



## WORLD CUP @ MUNICH – A PICTORIAL REVIEW



Mx2 – D Crawshay Bow



W8+ – R Selby Smith Bow



W2- K Hornsey & S Tait



M4- J Dunkley Smith & D Ginn  
Stern Pair

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the winter edition of the *Mercantilian*.

We are very excited to announce that Mercantile has a total of 8 athletes competing in Australian national rowing teams at

both the Olympics and in the Junior talent ID squad headed for New Zealand. Our London-destined athletes comprise Drew Ginn, Josh Dunkley-Smith, David Crawshay, Kate Hornsey, Pauline Fransca, Robyn Selby Smith, Tom Swann and Sarah Tait plus coaches Noel Donaldson and Bill Tait, while the New Zealand contingent includes coach Tom Abrowmoski.

At the Senior World Championship crews competing at Plovdiv (Bulgaria), Mercantile's Tom Bertrand is aboard, and at the U23 regatta at Trakai (Lithuania), Beck Hooper, Katrina Bateman, Sean Lake and Dave de Lang will all be competing.

Mercantile is rightly proud of its team representatives. We wish them boats' speed and the satisfaction achieved at the end of a hard-fought race.

The club has several exciting social functions coming up. These include four nights of live Olympic broadcast, our AGM (featuring Arthur Atkins and his remarkable 75 years at Mercantile), and a welcome-home dinner to celebrate our Olympic rowers.

On the subject of our home, I'm pleased to relay that our lease negotiations with the City of Melbourne are well advanced, and a proposed twenty-year lease will unify our accommodation standing with neighbouring boat clubs. The new lease will allow us to confer with sub-tenants (including the possibility of three new schools) and, with their collaboration, commence on a renovation of facilities from May to October, 2013. More detail about this exciting development will be provided in the next issue and at the AGM.

We have also purchased much needed equipment, including lightly used VIS boats (two "pairs" and two "fours") and a new set of ten oars. In addition, we've secured four new ergos, taking our number to an impressive and pain-producing ten machines!

In conclusion, I would like to thank the growing band of enthusiastic members and volunteers who are donating their valuable time to successfully manage the club. Like a nicely running VIII, many dedicated hands make light work.

Mal Batten

## Notice of AGM

**Mercantile Rowing Club Inc.**  
**(Registration No A0005436H)**  
**Notice of Annual General Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Mercantile Rowing Club Inc. will be held on Saturday 15th September 2012, at 6:30pm at the Boatshed.

The ordinary business of the meeting will be:

1. To confirm the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting;
2. To receive from the Committee reports upon the transactions of the Club during the preceding financial year;
3. To elect the Officers of the Club, the Members of the Committee and the Selection Committee; and
4. To receive and consider the statements submitted by the Club in accordance with Section 30(3) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Vic).

The special business of the meeting will be:

5. To consider the proposal to remove the current auditor, Banks Group, and replace it with another auditor more conveniently located; and
6. To consider any other business.

D. Bosler, Secretary, 1st July 2012  
by authority of the Committee

## CLUB DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**First Thursday Of the Month**

**Big Boat Row, BBQ and New Members Welcome**

**Thursday 5th July. 6pm row for 7.00pm BBQ**

Friends and family welcome for BBQ

**Olympic Action – Wed 01 Aug to Sat 04 Aug 6pm onwards**

**AGM – Saturday 15th September 2012 at 6.30pm. Dinner is included and all members are encouraged to attend**

## COACH'S CORNER



I read with interest an article featuring Nick Green on the front page of The Age where he says that the rhythm created by retired Olympics boss, John Coates, is something he will work to. As Australia's new chef de mission going into the London Games, Nick's sentiments resonated with me. I too, feel the generation of a rhythm

at Mercantile. I see already that our new training style is taking effect and that the results, so far, are encouraging. I'll be looking to extend this approach throughout the club with immediate effect.

Our squads, at present, are training with a gratifying intensity for this time of the season. Throughout the day the club is always busy. I'm also pleased to see more and more masters' rowers becoming active, and I look forward to this trend continuing. After a very enjoyable dinner with members of the Schilling group, I can say with confidence that we're well on our way to invigorating every aspect of what we stand for and aspire to – an essential development in any vibrant organisation.

We are currently attracting more junior men to Mercantile, and I see this development as crucial to our future. It may not result in State Team members this year but it certainly will in years to

follow. To aid this process, I'm pleased to announce the inclusion of Ion Poppa and Andrew Cleary in our coaching team. Ion will instruct and mentor a couple of sessions per week, and Andrew will co-ordinate new members in the Geelong area.

Off the water, athletes held their first Trivia Night, and we look forward to more of these events. All of our members are most welcome to attend and take on the combined intellect of Billy Webster and Chipper! I understand there are plans to invite a local and well-known stand-up comedian for an evening's entertainment – details to follow shortly.

All in all, I am very happy with the progress of the club, and have high expectations for our continued development.

Mark Fangen-Hall



**STOP PRESS: Congratulations to Bek Hooper, who stroked the winning W4X for the Princess Grace trophy at Royal Henley.**

## CAPTAIN'S CHOICE



Dear Red & White,

Once again I'm pumped. Absolutely gee'd up when I sit down to think about the club and everything that's happened in the last few months. Unusual, I know, but totally uncaffeinated!

I think I have due cause for enthusiasm. Simply look at the TV. Every three minutes, in the ad breaks I see Mercs members remorselessly winning in Olympic adverts. This normally would be enough, receiving updates on how Drew Ginn and Josh Dunkley-Smith have beaten hot favourites, Great Britain, to win the Munich World Cup in a IV; Tom Swann coming second in the VIII, and all our women making their A-finals, my spine is tingling!

Other reasons for being excited are also legit. Along with our U23 athletes going to Bulgaria in a few weeks, our head coach, Mark Fangen-Hall, has been selected to prepare the U23 Women's IV. Good luck to all the Mercantilians heading over to the U23 World Championships.

A further cause for animation has arisen from my visits to the gym of late when I've turned up to sculpt my quads. In past years I would have wailed on my glutes in relative peace, but the enthusiasm for training in the now packed gym is awesome. Having seen the testing data of our athletes, the huge advance in performance is stemming from Mark's program and our athletes' sweat is truly impressive. It's these sorts of everyday gain that make our Olympic representation possible.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who came to the working bee the other day. I was blown away by the number of people who turned out to help, athletes and parents, members and club supporters. I won't point out individuals, since polishing brass and moving dusty oars are pretty unglamorous jobs. I will, however, thank Mark Groves for coordinating an event which has left the club looking in better shape.

Good luck to everyone in the coming months. Keep training hard, and "GO the RED and WHITE!"

Your Captain  
Nick Baker

## DID YOU KNOW?

It will be 100 years this year since Australia's first rowing representation at the Olympic Games. The crew in 1912 was managed by a Mercantilian, C S Cunnigham whose record was:  
1889-94 - Captain of Mercantile.  
1890 - 1st in Intercolonial Championship  
1912 - Olympic Selector

He was one of the body of enthusiasts who prepared the ground of the present clubhouse from swamp land. He was also a rowing contributor to the Argus and Australasian publications and through his constructive criticism rendered fine service to rowing. He was also a person who did good work in the organization of the two crews which represented Australia 1919 Peace Regatta where the King's Cup was won. He had a great personality and athletic ability which enabled him to be the first person in his club to gain selection in a State crew.



1912 Australian Olympic VIII + Crew

## MASTERS' ROWING

### Our Fling at Bling (the Masters season that was...)

Beginning with the **Banks Regatta** our M4- (M Groves, J Thompson, E McMinn and A Phillips) drew first blood, achieving a medal win. This combination struck again at **Albert Park** winning gold.



**GOLD** A Phillips, P De Garis, J Thompson, C Kimpton, S Jenner

At the **Oceania Games** at Nagambie, our M4+ (J Thompson, P De Garis, A Phillips, C Kimpton and cox, S Jenner) won gold, and our E-grade VIII ran third. Another pleasing aspect of the regatta was the first outing of our mixed VIII. They came second, stroked by R Perillo and included D Paterson, C Ratcliffe, H Sarjeant, D Scully, J Petley, D Stephenson and J Williams. This is just the start of our new "mixed line" in masters rowing – stay tuned for things to come!

Finally, the **State Masters Championships** and **Australian Masters Championships** regattas were held at Lake Wendouree. Despite the wild weather D MacKinnon and G Hansen, crewing with women from Hobart's Sandy Bay RC and won a bronze in the mixed 4X. All looks good for the season to come.



**BRONZE** G Hansen, D MacKinnon

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Mercantile extends a warm welcome to all new Members who joined this financial year, and looks forward to their long and happy association with the Club. Please come to FTOM on Thursday 5th July where you will be officially welcomed with your first and last free drink at the bar!

**Senior** - Mary-Jane Crabtree / Jeremy Hofsteede / John Lincoln / Charlie MacDonald / Sue-Virginia Mackay / Duncan Paterson / John Saunders / Debbie Scully / Tyson Kenny Sholl / Conor Thomas / Shannon Thompson

**Junior** - Thomas Lincoln / Emma Lincoln / James Patrick O'Malley

**Kayakers** - Marlana Ahrens / Elisa St Hill

## LIGHT AND BRIGHT

### Masters Overseas

Visiting Guernsey in the Channel Islands, masters were very impressed with the fleet of ocean going quads complete with Croker oars. Standard equipment includes compass, flares, mobile phone, life jackets, bilge pump, a Venturi & a radar reflector! At least the cox seat looks comfortable!



### On Golden Ponds going to London Olympics.

Bob Duncan (Albert Park and 1956 competitor) has organised a party of '56ers and supporters to make the trip. Of the twenty, **ten** are from Mercantile and will be farewelled at a Sunday Barrel on July 8th at the clubhouse from 11.00 – 12.00 noon. Please feel free to join them.

### LUCKY DIP!

Last month one lady master getting into the bow seat of the Donaldson didn't have her vest pocket zipped up, and her car keys (to a 3 pointed star of the sports variety), dropped into the cold, dark high tide waters. A line dance along the landing after the row by all the crew retrieved them. It cost her \$500 and her husband hasn't let her forget it!

### ... and Not so Bright

Semi-trailer 1 : Mercs Boats 0

The recent National Masters Regatta at Ballarat was notable for cold, windy, wet weather but the bad news was the return trip. As the boat trailer turned into Boathouse Drive, a semi-trailer tried sneak past, unfortunately clipping the stern of the Spiv White 4+, tearing it off and buckling the hull up to the bow ball. The insurers are investigating and the club is casting around for a replacement boat.



**Proof!! Mercs is the Gold Medal Factory – what an omen for London!!**

## KAYAK UPDATE

Last month has seen the return of the kayak squads to training after their post season break joined by some new members. The young ones have spent this time in an intense technique phase, in which they have been attempting to form new technical habits. They have all begun to make excellent progress. This will stand them in good stead for their next phase of training where they start to enter heavy work, particularly those athletes that are competing at marathon world championships.

The surf life saving athletes have returned to training and have been working in with the young sprint squad and Mathew before he left for wild water world championships.

Mathew is currently overseas preparing for wild water world championships in Val' de Isere in France during the last week of June.



**M French training in France**

## VENUE NEWS

### Working Bee Results!

A hive of activity and a buzz in the club for the working bee resulted in a new look club house.



With Mark Groves organising, all age groups turned up, and got down and dirty in a massive cleanup, polish up and spruce up. Note the gleam in the trophy cabinet, the brass kick board at the base of the bar, the painted change rooms, the sparkling kitchen, and the dust free photos hanging on the walls!!!

Ancient relics were found in the oddest spots, including a water ergo in the container and timber oars in the roof.

Let's really take care of our precious "base". For some of us, it's our second home and needs to be treated with the respect it deserves.

Well done to all who participated, and a heartfelt thanks from the Committee.



## HOUSE MATTERS

### A Note from the Treasurer

In this edition of *The Mercantilian* you will have received your membership statement, which includes any outstanding debt from the 2011-12 membership year (for some lucky folk you will be in credit, so this will go towards this year's fees). Please pay your membership fees promptly. Also be aware that swipe card access for non-financial members will be removed in September, along with free delivery of *The Mercantilian*.

Your fees keep the lights on, the showers hot, the coaches paid and the fleet maintained. Please ensure that you pay them promptly – to avoid cold showers!

We have made it easier for you to pay online from within our new website

### H.R. Frederico Fund

A heartfelt thanks to those members who responded to the donation request in our last edition. Over \$7,000 was donated! This year sees Mercantile sending 8 athletes to London and 4 to the U23 World's. It's through your help and generosity that the Club can provide our athletes with the best equipment to help achieve their goals.

### New website

Our exciting new website went live on 1st July. Please note the new Administration contacts and take some time to browse around the site.

## SOCIAL ROUND UP

### Mercantile Trivia Night

After many Saturday morning breakfasts talking about our lives other than rowing we thought it was time to see who had the best general knowledge. On May 9th the first Mercantile Trivia night was held at the boat sheds starting with snags. Six teams entered with Chipper in high demand. Tommy Bertrand was an excellent MC with an array of questions ranging from 'Are there were more Kangaroos in Australia than people?' to 'Who won the most medals at Nationals- Melbourne Uni or Mercantile'. Congratulations to "Trivia Newton John" for getting the highest score of the night. It was a great night and thanks to all who helped organise it. Stay tuned for details of the next Trivia night.

## Head of the Charles

Mercantile wants to send a W8+, M8+ and a LWM8+ to the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston this October. Funds are low, so if you know of interested or suitable sponsors please contact James Wilson on 0411 487 905 or email jameswilson11@gmail.com.

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