



URC newsletter



WINTER 2016

From the Club Captain

New boats

This year, the club will take delivery of three new boats, all built by Simon Lack Racing. One of them, a new men's eight named *Helios*, has already arrived. The boat had its first competitive run at the Kaiapoi Bridge-to Bridge long-distance event in May, and received the thumbs-up from a very happy crew. Later in June/ July, two more SLRs will be delivered, a new women's double (to be named *Leda*) and a mid range coxless quad/four. This boat has been built to same specifications as Phoenix, and will be christened *Perseus*. In addition, we are aiming to purchase another 10 sets of Croker sculling blades. We are confident that with these new arrivals, the plant will see us through a very busy and exciting 2016/17 season. In the meantime, fundraising will continue for the purchase of another single, and a set of sculling riggers for the women's eight Artemis.



URC garage sale

On 18 June, the club ran its first ever fund-raising garage sale, initiated and organised by Deb, and supported by a large group of volunteers. Many club members donated surplus goods or contributed to the bake-sale, while others helped with the set-up and clearing away of the left-over items. While a rowing shed in the otherwise deserted Red Zone is perhaps not the best location for such a venture, we nevertheless raised over \$1000 for the club. This was a great communal effort, which we hope to follow up with other imaginative fund-raising efforts in the near future. Another great communal effort in association with other river users and the community was the riverbank clean up in early May.



May river clean up

Novice programme

Our Learn-to- row programme has been a very pleasing success. We ran two six-week courses in the past season, and introduced a very enthusiastic and committed group of 12 mostly female novices to the fun that is masters rowing. The first group, having received further coaching from Jim, has already raced at three events, the second group is aiming for a first outing at the September Kaiapoi long distance regatta. My sincere thanks go to Deb, Tanja and Pam for their support of the Learn-to-row programme, and to all the other club members who are making our newbies feel so welcome at URC.

Next season we will run only one course, which will start after the Masters Nationals in late September. The later part of the summer will be taken up with our preparation for the World Masters Games regatta. The course has a waiting list already, so we must be doing something right!

Health and Safety

Our Health and Safety officers Danny and Tanja report that the club is working hard to meet our H&S obligations. Funding has been received to provide a defibrillator at Kerrs Reach from the Dr. Tom Anderson Memorial Trust.

Nationals around the corner

We've had a really successful season to date with some notable firsts. It was the first time in living memory that Union has had four eights on the water simultaneously at the annual Kaiapoi bridge to bridge event in May. We also had a very successful South Islands Champs at Lake Hood where Union picked up the top club award. You can check out the full results for both these events on the results page of our website. Since then, Jim has been hard at work preparing individual erg programmes and working on crew selections for this year's nationals at Karapiro in mid September. We have a squad of over 20 rowers

who have put their hands up for the trip north which will be a great taster for the big one, next year's World Masters in April 2017 at the same venue.

And finally, in honour of our coxswains, check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsdzMIIn7BrM> to acknowledge their dedication to duty!

**Cheers,
Dorle**



Four URC eights at Kaiapoi



Union at the South Island Champs



From the President

There is a real buzz around the shed these days with activity on and off the water. Training seems to be a perpetual goal for our competitive rowers who are constantly training for regattas. It is rewarding to see all of the new faces in the club and observe their satisfaction coming off the water, hooked on the best sport we all know and enjoy. Five years on from the earthquakes and shed fire it is comforting to know we are close to having a full complement of boats (and blades) offering all members choices at preferred training times.

This year we have sent crews to the Canterbury and South Island champs at Ruataniwha, the NZ Masters in Dunedin plus the Queens Birthday South Island Masters in Ashburton, amassing many medals and taking out overall winning club based on points at the latter. The Kaiapoi bridge to bridge 10k race in May saw four eights from the club take part.

Dorle has commented on the forthcoming schedule of major regattas plus the training regime for all participants developed and managed by Jim. Dorle and Jim are to be congratulated on running the shed while Mike, Tanja and Brent keep watch over crews every week. Recreational row base remains steady with weekend rows on Sundays. Jason Cowles is always prepared to be involved steering either the eight or quad/four. He never misses a beat. Many thanks also to Peter, Kim and Gyda for their sterling coxing work too. Courses for novice rowers have commenced again recently with Dorle and Deb at the forefront of coaching. President's Club rowing membership remains steady with rowing for both ladies and men possibly less frequent during the winter months. The Tui ladies are off to row the Moselle in August and their long distance training has taken a step up after a worthwhile training camp at Kaiapoi over Queens Birthday weekend.

Adaptive rowing has mainly been land based with Karen Rickerby guiding our men when required. Parental support is always been part and parcel of the training regime. We will be hosting the South island champs next year. This is a keenly contested competition between members of Canterbury (Christchurch Union RC), Otago and Southland.

We are pleased to confirm Cure Boating Club have taken up our offer to rent our Kaiapoi shed at Murphy Park as from 1st June while they prepare to rebuild their clubhouse. The committee wanted to assist Cure with boat storage at a time when they most needed it. The shed will be rented for a minimum of 12 months with rights of renewal every three months thereafter. The shed will shortly have its new name "Darcy Christopher Trust" sign written on the front plus the names of organisations who were instrumental in helping us develop the site.

Enjoy your rowing, Neville



URC training camp

The May training camp with morning and afternoon training sessions on the Reach was a real success as a good build up to South Island Champs.

Two days of long rows with the benefit of Jim's expertise from the coaching boat, plus videoed rowing sessions proved to be a great combination. Plans are in the wings for a second camp at the Reach as a build up for nationals.

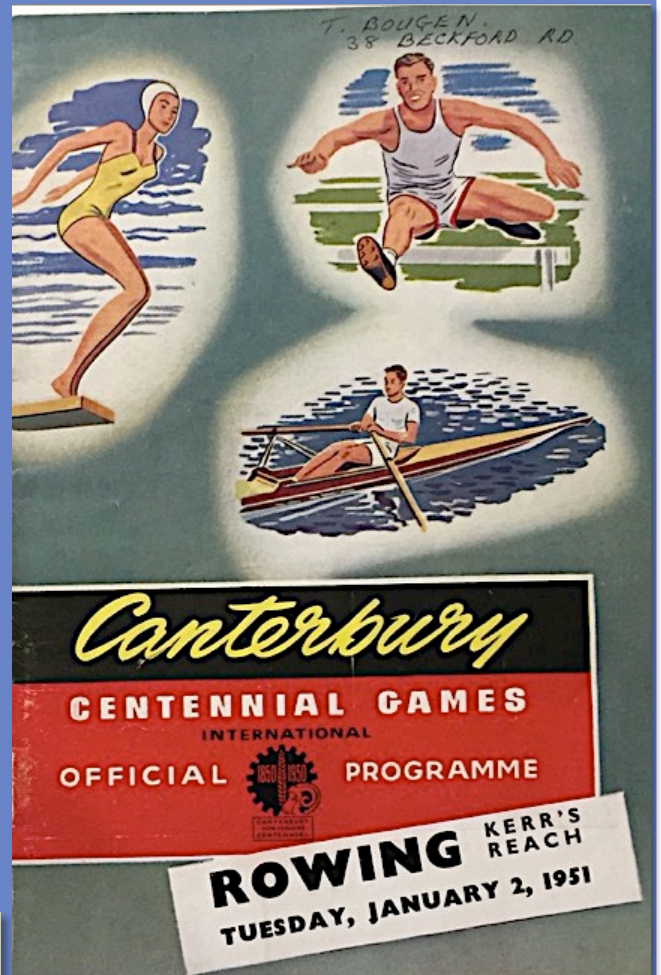


66 years ago... Union at the Games

The Canterbury Centennial Games were a major event for the province, celebrating Canterbury's first 100 years as a province. The Games ran for 10 days from Boxing Day 1950 to 4 January and featured rowing, athletics, swimming, cycling and boxing. The regatta ran over four days, with an official programme printed overnight with details of each day's events and crews – a major undertaking in its time.

Union competed in five events: the youth fours [rowers under 21], maiden fours [under ten stone or 63 kg in weight], the junior and senior fours, as well as the blue riband event, the international eights.

Nine crews contested the international eights as shown in the day one programme below: six top New Zealand club crews including Union, Avon, Otago, Aramaho, West End, North End, Auckland University, plus the Australian eight and a crew from the University of California.



URC club member Trevor Bougen meticulously entered results and times for the regatta, as seen from a page in his programme on the left. Union was second in the heat on 1 January, won the second round on 2 January beating North End and Otago, then raced to a dead heat with Aramoho over the 2000 yard course on 3 January to decide the third boat in the final. A count back saw Union gain the third spot in the final on 4 January, where they rowed third to Australia and the University of California.

66 years on from racing in the Centennial Games, Des Borgfeldt remembers the California coxswain's unusual method of helping his crew keep time. "You could certainly hear them coming," Des recalls. Holding a block of wood in each hand, he would bang the blocks simultaneously on each side of the boat.

INTERNATIONAL EIGHTS			
2000 Yards B and B Boats			
Event 16	To start at 2.35 p.m.	FIRST HEAT	
	Lane 1	Lane 2	Lane 3
	Australia (White with map of Australia)	Avon Rowing Club (Canterbury) (Red with white braces)	Otago Rowing Club (Otago) (Royal blue, white braces)
Bow	R. TINNING	E. CONAGLEN	E. BLANEY
2	D. R. ANDERSON	J. HAMPTON	D. BRADY
3	D. R. PALMER	K. THOMSON	R. A. SMITH
4	V. R. MIDDLETON	A. YOUNG	P. ALLEN
5	R. L. SELMAN	M. STOVE	A. McMILLAN
6	M. D. FINDLAY	G. AGASSIZ	D. BANDEEN
7	E. O. PAIN	F. FORMAN	J. R. SMITH
Str.	P. A. CAYZER	D. NEALE	M. RODGER
Cox.	T. E. M. CHESSELL	I. BURDON	---
Coach	T. E. M. CHESSELL	F. AGASSIZ	---
	1st AUSTRALIA	2nd AVON	3rd OTAGO
	Time: 6 min. 11.6 sec.	Time: 6 min. 36.2 sec.	Time: 6 min. 35.2 sec.
Event 17	To start at 2.43 p.m.	SECOND HEAT	
	Lane 1	Lane 2	Lane 3
	West End Rowing Club (Auckland) (Black with white braces)	North End Rowing Club (Otago) (Red and black quarters)	University of California (U.S. of America) (Dark blue)
Bow	D. D. ROWLANDS	D. CALDER	H. M. GARDISER
2	B. E. CULPAN	N. WILSON	T. B. ADAMS
3	C. B. GREEN	W. WATERMAN	D. S. DRAVES
4	G. JARRATT	M. FINNIE	K. H. CUSICK
5	K. ASHBY	D. PRAIN	T. J. GREW
6	W. J. TINNOCK	R. McLAUGHLIN	P. H. HENRIKSEN
7	M. ASHBY	F. STRACHAN	W. R. HULL
Str.	T. C. ENGEL	R. AITKEN	G. W. LOORZ
Cox.	D. ADAM	R. McCALLUM	N. B. DRURY
Coach	---	---	KY. EBRIGHT
	1st CALIFORNIA	2nd WEST END	3rd NTH. END
	Time: 6 min. 5 sec.	Time: 6 min. 14.4 sec.	Time: --- min. --- sec.
Event 18	To start at 2.51 p.m.	THIRD HEAT	
	Lane 1	Lane 2	Lane 3
	Auckland University R.C. (Auckland) (Heraldic blue and white)	Aramoho Boating Club (Wanganui) (Emerald green & old gold)	Union Rowing Club (Canterbury) (Blue and white halves)
Bow	P. HARPHAM	D. MORRISON	G. HARRISON
2	R. MILGICH	M. LAWRENCE	K. NEWBERRY
3	J. POLAND	L. K. HORNE	B. KNIGHT
4	G. C. DALTON	C. O'DONNELL	N. WEST
5	M. ANTONIEWICH	J. HOLTERMAN	L. WARD
6	I. MERCEP	L. CLARK	D. BORGFELDT
7	J. KOMPOST	J. O'BRIEN	J. SHAW
Str.	R. TONKIN	E. JOHNSON	E. ADAMS
Cox.	N. LYNCH	G. JOHNSTONE	M. MARTIN
Coach	---	---	R. H. SUTHERLAND
	1st ARAMOHO	2nd UNION	3rd AUCKLAND
	Time: 6 min. 19.6 sec.	Time: 6 min. 23.4 sec.	Time: 6 min. 25.1 sec.

To start at 10.38 a.m. SECOND REPECHAGE HEAT			
	Lane 1	Lane 3	
	Aramoho Boating Club (Wanganui) (Emerald green & old gold)	Union Rowing Club (Canterbury) (Blue and white halves)	
Bow	D. MORRISON	G. HARRISON	
2	M. LAWRENCE	K. NEWBERRY	
3	L. K. HORNE	B. KNIGHT	
4	C. O'DONNELL	N. WEST	
5	J. HOLTERMAN	L. WARD	
6	L. CLARK	D. BORGFELDT	
7	J. O'BRIEN	J. SHAW	
Str.	E. JOHNSON	E. ADAMS	
Cox.	C. JOHNSTONE	M. MARTIN	
Coach	D. HOLMES	R. H. SUTHERLAND	
	DEAD HEAT.		
1st	2nd		



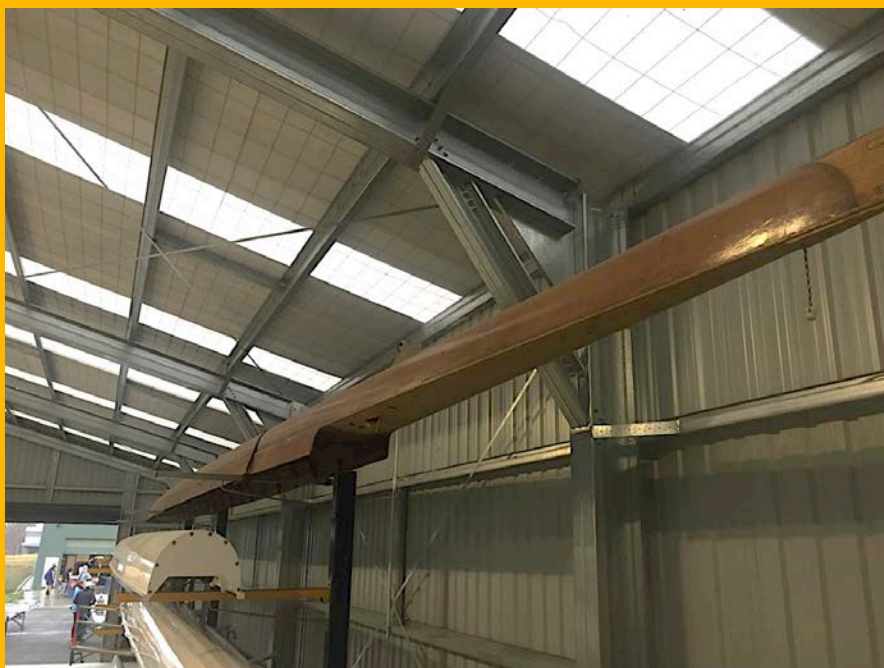
Union life members Des Borgfeldt and Bruce Knight were both in the crew pictured below at the Centennial Games – Des is in 6 seat and Bruce in 5. They are the two surviving members of the eight.

Des said that the rowing was popular at the Games, with a grandstand build at the Reach. Cantabrians turned out in force to see the 'new' Reach as evidenced by the crowds on the bank in the shot below – the cut had only been in a year to create the final straight from just after the Christ's College sheds to Avonside Drive.



There is still a legacy from the Centennial Games in the Union shed.

The wooden one piece eight shell on the top rack is the boat that Union bought after Australia had raced it at the Centennial Games in 1951, which was then raced by the club as their top boat through the 1950s.



Anyone who has lifted that boat knows how heavy it is, even for eight people to lift let alone row. It certainly took more than eight people to lift it onto the top rack after surviving earthquakes and the 2012 fire, having been stored in the CRA shed at that time.

As a one piece boat, Des remembers the challenges of taking it to North Island regattas. It was transported via the Christchurch to Wellington passenger and freight ferry, passed up from the wharf, deck by deck, to be stowed by the ferry's funnels!

