

MUBC 150th Anniversary Celebrations and Events

A huge crowd of MUBC members, friends, partners and supporters turned out for the 150th celebration dinner at the Plaza Ballroom on Thursday 3 September – nearly 450 people across an age span and an involvement with MUBC of 80 years were there. The feedback from attendees has been outstanding. If you were unable to make it or would like to re-live some of the night, then have a look at the MUBC 150th celebration website www.wellrowed.com where you will find copies of the speeches and a link to the 'hero video' made by Michael Nicholson that was shown on the night. Congratulations to Rob Zahara for organising such a great event.

Towards the end of that video you will see some film of the 150 people on the water for the 150th that was held on the morning of 3 September 2009. This was a great fun occasion where a huge flotilla of MUBC boats 'took control of the water' outside the clubhouse, attracting considerable media interest including a live cross to ABC TV for an extended interview with President Peter Antonie. Congratulations to John Whiting for coming up with the idea and for the excellent execution.

The Club was also extremely fortunate that the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser AC, agreed to launch the 150th anniversary history *Well Rowed University* written by Dr Judith Buckrich at Government House. At a late afternoon reception on 25 August, the Governor, the Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University Professor Glyn Davis AC and Peter Antonie all spoke to approximately 130 guests. Copies of their speeches and some photos from the evening are also being put up on the www.wellrowed.com website.

The book itself has been selling extremely well – of the 900 copies that were supplied, there are now only 330 left. So if you haven't yet got your copy or are looking for a great present for anyone interested in rowing then you had better order your copies soon. You can order it via www.wellrowed.com

There is also an excellent range of MUBC 150th merchandise and MUBC 150th wine available for you to order – see the MUBC online shop at www.mubc.asn.au

150 On the water!!!



The Club started its 150th celebrations by assembling 150 people in boats at 7 am in front of MUBC on September 3rd 2009. This event was recorded on video, in photographs, and by entering the names of all participants in a special book acquired for the day. A total of 156 happy people signed the book. This number included many who were

returning for the day. The Club hopes to see these people more often, and that the experience may lead to more comebacks.

Whilst the occasion was a success, the Club notes sadly that its current Australian representatives were unable to attend due to a clash with the World Rowing Championships in Poland.

In a spine tingling experience, the fleet then rowed together through Princes Bridge, to return for more photos with the Club as background. After three cheers for the Club, and a rousing "Well rowed University!" the fleet came ashore for breakfast.

Melbourne University's media office released information about the event, and it was featured on three television stations. Club President Peter Antonie was interviewed on ABC radio. This coverage correctly acknowledged the importance of MUBC in Melbourne's sporting and civic history.

Melbourne University Boat Club 150th Dinner



Congratulations to the Organisers – what a terrific job

Speech Excerpts

Sir James Gobbo

"Tonight is all about a great Boat Club. Many, if not all, of us who went down to the Yarra to row agree with the character in the *Wind in the Willows* who said:

Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.

This is admirable advice and over the ages, many have acted on it – mostly by taking to boats with sails. Some have even used motors. But a slightly lunatic percentage have taken to boats with oars – a fiendishly hard way to propel a boat. In history, slaves and those vanquished in war were condemned to pull oars in huge galleys and triremes. Incidentally, only the Venetians used free men in their galleys and the Venetian Republic lasted a thousand years! Whilst I am manifesting my ethno-chauvinistic pride in my Venetian ancestry, may I add that Venice was holding Women's Regattas on the Grand Canal as early as 1610! Whatever happened in history, now we pull oars for pleasure – and some pain – and this Club which we honour has been doing it for 150 years."

Rob Stewart

"150 years ago today, on 3 September 1859, a four of university men, stroked by Professor Martin Irving, defeated a crew drawn from the metropolitan banks over a course from the Botanical Gardens Bridge to Princes Bridge. It was the first winning crew in a race between amateurs on the Yarra. Directly after the race Melbourne University Boat Club was formally constituted. I think that on a night such as this we can fairly claim to be one of the leading rowing clubs in the world. And, as is stated in the book, I think that we can also claim to be one of Australia's most successful sporting clubs."

Minnie Cade

"Not only can sons and daughters say that their Dad rowed for MUBC but now they can equally say, **my MUM rowed for MUBC.**" "I do have **first hand reports** that some men were in fact quite keen to have females at the boat sheds. Now this highly reliable source actually named names. The late Tom Yuncken was one man who was always exceedingly kind and helpful to the new members and whilst this may not have been his motivation at the time he was therefore instrumental in helping create the unified club we have today"

Competition

World Championships – Poznan, Poland



The Australian 2008/2009 Silver Medal Olympic Mens 4- (Francis Hegarty, Cameron McKenzie-McHarg (MUBC), James Marburg (MUBC) and Matt Ryan

Comments from Cameron

"The Sydneysiders are enjoying the opportunity to train in the best city in the World. La Camera has started ordering in more eggs to deal with Matt's special diet requirements, while the VIS have ordered in more weights to deal with Franks ability to single leg squat every available free weight in the gym. The Sydneysiders might be giving up their crocodile skinned boots and zebra fur belts to set up a more permanent base in Melbourne's very own home of rowing".



Alice McNamara and Bronwen Watson – Aus Women's Lightweight Double Scull

MLW 4-

The crew was Angus Tyers, Darren Purcell (Qld), Tommy Bertrand (Qld) and Ross Brown (WA)

Here's what Angus said about his first trip overseas.

"We had some problems with our preparation with one of the team pulling out two weeks before with a back problem, and Tommy Bertrand filling in. The racing overseas was extremely intense and it was a eye opener, all the racing was so close with the difference between an A/B semi and a C/D semi a matter of 2 seconds, while the winner overall rowing the 2000meters in 5min:50secs, which is quick.

It was a great experience, and this intensity is something I can take away with me into training and, pending selection, racing next year. Our result wasn't what we had hoped (C final); we were simply not quick enough this year, but the crew got along well and the lessons learnt made it a very worthwhile journey. We are hungry for a better result next time."

HW W2-



Kim Crow (MUBC) and Sarah Cook in action
News from Kim Crow

"For this year's World Championships, I was once again racing the pair with Sarah Cook. We really enjoyed the tight knit team atmosphere of the 2009 team and the exciting undercurrent of Aussie spirit permeating athletes, coaches and support staff alike. As noted in our Team Debrief, we also appreciated the positive energy of "the best men's eight" to tour with ever- held together by MUBC's very own Tom Larkins, and adopted son, Fergus Pragnell. The experience of the uber consistent men's quad (led by David Crawshay), and the uber gutsy men's four (including MUBC stalwarts Cam Maxi McKenzie-McHarg and James Marburg) made for a highly rewarding touring experience.

For Sarah and I, 2009 was about getting back on track after a disappointing 2008. Some big technical changes were still being consolidated as we neared towards Worlds, meaning our results varied from outstanding to...not so outstanding. Team workouts against the lightie women's double (stroked by superstar Alice Mac) and the women's double proved really beneficial in gauging our progress. Arriving in Poland was exciting. It had been a long winter, with only simulated World Cups to stimulate our race energies. The regatta, although not turning out as we had hoped - finishing 5th in a tightly fought final, was not all bad. We hit onto some good speed throughout the week, particularly in a gutsy semi final effort. The work is in progress!"

MUBC competes at Henley Royal Regatta

Over the most recent school break two crews and a sculler travelled to the UK to compete at Henley Royal Regatta. This course is raced over 2112 metres, into a strong head stream and is run in a match race knock out format. This means that the racing is much like a tennis tournament, and the losers of each one-on-one race take no further part in the regatta. This event is much like the Melbourne cup for spectators, with various exclusive enclosures, grandstands and all manner of water craft surrounding the course. A large group of enthusiastic parents travelled in support of these crews.



In the Fawley Challenge Cup, an under 19 quad scull event, a crew comprised of members from The Geelong College, Xavier College, and Melbourne Grammar School and Scotch College, and raced as Melbourne University & Barwon Rowing Club. It comprised of Tim Cleary (str), Tim Masters (3), Simon Keenan (2), Andrew Emmett (bow) and was coached by Tom Woodruff.

Henley Campaign July 2009

In the Temple Cup, an eight from Melbourne University raced, made up of members studying at the University of Melbourne. This crew was made up of: Lachlan McKenzie (bow), Simon Brown(2), Elliot Bannan (3) Louis Strauss (4), Josh Booth (5), Simon Booth(6), James Adams(7), Dan Sweeney (str) and Ben Bailey (cox). The crew was coached by Tom Woodruff. The crew defeated the Cambridge Goldie Eight on day one, Imperial College on day two and Kent School from the USA on Friday, the third day. Having reached the weekend, and being one of the final four crews from the initial entries of 58, the eight faced Brown University from the USA. The Brown crew got the better of the start and used this early advantage to control the race. The next day in the final, on Sunday, Princeton University defeated Brown to win the division. Although the crew was disappointed, no Australian crew has reached the Semi Finals of the Temple Cup event before.

Here's what Yasmin Burraston says about sculling on the Thames

Racing at Henley was a terrific challenge, and a great way to finish off the season. Henley provided some hard racing against top international competitors, in a unique match racing format. I thoroughly enjoyed the racing and the build up, as well as the Regatta's festivities and traditions. These included fabulous supporters and enthusiasts, plenty of Pimms, skirts below the knees (of course) and rather interesting blazers worn loud and proud.

Being part of the MUBC contingent during the 150th year celebrations made the experience even more fantastic, and I really appreciated the support, whilst having an absolute ball with the MUBC group in Henley.

Henley Veterans

Ten members of the masters group at MUBC signed up for the trip to Henley. Because all racing at Henley is based on a two crew match racing format, the team hedged their bets by entering 5 events: D and E eights, D and F quads and C coxless four. This meant that everyone was guaranteed at least two or three rows regardless of results. Accommodation was organized partly with the assistance of Anne Wolfe, the liaison person for the organisers, Upper Thames Rowing Club. Anne was also an enthusiastic member of Cambridge Boat Club of Mass., USA, and proved to be a key person. Paul Reedy, head coach at London Rowing Club and coach of the successful GB women's lightweight double, kindly organized an eight, four and quad for us and drove the boats to and from Henley.

The C4- and E8 were competitive and won their first round races, but were both beaten in the semis by the eventual finalists in these events. The D8 and F4X were both beaten in their first round races by strong local crews which themselves progressed to the finals. The D4X, which was our stop gap entry, had its first training row on the way to the start in time honoured masters tradition, and was beaten by the eventual finalists and winners Walton by a smaller margin than any other D4X. Although we were out muscled by most of our competitors in head wind and stream conditions, we were competitive.

A special exhibition row was arranged by the regatta organizers between two eights from Cambridge Boat Club (celebrating their 100th anniversary) and MUBC (celebrating our 150th) and after a carefully orchestrated first 750 metres, with the two crews neck and neck, Cambridge managed to hold on to a 3 foot lead going over the line.

A celebratory dinner was held on the Saturday evening between Cambridge BC and MUBC, at which Rob Stewart presented Cambridge, the chairman of Leander and Anne Wolfe with the MUBC history. Highlights of the evening included the recitation at the commencement of the meal of MUBC's Latin grace by Tony Oakley, the presentation to CBC (and retention in the spirit of the Ashes) of a crystal Challenge bell (valued by a local dealer at 80p) by John McKenzie to be used for future competition between CBC and MUBC, and a performance of that classic tune "Bow, you're hurrying, bow, you're late", by the talented musical trio of Rickards, Turner and Oakley.



MUBC the Vets at Henly

Masters Report

The masters program has been thriving throughout the winter. We have been motivated by a club wide campaign to target the World Masters Games in Sydney from October 10-14th. There have been many enthusiastic participants in the winter sculling series, including

the inaugural Albert Park Grand Prix event, and the Scullers Head of the Yarra. Also many MUBC masters have volunteered throughout the winter sculling series, so thank you to all for your contribution. There have been regular Tuesday morning ERGOMANIA sessions, organized by Peter Nicholson, with weekly prizes to reward the hurt! Two World Masters Games lead up events have been held. One at the Barwon on Sept 5th and one will be held at Carrum Sept 19th. The regattas showed that our MUBC crews are all in good form. We had 3 quads racing at a very windy Saltwater Challenge on Sept 12th, a 4.5km race on the Maribyrnong (2 men, 1 women's composite) with our men finishing with the top prognostic and 3rd best overall time. (including the "elites"). Our WMG campaign includes an impressive count of 31 male members and 17 females ranging in ages from 27-65 competing in over 70 events.

The 2009 Winter Sculling Series



The handicapper's spies

All good things must come to an end and two of Melbourne winter attractions have finished the world famous musical Wicked has concluded its season and moved to Sydney as has the decade old Victorian Winter Sculling series for 2009.

However even though we have got rid of one Wicked Witch to Sydney we have been left with the other wicked one: "The Wicked Handicapper" who has again ruined the hope and dreams of so many promising winter scullers. And will be back next year.

The series this year has seen the continuation of strong support by scullers with record numbers entering ever week from the sprints on week one to the series of 2000m handicap races and the head races which this year included the inaugural "Grand Prix" on Albert Park Lake. In the men's sprints Shane Usher showed the way for Uni with a third place in the final.

MUBC as usual was well represented in each of the events which ran over 12 weeks and incorporates the Herald Shield the handicap event which has been awarded since 1927.

The women's best boats saw MUBC girls having a red hot go in the 2k races with Sarah Heard winning the series final. Their competitive spirit continued on to the longer head races. This on occasions caused some friction with the MUBC masters whereby at Footscray over the 4.5 k journey it was observed that one MUBC Masters sculler started 10secs behind Emily Balmaks, finally catching and passing her by running her into a bridge, only to have Emily repass the old man right in front of the big and cheering crowd gathered at the Footscray landing. There must be some rule about that.

One of the season highlights was the emergence of the now infamous

"Chicken Man" aka Big Marshall. In heat three of the series Tim arrived at the start appeared to check out the opposition and then turn his boat up stream and did not make it back in time for his heat. An unnamed observer (with the initials Moby) was heard to mention the word chicken, as a result the "Chicken Man" was born and raced the following weeks with a "plucked" rubber bird taped on his head. The Head of the Yarra for sculls attracted such a large field that this year the race was shortened to 8.5k and started from Hawthorn. This year's men's was won by Karsten Forsterling with Simon Booth third and Gary Butcher fifth. Uni filled eight of the top ten positions. The Women's race was won by Elsie Madigan with Pamela Whiting and Fiona Milne doing well in the women's masters division.

As is now a tradition the volunteer organisers (who do a fantastic job), on the final day group the scullers who have not made the final (or who have been handicapped out by the WICKED Handicapper) into club races where such names as the Yarra Yarra Cup have evolved. At MUBC we have the Noonan Cup or as it is known by its politically incorrect name "The Shafted Cup" was again a fiercely fought event finally won by young Tom Baker.

Noted able MUBC performances were:

Simon Booth first at Head of Maribyrnong, Sarah Heard first Stokes Salver, Tom Wood second Herald Shield, Daniel Trayanovski third Herald Shield, Pamela Whiting first Head of Yarra Women's Masters, Emily Balmaks first Head of Yarra Junior Women's, and Simon Keenan first Head of Yarra Junior men's.

Thanks to all volunteers who again ran a memorable series of races and to the competitors well done and see you next year.

We strongly encourage you all to compete in the Winter Sculling series. Racing in single sculls is a great way to gain rowing skills and the handicap and head racing events on the winter sculling program are a great learning experience for the new scullers and for the more experienced, it is great fun and a way to build and hold fitness throughout the winter months.

Go to www.wintersculling.com.au to find out more and enroll.

Thursday Night Dinners

Thursday night dinners are now on each week. Dinner is served after the cross training session which commence at 5:30pm and finish at approx 7pm. All club members are encouraged to attend the cross training and/or dinner. The fridge is now full with soft drinks, water and powerade as well as the usual alcoholic beverages.

Newsletter written and edited by Tim Marshall

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