



## NATIONALS & WORLD CUP@PENRITH A PICTORIAL REVIEW GOLD!!!



World Cup W8 K Bateman (4),  
C Sutherland(7)



World Cup M4-  
Josh Dunkley Smith (S)



Queens Cup P Frasca (7),  
B Daniher (5), K Bateman (4),  
R Hooper (3), S Sutherland (2),  
J Cleary (B)



Nationals Mercs Junior 8+



Nationals Mercs U23W8+

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to our summer racing season edition and first anniversary of the new look Mercantilian.

I had a very contented couple of days during January staying with the competition team at our summer training camp at Johnsonville. It was great to get onto the water with Mark and Chipper and see our crews in action first hand.

Leading on from the camp, the assembled continue to hearing more than their fair share of "Mercantile Leads to the line" by Roger Wilson as he commentates at the Barwon regatta, Victorian championships and Henley regatta. We now see Mercantile restored rightfully as Vic champs in many small boats and eights.

We are very pleased to confirm that the club has signed Heads of Agreement to have St Catherine's and Brighton Grammar as sub tenants for the coming 20 years. With this contract we are now fully committed to completing the \$2 Million club house renovation with works expected to commence in May and be completed by October of this year. We are able to complete this work

due to the vision of past members who set up the building fund and originally secured the idea of sub tenants from schools, and again thank our past leaders and contributors for their vision, dedication, support and generosity to Mercantile. The building fund trustees have granted 100% use of all available money by pledging \$600K to complete the renovation. In addition we will secure a loan from Westpac Bank for c. \$300k.

Thanks also to our departing captain, Nick Baker, for his assistance over the past 18 months. Nick has secured a position at Cornell in the USA to complete a MBA over the next 2 years and we wish him well in his endeavours.

As a result of Nick's departure, we are pleased to welcome Robyn Selby-Smith as the 51st Captain of Mercantile, effective from April the 6th.

As you can see above we have a busy and exciting year ahead, and Mercantile calls upon all members to assist the club in this year of significant transformation, in any way you are willing and able.

Please join us at the club for lunch on April 6th to unveil an Olympic honour board and to bid farewell to the current face of the club before renovations commence in May.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Endowment Fund was originally set up by Jim Sprigg and has grown from \$25,000 to \$600,000. This money is being used to offset the renovation costs, however the Club will still have to source borrowed funds to the tune of \$300,000. If you are able to generously support the re-building with a donation, please contact Club Treasurer, Duncan MacKinnon on [treasurer@mercantile.org.au](mailto:treasurer@mercantile.org.au). Alternatively an Australian Sports Foundation tax deductible form is enclosed, if you wish to donate via this medium, to assist with the recent fleet re-equipment program.



OM4X S Jackson (3), T Swann (2)



W & T Day  
U23 ML2



U21 W2X  
M Farrar (S)  
R Tattersall (B)

## COACH'S CORNER



As per normal it seems like an age since I last wrote in the Mercantilian – as per normal this is not so but the club has been so busy that perception can be misleading. The club has had another excellent annual January camp in Johnsonville, Gippsland and we are fortunate to have such a great venue in close proximity.

After the camp, competition started in earnest and most athletes took their first competitive strokes of 2013 at Barwon Regatta. With 16 wins (15 2nd's and 5 3rd's) we easily topped the Medal Table.

As in any other year the serious stuff of NSW State Champs was soon upon us. This year with the added complication of World Cup selection we needed to treat the State Championships as a major peak in our season. Crews came from all the States as well as overseas to make a truly great regatta. With Australian team selection in mind we focused on the small boats and by the end of Saturday were one of the featured clubs. The results speak for themselves: 11 Sen. A athletes selected is the largest club contingent in Australia. They were: Josh Dunkley-Smith, Jordan Hooper, James Wilson, Sean Lake, Redmond Matthews, Tom Swann, Shane Jackson, Katrina Bateman, Charlotte Sutherland, Rebekah Hooper and Jennifer Cleary. For all bar JDS and Swanny this is their first Sen. A team and for Jordan, Charlotte and Jen, their first Australian Team. Sunday was also memorable, seeing our U23 Men beat our local rivals as well as seeing the first competitive outing of the Youth Men's crew. So much hard work has gone into getting this crew to water and in particular I would like to thank Sandy Mitchell and Dick Bartlett from BGS.

The following week the coaching team decided that competing at Australian Henley could be accommodated. We entered the Grand, the Ladies, Silver Sculls and Lord Mayor's Challenge, winning all four!

This led the club to our own State Championships and with strong racing and willingness to row in some new and 'unexpected' combinations we ended atop the Medal Table with 18 Gold, 9 Silver and 14 Bronze.

We all knew the Nationals in 2013 would be different but I for one was blown away by the spectacle of watching junior, club, State and world-class International crews train and race alongside each other. While we missed our 11 Sen A athletes to the World Cup team (they were allowed to race only once in a small boat for their club) the rest of the team stepped up to the challenge. Everyone raced brilliantly in the heats and reps and by Day 4 Finals Day we took in 7 Gold, 5 Silver and 6 Bronze. I never like highlighting individual efforts as everyone produced their best possible performance at least once during the week but to see the Junior U 19 Men's Eight and the entire Women's Youth and U23 Squads win in such style and maturity shows the future of Mercantile is very promising. I would like to thank the coaches who have all done such brilliant work over the season and especially so in the last couple of months in the lead up and during the Nationals Week.

Soon we will know those invited to Final Trials for the 2013 National Teams and I am sure Mercantile will, once again, be the dominant force in Australian Rowing.

*Mark Fangen-Hall*

## CAPTAIN'S CHOICE



Red and White!

As another domestic season draws to a close, I have the proud yet melancholy news that I will be leaving you all. For those few of you that I haven't chewed the ear off, I'm moving to the US for a few years to do an MBA at Cornell University. As pumped as I am over the idea of buying a pick-up truck and living out my life long dream of becoming a redneck, it saddens me that I'll be leaving the brother(and sister)hood of Mercantile. Perhaps think of it as an international expansion; searching for some Yankee souls who want to learn how to row anything other than 8+s. As memory-lane as this is, I think about how much has changed in the short 3 years I have been at the club.

When I first arrived, leading into winter 2010, the club felt empty, with only a couple of dedicated athletes carrying the torch of training throughout the cold winter. Jump forward a few years and the shed is all movement; not just at the pointy end of the season but all year long. I would love to claim this as the result of something I've done, but it's not. It's been all of you, changing attitudes, becoming more determined, growing steel and hardening spirits, driven by any number of factors but most of all each other and the competition that sits somewhere inside us that makes rowers do what we do.

From the spit and dust in the gym, to winning Head of the Yarra, I will miss Mercs. In due course you will have a new Captain, whom I know will be far more capable and better looking than me.

If I have any advice, it's to not be afraid to turn to the club. We are lucky to have people who know how to get to that place you dream of. Call Drew or James (I'll give you their numbers) and ask how; it's part of Mercs that we help each other.

Then one day when you've won your races, remember to pass it on. I wish you all the best of luck.

Your Captain, Nick

## KAYAK UPDATE

The year started well with Mathew French winning the Australian Wildwater Classic championships, surprising himself and others after battling illness in the latter part of 2012. Robbie Brain spent January dominating surf carnivals on the double ski, and Tim Altman had a cracking season on the ocean ski, but was narrowly beaten into second place on all outings.

Despite Nagambie cross course winds, our U23 men, James Campbell, Tim Arnold and Tom Hedditch performed well at the National Spring Grand Prix 2, making all the finals.

Marlena Ahrens narrowly missed selection for the U23 sprint team at sprint GP3 being tied on points for the last spot, but lost out on a count back. With significant improvement this year, she has another chance next year.

The National Marathon, Sprint and Surf Life Saving events are coming up after Easter, and all athletes are training hard, looking to race well at these championships.

## MEMBER PROFILE



Meet Ian Duthie who has been a continuous member for over 40 years. His story goes back to the 1970's as romance blossomed on meeting Rosemary

Loveless. Rosemary's connection with Mercs is saddened, yet strengthened, with the loss of her young brother, Ricky Loveless aged 12 in 1970; a talented young cox whose life was tragically cut short in a traffic accident on his way to a Mercs training session. A memorial photo currently hangs on the clubhouse wall outside the Committee Room. Their parents, Arthur and Jay Loveless, remained strong supporters of the club until their deaths, and a trophy was established for the Most Outstanding Oarswoman each season by Jay who became the first female member of the club in 1976.

Ian and Rosemary's interest in Mercantile has never waned, despite 34 years working in Asia and now living and retired to Connecticut. They travel to Melbourne every year to shake off those wintery blues, and this year the Mercs U23's youth have been lucky to have his help with some coaching, whilst his crews at Yale take a break. "I look forward to seeing the clubhouse spruced up with the renovations, and a return to busy evenings every Thursday Club night" he said. "In past days the place was packed with current and former rowers of all calibres, just getting together and enjoying the camaraderie for which the club was so famous."

## MASTERS REPORT

As the aches and pains from the HoY subsided, most Masters took the opportunity to have a break over Christmas and New Year. We thank the Masters who graciously step out of their boats on a rostered basis, to prepare the BBQ for each FTOM and in February it was MaryJane Crabtree (pictured) and Sue-Virginia Mackey who was busy in the kitchen!



Editor also stands corrected in the last edition on the Melbourne Head report in not recognising the sound 2nd place obtained in the FM4+ event which went to Deb Scully (S), Jackie Petley, Jo Mardjetko and Jenny Williams coxed by Ben Phillips. Well done ladies and gent!

We are looking to expand our group and ask that anyone interested in a paddle on Thursday evenings at 6pm and/or Sunday mornings at 8.00am(ish) let Andrew Phillips know on [info@mercantile.org.au](mailto:info@mercantile.org.au)

## LIGHT AND BRIGHT

### Baby Boom!!

Congratulations to Mark and Vic Fangen-Hall on the birth of baby Oliver, brother to Luc. Vic managed to produce Oliver on Australia Day – so Mark, there's no going back - you're here to stay!



Congratulations also to Henry and Alex Edgar on the birth of first-born Montgomery on 14th January. Henry must be an old hand from his rowing days at late nights and early mornings, so should settle into fatherhood very easily.



## SOCIAL ROUNDUP



### Barrell's Bash

Despite soaring temperatures, Sunday 24th February's Barrell's Bash was a great success. The afternoon started with the christening of three boats: 2 pairs being the "Josh Dunkley Smith"

and the "Bill Tait" and a 4-, the "Kate Hornsey". Kate, you're going to have to take up golf to get a good swing going!!

Lunch was served and "China" O'Brien gave a stirring account of some of the more famous antics attributed to Barry Gross, but I think we need to see the egg trick again! The afternoon also raised money toward a new boat to be named the "Barry Gross"

### Nationals BBQ – Nepean Rowing Club

The annual pre Nationals evening for "Team Mercs" supporters and friends proved a winner at the Nepean Rowing Club. About 70 people turned up for a great balmy night on the venue's balcony overlooking the river course which provided a great backdrop for the evening.

### FTOM – February.

These are some of the reasons to come down to FTOM and have some fun! A good crowd was on hand at February's club night when a two of the Auctioned rows were redeemed. It was a bit of a Phillips family affair with Andrew and son Jono out with Drew and Josh, and Susie with fellow Ladies Master rower Jackie Petley in the VIII. (Thanks Mal for organising such an Oarsome row in the VIII)



## HOUSE MATTERS

### Notes from the Treasurer

Did you know that Mercantile Rowing Club pays approximately \$25,500 in seat fees a year to Rowing Victoria for all race entries? This is why it's so vital that competitive rowers keep up to date with their payments as this is money that has to be paid on time to RV/RA

### Working Bee and packing up the Club House.

This will be a critical time to get the building ready for partial demolition and we urge all members to respond to future calls for help. Further information will be issued separately.

### No Lights = No Row

As the end of day light savings approaches please remember the Maritime rules.

Daylight is deemed to end/start one hour after, and one hour before official sunset and sunrise.

Flashing bow light and solid stern white light only (**Red flashing bicycle lights are not acceptable.**)

## CLASSIFIEDS

Mercantile seeks former rowers to share some time giving a hand with Coaching Masters crews and Intermediate beginners. If you really love the sport and your club, please forward your contact details to captain@mercantile.org.au. We hope that a number of volunteers will help out on a rotating basis.



Lots of medals and smiles!  
Well done Katrina and Sandy

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Mercantile extends a warm welcome to all new Members who have joined since December 2013, and we look forward to a long and happy association with the Club.

**Senior** – Christine Simpson / Renee Tattersall

**Junior** - Emily Biasotto / William Legge / Tom Morrison / James Robinson / Anthony Surace / Angus Widdicombe

**Country** - George Patterson

### MERCS WELCOMES BRIGHTON GRAMMAR AND ST. CATHERINE'S 20 Year Sub Tenants.

In order to accommodate both schools, the renovation will see the boat bays advance under the balcony to increase the storage of boats and oars, including rigger free storage racks for fours and pairs. The change rooms and toilets, including individual facilities for our sub tenants will be completely rebuilt. The bar will be re-orientated to the previous N-S position as it was in the '80s, and the Gym will be modernized and increased in size. The entire club will be fully compliant with current safety regulations, and both the internal and external elements of the club house will be repaired and painted. We are working to ensure the club "feel" of memorabilia will be fully maintained and enhanced, and we also look forward to close collaboration with both schools in the coming years ahead.



L-R Greg Willcox, Head Master  
Michael Urwin, Head Coach Dick  
Bartlett, President Mal Batten



St. Cath's Geraldine Illott

## CLUB CONTACTS

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