



URC newsletter



SPRING 2017

In this newsletter:

- **introducing our new club leaders**
- **URC donates [and wins!] trophy for top club result at Masters Nationals**
- **nationals pix**

From President Dorle Pauli

As the incoming president, and having been elected to the position 'in absentia', I firstly wish to acknowledge the work of the three immediate past presidents, Brendan O'Dea, James Sheehan and Neville Youngman. They have stood by the club in very difficult years, and have always been very supportive of me in my role as club captain. The result of all their efforts, and that of the club as a whole, is very visible in the shed today – a fleet of great boats, and an ever-increasing number of rowers. With a greater number of active members come further challenges, such as the need to purchase more equipment, and to store and maintain it all. There will be more fundraising to do, and I am delighted that we have new members on the committee who bring the relevant expertise and energy required for this particular task.

But we also need to think about how we want to develop the club over the next few years, and how best to put it on a sustainable footing. It is for this reason that I will ask the URC committee to re-visit our strategic plan. We are in good place, both in terms of our club facilities and team atmosphere, but we also need to consider the future of URC, and if (and how) to reconnect with its past successes at mainstream rowing events.

As a first step I think it may be best to ask all current members how we can improve our club, what other rowing related and social activities we could offer, and where you would like us to be in five years time. As a committee, we are here to look after you and the future of the club, so all suggestions will be welcome.

In the meantime, have a fabulous summer, and I look forward to seeing you on (or near) the water soon.



From Club Captain Deb Hymers-Ross

With 2017 quickly drawing near to its end, it is time to wish you all a healthy, happy and safe holiday season. It also marks the beginning of a new rowing season. This year is off to a very exciting start.

People- We have 6 new members joining the Saturday/Sunday/Wednesday rows: Lee, Suzie, Shelley, Dianna, Helen and Andrew. Please make them feel welcome and lend them a hand when you see them down at the club and in your various boats.

Plant- You will have seen Andy down at the club fixing holes and scratches on 8 of our boats, he will be painting them this week. With a shiny new fleet we ask you to take care getting boats on and off the racks (decide before you touch the boat who will call you on and off of the water –the stroke, cox or bow person and the rest of the crew pay attention to the commands) Please replace the tennis balls and high vis stripes after you have racked your boat - perhaps give this job to the person calling the commands.

The committee has approved the refurbishment of the 2 singles, [Orca and Eros]. This work is being done by Pro Skiff and should start this week.

The club was fortunate to receive \$20,000 in funding which allowed us to purchase a double (modelled on Hebe) from SL Racing. We will receive this boat in December. Greater boat acquisition means we are pricing up additional racking for the shed and starting designs on a new larger boat trailer.

Health and Safety- the CRA are in support of the codes working together with the Harbour Master to have the Maritime NZ rules changed so that personal flotation devices are not required on Kerr's Reach as long as every member has completed the required swim test. Currently every time we hit the water we are breaking the law as our boats are not accompanied by coaches carrying life jackets, nor are we carrying the required flotation devices. I will keep you posted as Logan Keys, Regional Manager of the CRA progresses this issue. In the meantime, this change heightens the importance of swim tests; we will compile a list of athletes who have not completed their swim tests and follow up as required. Please note you will require flotation devices when training unaccompanied outside of Kerr's Reach.

Local Regattas- Logan Keys is keen to re-introduce more local regattas to Canterbury. The first one is the Estuary 8s which will take place on Saturday 2 December at or around high tide which is 5pm. Union have signalled they are interested in participating, so sign up on the board or if you're keen on rowing or marshalling for this event.





From Deputy Club Captain Stu Wade

A new rowing year has begun. After the most amazing and successful rowing season of 2016 / 17, a new year has begun and the Reach is jam-packed full of rowers from schools, clubs and of course the masters from Union Rowing Club.

The 2017 / 18 season is full of exciting regattas and events. It started off with the Pennant Regatta in Ashburton in late October which was unfortunately cancelled due to our wonderful Canterbury Spring weather patterns, as well as the Cure Boating Club 7km Long Distance Race.



A Union women's eight will compete at the **HEAD OF THE YARRA 2018, 25**

November: Australia's largest event: COX – PETER, STROKE – ANITA, 7 – DORLE, 6 – DEB, 5 - KAREN, 4 - AMANDA, 3 - WENDY L, 2 - LIZ, BOW – TANS

What an amazing opportunity for our girls to head off to Melbourne for this huge annual event from the city of Melbourne to the Hawthorn Rowing Club. The draw is now out for the Head of the Yarra. It's the biggest event ever - 257 eights on the water with 2168 athletes competing .. All the best girls !!!!!.....and hide the credit card statement!!!!

ASHBURTON REGATTA, 25th November

This is another event that sometimes proves to be difficult with the windy course conditions we'll probably not feature here.

OTAGO CHAMPS – TWIZEL, 9th – 10th December 2017

The first major regatta of the summer season held in Twizel on beautiful Lake Ruataniwha. We always compete at this event before we have a break over Christmas. There is open events over 2km course and also Masters events over 1000m.

CANTERBURY CHAMPS – TWIZEL, 13th - 14th January 2018

Start of the New Year and what better way to get rid of that Christmas cheer than a blow out to the lungs and body. Held at Lake Ruataniwha again and always hot so make sure you slip slop slap. (and rehydrate with a beer) . We are a social club after all and we always catch up for a get together as a group at the boat park at the end of Saturday events and put the BBQ on. (Spike and Ian.....that's you!)

SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPS – TWIZEL ,27th – 28th January 2018

By now you'll know the way to this awesome venue to row on. This is the largest Rowing Regatta in the South Island. All the schools and clubs will be competing along with Masters events over 1000m. Our new Novies will be sure to take part and become yet another success story of the Union Rowing Club. (Don't forget it's my birthday)

NEW ZEALAND MASTERS GAMES – DUNEDIN, 10th February 2018

Similar to the World Masters Games last year held in Auckland but just on a smaller scale.....

A great opportunity to shine again in a different location and rowing in salt water harbour. It's always a fantastic weekend away and I urge you all to consider going to this event, not just for the competition but for the complete experience to mingle with athletes from all sports. We maybe Masters.....but we are all athletes.....not just participants.

Apart from the World Masters Games, this event will be the biggest and most challenging of our rowing careers.

THE AUSTRALIAN MASTERS ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS 10 -13 May 2018. Held over 4 days of intense competition with over 1500 competitors from all over Australia. Just goes to show just how big Masters rowing in Australia is. This year having the event at Lake Barrington is pretty special. The course was officially opened as an international rowing course in 1984, for the Australian Rowing Championships. I was fortunate to row there and it is the most incredible venue. There are already a number of people with their names on the board for this event and we need to confirm numbers early as the logistics of flights, transfers, accommodation, boat hire and cartage.....and of course the cost. So put your name up and let's go.....!!!! But this will be the event of a lifetime.....and the scenery is spectacular. (Plus we get to shop in Melbourne on the way)....

**I look forward to seeing you all on the water, training hard, but most of all.....have fun !
All the best,
Stu**





Union - winners of the Sesqui Trophy for top club at Masters Nationals

This impressive trophy was donated this year by Union to mark its 2014 sesquicentennial [150th] celebrations as the second oldest rowing club in New Zealand. The conditions for the award are that it recognises first, second and third places achieved at Master Nationals by crews made up only of rowers from the same club. Results for composite crews don't count. While the trophy was actually made in 2017 and presented for the first time this year, it's been awarded in retrospect for 2016 and 2015. In 2017, URC was the clear winner with Petone second and Blenheim third. St Georges won the trophy in 2016, with West End second and Union third. At Masters Nationals in 2015, Union was first, with Dunstan second and St Georges third.

Three Union stalwarts helped create the Sesqui Trophy. Life member James Sheehan organised the URC monogramme and engraving. The trophy is attestation of the skills of ex-URC rower Hamish Hamilton who made the base and the carry case, as well as Jim Little who was responsible for the painting, polyurethaning and assembly. A close inspection of the trophy reveals Jim's expert model making skills and meticulous attention to detail. Sometime if you're round at Jim's place, ask if he'll show you the fleet of model boats he's made or are under construction – incredible!



Nationals gallery
Our full Nationals results are under 'Results' on www.unionrowing.co.nz





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