolgirls race in the Head of the River regattas at West Lakes from 1978.

Jill was also involved with the West Lakes course planning and development before the first regatta there in 1977 and then later the creation of the boatshed and clubrooms buildings and club participation plans and rental agreements after that.

In 1980 the mens and womens Australian Rowing Associations were forced to join as one which opened the doors to change the rules and allow men and women to race together in regattas as we now know them.

There were countless meetings which Jill attended as a member of both the SA mens and womens Rowing Associations as she also became the secretary of the Australian WRA before the 1980 amalgamation, which made her a member of the new Rowing Australia where she was involved in several busy early years of that new organisation including the introduction of Rowing into the AIS in Canberra.

Jill Talbot was a hard working and dedicated SA rowing administrator in what must have been the busiest and most progressive decade in South Australian rowing history in which she served SA Womens RA, the SARA, the Australian Womens RA and Rowing Australia.

Nominated by Phillip Mangelsdorf,

Seconded by Graham Coldwell and Bob Russell.