



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS @ KOREA (SENIORS), AUSTRIA (U23'S), LITHUANIA (JUNIORS) A PICTORIAL REVIEW



GOLD Austria U23 W4 - C Sutherland



SILVER Korea M4 - J Dunkley Smith (S)



BRONZE Lucerne Rebekah Hooper (B) W4X-



Korea W8+ C Sutherland, K Bateman



Lithuania JW8+ O Zago, L Tomanovits, C Engel, S Coltman, E Fahey, Coach T Abramowski



Lithuania A Maglio (B) and L Donald (S) JM4-

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to our spring newsletter.

The renovation of the club house is now complete and the final touches are being added.

We have new boat racking; a boat bay sprinkler protection; new change rooms; and an elevator. We also have new carpet; lighting that is movement sensitive with dimmers; a new bar with new glass washer and all of this whilst maintaining a sense of the original clubhouse and the history within its walls. All is ready for the next chapter in the Mercantile story.

The official opening of the clubhouse is scheduled to be the night of our AGM on October 26th at 6pm, which will be followed by dinner. Please join us to usher in the next chapter of the Mercantile story, and make a booking by going on line to - www.trybooking.com/DQWH.

We have a bank loan of approximately \$300,000 which is part of Mercantile's contribution to the capital works. We are very appreciative of the generous legacy from the estate of Tony Cordell. Mercantile was a beneficiary of \$60,000 and this has been designated as part of the loan repayment.

We ask ALL members to consider making a donation towards the loan repayment. The most tax effective method would be to use the enclosed Australian Sports Foundation Building Fund donation form. Can you help the club to repay our bank loan?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday October 26th - AGM and Club Opening

6pm meeting, 7pm dinner \$35 p/ head and drinks at bar prices

Saturday November 30th - Head of the Yarra After Party

Commencing 5.30pm. Admission \$15 per head. Drinks at bar prices

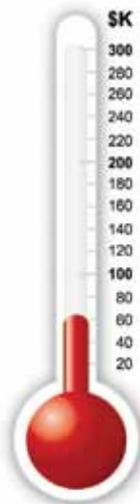
Thursday December 5th - FTOM Christmas Theme

BBQ and drinks at bar prices.

Mercantile has set a record for the numbers of national team members competing during the year and this is reported in detail by our Head Coach. We are thrilled to add our latest Gold medalist, Charlotte Sutherland to Mercantile's tally. I extend my congratulations to all who represented Australia (and Mercantile), along with medalists Charlotte Sutherland and Josh Dunkley Smith.

With great anticipation we await the coming competition season which commences with the Head of the Yarra racing on Saturday 30th November. GO Mercs...

BUILDING FUND TARGET



CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

"Spring is here, the rowers have ris, I wonder where our next success is!"



It's that lovely time of year when a warm day feels like a gift, you don't need lights to row in the morning and nor do you have to slalom through the swarm of school crews. Our "winter battlers" who have trained through the dark and the cold have definitely earned their sunny spot on the early morning Yarra. The club has had a quiet but impressive winter. While many of our coaches and athletes have swanned off to the warmth and excitement of northern hemisphere racing, our winter battlers and hardy Mercantile regulars have kept the place ticking over. The gym, boats, oars, riggers, breakfast aids and people have been moved from bay to bay, in and out, up and down. I was dreading the logistics of the renovation. But it all seems to have happened surprisingly smoothly. Everyone has helped out where they can, worked around whatever the current complication is and our neighbour clubs have been

COACH'S CORNER



As per usual the speed of a year passing can be gauged by the request for the coach's report for The Mercantile – Is it that time again, so soon? On the final leg of the return journey from the World Championships in Chungju in South Korea I reflected on our winter and International Season. I was fortunate enough to be included in the U23

Team and Senior A Team. Both were wonderful experiences but were made all the better by seeing various athletes training in the Mercantile zootie. Fradge, who was also on the U23 Team, compared some of the training sessions to those of Mercantile, such as the display of Red and White (with a dash of light blue). Overall the results are what many expected, respectable for the first year of the new Olympiad, but there is much work to be done.

Our team of National Athletes are:

Sen. A:	Josh Dunkley-Smith	M4-	Silver
	Charlotte Sutherland	W4- W8+	Bronze 5th
	Katrina Bateman	W8+ W2-	5th 12th
	Tom Swann	M2X	8th
	Rebekah Hooper	W4X	8th
	Rebecca Daniher	W2- Rsv	
	Jennifer Cleary	W X Rsv	
	U23:	Charlotte Sutherland	W4-
Sophie Sutherland	W8+	4th	
Rachael Hooper	W8+	4th	
Jennifer Cleary	W8+	4th	
Sarah Banting	W8+	4th	
Tim Cleary	M4X	9th	
Jordan Hooper	M8+	10th	
Sean Lake	LM1X		
David Fraumano	Coach		
World Student Games:	Red Matthews	LM1X	5th
U21 Trans Tasman:	Conor Grace	LM2X- and M8+ M4X	2nd 1st
	Addy Dunkley-Smith	W2-, W4-, W8+	1st
	Katrina Werry	W2-, W4-, W8+	1st
	Sandy Mitchell	Coach	
	David McGrath	Coach	
Junior:	Liam Donald	M4-	8th
	Andrew Maglio	M4-	8th
	Amanda Bateman	W4X	7th
	Olivia Zago	W8+	7th
	Erin Fahey	W8+	7th
	Lucy Tomanovits	W8+	7th
	Sophie Coltman	W8+	7th
	Rachael Engel	W8+	7th
	Tom Abramowski	Coach	

This totals 26 National Seats and Five National Coaches! Getting to this stage has taken plenty of work from all quarters and I am really proud of everyone's efforts this past year. With very high numbers of National Team athletes and five coaches on the various teams Mercantile is Rowing Australia's biggest supplier! Of course repeating this feat is going to be a challenge but despite the renovations, training is well under way with the Foundation Phase (16 weeks) completed, and now the Pre-Competition Training starts apace.

Mark Fangen-Hall

CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

Continued

generous in opening their club houses to us. So good work Mercantile! That was an impressive show of just-figure-it-out-and-get-on-with-the-job, and I hope it is an experience and attitude that will carry us far in the coming season and beyond.

For more than two thirds of our National representative athletes and coaches, this year was their first time on the team. Overall, the results were good. The highlights were Josh Dunkley-Smith winning silver at the World Championships in the M4- and Charlotte Sutherland winning bronze at the World Championships in the W4- and gold in the same event at the U23 World Championships. The success of the W4- was doubly significant as it was coached at the U23s by our head coach Mark Fangen-Hall. The full list of results is in the Coach's Corner. It was great to see such a big Australian team this year and if Australia, and Mercantile, can continue to support such big teams I have no doubt that it will strengthen rowing in our country and our club significantly in the years to come.

Though it pains me a little to recognise it on these hallowed pages, Australia's only gold medal in an Olympic class event at the World Championships was in the event containing (in my view) the best rowing athletes on the planet. Kim Crow won the women's single for the first time for Australia. A phenomenal athlete. It's amazing what grows from a strong, ongoing W8+ program.

There has also been racing closer to home with Australia winning the U21 competition against New Zealand and Mercantile retaining the Cayzer Cup by beating Sydney Rowing Club in some great racing on the Yarra.



Our newly renovated Club House

With our new clubhouse and so many Australian Rowing Team members back on the Yarra it is an exciting time at Mercantile.

DO YOU INTEND RACING THIS SEASON?

How will you pay for your seat fees?

This season all Senior Competitive rowers will need to be financial members, and have a Credit Card Authority lodged with the Treasurer. Credit cards will be charged about three weeks after the entry appears on your monthly e-mailed statement.

No Authority, No Row.

(For members who have recently joined, these arrangements are in place automatically)

MERCANTILE SIBLINGS MAKE HISTORY!

Mercantile Rowing Club sent off four sets of siblings, to compete at the 2013 World Rowing Championships events in Europe (U23 in Austria and Juniors in Lithuania) and Seniors in South Korea. Mercs had the biggest national team representation for the world championships ever put forward in the history of the club, comprising a total of 20 athletes and 3 coaches, and a record amount of siblings.

Hooper siblings, Rebekah (Senior A W4X), Rachel (U23 W8+) and Jordan (U23 M8+), of Kew; sisters, Katrina (Senior A W2- and W8+) and Amanda Bateman (JW4X) of Beaumaris; identical twin sisters Charlotte and Sophie Sutherland from Tooma, and siblings Jennifer (U23 W8+) and Tim Cleary (U23 M4X) from Geelong, were part of the Mercantile contingent to represent Australia at this year's World Rowing Championships.

Mercantile Head Coach Mark Fangen-Hall contributes the success of our athletes and especially the large group of siblings making the teams to both the club's and athletes' hard work, great family support and a tough training program. "Mercantile has been producing champion rowing families for many years, but I think this is our best effort yet."

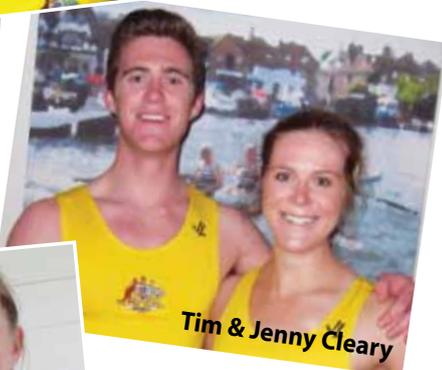
Include Addy Dunkley Smith's top performance in New Zealand and it looks like another set of siblings being added to the international fray, with the Day brothers Will and Tim waiting in the wings!



Rachael, Jordan & Rebekah Hooper



Amanda & Katrina Bateman



Tim & Jenny Cleary



Sophie & Charlotte Sutherland

KAYAK REPORT

In April this year, I was selected to compete in both Under-23 and Open Divisions for Australia at the World Canoe Marathon Championships at Lake Bagsvaerd, Denmark. Together with the team of 12 Australian athletes, we spent a week in September on a training camp in Elmsbridge, UK before flying over to Denmark and I was honoured to be asked to carry the Australian flag at the opening ceremony in Copenhagen. With 400 athletes from 37 nations the event was magnificent, complete with a Viking re-enactment. In the U23's, I raced 22km, consisting of 5 laps and 5 portages (where you get out at the end of each lap and run with your boat for 200m), and came 10th. In the Open competition the next day I raced 6 laps with 6 portages coming 11th. Overall, it was an incredible experience and I am grateful for all the support I have had this season from Mercantile.

Marlena Ahrens



SOCIAL ROUNDUP

FUN-draising!

The quickly formed Fundraising Sub-Committee managed an outstanding contribution to our unfunded athletes representing Australia, by raising in four months a total of just over \$20,000. The two greatest single successes were the opening night of "The Great Gatsby" and the wine drive which combined produced nearly \$10,000. Thanks must go to Julie Orr, Lige Donald, Andrew Cleary, Christopher Engel, Andrea Maglio and Jenny Bateman for their consistent support during the campaign. With the lack of a Clubhouse, the result was heartening and there is still one event that we would like to do – a traditional Boat Burning down Geelong way – which didn't happen due to poor weather. So keep a watch out for further announcements and hopefully we can make it happen next year.

LIGHT AND BRIGHT

Cayzer Cup Coup!

Congratulations on Mercantile winning the Cayzer Cup for two consecutive years. As the actual Cup was packed up in one of the containers, it was just as well we kept it!

What is Club "Esprit de Corps"? Not so Light – Not so Bright

We are happy to report the following brilliantly lit example of a "call for arms"; embodying club spirit. A damp, dark Friday night; Hawks vs Cats semi-final; big crowds walking past the clubhouse; 7.30pm phone call from Head Coach to Andy Phillips at home; one of the club V8s left opposite MRC next to the river bank; club locked up; can this please be fixed? Andy and Susie have dinner guests; Andy makes phone calls; not many people around; rallies Pete De Garis, gets off sick bed that afternoon; no driving; but can lift; Duncan MacKinnon at home in the middle of family dinner; wife and child go with Duncan; the Phillips' dinner guests go too! Boat left on stretchers face up; rain water in the bottom; all hands on gunwales; turn boat; wet shoes; boat moved to boat bay; lock up; 9 pm get home; Susie relieved she had remembered to turn off the oven; have late dinner!



TRANS-TASMAN SUCCESS

Congratulations to our Mercantile representatives at the Trans Tasman Championships. In a very close finish, Australia took out the overall win, bringing home the Rusty Robertson Trophy



S Mitchell, (Coach), C Grace, A Dunkley Smith
K Werrey, D McGrath (Coach)



Coach D Fraumano and S Lake LM1X

VALE

Kathy Power - A marvellous friend to Mercantile, her company Degrees Catering looked after the Mercs catering for many years. Kathy was very generous in bidding for memorabilia and supremely patient with members who turned up unannounced at functions, expecting to be fed. She was a marvellous lady and a proud Mercantilian. She died on 25th Sept after a long struggle with cancer.

Stephen Shirrefs SC - It is with great sadness that we record the loss of Stephen Shirrefs. Stephen was an outstanding individual in so many fields. In rowing he raced for Australia on two occasions, raced for Victoria on five occasions including two winning King's Cup crews, won numerous National Championships for Mercantile and a Head of the River for Scotch College. He was at the top of his field as a leading Senior Counsel at the Criminal Bar, an accomplished musician and great family man. He died well before his time from cancer and we will miss our great friend.

CAYZER CUP REPORT

The 2013 Cayzer Cup was held in sunny Melbourne and we greeted our guests from Sydney RC with our usual open arms and warmth. This year both clubs had the enviable problem of fielding crews that only had non-internationals in them. The rules state that the crews should at first be filled with athletes who had not represented Australia that year, so our crews were filled with club athletes first - the Winter Battlers as they were affectionately self-named!



The racing was held over a 4K Time Trial, a 1500m side by side and then two short sprints of 350m after Jenny Fraumano's infamous Breakfast. Each crew was capable of winning 7 points each and with 3 crews in the points match, a total of 21 points was up for grabs.

The Sydney Heavy Men were a serious outfit with at least two Olympians on board. The Mercs ladies though were in a different class to their rivals, and rowed away with ease on all their races. We have strong hopes for our ladies this year and the standard set this weekend was further proof of this expectation.

The light men were the best matched in terms of side by side racing. With the Ladies winning all three races, and the Lighties winning the big points in the TT and 1500m, Mercs came out 12 points to 9 winners.

We look forward to going up to Sydney next year!

HOUSE MATTERS

Now we have a nice, new shining clubhouse, it's time to make sure all of us who use it regularly, keep it nice, new and shining.

This means –

- *Keeping your towel handy when working out hard, so you and your surrounds stay dry.*
- *Locking your bike up outside and keeping it outside*
- *Putting equipment away and making sure everything always looks tidy*
- *Keeping the change rooms as change rooms by taking your wet towels and gear home with you to dry*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Mercantile extends a warm welcome to all new Members who have joined since our last newsletter, and wish them a long and happy association with the Club.

Junior: Erin Checkly / Daniel Megennis / Michael Naughton / Jack Wheeler / Jessica Zammit

Senior: Lachlan Carrier / Brodie Miller / Andrew Picken / Maarten van Berge Henegouwen

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