



URC newsletter



www.unionrowing.co.nz

SPRING 2020

From President Dorle Pauli

Hello everybody, I hope this message finds you well and that you are all enjoying your time on the water.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, we are off to a great start to the season. When I look around the international rowing scene, where most waterways remain shut to all but single scullers, I am reminded of how fortunate we are here in New Zealand. It is especially good to see that so many young members are joining us and I do believe they are making a very positive difference to our club.

The increasing numbers also mean that more hands are needed when it comes to coaching and we are therefore re-thinking our coaching structure. The Covid crisis means that fundraising has become more difficult, but we are confident that we will be able to meet the needs of all junior and masters rowers in the near future.

As always, more rowers mean a dangerously crowded Reach. Most schools are reporting a steep increase in novice numbers and therefore our volunteer coaches spend much of their valuable time just making sure that our crews don't crash into others. As a club we will need to think about how we can spread the load on the river more evenly and train at perhaps more unusual times, such as later on Saturday or Sunday afternoons.

In terms of plant we can usually cover all teams, with the exception perhaps of the ever popular doubles. We want to add a small to mid-size boat to that fleet and also fundraise for a set of oars to go with it. Also high on the wish list are new boat racks and more ergs, so if any of you have good fund-raising ideas or sponsorship contacts, please let us know.

This year's Learn-to-Row programme is nearly finished and despite the rather bad weather it has been a great deal of fun. As always, the group is a really diverse bunch of lovely people, but I am confident we can slot them all into our existing groups in line with their rowing ambitions. The Learn-to-Row program is a huge commitment in terms of time and organisational effort, and I am very grateful to Deb and all of our volunteer supporters who make this a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

There is much more I could say about all the wonderful people who help with the running of our club, and I hope that the coming festive season will give me an opportunity to do just that. In the meantime, it goes without saying that we do appreciate each and every one of you.

Stay well and safe everybody, and see you at the Reach soon!

Dorle



**The Union squad at the the Aoraki 1000
October 31 / November 1**





From Club Captain Deb Hymers-Ross

Aoraki 1000 – 31 October: 12 Clubs and 344 competitors, this little regatta delivers again

Although the weather was not as settled as last year, the Saturday's heat racing was completed. Sunday provided the usual stop starts Twizel is known for and was later abandoned before completion.

It was fabulous to see the Novice Juniors and Juniors all enjoying each others' company both at the trailer and the spectator tent. Rowers were assisting each other on and off the water and genuinely excited in each other's performances.

A special thanks to our learn to rowers Xander and Finn for their assistance over the two days; they were a great help returning oars to the racks and collecting and returning the alpha numeric numbers.

Boat loading provided an opportunity for the Juniors to learn how to boat load and tie down boats; thank you Stuart for your instructions and organisation. 'A' Finals were achieved by our various rowers in every event entered. This is an excellent result, congratulations to all! You can check out the full results at <http://rowit.nz/aorc2020/results?cn=uncc> The club has been really active during October and November, competing in five events across the South Island over consecutive weekends. In addition to the Aoraki 1000 on 31 October, you can read in this newsletter about the 10 October Anakiwa to Picton race, the 17/18 October Ruataniwha Masters, and Labour Weekend at Dunstan Arm. On 9 November, it was great to see the first Pennant Regatta on the Reach since the 2010/11 season too!



Deb

URC club officials 2020 - 2021

Following the club's September AGM, these positions were confirmed:

Patron: Jim Little

Life Members: Jim Little, Bruce Knight, Bruce Fraser, Dale Maher, Mark Borgfeldt, Des Borgfeldt, Brent Mirfin, Brendan O'Dea, Stu Mitchell, Rod McLennan.

President: Dorle Pauli

Vice Presidents: Deb Hymers- Ross, Rod McLennan, Mike Fowler

Secretary: Jan Maister

Treasurer: Ian Dyson

Club Captain: Deb Hymers-Ross

Health and Safety Officer: Tanja McDonald

Committee: Stuart Wade, Wendy Lawson, Astrid Harris, Wendy Duggan

CRA Delegates: Rod McLennan, Stuart Wade, Deb Hymers-Ross

Masters CRA sub-committee: Deb Hymers-Ross, Stu Wade

Leander Reps: Brent Mirfin, Rod McLennan, Brendan O'Dea



New Life Member – Rod McLennan

At this year's AGM, a new Union Rowing Club Life member was appointed. Rod has been a member of the Union Club for over 20 years and been on the Union committee for the past 15 years.

In this time, Rod has held multiple posts for the club, as the Treasurer for 3 years, CRA delegate for 10 years, appointed to the CRA Executive for the last three years and a Leander Club Trust trustee for the last 10 years.

Rod was part of the group which undertook the club's rebuild post-earthquake when we had no home to call our own. The masters rowing grew from this setback to the club we have now.

Club members can never under-estimate the transformation Rod has made to Canterbury Rowing, as our representative on the CRA. Through his hard work and determination, has driven critical changes to the operational structure of the CRA to the benefit of all Canterbury rowers.

A keen volunteer to the club, Rod can always be seen with a pair of tongs in-hand by the BBQ, and a helping hand when called upon. Congratulations on your appointment, Rod.

URC Life Member Brent Mirfin



Ruataniwha Masters - 31 October / 1 November



Following a period of uncertainty, disappointment and frustration with few regattas and the cancellation of the Masters Nationals at Karapiro, Ruataniwha masters regatta was almost the 'ultimate' gift for South Island rowers. 10 rowing clubs and 84 athletes competed. Together with probably the best water conditions I can ever remember at Twizel, we all enjoyed a beautiful weekend of rowing and few beers after.

Highlights of the weekend was definitely our mixing crews with the Avon Masters, a very vibrant, funny and committed group of people, mostly novices. It is something that we should look carefully and do more in the future. Peter Midgley's unique personality and sense of humour made the ribbon (aka medal) ceremony absolute fun at the end of the first day. A special thank you from all Union participants to Stu and Tanja for, once again, their help in organising, towing the trailer, marvellous baking and much more.

Regatta summary: [full results can be found at <http://rowit.nz/sirm2020/results?cn=uncc>]

- Mx 4- 2nd Stu, Andreas, Wendy, Tanja
- Mx 4x 1st Division 1 Stu, Andreas, Vicky, Tanja
- Mx A-D 2x 3rd Stu & Tanja | 5th Vicky & Andreas | 7th Rudi & Wendy
- W A-D 2x 4th Tanja & Vicky | 5th Wendy & Shelley
- W 4x 2nd Wendy, Shelley, Vicky, Tanja
- M A-D 1x 1st Stu
- W 2- 2nd Wendy & Tanja
- W A-D 1x 2nd Tanja
- W A-D 4- 2nd Wendy, Vicky, Shelley, Tanja
- M A-D 2x 2nd Division 1 Stu & Andreas

Combined crews with Avon Masters:

- Mx 4- 5th Vicky
- Mx 4x 5th Division 1 Rudi, Shelley and Wendy
- M A-D 4x 3rd Stu and Andreas | 6th Rudi
- M A-D 4- 3rd Stu and Andreas | 6th Rudi
- M A-D 2x 2nd Division 2 Rudi
- W 8+ 1st Tanja | 2nd Shelley
- Mx 8+ 3rd Stu, Andreas, Wendy, Vicky, Shelley, Tanja and Helen (Cox)
- M8+ 2nd Stu and Andreas



Ruataniwha Masters Union squad

Special mention to our own Kirsty and Dom winning all of their events racing with Dunstan and Ashburton!

Andreas Giannakogiorgos





Anakiwa to Picton Long Distance Row – 10 October

A small contingent of Union rowers travelled to the top of the South Island to take part in a 12km row between Anakiwa and Picton. The evening before, lots of us loaded up nicely on some magical blue liquid and pizzas while listening to chatterbox Gina at the Picton House Bed and Breakfast, the place where we were staying. Early on the Saturday, our water taxi set off from the Picton Rowing Club in light rain. Soon enough the beauty of the Marlborough Sounds and the sight of dolphins lifted our spirits. Thanks to Kim, our master of logistics, three boats – Argo (coastal quad) and two quads - were waiting for us in Anakiwa. After the usual rigging routine, we all embarked and rowed back to Picton. The all-female coastal quad, coxed with expertise by our President Dorle, was the fastest Union boat on the day.



The row was really enjoyable: so much space, no black swans coming at you, clean water and fresh air! The weather was getting better the closer we got to Picton. We even had some sunshine for the great and free BBQ organised by the Picton Rowing Club for all the participants. Jim Anderson and Lynne Walker gave to a few of us a nice tour of the facilities of the club (including showers and gym). Just a shame that our boat trailer got into serious trouble, but this is another story. More Union men at the event next year?

Crews:-Coastal Quad: Wendy, Karen, Pam, Shells, Cox: Dorle / -Quad 1: Susan, Vicky, Astrid, Sarah, Cox: Kim / -Quad 2: Jane, Gina, Kerry, Stéphane, Cox: Helen.

Stéphane Chretien

Dunstan Arm Sprint Regatta – Labour Weekend

An enjoyable day at the sprint regatta on the Saturday, with the coastal baots being a popular feature. These boats turn like a sports car! Unfortunately, the annual Cromwell to Clyde event on Sunday was cancelled with a howling norwester blasting down the arm. A fun weekend despite the cancellation of the long distance row.

