

MUBC NEWSLETTER

Spectacular scenes as the boys check how the boats are faring on the long trip back from Perth.

WORD FROM THE CAPTAINS

Welcome to the first instalment of the MUBC newsletter for 2017. On the eve of what is shaping up to be a bumper regatta season, we hope you take a few moments to enjoy and catch up on all that has been happening around MUBC, Boathouse Drive and beyond over recent months.

In the pages that follow you will read of boat christenings, a report from our annual training camp in Bairnsdale, a recap from our historic Head of the Yarra winning women, and a calendar of regattas to plan for the remainder of the 2016-17 season, among many other features. On a more sombre note, we also pay tribute to the passing of MUBC stalwart Peter Philp, and recognise some of his achievements within the rowing community across his wonderful life.

We would also like to take the chance to introduce two key members of our coaching staff who have come on board for the 2016-17 season: Christian Ryan and John Micheltmore. John has done an outstanding job with our youth men's program and we look forward to watching them continue to progress in the coming weeks. Christian has been working with some of our elite senior men, as well as chairing the recently established Rowing Operations group, overseeing a range of day-to-day functions and decisions of the club. A huge thanks to both Christian and John for devoting so much time and effort to MUBC in these roles.

Wishing everyone a prosperous and exciting racing season. As a wise man once said, 'only I can bend this oar.' Happy racing and go Uni!

Chris & Sarah

Club Captain Chris Hargreaves with Vice-Captain, Sarah Ben-David



Christian Ryan (left) with Josh Booth at the 2016 Annual Dinner



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CAMP REPORT

The season got underway in mid December, with a three day Youth camp. Both the men's and women's Youth squads had eights out on the river, and also spent some time getting familiar with rowing pairs and singles. It was great to have a new, enthusiastic group of Youth members around the club, and give them a taste of MUBC rowing prior to January camp.



We were once again off to Bairnsdale for January camp. A Hawaiian-themed boat loading took place on the 4th of January, before the rowers drove up on the 5th. The Youth Men spent the majority of their sessions in the eight; learning to row sweep, building up fitness and preparing for racing. Excitingly, we also had two Junior Men at camp for the first time in recent years. The Youth Women, and Senior squads spent more time in small boats, getting some kilometres in the bank and improving their sculling and sweep skills.

On the 7th, a group raced in the inaugural 'Head of the Tambo', a 12km time trial organised by Bill Tait for the VIS, MUBC and Mercantile athletes who were training in the region. A special mention goes to visiting Swiss sculler, Nico Stahlberg, who posted the best prognostic time overall. Back in Bairnsdale, the Youth men and women were having fun with some battle paddling and sprint pieces in mixed eights.

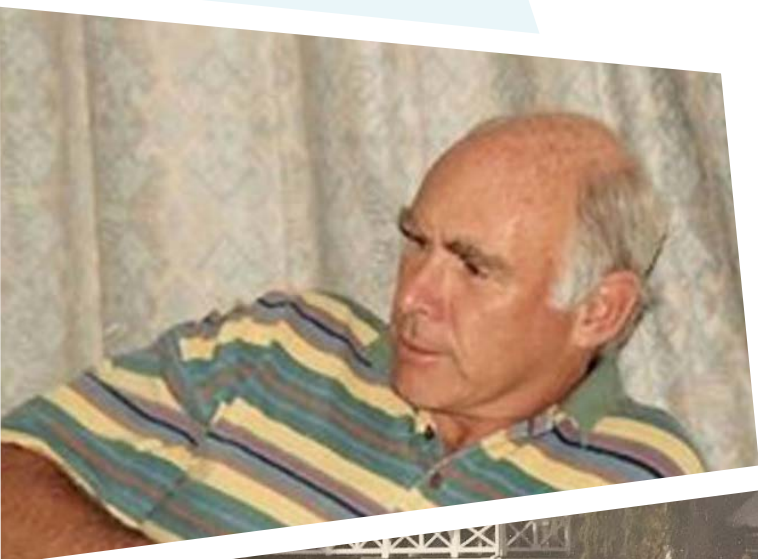
Overall, camp was a huge success, and we look forward to seeing all the hard work come to fruition at the upcoming regattas. A special thank you to the coaches for all their hard work in organising and coaching the camp.





Dimboola Regatta, 1984

VALE Peter Philp



Philpy, in 2 seat, and crew taking out the Grand Masters Eight at Head of the Charles, 2011

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Peter Philip, one of our longest serving club members, passed away on Tuesday 3rd January after a long illness. It didn't matter how Philpy was feeling he just kept on training and fighting on with that big infectious smile on his face.

PEML Philp, as he is noted in Australian and International record rowing records as both rower and coach of renown, was associated with MUBC as a coach and rower from 1973 onwards. In addition to his multi medal winning achievements as a coach, Philpy had a distinguished rowing career having represented Australia in the Men's Heavyweight Coxless 4 while a member of Mercantile Rowing Club.

Philpy came to MUBC in 1973 to coach the men's lightweight squad. MUBC crews had great success under his stewardship with all MUBC crews winning the Penrith Cup for Interstate Lightweight Fours in '73, '74, '75, '77, '78, and '79. Just like with his own rowing, Philpy charged his crews to take on the biggest challenges possible. Successes ranged from all domestic events in lightweight and heavyweight classes to a World Championship Gold medal win with an all MUBC crew in the Men's Lightweight 4 at the 1974 World Championships.

Of recent times, one of Philpy's wins was in the Masters Eight at the 2011 Head of the Charles Regatta. Peter noted this as one of his top achievements mainly due to it being another win – he had so many – but also because he had not been well for quite some time with cancer, I guess. For many of us it was his coaching that was his greatest achievement due to the benefits and successes this gave to so many of us. Philpy's "she'll be right" and "there's no fight too big" attitude changed the lives of so many of us. We are obliged to pass this on.

On behalf of all MUBC members we pass on our deepest condolences to Peter's wife Annette, son Alastair and sister Rosemary.

Peter Antonie
President MUBC

ANNUAL DINNER 2016

Words by Georgia Lenton-Williams

On the 12th of November last year, members and friends of Melbourne University Boat Club swapped their zooties for formalities. An important event on the club calendar, the Annual Dinner represented an opportunity to fully appreciate the community that surrounds our club. The night also allowed those involved in the 2015/16 race season to recognise their achievements and reflect on the hard work that they had put in along the way.

The dedicated nature of the competitors from our club is what ultimately allows MUBC to attain such outstanding results. This hardworking and honest approach was exemplified on the night by Kim Brennan, who spoke about her personal journey with humbling honesty. Everyone in the room was rapt. Hearing the details of her experience as a rower, including how she came to win Gold at the Rio Olympics, was a real privilege. After Brennan's compelling speech, the club awards were announced. These awards were given to an impressive list of individuals who have contributed to MUBC over the years.

As a relatively new youth member, the Annual Dinner demonstrated the value of our rowing community to me. I left that night feeling incredibly appreciative to be part of this circle; now knowing both the past legacies and the potential future of MUBC.



AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES CHAMPION LAKES, PERTH

Words by Isaac Smith

With only 19 athletes (9 female rowers, 2 female coxswains and 8 male rowers) Melbourne University backed up last years winning form with an even more convincing performance in the University Games Rowing Regatta in Perth. One of only two universities that boated crews in every event, Melbourne University garnered a combined point score almost 100 points clear of the nearest university, our rivals to the North, the University of Sydney. Continuing the trend of recent years, the women's squad rowed their socks off to win five (almost six with a close second place to Ria Thompson in the women's heavyweight single) out of a possible seven events, resulting in a point score nearly double that of the women's squad of the next best performing Sydney Uni.

The Melbourne University men's squad fought valiantly; with British import James Goble battling through injury to allow the bare-bones squad to medal in the men's eight, a feat not achieved by a Melbourne University rowing team in a number of years. Other standout performances are Jordan Smith who, despite being over a head shorter than the eventual winner, convincingly won second in the men's heavyweight single, and the mixed eight who brought home some shiny gold medals, the first win for Melbourne University at the regatta.

Awesome panorama by Nick Stephenson of Champion Lakes on a spectacular morning



The victorious team celebrate after the medal presentation.

Despite the dominance of the women's squad on the water, it was the men's squad who dominated in the kitchen, serving very nutritious and delicious meals to the entire squad on the final night, coming in ahead of the women's performance the night before (editors note: as judged by the men).

The entire week was incredibly successful for what was an amazing group of people, expertly lead by a number of veteran uni games rowers. Team captain Sarah Ben David did a fantastic job of managing the team and was a great assistant to the invaluable presence of coach Rick "Slick Rick" van Hooydonk. It would be remiss of us not to once again thank Greg Longden and his trusty roadtrip accomplice for towing the boats across the Nullabor- and of course to the gang of boys that loaded themselves into the landcruiser on the voyage back.

A great week of racing and banter, and plenty of silverware to bring home to boot!



Our Melbourne University Blues Award recipients. Photo: Melbourne Uni Sport

AUSTRALIAN BOAT RACE

A new appreciation for the sheltered banks of the Yarra was fostered when the Melbourne University women's and men's crew took to the waters of Sydney Harbour in a tussle with our historic rival Sydney University for the Australian Boat Race 2016.

First off were the women, with Melbourne University dominating from the get-go. The rough water was no match for their steady rhythm as they battled on and pulled away to an impressive victory of an indeterminable number of lengths.

The men's race fell in favour of the host crew with a stacked Sydney University crew proving too strong and eventually drawing the lead after an intense fight early on from the Melbourne boys. With conditions worsening, the winds served up a fine display of splash to add a surfboat-like theatric to the event.

At the conclusion of racing, the challenge was issued, and we look forward to hosting Sydney University later this year for a rematch.



Action shot of the Men's crew fighting through some epic swells.



The calm conditions in Circular Quay belied the rough waters of the harbour



Victorious women's crew celebrate in Circular Quay post-race!



Men's crew on a training row set against the background of Sydney Harbour Bridge

Attention, go! Rolling waves and swell off the start line in Woolwich





HEAD OF THE YARRA Race Report: Lucy Stephan

The 2016 Head of the Yarra is a race I will never forget. I rowed in my 1st Senior 8+ in 2011 at the national championships. This was the race that taught me when you pull on a MUBC suit you become a part of something that is pretty special. We were the under-dogs and on paper you would easily write us off. With the help of the MUBC greats such as Kimmy, Pheeb (Stanley) and (Alice) Mac I learnt that you should never "write off" an MUBC crew. We became national champions in the W8+ and that was the last time MUBC has won the women's 8+. Over the last 6 years we have fronted up to every race with the passion but unfortunately never came through with the goods. I can remember chatting to Kimmy on the last night of Rio asking if she would come home for HOTY this year? Convincing her this is our year. For me this is where it started. Returning home, the whispers begin and we started to piece together the crew that would become 'the drought breakers'. Every session we took to the water with a clear intent of what we wanted to achieve; rhythm and together. Come race day we were ready to piece together the race we wanted. Starting second, we knew we would have our work cut out for us, but we stuck to our guns. While Mercs edged out about half a length in the 1st km it didn't take us long with our rhythm to edge our way back on them sitting in their wash for the kilometer leading into big bend. We knew we had to take the opportunity to take them on the bend and with Sarah Ben-David in total control of the boat and us, it's just what we did. Of course, special mention goes out to our bow siders to hook us around on the inside of Mercs. The race was won from 'Big Bend' and as we strode out the margin, it was all about enjoying the fact we rowing for our club and knowing that every single seat was giving it their all. Determined to keep pushing to the end.

RESULTS SUMMARY

1st Male Masters H-K Eight (Kerin)
 5th Male Masters H-K Eight (Yates)
 7th Female C Grade Eight (Goldfinch)
1st Female Masters D Eight (Finlayson)
 2nd Male Masters F-G Eight (Nicholson)
 3rd Female B Grade Eight (Flakemore)
 4th Male Masters A - C Eight (Butcher)
 5th Male C Grade Eight (Austin)
1st Female Open Eight (Stephan)
 4th Male Open Eight (Hookway)

UPCOMING REGATTAS

JANUARY

Barwon Regatta 28/1/17

The 2017 regatta season has just begun, with the Youth Men and Masters Women racing at the Barwon Regatta this past weekend. John Michelmores's U21 Men's Coxed Four claimed bronze in the final, and the U21 Men's Eight put up a valiant effort against some fast school crews, coming third in their heat. Bea Klein-van Mullekom and Sam Dell had a busy day, racing in the A and B Grade Single Sculls, and B and D Grade Double Sculls, with some excellent results across all their events.

FEBRUARY

Wendouree Ballarat Regatta 4/2/17

The first major regatta of the season for most of our U21, U23 and Senior athletes. We have MUBC crews competing in every boat class!

NSW State Championships 11/2/17 - 12/2/17

A number of our elite rowers will be heading up to Penrith. This event is compulsory for athletes nominating for Australian teams, and is a great opportunity to race against the best in the country.

Nagambie Regatta 18/2/17

Racing returns to Nagambie this year, with another good opportunity to have a hit out on the two kilometre course.

Australian Henley Regatta 25/2/17

1600m and 800m match racing on the Yarra River.

MARCH

Victorian State Championships 3/3/17 - 5/3/17

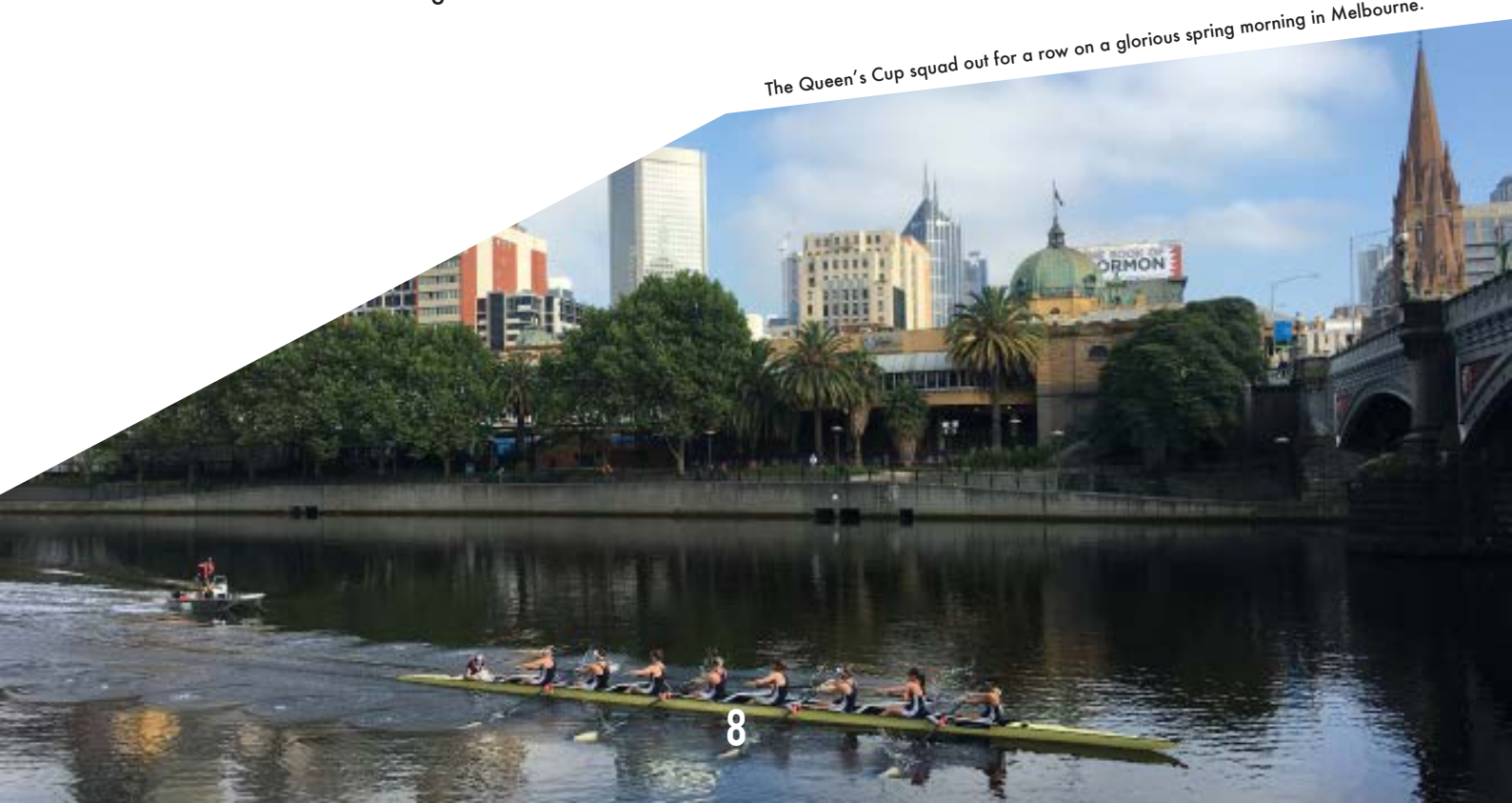
The last major Victorian regatta before Nationals. Expect to see lots of MUBC entries across all divisions with a number of crews vying for the title! An important regatta for those seeking selection in the State Crews ahead of the interstate regatta at Nationals.

Sydney International Rowing Regatta 27/3/17 - 2/4/17

The Australian National Championships are once again being held in Penrith, NSW with the Interstate Regatta to conclude proceedings on the Sunday. After a momentous victory last year, Victoria will be looking to defend the Australia Cup and bring it back home to its rightful resting place for another year. Up the big white V!

NOTE: We are actively seeking race reports from athletes to include in future editions. Please contact mubceditor@gmail.com if you would like to contribute.

The Queen's Cup squad out for a row on a glorious spring morning in Melbourne.



BOAT CHRISTENINGS

KIM BRENNAN-RIO GOLD

What do you do when you've already had not one, but two boats named after you at your club? You get married AND win an Olympic Gold medal. It should come as no surprise that the latest addition to the MUBC fleet has been named the 'Kim Brennan- Rio Gold' in honour of Kim's phenomenal achievement at the 2016 Olympic games. We wish all those who row in it as much success as its name bearer- no pressure or anything!

PATSY MONTGOMERY

It's also wonderful to recognise club members for their service and dedication to the club. That is why our women's lightweight quad, previously named 'Ares', has been renamed the 'Patsy Montgomery'. Here's hoping that our MUBC lighties can take the 'Patsy' to back to back gold at the interstate regatta this year.



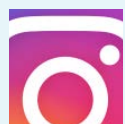
THE DETOUR RIDE

The annual Christmas Eve suffer fest went ahead again this year with a record number turning out for the slog around the bay. Whilst the boys endured the full 240km down to the tip of the Mornington Peninsula, the girls opted for something slightly less manic and clocked up at least 100km with some tapping out at a very commendable 150km. Always a good time of year to be out on bikes and enjoying a safe, social ride, not to mention earning your christmas lunch.

Not many people can say they've laid hands on the Melbourne Cup, but Claudia and Elise had their moment in the spotlight as a Herald Sun photographer captured this Melbourne Moment in the days leading up to the race that stops a nation. We just love that rowing is getting some press, even if it's for a totally unrelated sport and event...

MUBC ABROAD

Coach Bert Cocu took this excellent picture against a majestic back drop of Uluru. Where in the world will MUBC go next? Submit your MUBC adorned adventure snaps to mubceditor@gmail.com or tag us on instagram or facebook!



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