



UNION'S 150th



CELEBRATING A CENTURY AND A HALF OF ROWING
UNION ROWING CLUB 150TH JUBILEE 12 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2014

NEWSLETTER 6

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2014

Welcome to our final 150th jubilee newsletter!

In our sixth and final jubilee newsletter, we profile Union life member James Sheehan. As well as being organiser of our 150th celebrations, James has had a lifetime involvement in rowing at multiple levels including New Zealand Athens Olympics manager, Union coxswain and rower, administrator and several other roles.

Rowing news: best wishes to four of our masters rowers – Dorle Pauli, Deb Hymers-Ross, Danny Blair and Dale Maher - who are competing at the FISA World Masters Champs in Ballarat Australia in October. We also have men's and women's crews currently preparing for the annual long distance Cromwell to Clyde event at Labour Weekend.

All our newsletters to date are available online at www.unionrowing.co.nz. The registration form is on the last page of this newsletter. It's not too late to register! The jubilee dinner is sold out, but there are spaces available at all other events. Unfortunately due to venue capacity, on Saturday evening we're unable to accommodate anyone who has not already registered for the dinner. We're thrilled at the high numbers registered to date, but we'd like to see as many people as possible who have links with Union at what will be a great weekend. Looking forward to seeing you at our 150th -
Brendan O'Dea, URC President



Jubilee weekend details

Thank you for registering to attend the club's 150th celebrations. Arrangements are well in hand and we look forward to welcoming you at the 'Meet and Greet' on Friday 12 September.
The schedule of events for the weekend is as follows:



FRIDAY 12 September: "Meet and Greet": this function will be held at Winnie Bagoes Restaurant and Bar, corner Madras and Allen St. from 7.00pm until as late as you like. This is an

informal gathering and an opportunity to catch up with all other club mates. Finger food will be provided and drinks are available from the bar at your own cost. Please note that a registration pack with a name badge, commemorative 150th cap and any 150th clothing you have ordered will be available on Saturday morning at the Club.

SATURDAY 13 September: 10.30am: Jubilee Regatta and barbeque lunch at the boatshed at Kerr's Reach. Dust off your club singlet and bring your gear, a chance to have a row with your old crew or enter the 'fun' mini regatta (over 400m) and gain some bragging rights! Barbeque lunch provided. Beer and wine and soft drinks available at cost.

6.30 for 7.00pm: URC 150th JUBILEE DINNER to be held at Quality Hotel Elms, 456 Papanui Rd. This will be the principal function of the weekend to celebrate the club's 150th with appropriate toasts and guest speaker. Dinner and wine included in ticket cost, pre and after dinner drinks from the bar at your own cost. Dress code: Blazers / jackets and ties for men.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to venue capacity, on Saturday evening we're unable to accommodate anyone who has not already registered for the dinner.

SUNDAY 14th September

Morning tea and farewell drinks at the boatshed at Kerrs Reach.





URC profile: James Sheehan

James's lifelong association with rowing started as a spectator.

At primary school, he watched the crews after school from the river bank across the road from his home in Locksley Avenue. One day, a Union boat stopped. They needed a coxswain. James jumped in, went down to the club the night after that and "every night thereafter." At secondary school, James coxed for Union but at the same time rowed for St Bedes until his coxing career was curtailed when he exceeded the seven stone 12 pound maximum weight. He rowed for both Union and Canterbury in the 1970s, then in 1978 began his long career in rowing administration.

James has held many offices in the Canterbury Rowing Association. At 32, he was the youngest ever recipient of the NZ Rowing Association's Service Jacket, an award that recognises outstanding contribution to rowing administration. James began his NZ official's career as a colts team manager in the late 1980s before moving to managing elite teams. In 2003, he was assistant manager for the World Cup team then landed the prestigious job of managing the NZ Olympic team to Athens in 2004. Being an Olympic team manager was very demanding – he survived on 2 to 3 hours sleep most nights. As James puts it, the approach for Athens was to eliminate surprises. The elite team took their own boats, own food and cooks, even their own washing powder to avoid possible skin irritations from washed row suits.

James has officiated at NZ regattas since 1978 first as a starter and umpire. He saw safety issues around rowers in the cold Lake Ruataniwha water and set up the safety operation including a jetski for quick responses. A validation of his ideas came when he acted in the jetski safety role at the World Champs in 2010 at Karapiro. He has also covered rowing for Newstalk ZB for 25 years. His considerable unpaid contributions to rowing were recognised by his being awarded the Rowing NZ Volunteer of the Year in 2012.

In a career of many highs, the unfortunate low for him is that Lake Isaac course did not come to fruition. As the initiator of the project – in 2000 he 'cold-called' Lady Isaac who became enthused with the idea to build a course on Isaac land close to the airport. It was a project that was very close to becoming a reality, but was stymied by waning City Council support and bird strike issues raised by the airport. For a glimpse of what might have been, look no further than the 2012 London Olympics Eton Dorney course which was modelled on plans originally developed for Lake Isaac.

There is an unusual rowing link between Jim Little and James that has lasted since 1967. James coxed Jim when Jim was rowing; Jim then became James's rowing coach; James became Jim's manager of NZ squads; Jim then became a member of James's regatta safety boat crews which he still continues to this day.

When James finished his term as President of South Island Rowing in 2013, it marked the end of a 35 career as a rowing official. He's proud of his dual life memberships of both Union and the CRA. James is looking forward to focusing on Union and is pleased to see how Union is flourishing. He's hardly taking a back seat either, as he's the organiser of the 150th celebrations. For James, rowing is all about the people and he enjoys the camaraderie more than anything.



James Sheehan: New Zealand Athens Olympics manager, Union coxswain and rower, administrator



Coxing for Union, 1960s



The Union Maiden 8's first win: Picton, New Year's Day 1973 [James in stroke seat]



At the NZ Olympic team photo shoot in Athens [James is top centre]

That elusive red coat



Did this crew stroked by Des Borgdeldt cross the line first in the 1953 championship four?



Jim Little and Ron Satherley racing at Kerrs Reach: perennial premier bridesmaids in the pair



The 1989 Dale Maher stroked four that was unbeaten all season - except for the premier event



The 1997 premier quad that came so close - a split second finish between Waikato, Cambridge and Union



Red coat winners John Richards and Trevor Smith Union's NZ pair oar champions, Wanganui, 1965

Union has won many firsts at Nationals in several divisions, but its last red coat title in a premier [or championship] heavyweight rowing event was when the Trevor Sullivan coached crew of John Richards and Trevor Smith won the champion pair oar at Wanganui in 1965. Union crews have come second in premier events on what some might say was too many occasions, with several agonisingly close results and even a tough judge's call featuring in our red coat history.

Consider the Union men's quad at the 1997 Nationals at Ruataniwha. It had been a most successful regatta: nine medals from seven races - but there was one prized gold medal that proved to be just out of reach. Union was leading the premier quad final into the last 100 metres. Three crews crossed the line together. It took a photo decision to determine that Union had in fact placed third, with a metre separating first and third places.

Jim Little and Ron Satherley rowed runners up for three consecutive years in the champion pair at Karapiro in 1967, Wanganui in 1968 where they were within half a metre of the title, then second again in 1969 at Waiholo. Jim and Ron also raced the champion coxed pair to two seconds at the 68 and 69 Nationals, making for a frustrating record of five premier seconds in three years.

That seems like a tough record to beat, but spare a thought for Union's powerful senior four from the early 1950s. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the crew raced the 1953 championship four on the outside in lane 21 at Lake Wakatipu. One judge gave the race to Union, but the other two judges ruled that West End in lane 1 crossed the line first and were awarded the title.

The Union four from the 1988 - 89 season punched well above their weight to row second in the premier four event after an unbeaten season, a remarkable feat given that it was achieved by two lightweight and two school aged rowers.



REGISTRATION – URC 150th Jubilee

Programme: 12 – 14 September 2014

Friday 12 September 6pm: Meet and Greet, Winnie Bagoes [city], cnr Madras & Allen Sts

Saturday 13 September 10am–2pm: Jubilee Regatta, drinks, barbeque and photos, Kerrs Reach

6.30pm [for drinks]: Jubilee Dinner and Dance, Elms ,456 Papanui Rd

Please register early for the dinner as numbers for this event are capped.

Sunday 14 September 10.00am: Elevenses at the club, Kerrs Reach

Further details will be confirmed closer to the Jubilee.



Register now:

Name:

Partner's name:

Email address:

Postal address:

Preferred phone contact number:

Brief details on your association with URC [details will go on your name tag]:

Eg: *Club member 1980 – 85*

1 Registration fee:

[Tick]	• Registration after 8 August: \$65.00 – Registration includes finger food for Friday night [NB: drinks are at own cost on Friday night], commemorative cap, Saturday lunch barbeque and drinks. Partners do not need to pay a registration fee.	Number registering
--------	---	---------------------------

2 I wish to attend [NB: costs for two events are covered by registration]:

[Tick]	Event	Cost per person	Number attending
	Meet and Greet Friday	Covered by registration [No cost for partners wishing to attend meet and greet]	
	Jubilee Regatta Saturday	Covered by registration [No cost for partners wishing to attend regatta]	
	Jubilee Dinner Saturday	\$85.00 per person [covers dinner and wine with dinner] [NB: The Elms Hotel, the venue for the dinner, is also offering a 10% reduction to \$157.50 (Inc.) per room per night. When booking at the Elms, please inform reservations that you are attending our event.]	Dinner sold out!
	Elevenses at the club Sunday	Nil	

3 I wish to purchase:

[Tick]	Item	Size required / cost per item	Number required
	150th polo shirt	XS/S/M/L/XL/8/10/12/14 \$35.00	
	150th T shirt	XS/S/M/L/XL/8/10/12/14 \$30.00	
	Extra caps [one free with registration]	One size \$20.00	

4 Payment / sending your registration form: PLEASE PAY WHEN REGISTERING

[Tick payment method]	• Online bank payment [preferred method]. • Cheque	• Union Rowing Club / Account 030802 0096251 00. You must include your name in the reference field. • Post cheques [and registration forms if sending by post] to Union Rowing Club PO Box 1839 Christchurch.	Total amount paid [from 1, 2, 3 above]
-----------------------	---	--	---

Scan and email your registration form to Des Borgfeldt [borgfeldt@clear.net.nz]