



## RENOVATIONS@ MERC A PICTORIAL REVIEW



JJ Wylie carefully exits



The Bar



Charred but robust bones!



Old gym and function space



Temporary gym – SW Corner

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to our winter newsletter.

We are delighted and proud of every single one of our competition team members who have

been selected for the National team. We all eagerly await the results of the coming international competition season, as our members look left and right at the rest of the world rowing. New life changing experiences await many of our members as they proudly represent Australia on the world stage. Come On Aussie...

The renovation of the club house has commenced on time and budget and we wish to provide a full and hearty thank you to all the many members who assisted to "pack up" the club in readiness for the builder's possession.

Now that the demolition is nearly complete, an inspection has revealed the frugal nature of the renovation team following the devastating fire of 1973. Several of the remaining, and in use, ceiling joists are completely charred from that original 1973 fire. We will defer to the gods of good fortune and ensure these hard pressed bones of the club house remain integral to the club in the new renovation.

We can confirm the spirits of the SW corner are alive and well in today's generation of Mercantilians. We have temporarily transferred the gym onto these hallowed grounds. Despite arrangements with Melbourne RC for gym access, Richmond RC for change room access and Melbourne Grammar School for Ergo access, competition members refuse to step foot off our turf. The boat bay area is now a happy mixture of change room, gym, ergo, technical consultation, boat storage and social exchange.

The installation of the new "compactus" style racking in the rear of Bay 3 is very successful and will result in us racking a total of 28 fours in Bay 3.

We are also pleased to confirm our head coach Mark Fangen Hall has taken up a complementary role as director of rowing at Melbourne Grammar School. We have proven over many generations of coaches and successful crews that close relationships with rowing schools is good for the schools, the rowers and for Mercantile. Mercantile will continue to foster with determination ongoing close relationships with all rowing schools including our sub tenants.

While the days may be short, our domestic competitions teams are in full training in readiness for the coming spring racing season. GO MERCS..

## NOTICE OF AGM

### Mercantile Rowing Club Inc. (Reg. 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 26th October, 2013 at Mercantile Rowing Club, time at 6pm.

The ordinary business of the meeting will be:

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

D. Bosler, Secretary, 1st July 2013 by authority of the Committee.

## COACH'S CORNER



It has been, as usual a busy three months since Nationals and Trials. Our successes during the lead up to Nationals and at the main regatta ensured that Mercantile took a record number of athletes to Final Trials, once again at SIRC,

Penrith. It would have been easy to be greedy, as I certainly was becoming so, and expect all of our trialists to make a team. Unfortunately some did not but each of these was close and indeed there were a couple of decisions made off less than one second over multiple seat races. It's not easy to come to terms with this disappointment and I was just as proud of our members in this setback as I was of those who did make it.

The club has been a little quiet with familiar faces absent while they are training in new locations before they travel overseas to take on the world. Meantime the coaching team have been busy recruiting new junior members and we welcome them to our club.

Training at the club for those starting the new season has been.....interesting! There had been plans for training and changing to be done on non-Mercantile property. True to form many have stayed in house and just got on with it – and that with leaking water from above! If anything the renovation has made us all come closer together (quite literally in the gym) and work through this phase. What we all know though is that it will be worth it and if we can take anything from the new racking system the complete renovations will be worth every hardship we are experiencing now.

On the water we are now building up the volume and where necessary we are complementing it with running and biking. As we process through the building works though I am increasingly confident that we will get most of our training done on water and that is fantastic news. I am thankful to the Committee for organising the works in such a way so that training has not really been affected. Indeed with some of the new training modalities we are even finding new and better ways of training.

All of this means that Mercantile will be on course to defend all our titles at Head of the Yarra and of course even acquire a few more!

Finally my family and I were delighted that Mercantile offered a new contract. We all have been so taken with Melbourne and of course Mercantile. It is our home now and we see ourselves here for the long term. Many thanks to you all for making this happen so easily.

*Mark Fangen-Hall*

## CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

With Mercantile currently a construction site Mark has come up with some ... interesting ... training sessions. There has been tyre flipping, push ups on chairs, the keg walk, punching bag squat jumps and a weekend survival camp. They tell me that 65km in under 20 hours is hard. Who would have thought? So from what I can see Mercs is shaping up for an explosive season to celebrate the new shed.



Some of our athletes are ready to fire now, with the first of Australia's 2013 international racing starting on 21 June in Eton. Mercs has over 20 rowers in this year's Australian Rowing Team, not to mention our FISA representative umpire and 4 coaches – Bill Webster, Mark Fangen-Hall, Bill Tait, Tom Abramowski and David Fraumano. Mercs is represented in all four of the boats travelling to Europe for the second and third World Cups by Bec Hooper W4X, Katrina Bateman W2-, Josh Dunkly-Smith M4- and Tom Swann - M4x. These boats will also race the open Worlds.

The U23 Worlds are in Linz 24-28 July with Mercs siblings Jen and Tim Cleary, Rachael and Jordan Hooper and Charlotte (also racing in the open team) and Sophie Sutherland. Sean Lake and Sarah Banting complete the Mercs U23 contingent. The Junior Worlds will see Andrew Maglio, Liam Donald, Amanda Bateman, Sophie Coltman, Rachel Engle, Olivia Zago, Erin Fahey and Lucy Tomanovits racing in Trakai 7-11 August. The final blast will have Bec Daniher as a travelling reserve for the open Worlds in Chungju, South Korea from 25 August.

I am particularly excited to watch the racing of the first AUS JW8+ I've ever seen. Having a Junior, U23 and open AUS W8+ in 2013 is something I can't help mentioning. Hopefully it's the start of a new era of Australia's domination of W8+ rowing internationally.

The very big 2013 Australian Rowing Team has allowed the best Mercantilians an amazing opportunity. For over two thirds of our representatives, this will be their first Aussie zootie. It really feels like the start of a new era for Mercs and Australian rowing. Follow the international careers of our new Mercs stars from the first race! GO MERCS.

## DID YOU KNOW?

We often think of the term "MerCS" as being a modern invention – something that has come into being by the irreverent young of today. Alas it is not! Below is a picture of some MerCS rowers in camp in 1906. Not only are there pipes and guns at the ready, but a sign in the middle – MerCS 1906. It is a heritage term!



*Photo courtesy of the Albert Lindblade collection.  
Albert was a life member of the Club.*

## MASTERS REPORT

Masters rowing has been somewhat quiet over winter impacted by injuries and travel to warmer parts of the world. However, at the re-run of the Masters State Championships a number of medals were taken out by our members pictured below. Well done to Colin Kimpton, Andy Phillips, Roberto Perillo and Jackie Petley.

In May a group of Masters took a day trip to Nagambie for a row up the Goulburn in an VIII and a double, enjoyed lunch at Chateau Tahbilk, and rowed back. Getting in and out of the boat at the winery was..... interesting.....but a great time was had by all and it's turning into an annual event.



## VALE

### Luke Koekoek

With great sadness we record the loss of Luke Koekoek who had a long and successful career at Mercantile after arriving from The Netherlands in the 1960s. He transferred to Power House and in the 1980s returned to Mercantile, rowing with The InibriVIII veterans, before finally moving to Banks. A popular man along the riverbank, and always travelling with his zooty, he will be sorely missed by his many rowing friends, here and overseas.



Luke - 2nd left, enjoying Crew HoY "afters" in 2004

## LIGHT AND BRIGHT

### How much wood can a woodchopper chop?

A huge red gum from Sally Creber's property weighing in at 11 tons was felled and chopped up to sell as firewood. Proceeds assisted with expenses faced by the Mercantile youth athletes for the World Champs and to date nearly \$1,000 has



been raised. (Another tree chopping expedition is scheduled for July 15th and Andrew Cleary would like some help).

Master Lumberjacks Andrew Cleary and Richard Tomczak with one of two loads.

### Best Dressed Wins Gold!

We can't let it go un-noticed.....at the Masters Barwon regatta in April, the M4+F Division, suddenly discovered they didn't have a cox 10 mins before boating. Masters Member Jenny Williams, there as a spectator, was press ganged to fill the cox seat, with skirt and high-heels. Award to the best dressed coxswain on the river goes to her! Result – a well steered course and GOLD!

### Breakfast in Temporary Quarters

This is hard to beat! Imagine trying to feed over 30 hungry rowers during a cold wintery training morning in limited conditions. Well.....the breakfast Mums can and do!



## KAYAK REPORT

The winter marks the end of the sprint season and the beginning of the marathon season. James Campbell has left us to join the smoggier pastures of China for the semester and possibly the year! Angus Campbell is back brighter than ever training for the marathon season ahead; boosted by Canadian import Chris Giacomelli who has augmented our training group.

Marlena Ahrens, Tim Arnold and Tom Hedditch ventured over to Champion Lakes for the National Sprint Championships with great results and silverware that reflect the hard work that was put in over the summer. Matt French has recovered from his spate of injuries and is back training hard and early(!), while self-proclaimed legend Glenn Singleton has returned to Melbourne and back into training. I am grateful for the help that the paddlers have put into the 'sprint crew' this season; many thanks must go to Justin Quill who has been a great coach and mentor during the season.

*Tom Hedditch*

## HOUSE MATTERS

### Important Notice - Seat Fees

All rowers racing next season will require a valid Credit Card Authority which will be used to pay for seat fees. The form will be available on the club's website and must be lodged with the Treasurer before regattas are entered.

## OLYMPIC HONOUR BOARD UNVEILED

In early April the long awaited Olympic Honour Board was unveiled at the last luncheon for the year in the clubhouse as we know it. Instigated by James Harvey, and arranged by Phil Batters and Bob Lachel it will take pride of place when re-hung in our new-look Clubhouse. With 125 in attendance and stirring speeches from John Rowe, "Jimmy" Shears, who officiated with the unveiling, and Captain Robyn Selby Smith, the lunch was a great success.



At the lunch, David and Carol Boykett confirmed a generous donation of cash and later Telstra shares to the value of \$10,000. This will go towards replenishing the Building Fund, now exhausted, to support the current renovation. David and Carol also confirmed in the distant future, to contribute 4% of their estate to the club. The members are very touched by this generous act and further demonstration of David's leadership and the Boykett's love of Mercantile. David passionately called upon all members to "consider Mercantile in a similar way when completing personal arrangements, and give back to the club".

And on matters "Mercantile", we recently received a \$5,000.00 contribution from the E.C White Trust, set up by "Spiv" White. We thank the trust for this contribution and hope to qualify again in the future.

## 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** – Ruby Ballerini / Amanda Bateman / Michael Blake / Maddison Brown / Jessica Carlisle-Goldblatt / Mitchell Carlisle-Goldblatt / Sophie Coltman / Francis Corcoran / Tom Creber / Christopher Delis / Lucy Elliot / Rachel Engel / Angus Farrar / Erin Fahey / Olivia Gardiner / Jazz Jones / Majella Jones / Nicholas Johnston / Isabella Kerr / Alex Kinsmen / Will Lehnacker / Andrew Maglio / Angus Maloney / Nicholas Mullaly / Harrison Pike / Rhiannon Puddy / Betsy Rusco / Lucy Tomanovits / James Waters

**Senior** Lynette Skardoon / Rosita Wickes / Pernette Wijnen

**Country/ Associate** Pierre Billet / Rod Watkins

## SOCIAL ROUNDUP

### FUN-draising!

The extraordinary number of our best being selected for the World Champs in the U23's and Juniors, made for a busy time by the quickly formed Fundraising Committee to help offset the unfunded rowers with their \$7,500 entry fees. Headed by Julie Orr, they sprung into action, booking the opening night of "The Great Gatsby", organising stalls at Camberwell Market, a sausage sizzle, and a Wine Drive. Unfortunately a traditional Boat Burning on the Barwon River Flat had to be cancelled due to extremely poor weather, but plans are afoot to resurrect it when the weather improves.



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