



URC newsletter



SPRING 2015

From the Club Captain:

Hello all, and welcome to the new season of summer rowing. It certainly makes for a pleasant change not to have to wrap up warm for every outing.

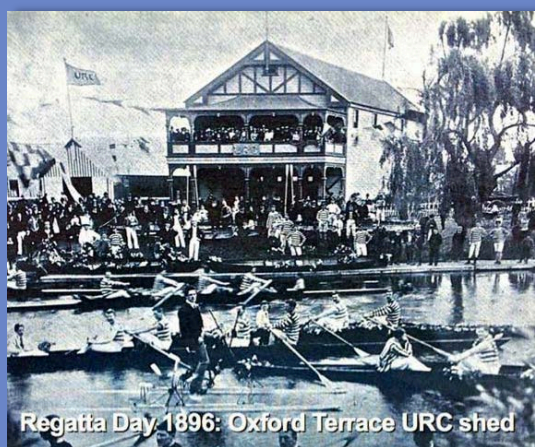
Our first formalised Learn-to-Row programme is underway, and we have eight novice masters rowers finding out that rowing is not as easy as it looks, but a whole lot of fun. Thank you to all the club members who are involved in looking after our novies and making them feel at home at URC. Conditions on the water have been a bit tricky thus far, and the recent high winds are not the only challenge. The competitive season is underway, and the Reach is very congested again. There have been some close calls already, so please be careful out there.

With the club membership steadily increasing, so is the pressure on our plant. A new single has been added to the fleet, but we will need to start fundraising soon for more fours/quads and doubles/pairs. This will mean a redesign of our shed as well, as more racking will be required. In other words, the increased membership will mean more hands are required to keep things ticking over, and we welcome any contributions people can make to the day-to-day running of Union RC.

Plans are underway to increase our participation at RNZ events at Ruataniwha, and we would also like to run another 'training camp' off site, perhaps at Lake Opuia or Lake Brunner, to combine a chilled weekend in good company with some decent outings in the boats. So watch this space, and check our Facebookpage for further updates. In the meantime, enjoy your time out on the water, especially during these hectic weeks leading up to Christmas.

Cheers, Dorle

[in bow seat on the way to gold in the E double at Masters Nationals!]



Regatta Day 1896: Oxford Terrace URC shed

Union Street: when they named a street after the rowing club

From the URC archive...

The Avon Loop nowadays bears no resemblance to the thriving community that lived there pre-earthquakes. Even our esteemed Club Captain flatted in the Loop for a time! Now as part of the Red Zone, nearly all the housing has been levelled with only grass and shrubbery remaining.

The old Union Rowing Club building was at the centre of the Loop from 1896, serving as the club base for 60 years until the move to the Reach in 1957.

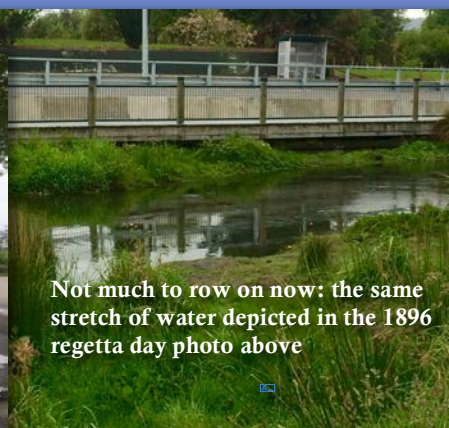
What is now Bangor Street - which runs through the centre of the Loop - was called Union Street until a name change in 1948. Neighbouring Avon Street lost its naming rights in the same year, becoming Hurley St.



The URC site above in 2015 – the old shed was demolished in the 70s to make way for a townhouse development



Union [Bangor] St – looking through onto the back of the old URC site towards the river



Not much to row on now: the same stretch of water depicted in the 1896 regatta day photo above

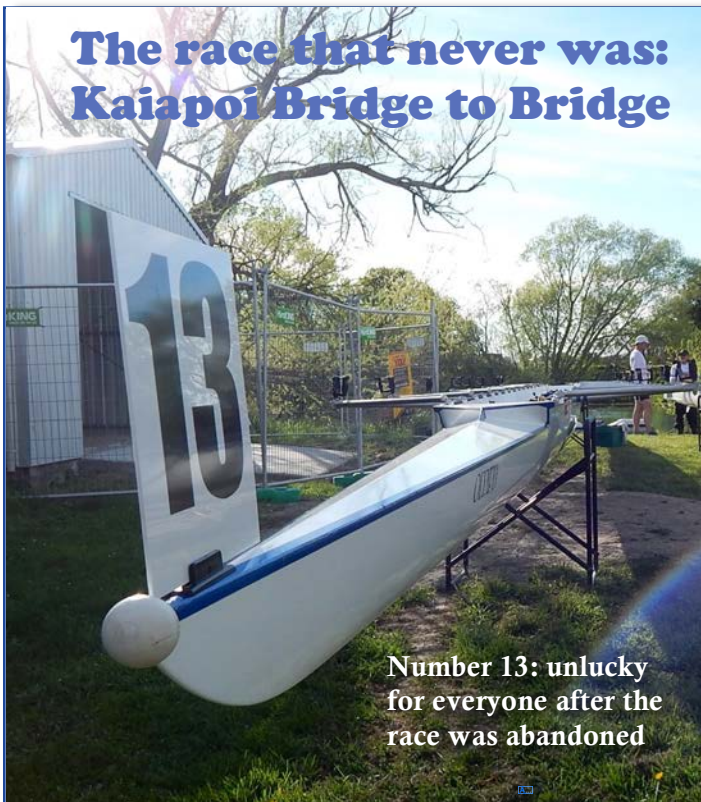


The race that never was: Kaiapoi Bridge to Bridge



Saturday 17 October dawned warm and still for the annual bridge to bridge event.

However, the weather gods proved Cure Boating Club stalwart and event organiser Peter Midgley wrong after he had boldly predicted at the pre-race meeting that the front would come through immediately after the race had finished. Swap “finished” for “started”, and you’ve hit the nail on the head. The first crews away rowed the two kilometre stretch to the mouth of the Kaiapoi River to be greeted by surging white caps on the Waimak and the umpire boat calling the race off. At least we were able to inspect progress on our new shed.



Number 13: unlucky for everyone after the race was abandoned



Women's octuple



Mixed quad



Men's eight

Union's second home: the D'Arcy Christopher Shed at Kaiapoi



It's been a long time coming, after a shed was first suggested as a Kaiapoi base for the club after the Kerrs Reach facility was seriously damaged in the 2011 and 2012 earthquakes. The Total Span shed was purchased several years ago, but getting it on site proved challenging, requiring protracted discussions with various parties including the neighbouring croquet club, the Waimakiriri District Council and E Can. President Neville Youngman has led the lengthy negotiations and it's largely to his credit that the shed is finally on site.

The shed is named after a long time Union Rowing Club benefactor who left a trust fund for the club's benefit.

Q AND A: UNION at MASTERS NATIONALS



What was it like?

Contrasting days as the photos show! Sunday delivered perfect cool conditions, but Saturday was a struggle for much of the day with temperatures that would not have been out of place on a skifield. Our total number of 31 rowers was nearly double that from the last time we competed at nationals in 2013, plus our club officials and loyal supporters put the total at over 50+.



How did we go?

Very well! - 26 medals, exactly double what we achieved at nationals in 2013: 5 golds [2013] v 10 golds [2015]; 5 silvers [2013] /v 10 silvers [2015]; and 3 bronzes [2013] /v 6 bronzes [2015].

Our full results list is under 'Results' on www.unionrowing.co.nz

GOLD

Womens E quad

Deb Hymers-Ross, Dorle Pauli, Sally Burgess, Sue Wood

Mens E double

Dale Maher, Mike Fowler

Mens novice quad

Brendon McKenna, Spike Crowther, Shelley Washington, Stephanie Rumble

Mixed D-F quad

Dale Maher, Dorle Pauli, Mike Fowler, Deb Hymers-Ross

Mixed masters D-F eight

Dale Maher, Dorle Pauli, Deb Hymers-Ross, Mike Fowler, Malcolm Burgess, Hamish Gray, Sally Burgess, Karen Rickerby, Peter Gamble

Mens E single

Dale Maher

Womens E double

Deb Hymers-Ross, Dorle Pauli

Womens B single

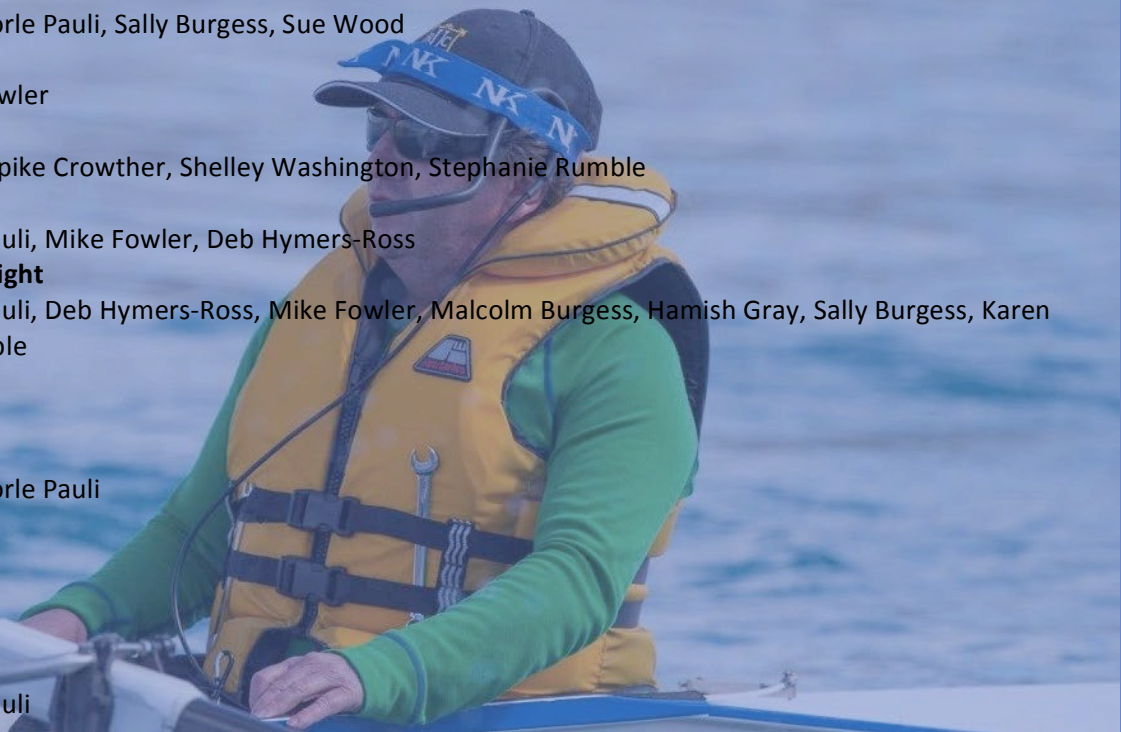
Kirsty Mahoney

Womens C single

Kirsty Mahoney

Mixed D-F double

Dale Maher, Dorle Pauli





What did we learn?

In short, we need to compete as much as we can. Considering that this was the first 1000m regatta that the club has entered in 2015, the results were even more outstanding. Compared to the amount of racing many North Island crews are exposed to, Union was punching well above its weight at these Masters Nationals. With World Masters a year and a half away, watch this space. Regatta planning is already underway.

