



UNION'S 150th



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

NEWSLETTER 5

JULY 2014

Last opportunity for earlybird registration – closes 8 August

There is a short time left to register at the \$45 rate – the registration form is on the final page of this newsletter or you can download the form from www.unionrowing.co.nz

In our fifth and second to last jubilee newsletter, we profile our New Zealand representative Robin Tinga. Life members Des Borgfeldt and Bruce Knight give us a fascinating glimpse of their rowing experiences from more than half a century ago – in fact Bruce is in bow seat of the pair in the photo above.

Today – 22 July – is the 75th anniversary of the club's jubilee dinner. With just over a month until our 150th jubilee celebrations, it's appropriate we reflect on Union's rich history and the Union rowers who have preceded us.

All our newsletters to date and other information about the club are available online at www.unionrowing.co.nz or join us on Facebook to stay up to date.

Looking forward to seeing you at our 150th

Brendan O'Dea
URC President



**Today,
75 years ago:
the 75th jubilee
dinner, Saturday
22 July 1939**

NZ's population was 1.5 million, Michael Joseph Savage was Prime Minister and two months after this photo was taken in July 1939, NZ had entered World War II. The URC 75th jubilee dinner was very much a men's event. There's plenty of long lost club memorabilia around the walls of the ballroom upstairs at the Oxford Terrace boatshed, as well as the single slung from the roof. How about a shot of the 150th dinner as a time capsule item for the 225th in 2089?!

UNION ROWING CLUB
1864-1939
JUBILEE DINNER
JULY 22nd 1939



URC profile: Robin Tinga

Robin Tinga, the first adaptive athlete to row for New Zealand, would confirm that breaking new ground is never easy. Take the issues around modifying riggers which had far too great a span resulting in a short stroke. With some Kiwi number eight wire ingenuity, Robin and coach Adrian Henning with help from club captain Richard Jarman, engineered makeshift riggers that saw him through South Island Champs and Nationals. It was after achieving a world qualifying time at Nationals that rowing NZ eventually agreed to have custom riggers made for NZ trials.

The training was as hard as any NZ rower undertakes, two hour sessions morning and night before and after full time work five days a week, then weekend training. Compared to training at Karapiro, Kerrs Reach came a distant second for Robin. He doesn't have fond memories of training on the reach, hitting rubbish in the river and having his blades caught in weed while rowing in the dark. Attitude, ingenuity and a resolute coach got him through. When rib fractures meant that he needed to curtail on the water training- in his words, "I was cold, tired and hurt"- Robin and Adrian transferred to the high performance training pool at QE11. Robin completed what he described as amazing resistance training swimming at full effort while tied by a rope to Adrian. Robin says he can't speak highly enough of Adrian and he also claims Karen Rickerby is another person who "pulled out all the stops".

Robin came a creditable fourth in the 2009 World Cup at Munich and had his sights set on lifting his performance for the World Champs later that year in Poznan. Arriving a week early, he discovered that nothing had been organised for adaptive athletes. No training times were allocated, nor was the accommodation suitable - things now that are part of the plan for adaptive rowers. After winning his heat, he came fifth in the final after going "hell for leather" at the start and burning out early. Fifth was enough to qualify Robin for the Olympics, but fulltime work, a young family and insufficient funding meant that this wasn't possible.

In many respects Robin has made the path smoother for those adaptive rowers who followed him to national honours. His contribution hasn't stopped there either. Robin is hoping to return to recreational rowing and is currently planning a fundraising event via the Telecom Foundation sponsored 'Give a Little' website to raise funds for an adaptive boat purchase. He is also keen to encourage others to take up adaptive rowing. The Union Rowing Club and adaptive rowing are fortunate that they haven't seen the last of Robin Tinga.



Robin Tinga: New Zealand and Union rower



New Zealand elite squad 2009



New Zealand Rowing Announce Elite Squad For 2009 Season

Training at Lake Karapiro alongside Mahe Drysdale



At the World Cup, Munich 2009



Des Borgfeldt and Bruce Knight reminisce



Des and Bruce remember their rowing days



The way it was: Union and Avons 8s clash blades racing beside Avonside Drive



Union Senior 8 1954 [Des is second left, back row, Bruce second left, front row.]

Union life members Des Borgfeldt and Bruce Knight recently leafed through Des's photo album and recalled their rowing experiences of over half a century ago. While there may be more pleasant stretches of water to row on than Kerrs Reach, spare a thought for those who raced on the old course before the cut was put in to create the final straight at the Reach. Crews raced two abreast over about 1000 yards or so and finished close to the Fitzgerald Avenue bridge.



Union Senior 4 1954 at Stewarts Gully

Des and Bruce raced together in several crews including the Union 8 shown below [with Des in 6 and Bruce in 5] that won a place in the final of the 1950 Centennial Games eights on the new Kerrs Reach course, eventually rowing third to the Californian and Australian crews. The one piece eight Australia rowed in that event was purchased by Union and is in storage. One intriguing question was raised in Des's reminiscences: Union came second in the premier 4 in 1989, but did they in fact win the 1953 event which was rowed on Lake Wakatipu? Due to rough weather, racing was moved to Frankton Arm with Des's crew on the outside in lane 21. 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. Was it the correct call? Des and the other surviving crew member Norman West maintain to this day that they won. That's proof enough that the Boss Rooster should have spent at least one year painted in white and blue!



The senior 4 - robbed of the Boss Rooster? G Harrison, N West, J Shaw, D Borgfeldt





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 at 150

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]	<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 	Number registering
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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.]	
	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]	<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. 	Total amount paid [from 1, 2, 3 above]
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Scan and email your registration form to Des Borgfeldt [borgfeldt@clear.net.nz]