

MUBC Newsletter

May 2018



Captain's Address

Recently, MUBC has reconfirmed that it is committed to being one of the finest rowing organisations in the world. We face a number of challenges and changes to the status quo in rowing and sport more generally. Briefly, the attraction of overseas Universities, the introduction of National Training Centres, and the increasing and competing demands on our student members has added complexity to attracting, training and retaining members.

As a club, we are working to strengthen our relationship with the University of Melbourne, and provide more diverse opportunities for people to row at their highest level - for Australia, Victoria, the university and the club. With a renewed focus on development, we have established a junior program to bring in athletes from non-rowing schools, and also provide a stronger connection to post-school rowing for those from rowing schools. This will provide a pathway through to our well established development program for aspiring athletes to the U23 and Senior teams. We have had promising results at the most recent Nationals, notably gold for Charlotte Wirtz in the U21 single, and silver for Joe O'Connell and Henry Jones in the U21 pair. The development squad is now training for international regattas, and dependent on selection, will compete for Australia, the University and the club in the coming months.

A reinvigorated club and masters program provide a connection with the sport beyond the highest level, with members competing at state, national and international competitions. These members also continue to support developing athletes and the club through donations, coaching, mentoring and representation on a number of boards and committees. As a club, we are standing up to the challenges presented. In the coming year, the committee, employees and members will continue to enrich and transform the lives of our members through rowing.

Gary Butcher

New Coaching Staff:

High Performance Manager: Franz Imfeld.

Franz began his new role at MUBC in mid-2017, moving from Moseley Boat Club in Great Britain. One of Britain's best exports, Franz's career in rowing has its origins at King's School and Durham University. Franz volunteered at Imperial College, before securing a full time role at Moseley Boat Club. The youngest ever Great Britain national rowing coach, Franz is a strong asset to MUBC.

Development Coach: James (Jimmy) Smith

Hailing from New Zealand, James' coaching career began at St Andrews College (NZ), then grew at Halifax Rowing Club (Canada) and Kinross Wolaroi (Aus). In 2015, he was named Rowing NSW Coach of the Year. In the same year, under James' guidance, Kinross Wolaroi went on to win the NSW points score.



Inside:

- [Annual Dinner 2017](#)
- [2018 Season Report](#)
- [2018 Intercollegiate Regatta](#)
- [2017 Intervarsity Games](#)
- [MUBC Junior Program](#)
- [Strength of women in sport](#)
- [The tale of three captains](#)



2018 National and State Championships



MUBC wins the u21 8+ at the Victorian State Championships
Back row (L-R): Angus Longden, Ned Coleman, Paddy Adams, Robert Corden-McKinley, Joe O'Connell, Tom Hooper.
Front Row (L-R): Lachlan Goller, Alick Rose, Fred Roper

Melbourne University Boat Club's 2018 National Championship campaign was quite successful. Placing 7th in the points score, MUBC secured 6 gold medals and 5 silver medals.

Dominating the club events, MUBC won gold and silver in both the club men's double scull and the club men's coxless four.

Charlotte Wirtz won the u21 women's single scull in a time of 8:16.78, while Joe O'Connell and Henry Jones placed second in the u21 men's coxless pair in a time of 6:53.67.

The Victorian Championship Regatta was another fine showing of strength by the MUBC team.

Melbourne University won 13 gold medals, 8 silver, and 11 bronze. Notable performances include: Katie Micheltore's win in the Open Female single scull; gold in the open men's coxless four; Samantha Beveridge's win in the Para double scull; and gold in the u21 men's eight.

These high performances are testament to the skill and dedication of not only the rowers, but coaches Franz Imfeld, James Smith, and Michael Skala.

"He had the whole room on their feet, singing and dancing to his serenade."

National Team Selections

For world cups two and three in 2018, a number of MUBC athletes were selected to compete for Australia. Joshua Booth and Simon Keenan in the Men's 8+; Lucy Stephan in the Women's 4-; Alice Arch as reserve for the lightweight women's 4x; Katie Micheltore as a travelling reserve.

Charlotte Wirtz was also selected to represent Australia in the u21 trans-tasman regatta against New Zealand in the Women's single scull. Phoebe Georgakas was selected as a coxswain for this regatta.



2017 Annual Dinner

In the penultimate month of 2017, the members of Melbourne University Boat Club came together to celebrate another successful and fulfilling season of rowing. Within a beautifully dressed and unrecognizable blue room, and nearly 100 people in attendance, there was a special gregarious energy within the club that set the tone for a memorable and inspiring night.

Over the past several years many of us at the club have had the pleasure of getting to know Keiji Matsushita, and in his usual kind hearted and warm spirit he decided to surprise us with a live musical performance. He had the whole room on their feet, singing and dancing to his serenade. We also had the pleasure of having Karsten Forsterling sharing with us his journey from schoolboy rower to Olympic Silver Medalist. Karsten remembered the challenges he faced throughout his career. Hearing Karsten speak about these adversities was inspiring to the youth and masters rowers alike.

In addition to hearing from our talented club members, we also celebrated the rowing excellence that Melbourne University Boat Club had exhibited over the past 12 months. Club Captain Gary Butcher and Vice – Captain Sarah Ben David presented the annual club awards. Best oarswoman and oarsman went respectively to Lucy Stephan and Simon Keenan. Our most improved athletes were Jordan Smith and Alice Arch, and our cox of the year was Sarah Ben David. After a stellar season winning the single scull at the World Masters Games, masters legend Bea Klein – Van Mullekom was deservedly awarded best female master of the year. In recognition of the tireless time and effort that Richard Saul puts into the club he was awarded not only Male Master of the Year but also Club Person of the Year.

A big thank you to all those who helped with the organization and running of the night, with whom it would not be possible to hold this integral event each year!

Charlotte Wirtz

Left: Katie Micheltore — Recently selected as travelling reserve for world cups 2 and 3 in 2018

Tale of three captains: Monica, Chris and Gary

Melbourne University Boat Club prides itself on being a club that has always actively encouraged athletes of all ages and backgrounds to become involved with the sport of rowing. Here are the stories of how MUBC's three most recent captains — Monica McGauran, Chris Hargreaves, and Gary Butcher — found their beginnings in the sport...

Monica McGauran:

I went on a university exchange semester from the University of Melbourne to McGill University in Montreal, Canada. I knew I wanted to get involved in sport to meet new people there, and chose rowing as I'd always been interested in giving it a go but had not done so at school. McGill had a Novice Rowing Program which I joined, and I fell in love with it. I continued rowing at MUBC when I got back and the sport, the people I met through it, and the boat club continue to be an enormous part of my life nine years on.

Chris Hargreaves:

During several years of playing cricket and football, I also tried my hand at various athletics events. With a father working in sports science and friends at rowing schools, toward the end of my schooling my interest was soon drawn instead to the sport of rowing. With the start of my university degree in 2012, I emailed MUBC — under Head Coach Alex Henshilwood at the time — and learned to scull and row through that winter; here we are six years later.

Gary Butcher:

I started rowing at MUBC in the second year of my undergraduate studies at the University of Melbourne. I had previously rowed one year as a 13 year old for my school in WA - I loved the sport, but hated the culture. I got back into the sport through college rowing after six years. MUBC has been life-changing. I found a sport that I enjoyed, I got to mix with people who were the best in the world, and got to really test myself. I continue to row today for enjoyment, and continue to be involved with the club to help others have a similarly transformative experience.



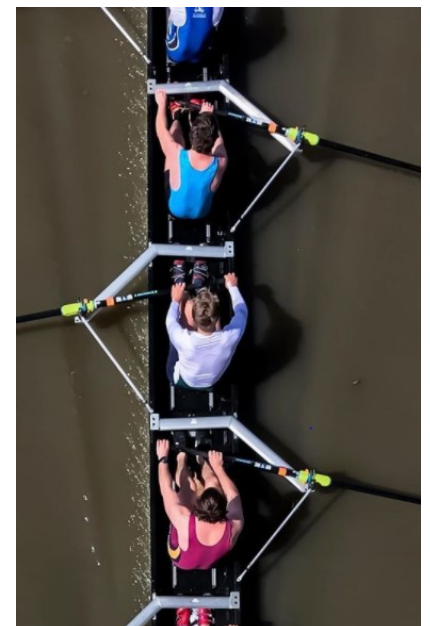
The 2017 Winning Head of the Charles crew

Head of the Charles 2017

In late 2017, the MUBC Grand Master's eight won the Head of the Charles in a time of 16:22.875. 11,000 athletes raced in 66 different events at the 2017 HOC. The Melbourne University eight raced a grueling three miles upstream to win the race. The eight comprised of: Geoff Rees, Sandy Marshall, Peter Antonie, Field Rickards, Tony Langford, Gary Gullock, Rorie Henderson, Tony Mallin and coxswain Teesaan Koo.



Above: Chris Hargreaves (pictured left) with Henry Jones., Paddy Adams and Noah Norman after winning the Club Men's Four 2018 National Championship
Right: 2017 Intervarsity crew trains on the Yarra River



MUBC Junior Rowing Program

Will Beedham

This January saw the club abuzz with activity as the MUBC Academy program welcomed its first junior rowers to the sheds, marking the beginning of a first-of-its-kind program in Australia!



Two weeks of sold-out summer holiday rowing camps brought 43 Year 9, 10 and 11's from schools across Melbourne to MUBC to have their first taste of all the splendour that rowing has to offer. With over 80% of the rowers from government schools and no less than 90% from non-rowing schools the camps clearly reflected the modern direction that MUBC rowing is taking to become a world-class club for all.

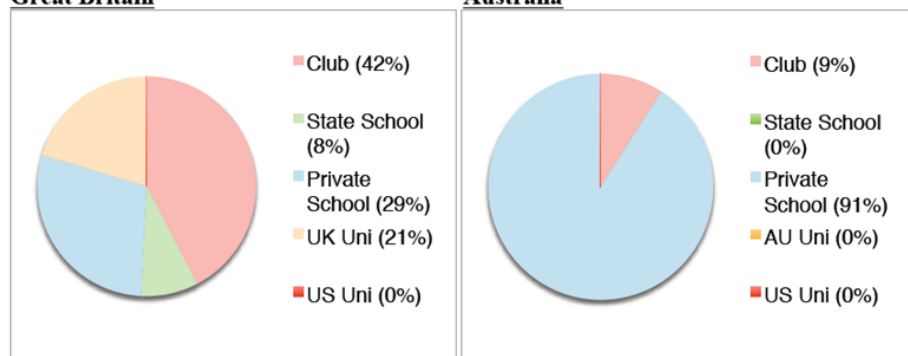
Over 5 days the boys and girls learned the basics of sculling in singles, doubles and quads, culminating in a regatta-style racing afternoon on the final day, with families and friends joining us for lunch on the riverbank. From this program around 30 young rowers are now training as part of the new Academy squad program – offering access to the sport for everybody at an affordable rate.

The rowers are training over 10 months of the year in an exciting, rewarding and supportive team with the view to both enjoying the sport and having the opportunity to compete to a high level. The ever-improving fleet, facilities and coaching resources at MUBC offer the young people not just a brief foray in to rowing, but a truly excellent experience that will stay with them for life.

How did we get here and why?

A passionate junior rowing coach myself, I arrived from Britain in June 2017 and began a search for an exciting opportunity to work with young people in our sport. I quickly learned that junior rowing in Melbourne exists almost exclusively within the school system – quite the contrast to Britain, where the junior club rowing scene arguably has even greater depth and success than the schools (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Where Senior Rowers at World/Olympic Championships Started Rowing



“The MUBC Academy is able to proudly offer rowing to the 72% of young people who previously did not have the opportunity to take part in Melbourne”

The season has kicked off with a healthy squad of 28 juniors training in the team. We are lucky to have a group of very friendly, polite and enthusiastic boys and girls banding together as a hard-working team, proudly part of MUBC. Our coaching team is growing, with 4 coaches coming on-board already to allow us to deliver this program and, as we plan for the future, we hope that we will be able to grow the Academy year on year; taking new athletes in every January as each age group moves up through the program and the Year 12s transition in to the various senior squads. Whilst junior rowing is resource-intensive (all juniors need supervision in tinnies...just in case!), we are confident that the benefit for the club in adding value through growing membership, performance and liveliness around the boathouse will be seen for years to come.

As we go forwards, the MUBC Academy is able to proudly offer rowing to the 72% of young people who previously did not have the opportunity to take part in Melbourne. As the athletes grow, we look forward to having them as part of the club for years to come (only 6% of young Melburnians move away from the city after school), no doubt providing a new lease of life Rowing at MUBC with greater membership numbers and a stronger performance position as one team.

Will Beedham is the director and head coach of MUBC's incipient Junior Program.

Save The Date

A club lunch is being held at MUBC on Sunday the 27th of May for those who rowed for MUBC 40 years ago or more.

2018 Intercollegiate Regatta

The 2018 Intercollegiate Regatta saw massive crowds flock to the Yarra Banks early on Saturday the 28th of April.

Trinity won the Men's 1st 8+ title from their Ormond rivals after Ormond were disqualified in the heat. While in the Men's 2nd 8+ Ormond College defended their 8th consecutive win, having proved too strong since 2010.

Ormond College won the Women's 1st 8+ for the 5th year in a row, and St Mary's retained their three year strong title in the Women's 2nd 8+.

A varsity challenges was held between Melbourne and Monash Universities' Men's and Women's 8+s. Melbourne University won both races convincingly.



Vale Paul 'Moby' Noonan

Paul Noonan – 28 January 1952 to 3 March 2018.

Paul was a long-time MUBC member. He started rowing at St Kevin's College — where he stroked the First 8 while in Year 11. He rowed for Mercantile for a while, then joined MUBC about 20 years ago, where he made many friends.

After a brave and grueling 5 year battle with cancer, he succumbed.

He was a leader in many ways. He took initiative. He was there when he should have been, and he always brought his upbeat attitude, littered with jokes and anecdotes!



Paul's last row: 3rd December 2016 on the Yarra



Paul accepting his silver medal at the 2009 World Master's Games. Pictured with Tom Wood and Paul McSweeney.

At the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, he was there in the Rowing – as a Marshall. Of course he would do that.

With wife Liz he brought up a family of 3 wonderful children. He helped others to get rowing again, always very generous with his time. And he had extreme passion for Melbourne Football Club, and he stayed loyal throughout their lean times.

Vale Bob Simpson

Bob Simpson was born on 5/3/1934 in Alexandra Hospital and spent his early years on his parents farm at Colleen, Alexandra.

After boarding at Melbourne Grammar School, he was resident at Trinity College, Melb Uni, while he graduated B Chem Eng. He rowed in Trinity crews and while a member of MUBC won 1956 Grand Challenge Cup, IV 1956, State Champs 1957 & 1958, represented Victoria in winning Kings Cup crews 1957 & 1958 and in test races in 1958 for the Commonwealth Games crew.

Bob built his own computer and worked at ICI for years as a computer consultant, before completing a B Comm at MU and working as a financial planner.

Bob is survived by his wife, 3 children and grandchildren.

Left: The Ormond College Women's 8+ celebrate their 5th consecutive win

Vale Jim McMeckan

Jim McMeckan 11/10/1945 – 10/2/2018

Jim was a natural leader who inspired many people throughout his life. He was a talented and energetic athlete as evidenced by his successful rowing career at MUBC — where he made a significant contribution.

Jim joined MUBC in 1964 after rowing bow in the winning 1963 Scotch Head of the River crew. Initially competing at MUBC with Extra Collegiates, he went on to row for a number of years with Ormond College winning the Mervyn Bournes Higgins Trophy and the John Lang Cup in 1966 in the 7 seat. Jim was in a number of Intervarsity eights during this period and rowed bow in the winning 1968 MUBC crew in Perth, the last of the 3 mile (or 2½ mile) IV races.

Jim was also a stalwart summer season club competitor during the 1960s while the club underwent a transformation from college and university level rowing to lifting its competitiveness to national and international levels. He was not heavy, weighing in at just over 12 stone, but rowed long and strong and with his cheerful and optimistic outlook was always a good man to have in the boat.

In 1969 Jim rowed in the bow seat of the MUBC Tokyo Team 8 that competed in the All Japan Championships. This was a milestone venture — a turning point in the history of the club — and the first time that a complete MUBC crew had competed outside Australia.

After completing his Masters in Transport Engineering Jim went on to engage in a number of successful careers including: the Macquarie Bank where he was a director; he then founded Firecone, a respected transport infrastructure consultancy; and latterly his passion had been the very successful vineyard and restaurant development at Basils Farm on the Bellarine Peninsula which he leaves with his vision still to be completed.

Jim died peacefully surrounded by his family, his wife Tina, son Douglas, daughter Hillary and their partners.



Jim in the bow seat of the winning 1968 MUBC IV crew.

2017 Intervarsity Games

In September 2017 eighteen Melbourne University athletes travelled to Wyalong Dam, Queensland, to compete at the Australian University Games. Winning one gold medal, two silver and three bronze Melbourne University finished 2nd overall to Sydney University. Notable performances were: Jackson Harrison, silver in the lightweight men's single scull; Ria Thompson and India McKenzie, silver in the women's double scull; and the men's 8+, who rowed through Queensland University in the last 500m to come a very close second to Sydney University.



*Above: Melbourne University Women's 8+ celebrates after winning bronze
Left: Sun sets on the first afternoon of Uni Games racing*

Feminist Capacity: the strength of females in sport

Charlotte Wirtz

Australia Day Honours

In the recent Australia Day ceremony, two MUBC members were recognised for their great contribution to our country.

Chester Keon-Cohen QC, stroke of the winning 1963 Intervarsity Eight, was awarded an AM.

AG Michelmores, world champion and chair of the MUBC Foundation Board, was awarded an AC.

World Record for MUBC's Karsten Fosterling

In September 2017 MUBC athlete and Rio Olympic Games silver medallist broke the M30-39 1 Hour ergometer world record. Karsten pulled 18287m within the hour, an average 500m split of 1:38.4. Karsten broke the record as a part of Sarah's Super Saturday charity event — with the aim to raise money for Caritas Christi Hospice in memory of Sarah Tait.



Karsten moments after beating the M30-39 y/o 1 Hour ergometer world record.

Australian Boat Race

The 2018 Australian Boat Race between Melbourne and Sydney University will be held on Sunday the 14th of November on Darling Harbour, Sydney.

For many of us growing up in Australia, sport feels like an innate love that we were born with. In its many forms sport permeates throughout all facets of Australian society; its presence enriching many of our lives. Throughout all of school, I was highly involved with sport, trying my hand at whatever was on offer. Yet despite my avid passion to be physically active, for my few years of rowing at the end of high school, I was never that stellar at the sports I tried. Though I wasn't disheartened, because I inherently enjoyed the training and loved being a part of a bigger team, reveling in the success of my teammates and the accomplishments of my team at large. Eventually, after nearly a decade of dabbling in running and swimming, rowing finally came along and captured my heart.

Sometimes, as athletes, we (females) get asked what it's like to be an athlete, how we think our experience within rowing varies simply because of our sex. Leaving high school and beginning to develop as an athlete, the empowerment that I felt as a teenager has not wavered, with a now ingrained belief that our performance within this sport is nothing less than equal. At a development level within Melbourne University itself both men and women train to the same program. The same number of training sessions, the same quantity of kilometers and the same determination to perform each stroke better than the last. We come to each session with the same burning intensity to achieve our goals as any other rower would, with our love for this sport (or VIC team selection) inspiring us to strive towards our best.

“After nearly a decade of dabbling in running and swimming, rowing finally came along and captured my heart.”



Charlotte after winning the U21 Female Single Scull at the 2018 Australian National Rowing Championships

Yet despite our current sense of equality, within the grand scheme of elite female sport, rowing was rather late to the game in creating complete parity within the sport at the highest level. The first games of the modern Olympic movement occurred in 1896, with the first women competing 4 years later. It took another 76 years until rowing was introduced to the women's program at the Olympics, with the 2020 being first Olympic games with complete equity in the number of boat categories. As aspiring rowers, on one hand it's incredibly empowering to have this equality; on the other hand rather disconcerting that this decision was only made in 2016.

“Through sport we learn how to show humility and be humble; sport empowers people to be leaders within their communities.”

Though, pragmatically, I will admit that currently women's boats do travel at a lower velocity than the boats of our equally trained male counterparts. In my experience however, the rewarding and enticing parts of sport are almost completely unrelated to boat speed. It's the deep connections that are formed with crew mates over months of vigorous training; it's the camaraderie and mutual support that we demonstrate within our community. Rowing in itself is artistry, the amount of time and concentration taken to perfect one's technique as we all know is incredibly astounding. Through sport we learn how to show humility and be humble; sport empowers people to be leaders within their communities.

On paper, we have complete equality within this sport, yet it takes more than a change at the Olympic level to create an environment in which female athleticism is completely accepted. We must foster all athletes, and make them feel welcome within our community, so that they can become the great rowers of tomorrow and not feel apprehensive whilst doing so.

Charlotte is an MUBC athlete and student at Melbourne University. After recently winning a national championship in the u21 single scull, Charlotte has been selected to compete for Australia in the u21 trans-tasman challenge against New Zealand later this year. Charlotte was also in the winning 2018 Bicentennial Trophy crew for Victoria.



Charlotte training in the Melbourne University women's IV 8+