



UNION's 150th



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

NEWSLETTER 2

APRIL 2014

Welcome to our second 150th jubilee newsletter!

If you missed the first edition of our newsletter, it's available online at www.unionrowing.co.nz, as is the registration form for our jubilee weekend in September. The registration form and programme is also on the last page of this newsletter.

A highlight in newsletter 2 is a profile of our NZ representative, Emma Feathery. To update you on club news, our masters rowers are preparing for the annual Kaiapoi long distance race in May followed by a highlight of the masters rowing calendar, the South Island Champs at Dunstan Arm at Queen's Birthday weekend. Once again our crews are benefitting from Jim Little's expert guidance. The club is proud to have just taken possession of four new boats: one coxed and one coxless four /quad as well as two doubles / pairs. Along with our four other boats acquired in 2013 – two doubles and two quads – the club is very well equipped with quality plant. There's more about the launching of our four newest boats in this newsletter.

Can I encourage you to make the most of your email contacts and forward our newsletter to those who have links with Union past and present. Looking forward to seeing you at our 150th.

Brendan O'Dea
URC President



Introducing: Club Captain Neville Youngman



Neville joined Union in 2000. Prior to being a Union man Neville rowed competitively for Southland's Waihopai Rowing Club during the 1970s. Highlights during Neville's "short" rowing career are numerous, but the one that stands out is more about what happened off the water than on it. Being part of an energetic committee team piecing together the club after the 2010/11 earthquakes and 2012 fire which destroyed the club buildings is most memorable. What Neville enjoys most about Union is the

membership. URC is a people's club and new members comment on the friendly atmosphere from the day they join. When he's not rowing, Neville works (not lives) in a retirement village, does a bit of cycling, walking, gardening and when time permits, enjoys the occasional draught beer.



URC profile: Emma Feathery

One of Union's most accomplished rowers, Emma Feathery, nearly didn't start rowing at all. In Year 9 at Avonside Girls High School, she changed her mind at the last minute and decided to attend the fitness test for beginning rowers. From that point there was no looking back. There was no doubting Emma's dedication even back then. In Year 10 she phoned Jim Little and asked him to coach her. "I figure I was pretty brave ringing Jim," who she perceived as the 'scary' person who oversaw the coaching at Union. It was a coaching partnership that was to continue with success at school and national level for several years.

Emma rowed singles through her school rowing career which culminated in wins in the Under 17 and 18 singles at the Maadi Cup. She has competed in almost every class of boat at national level. After leaving school, her first national selection was in the NZ U21 double. The following year in 2001 she won a seat in the NZ junior eight and in 2002 rowed the single competing at the Junior World Champs, followed by the U23 double in 2003. She was in elite womens eight for two years at World Champs, with the crew just missing a qualifying spot for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. In 2009 she won bronze in the elite pair at the World Champs in Germany. Her NZ career ended in 2010 rowing the quad then the double at the World Champs at Lake Karapiro.

Looking back over her rowing career, Emma feels that her years rowing for Union were her favourite times. She will "always be a Union member at heart. That will never change." Highlights include junior titles at nationals and the club winning the Centennial Scull for the top sculling club in 2002, a feat achieved with only seven Union scullers. "Those experiences were what made me love rowing," Emma says. It was what she held onto later in her career when competing to make national crews, when rowing went from "fun to work." "Rowing became more of a job the higher I went," Emma says. "being the fastest individual was what mattered."

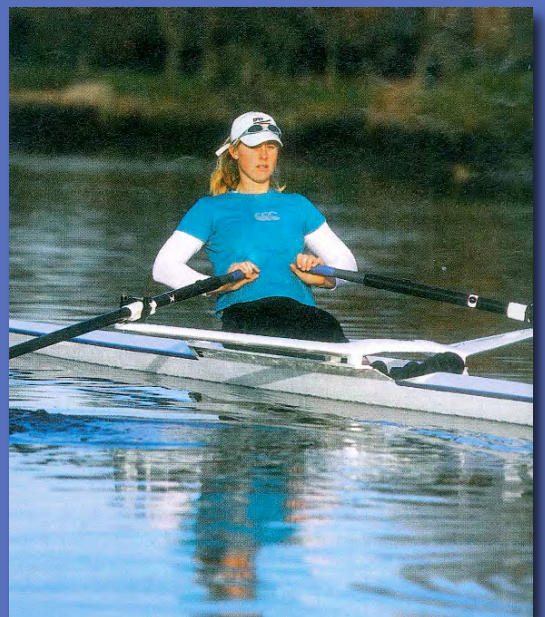
Emma's one regret after such a stellar rowing career is that she didn't manage to go all the way under Jim's coaching and win gold in the single in a weather disrupted final at the 2002 Junior World Champs in Lithuania, after winning her heat and semi. In fact she feels that if she could, she would trade her World Champs bronze in the pair for that Junior gold result. That's a brave call to make about her outstanding career. Looking back at what she has achieved, there is plenty that should make Emma and Union very proud.



*Emma Feathery:
University of Canterbury Liaison Officer
New Zealand and Union rower*



*Union scullers and coach Jim Little with the
Centennial Scull awarded to the top sculling
club at Club Champs, 2002*



*Preparing for the Junior World Champs, 2002
- rowing the 'Nuplex' single which unfortunately
was destroyed in the 2012 arson attack on the
Kerr's Reach shed*



Welcoming Hebe, Hera, Leander and Aphrodite



Life members Laurie Preston and Bruce Knight christen Leander



The President's quad for Leander's launch. From left: Brendan O'Dea, Dorle Paule, Neville Youngman, Jim Little, James Sheehan – and on the water:



While the weather didn't live up to expectations, the christening of Union's four latest boats went without a hitch. The event was marked by life members Laurie Preston and Bruce Knight christening the boats with some bubbly. President Brendan O'Dea then announced the crew he had selected for the inaugural row: himself in stroke seat, plus club captain Neville and life members James and Jim with deputy club captain Dorle as coxswain.

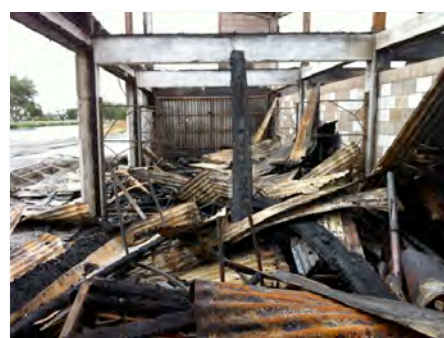
The names of three of the boats have added significance in terms of the club's recent history. The two doubles Hera and Hebe carry the names of boats destroyed in the 2012 arson attack. Leander carries forward the name of the building in which Union and Canterbury were joint partners and occupiers from the early 1960s. Both clubs still hold a partnership in the Leander Trust.

Union's boat names also have a classical link. Leander is the name of the character from Greek mythology who swam across the Hellespont each night to be with Hero. Leander's story ended in tragedy when he drowned one stormy evening attempting to reach her. The other three names have female links. Aphrodite was the goddess of love and beauty. Hera was the goddess of women and marriage. Hebe was Hera's daughter and goddess of youth. However—and as masters rowers who might hope that some of Hebe's powers may rub off on them should note—that according to Greek myth, Hebe could not grant youth or delay ageing!

What's in a name? Just like the phoenix, Union rises from the ashes

There are some nice touches behind Union's custom of its boat names deriving from Greek mythology. Take Phoenix, the name of one of Union's new quads. The phoenix is a bird figure that obtains new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor- an appropriate symbol of renewal for the Union Rowing Club which in two years has transformed from a burnt out shell to the facilities enjoyed today. A sense of scale is important, with size appropriate names for the eight Olympia, the site of the Olympic Games in classical times; and Hermes, the god of sport, athletes and messenger of the gods. On the other hand, the lightweight double is christened Naida, or water nymph in mythology. There has been some recycling of names. In addition to Hera and Hebe mentioned above, the name **APOLLO** Apollo [or the Greek sun god] has been reincarnated from its namesake, a Stiles coxed four purchased in 1972.

Finally, there has to a message for those rowing Nemesis who might talk up their chances before a race. Nemesis was the spirit of divine retribution against those who succumbed to arrogance.





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

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]		Number registering
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration before 8 August: \$45.00 – 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. Registration after 8 August: \$65.00 	

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]	
	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]			Total amount paid [from 1, 2, 3 above]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online bank payment [preferred method]. Cheque 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	

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