



# URC newsletter



**SPRING 2016**

## From the Club Captain

Spring is finally here, although yet another southerly change is coming through as I am writing this, meaning that today's learn-to-row session had to be cancelled. We have eight aspiring rowers in this year's group, with some of them even too young to qualify as masters rowers:

Ethan, Hannah, Ian, Craig, Jane, Dianna, Vicki and Jacqui. We are having a lot of fun and everybody is making very good progress. There is nothing like teaching absolute beginners to remind yourself how complex and difficult to learn rowing really is, and that there is always room for improvement, even after decades of involvement with the sport.



Meanwhile we are planning ahead to the WMG in April 2017, and expect to take a mixed team of experienced campaigners and some new rowers, who no doubt will enjoy the atmosphere and excitement such a major event provides. Crews for this regatta will be set early and will train over the coming summer months, while the recreational rowing will continue as before. So as is currently the case, we expect the Union shed to be very busy in the months ahead, and I trust everybody will enjoy their rowing in the warmer weather, whatever their plans. New things we may be able to offer in the coming season are land-based fitness training sessions and some recreational outings in our open-water gig *Argo* to such scenic places as Camp Bay or Quail Island (tide and weather permitting, starting from Lyttelton). I am working on these ideas, and will let you know via the usual channels if and when we can offer these additional activities.

Otherwise I am planning to step down as club captain next year, because I believe that it is time for fresh ideas and more energy than I can bring to the task. So, if there is anybody out there who wants to have a crack at this job, let me know. My involvement with Union and rowing will not stop, of course, but I think the responsibility of running an organisation like ours should always be a communal effort.

## Cheers, Dorle

### Learn to row: our latest recruits



## 2016 AGM: URC office holders

The club held its AGM on Wednesday, 12 October 2016. All submitted reports confirmed that Union RC is in good heart and in a stable financial position. Our thanks go to all committee members for their generous support of the club, and especially to Richard Gordon for his careful and measured handling of our finances. The following committee members were elected:

Patron: Jim Little

President: Neville Youngman

Secretary: Jan Maister

Treasurer: Richard Gordon

Vice presidents: Deb Hymers-Ross, Mike Fowler, Bruce Knight, Brian Kelly, Brent Mirfin

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

Club Captain: Dorle Pauli

Deputy Club Captain: Rod McLennan

Health & Safety Officers: Tanja McDonald, Daniel Blair

Committee Members: Brendan O'Dea, James Sheehan, Des Borgfeldt, Graeme Russell, Liz Blair.

CRA representatives: Brendan O'Dea, Graham Russell, Dorle Pauli, Rod McLennan



## From the President

With the onset of spring it is a timely reminder for all of us to be aware of safety concerns while rowing on the Reach. This time of year results in an influx of school rowers and in particular novice crews. Whilst most are under the guidance of coaches we know many are not. It is our responsibility to keep on the correct side of the river and show the usual etiquette to other boat traffic.

We are a safety conscious club and protecting ourselves plus other river users is paramount. On that note, for those new members and have not taken a swim test I urge you to do so now. Danny Blair & Tanja McDonald our safety representatives can give you information on this.

In the aftermath of the nationals, the Union Rowing Club still managed to boat four crews in the Kaiapoi long distance race on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Whilst the weather meant the race was shortened to 5 k's it was still a good workout for the 27 participants.

Our AGM was held Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October and was well attended. Our committee is unchanged from last year meaning we are in a strong position to continue to take the club forward on behalf of all current and future members.

Thank you to all those members who participated in the clean-up of the shed organised by Dorle our Club Captain on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October. It is pleasing to see so many people taking a pride in our club: witness Tanja sweeping and Stu vacuuming at the close of rowing the following Sunday morning.

I wish everyone an enjoyable season. For those gearing up for regattas, all the very best with your training programmes.

**Enjoy your rowing, Neville**



## The Reach in 1951:

In the commentary published in 1951 [on the right], CRA President optimistically described the vision for the 'new' Kerrs Reach as river banks

that will be "beautiful lawns with shady trees " and encouraged people not to look as the Reach as a rowing course, but as "a Christchurch park."

## ...and the 2016 redevelopment

Post quake, the park idea has surfaced again not quite as CA Stiles had envisaged it. There has been talk the development of a water sports facility as well of other recreational uses across the eastern Red Zone. In the meanwhile, the Reach has seen the redevelopment of the rowing club buildings, but little else.

While those major plans are still very much on the long term drawing board, it's good to hear that a redevelopment is underway for the Reach from Christ's College to the Avon sheds. Details are:

- A new pedestrian bridge by the Christ's College shed will be installed.  
The present car parking area between the College shed and the Arawa Canoe club to be sealed.
- the present car parking and road behind these sheds to be re-leveled and sealed, this will give extra car parking.  
Many of the trees to be pruned and most shrubs removed and replaced with low growing tussocks.
- the road from College to Avon to be re-leveled and sealed.
- the present parking area out from the Union/Canterbury shed to be re-leveled and sealed. The parking area to be enlarged.
- a bike lane will follow the fence from the Avon shed to Christ's College shed.
- a pedestrian/cycle track along the waterfront linking up with existing tracks by the College shed.
- regular maintenance programme of mowing the grassed areas.
- a permanent security gate as you enter Kerrs Reach. This will be opened at 6.00am and locked at 9.00pm every day.

## From Our PRESIDENT...

The sport of rowing has been associated with Canterbury since the early 1860's and many men, who have become world famous figures in public life, have happy memories of rowing on the Avon and other water-ways of the province. The greatest difficulty has always been a fair course; one that would not be unduly affected by wind or tide and in Kerr's Reach we believe we have achieved this asset.

Those of you who can remember this swampy, overgrown stretch of the Avon must realise what a wonderful asset to the city this new water-way can be; these banks on which you stand will later be beautiful lawns with shady trees—a park, of which any civic-minded citizen should be justly proud.

Carnivals, as that proposed for the anticipated Royal Visit, will be made comparatively easy with such wonderful facilities for the public to view all events.

Do not look on this as a rowing course. It is a Christchurch park, in the creation of which, the Canterbury Rowing Association has been very happy to be associated with the Christchurch City Council and Christchurch Drainage Board and other local bodies concerned.

We are deeply grateful for all assistance from those progressive bodies and feel that future generations will benefit from this far-sighted outlook to provide a course for the Centennial Games and then a park for posterity and the city's advancement.

Sincerely yours,  
C. A. STILES,  
President, Canterbury  
Rowing Association  
and N.Z.A.R.A.



# UNION at KARAPIRO NATIONALS



## It's been a while,

eight years to be precise, since Union RC last put in an appearance at a National Masters Championship held at Karapiro. And in 2008, it was just a handful of women who made the trip north, to compete in boats hired from Aramoho Wanganui. This year's outing was quite a different proposition, with a squad of 27 men and women and a full trailer load of our own boats making the long trip. We thought of this regatta as a rehearsal for the World Masters Games, to be held on the same course in April 2017, and as such it was quite a successful venture.

We re-acquainted ourselves not only with our competitors from North island clubs, but also with persistent rain, mud, changeable wind- and water conditions and more rain – check out the grey murky shot below on the left for how bad Saturday was at times! Most impressive were the facilities at Karapiro, which received a substantial upgrade in 2010, and the dedication of the many volunteers required to run this event. They, too, used this regatta as a dress rehearsal for the WMG 2017, experimenting with fixed umpire stations along the newly set 1000m course, and a new lane-feed routine to allow for 3 minute start intervals. It mostly worked, but the bigger boats struggled at times to make the narrow gap between the starting pontoons and the shoreline.

Overall the Union crews did very well, especially when much of the competition consisted of combinations of top rowers drawn from a range of clubs, even in the smaller boats. What we had not learned from Twizel 2015 was that we should not compete in eights if we do not train in them beforehand, and that more than six races per competitor is probably not a good idea. The eights still went quite well, but there were some very tired rowers on Sunday night. In the end, most, if not all of us went home with some bling. Union almost single-handedly also made sure that the North v/v South Island events went firmly in favour of correct island, with wins for the women's quad and the women's and men's eights. So there will be some cause for celebration at our planned social/prize giving in early November.

Special thanks, as before, to Mike and Tanja for helping to organise this mammoth undertaking, to Jim, for his constant support and expert coaching, to St. Andrew's, for the loan of their trailer, and to Dale Maher, for taking the boats there and back, and for putting up with me as co-pilot while doing so. And here are three cheers for all the Union crews, their team spirit and commendable effort on the water.

Dorle Pauli



# How did we go?

Karapiro Nationals was good way to test the water against the best in NZ before Worlds next year, but of course that will be a whole new ball game. Our full results list will be under ['Results'](#) on [www.unionrowing.co.nz](http://www.unionrowing.co.nz) shortly.

## GOLD

### Womens E quad

Deb Hymers-Ross, Dorle Pauli, Karen Rickerby, Catherine Kappelle

### Mixed D-F quad

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

### Womens E single

Dorle Pauli

### Womens B single

Kirsty Mahoney

### Mixed D-F double

Dale Maher, Dorle Pauli

### Womens novice double

Mel Arnold, Wendy Duggan

### Mens E quad

Dale Maher, Mike Fowler, Danny Blair, Stephane Chretien

### Womens C single

Kirsty Mahoney

### Womens B single

Kirsty Mahoney

### Mixed novice quad [with Blenheim]

Ian Cartwright



## SILVER

### Womens C double

Kirsty Mahoney, Astrid Harris

### Mens F double

Mike Fowler, Danny Blair

### Mixed A-C quad

Kirsty Mahoney, Astrid Harris, Stephane Chretien, Andreas Giannakogiorgos

### Mens E four

Dale Maher, Mike Fowler, Danny Blair, Stephane Chretien

### Mixed D-F eight

Dale Maher, Dorle Pauli, Deb Hymers-Ross, Mike Fowler, Astrid Harris, Danny Blair, Stephane Chretien, Kirsty Mahoney, Peter Gamble

### Womens E double

Deb Hymers-Ross, Dorle Pauli



## BRONZE

Stephane Chretien, Andreas Giannakogiorgos, Dan Batchelor, Hamish Gray

### Womens D eight [with Blenheim]

Deb Hymers-Ross, Dorle Pauli, Astrid Harris, Kirsty Mahoney

### Mens novice quad [with Blenheim]

Ian Cartwright

## BRONZE

### Womens A single

Kirsty Mahoney

### Mixed novice double

Ian Cartwright, Wendy Duggan

### Womens D quad

Deb Hymers-Ross, Dorle Pauli, Kirsty Mahoney, Astrid Harris

### Mens A-B eight

Brent Mirfin, Murray McCartin, Stuart Wade, Dan Batchelor, Graham Russell,

Brendan McKenna, Spike Crowther, Hamish Gray, Jason Cowles

### Mens E single

Dale Maher

### Mens C four

Brent Mirfin, Murray McCartin, Graham Russell, Brendan McKenna

