



Easy Oar

Newsletter of the Leichhardt Rowing Club
Issue no. 25
March, April, May 2010

Congratulations to our national champions!

Congratulations to Leichhardt rowers and their coach on their successes at the Australian Rowing Championships, 1–7 March at Nagambie, Victoria. Olivia Heath, Elizabeth Scott, Isobel James, Kiri English-Hawke and Tecla di Francesco (who represented Ascham) went to the championships with Stani Slavova, and brought back two gold medals, one silver, one bronze and a lot of valuable experience.

Olivia won gold U23WL 4x in a composite crew with St George, and, with Elizabeth Scott, was fifth in OWL 2x. Olivia also made the A final of LWU23 1x, after winning her semi-final, but did not finish due to equipment failure. Elizabeth Scott won bronze in the OWL 4x in a composite crew, went through to the final of the OWL 2x, and was fifth in the B final of the OWL 1x.

Kiri won gold in the WU17 4x in a composite crew with Ascham and Bunbury, and was second in the B final of the WU17 1x. Isobel won silver medal in the WU19 4x with Tecla di Francesco, and went through to the semi-final in both the WU19 2x (with Bunbury) and 1x.

Olivia Heath, Elizabeth Scott and Isobel James also represented NSW in the Interstate Regatta: Olivia and Elizabeth were in the Victoria Cup, the Womens Lightweight 4x; Isobel James in the Bicentennial Cup, the Womens Youth Eight; and Stani Slavova coached the Womens Youth Eight.

Olivia Heath has been vying for selection at the 10-day 2010 Rowing Australia National Selection Trials at Penrith.

Good luck Olivia!

See page 3 for photos.

Leichhardt wins the Trickett Regatta



The Trickett Regatta is the Grade Championship regatta for the season. LRC won the regatta, and was awarded the championship trophy by Helen Albury, great granddaughter of Ed Trickett from Murwillumbah RC. Tim Clare went to collect the trophy, and was ably assisted by a band of willing helpers.

Note from the President

As we draw to a close on another season, planning is starting for the 2011 season.

Our goals for 2010 were agreed as win the premiership again and then build on our recent successes by expanding into a high performance program. Success in the performance is to be measured against selection into state and national teams and medals at nationals.

Reviewing performance against these goals, with only two premiership regattas remaining we would appear to be well placed for our third premiership win in four years. Great to see the ongoing strength in this area. On the high performance squad, we also exceeded expectations for the year. Congratulations to Stani and the squad for their great successes – three athletes selected

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LRC office bearers and more

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Patron | Lionel Robberds |
| President | Tim Clare , 0417 424 370, tim.clare@des-pl.com.au |
| Captain | Jane Hutchison , 0417 224 443, janelouisehutchison@hotmail.com |
| Vice-Captains | Christiaan Fitzsimon , 0414 555 991, christiaan@ibsaust.com.au Deanna Fekete , 0405 508 623, wheat5@bigpond.net.au |
| Junior Vice-Captain | Zoe Thomas , 0401609955, zoe_t@hotmail.com |
| Secretary | Steve Jaques , 02 9568 3163, s.jaques61@gmail.com |
| Assistant secretary | Sue Philpot , 0403 076 637, lrc_susie@hotmail.com |
| Treasurer | Peter Trives , 0418 441 768, peter@trivescon.com.au |
| Assistant treasurer | Onno van Ewyk , 0403 076 637, onno@vanewyk.com.au |
| Property Master | (boat maintenance/equipment) Christiaan Fitzsimon , 0414 555 991, christiaan@ibsaust.com.au |

General committee

| | |
|--|---|
| Doreen Borg (socials) | 0419 691 742 (after 5.30pm weekdays), Doreen.Borg@cgu.com.au |
| Juliet Bourke | 0414 426 939, juliet.bourke@aequus.com.au |
| Andrew Morrell (database) | 0414 259 430, Andrew@helpbase.com.au |
| Anne Parbury (<i>Easy Oar</i> , website, admin) | 0415 580 187, aparbury@gmail.com |
| Richard Stanistreet (pontoon guru, RowingNSW delegate), | 0418 245 728, rstanist@bigpond.net.au |
| Kerry Thorn (club house property master) | 0414 375 425, kez@zipworld.com.au |
| Ross Tout | 041 331 6694, 9988 3363, rosstout@optusnet.com.au |
| Virginia van Ewyk (regatta secretary) | 0402 980 773, virginia@vanewyk.com.au |

Other roles

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Head Coach | Stani Slavova , 0404 899 476, originrow@live.com |
| Honorary Medical Officer | Dr Diana Robinson , 9231 0102, www.sportsdoc.com.au/p_diana_robinson.html |
| Merchandise co-ordinator | Sue Andrews , 0415 386 956, girlsrule99@optusnet.com.au |

See the full list of positions and roles on the website:
www.lrc.com.au/13.html

Note from the President *ctd from page 1*

in state crews and all four girls achieving medal performances at nationals. With these results, Leichhardt was placed second best performing NSW club behind Sydney Uni.

So what are the expectations for 2011?

The obvious goal is for another premiership win to make it three in a row and with our current strength in our membership this is a real possibility. The challenge will be continuing the growth in high performance. To succeed in this area requires talented athletes. Our strategy here is to grow from within through talent identification through our learn to row program (the squad this year included two girls who came through our juniors program) and recruitment of school leavers who demonstrate potential.

There is pressure and competition from several clubs recruiting talented school leavers and offering scholarship programs. Historically, Leichhardt has relied on our club spirit and community support network to attract and retain talented rowers. And while this has been very successful, if we are to continue to grow, there is increasing sentiment that we need to meet that challenge head on and offer similar incentive programs. My personal view is that as a club we are defined by both personal and club achievements. It is important that we achieve our personal goals in rowing – whatever they may be. It is equally important to set goals for the club to achieve. And recognition of club success in the general rowing community is clearly defined by our two key targets of premiership success and high performance.

If this is an agreed direction for the club, it is important that development of a talented athlete fund does not impact on our capability with our existing structure and programs. There will be further discussion over the coming weeks on the benefits, sustainability and funding options for this program to work. All members input into these discussions will be welcomed.

The Trivia Night on 17 April was very important to our fund raising goals. With the completion and final payments of the new pontoon our cash flow is stretched for the remainder of the year. We raised more than \$10k towards a new boat from the evening to help the ongoing battle to meet expectations for boat allocations – a good effort indeed, but there is still more to do, and donations continue to be welcome.

Tim Clare

Welcome to recent new members of LRC:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Matthew Campbell</i> | <i>Daniel Ryan</i> |
| <i>Gigi Cook</i> | <i>Elizabeth Scott</i> |
| <i>Sue Field</i> | <i>Claudia Wherry</i> |
| <i>Howard Glen</i> | <i>Evonne Voukidis</i> |
| <i>Brigitte Hadley</i> | <i>Katherine Voukidis</i> |
| <i>Judy Mann</i> | <i>Rama Srinivasan</i> |
| <i>Evie Melrose</i> | <i>Anthony Wilkes</i> |



At the nationals ...



L and below: (str) Elizabeth Scott and (3) Olivia Heath with Jackie Peile (St George) and (bow) Laura Dunn (UTS) represent NSW in the Interstate Women's Lightweight Coxless Quad Scull (both photos Emma Schiller, Rowing NSW).



(Below L) Kiri English-Hawke and (below R) Isobel James with their medals.



Tecla di Francesco and Isobel James are all smiles after winning silver in their U19 quad (Pulteny composite).



Stani Slavova with the winning U17 quad, with Kiri English-Hawke (LRC), Jessie Allen (Ascham), Jordan Vagg and Maddie Abbott (Bunbury), cox Lavinia (Ascham)

Book the date:
22 May
LRC presentation night

RNSW Masters Representatives

Congratulations to LRC rowers in the NSW Masters teams – Leichhardt rowers make up a large proportion of the two women's squads.

Angela Conry is the LRC representative in the NSW Women's Quad, and Sandy Rourke-Woodhouse, Deanna Fekete, Dianne Williams, Christina Bursill, Leslie Howatt, Virginia Van Ewyk and Anne Parbury have been selected for the NSW Women's Eight. Steve Sherry is coaching both crews.

They will compete for NSW in the 2010 Australian Rowing Championships at Champion Lakes, Western Australia, 3–6 June.

Good luck!

(R) The quad in action (Bow: Kathryn Lewis (Drummoyne), 2 Wendy Zammit (Sydney Uni), 3 Angela Conry, Str Tamsin Brew (Drummoyne))



Regattas ... Head of the River ... Combined High School Championships

At the Riverview Gold Cup, Ashley Aubeelaus, Genevieve Pfeiffer, Lucy Zell, Emma Hart were third in the SGY10-4 4x+ in their division, and Imogen Smith, Harriet Scandol, Madeleine Gibson, Poppy Cook did well in their quad.

Austen Hunt competed in the ACT Rowing Championships to gain fifth in the final of the U15 1x, with thanks to Canberra Rowing Club for lending a scull when the need became apparent.

At the Schoolgirl Head of River, LRC again had good results with a number of our members representing their schools. Isobel James won the SG 1x, Kiri English-Hawke was third in final of SGYr10 1x, Imogen Smith and Harriet Scandol were in the final of the SGYr9 2x. Lucy Zell and Cassandra Kottaras, and Lauren Flinn and Imogen Stahel were fifth in their heats of the SGYr9 2x, and Poppy Cook and Genevieve Pfeiffer did well in their singles.

At the Schoolboy Head of River Austen Hunt was fifth in the final of the SBYr8 1x after winning his heat, and Chun Wong also competed in the single.

LRC was well represented at the Combined High School regatta, and the most notable results were Isobel James, third in the final of the CW 1x and Genevieve Pfeiffer, fourth in the final of the U17 1x. Harriet Scandol, Lauren Flinn and Imogen Stahel, Emma Thomas and Mimi Tha also did well.



Isobel James with her trophy for winning CHS SG1x.

The Kings Cup Oar, with thanks to LUOR

The historic Kings Cup Oar that was donated to the club by member Tom McGill (he was in the original winning Australian crew and, they say, used this very oar) has been mounted on the western wall of the clubhouse, close to the photo of the winning crew. The club thanks Charles Bartlett and Richard Stanistreet for getting the oar mounted in its perspex case, and to LUOR for generously donating the cost of the case.

And some advance notice of the LUOR Winter Reunion and AGM on Sunday, 20 June at 11 am. All club members are welcome and the usual sumptuous luncheon and refreshments will be available at a moderate charge.

NSW Union of Oarswomen

is holding its Friendship Day on Sunday 2 May at 10 am at Sydney Women's / MLC Rowing Club, Battersea Park, Abbotsford. This will be followed by a picnic lunch, \$5 per head. RSVP Wendy Tomlinson nee Spurling on 9969 3717 or Sue Carew on 9744 2722.

If anyone is interested in joining the NSW Union of Oarswomen membership cost is \$20 per annum – Doreen Borg can provide you with a membership form.

Good luck in the HOPE Regatta

Pymble's HOPE regatta will be on 30 May, and training starts on 2 May. There will be lots of Pymble family and friends around the shed and borrowing some LRC boats and blades, so please stop to say hello or lend a helping hand - we want to ensure the Hope regatta guys have an enjoyable time.

And for those who catch the rowing bug, we have a social (Sunday morning) rowing program!



Elizabeth Scott with Kiri English-Hawke, after Kiri won bronze in SGU171x.

Below: Harriet Scandol and Imogen Stanley on the podium with their new bronze medals for CHS SGU17 2x.



Trickett regatta

starting with karate

For more photos of a seemingly endless progression of red, white and blue zooties with the fearsome red and blue chevron (fearsome for our opposition that is), go to:

RNSW: <http://www.rowingsw.asn.au/photos/2010%20Trickett%20Regatta/>

and Rowena Gibson has added photos to her MobileMe Gallery: <http://gallery.me.com/rowg#gallery>



Tim Tindale, Nick Andronikashvili and Andrew McCallum watch as Helen Albury awards Charles Bartlett a bronze medal for the C grade 4x.



Above, Jess Black, Jacqui Bokor, Natelle Ball and Jen Zongor in the D grade 4x, and below, a lot of effort goes into the single ...

Charmaine strikes gold

When most of us were tapering in the days before the Trickett, Charmaine Wells (seen stroking a C grade 4x above) headed to Melbourne for the Australian Karate Open. In only her second competition she brought home gold for sparring and silver for Kata (a display of technical moves). Although the sparring is supposed to be a non-contact encounter, Charmaine's opponents discovered she meant business when her first strike resulted in a bleeding nose. Officially an 'accident', word on the street suggested this could have been part of the strategy to shake up the opposition.

Congratulations Charmaine an impressive effort, and particularly when it was followed up by several more visits to the podium over the Trickett weekend.



And below, a view of the Anzac dawn service ...



All eyes on the competition

although there isn't much evidence of the dawn.

Pipped twice, or, is Steve Jaques the double pippernal?

I had such a cool time on Saturday 17/4/10, racing in the Drummoyne Regatta and answering recondite questions in the evening at LRC's fundraiser.

Small fly in the ointment: just pipped in mixed 8+, and also came second by one point at trivia. Common factor? Steve Jaques in five seat on both occasions. Makes one wonder, what ...

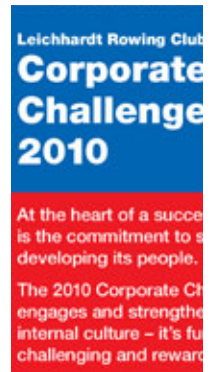
One thing is clear: Steve Duff is a masterful MFH; on the night in question kitted out in glossy ivory satin and hunting pinks.

Thank you Sandy for hosting our table to near victory, David Rosenfeld for stroking the mixed 8+ to near victory (and Dave Hogan for fab coxing). Thank you Angela for veiled purring, all sponsors, God for the still water, everyone who vacuumed, sprayed vanilla in the loo, had combined weight assessed, strung fairy lights, laid and cleared tables, blew up balloons, washed forests of glasses (if you can mix an 8+ you can presumably mix a metaphor), relaid gym floor, bar staffers, exquisite catwalk mannequins, and to all the splasher-outers of money. Also Tim Tindale (how could we have gainsaid your 'wheat' answer). And Steve Jaques. (I am anticipating our next encounter with trepidation).

Go, LRC! (same acronym as Law Reform Commission I note in passing)

Tina Owen

April 2010



Some of them are easy

You may remember that last year Easy Oar ran a few articles on what rowing means to people, particularly champions. I asked most people the same questions, and most responses were fairly short. Not so Steve Roll who responded magnificently but until now, we haven't had the space to run his answers. I have edited them (cut them short or cut some out) to fit them in.

Steve began his responses to my questions with: 'Some of them are easy, how long have I got to answer the hard ones?'

When and why did you start rowing?

After I left school I used to pal around with 11 mates, we would meet every Sunday afternoon about 5pm at a milk bar in Charlotte Street Ashfield and decide what we were going to do the following week: ride our bikes to Camden or somewhere else, go to Bondi for a swim, have a game of tennis/cricket/footie. One Sunday John Monaghan (Bill's young brother) said, 'My brother rows at Leichhardt. Let's go down there and see what goes on'. So that was it. At that time rowing, to me, was something done on the Thames by two burly crews from Oxford and Cambridge, or on the Nepean by GPS crews. I had no idea that there were 'rowing clubs'.

The following Saturday, somewhere about May/June 1952, we all trooped into Leichhardt Rowing Club (the old weatherboard building) and were met by Lance Robinson who announced that there was a boat on the water so you four (pointing to me and three others) can hop in. I walked to the edge of the pontoon and looked down, 'You've got to be joking, I'm not getting into THAT'. So I turned around and walked back up into the shade of the verandah and sat down. Lance had the others jumping in and out of the boat all afternoon but I kept away. Finally he announced that this was to be the last crew and called me again. NO THANKS!!! My mates started to give me a hard time and I surrendered to peer pressure.

I had a bit of an advantage in that my mates all had some idea of what it was about. It was a regulation four so it sat up reasonably well and they made it much easier for me because they had been doing it all afternoon. I was hooked right away and was back next

morning for another go. John kept rowing for a while but the rest didn't last more than a few weeks.

The question you haven't asked is, 'Why did I keep on rowing?' Fifty-seven years later I still don't have that answer, it's probably my form of cancer.

How long did you row for?

QUE? I'm going to have riggers attached to my coffin so I don't have to break training on the way to wherever I'm going.

I started rowing grade in October 1952 and stopped after we won the Australian Quad Championship on 2.4.1975.

There were many State, National and International veterans/ masters events after that but I have never felt the same sense of achievement in any of these.

When did you start coaching, and do you enjoy it?

I was coaching novices in a tub pair before the end of December 1952. What I was being taught I was passing on, even though I didn't know much about it.

I started serious coaching with a Junior (Second Grade) Four in October 1956 and they had five wins and two seconds from seven starts. Unfortunately they finished second in the State Championship.

I really didn't have much time to do a lot of coaching while I was rowing. The occasional early Saturday afternoon or late Sunday morning in the back of a tub pair was about the limit of my early coaching although I would have a word to any crew or sculler who happened to be about when I was out in a single. I think that this was a reflex action. I used to concentrate so hard while I was sculling that I needed something to make me relax. It also reminded me that I was making sculling mistakes which I could correct myself.

I stopped rowing for a short while and coached Mike Wignall to win the NSW Lightweight Singles on 15.12.1962, Mike Wignall and Tim Nelson to win the NSW Lightweight Doubles on 9.2.1963, and Mike Wignall and Dick Tarlinton to win the NSW Lightweight Coxless Pair on 30.3.1963.

I coached many scullers while at Haberfield and coached the winning Australian Quad and winning Australian Lightweight Double on 2.4.1975.

I was at St Josephs College as Boatshed Manager from 1990-98 and spent many happy hours teaching the skills to some very talented young men and to their mums and dads. That's something that the hierarchy at Joeys didn't know about for quite a while but I would invite the parents to come down (when the boys weren't



Steve Roll reflects on rowing and more ...

there) so that they could realise just what we were asking their sons to do. They all made similar comments when they left and went away with a lot more understanding and respect for their sons for what they were doing at the boatshed.



Steve Roll in coaching mode

I don't really see myself as a coach, more as a 'FEELER' (A WHAT?). I urge people to take some of the pressure off so that they can 'FEEL' the boat. Many don't understand what I'm talking about but then – 'IT' happens and I see a face light up. When it happens I don't have to tell them – they know. For me that is the most rewarding moment – I have been able to pass on what I have learned from so many different coaches and I have paid another small part of the debt that I owe to the sport. Once they can 'FEEL' they can work as hard as they like, without 'FEEL' no matter how hard they work they don't move the boat. And moving the boat is what it's all about.

Do I enjoy coaching? Not all the time – mostly yes – but sometimes somebody in a crew will call out very loudly – 'I can't do that'. It breaks the heart of any crew. At that point I just switch off and count seagulls or clouds and wait for the session to be finished. Being negative achieves nothing.

My attitude to rowing is that anybody can do anything. It just depends on how hard we want it. Yes, sometimes it is very difficult both physically and mentally but perseverance achieves over natural ability. I don't expect masters rowers to make the Olympic team but there is no reason for them not to think about rowing as well as any Olympian. They may not quite make it but, as long as they keep trying, they can improve.

I encourage crews/scullers to achieve. Some have higher expectations than others. Some have 'more guts' than others. Some just want to go out and enjoy a comfortable 'social row'.

There is a place for everybody but one has to be careful about putting 'social rowers' in competition crews. By all means put 'social rowing crews' into competitive races, if they wish, but putting a 'social rower' into a competitive crew is disastrous for both crew and 'social rower'.

How has rowing influenced of your life?

Miles make champions. There's no free lunch. Everything has to be paid for by you or by somebody else. All of these clichés mean the same thing. No matter what I do I realise that it won't happen unless I keep striving for it.

I have always felt driven to excel and this drive for excellence requires miles and miles of training. If I want the excellence I have to do the training so I do the training – not as something I have to do but something that I want to do. The training is still hard but there is always something to be found – 'out there' – in that indefinable space beyond what is accepted as attainable. I still have this approach to all things I attempt to do.

Are there any lessons to be learned from rowing that you can or have used elsewhere?

I (you) can do anything. At various times I have tried to do many things simply because I haven't done, or even tried, them before. Some, I do well, some, not so well, but I don't let the 'not so well' parts deter me from trying again. Life is a challenge and, I hope that, when I die, it will be while answering a challenge.

The years that I had spent on a bicycle, always wanting it to go that little bit faster and altering sprockets, crank shafts, pedals, seats, handlebars to get that little bit extra speed. This inventiveness carried on into my sculling where I was forever trying to make my boat go just a little bit faster and being open to any suggestions from people outside the boat who might just supply me with that extra idea that would make a difference. Faith in myself to have a go.

I remember in 1957, when Tom Treseder was beating me regularly by several lengths, making the decision to stop sculling my blades

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Highlights

I asked Steve what are the highlights of his rowing career, and what is his greatest achievement. He has too many for a newsletter of this size, so here is a selection - but they are there in full on the LRC website.

Highlights? OOOH Yes!! Millions of them.

Starting from my first Association regatta on 11.10.1952 when Mosman conducted their regatta on the Riverview course and we won the Novice Four by five lengths with me at two and a chap named Lionel Robberds as the stringy. We had to wait until the Mosman AGM to get our trophies but they were worth waiting for. It is one of my most prized possessions.

Next Highlight. Our first State Championship win, the Lightweight Four on 14.2.1953 when the weight limit was 10.5 (about 66 kg). Peter Evatt coached the club's number two crew of Bob Stone, myself, Don Paterson and Ken Hucker with Lionel again as our stringy.

Next Highlight Leichhardt won the 1952–53 NSW Premiership for the first time since 1920 so it was a great club effort all season.

Next Highlight In August 1953, I was called up for National Service and, having done my basic training, returned to the club to be rushed into the stroke seat of the Junior (Second Grade) Four for the State Championship to replace Bill Monaghan who had badly gashed his foot. We won by three and a half lengths and Bill has never let me forget the fact that this was a 'gimme'.

Next Highlight Above the stairs in the old club was a composite of photos recording Leichhardt winning of the NSW Three Mile Champion Eight in 1925. I used to look at them and hope that ... 'some day'. 'Some day' arrived on 26.2.1955 when we took out the NSW Three Mile Champion Eights Title on the Nepean river at Penrith by four lengths in 13 mins 23 seconds with Bob Stone at bow, myself at two and a galloping flood under our keel.

Next Highlight Was being in the crew which won the NSW Olympic Test Race over 2000 metres on 25.2.1956 in the then Australian record time of 5 minutes 27 seconds. I didn't make the State crew because I was too light.

Next Highlight It took until 9.3.1957 for me to win a race at a Leichhardt Regatta and then managed to win Senior Coxless Four and Senior Double Sculls.

Next Highlight On 13.3.1957 Eric Longley announced the selection of the 1957 NSW Kings Cup Crew and I was selected in the two seat. We finished second to Victoria at Brisbane on 11 May 1957. The event was made more memorable because 'MY DAD' turned up unannounced to watch the race.

Next Highlight The winning of my first State Double Sculling Championship with Stewart MacKenzie at the Sydney Regatta on 16.3.1957.

Next Highlight THE SECOND BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT. At the AGM on 26.5.1957 I was elected Club Captain of Leichhardt Rowing Club. I didn't realise at the time what a tremendous impact this was going to have on my rowing career but IMPACT it did.

I informed the members that the winning of the 1958 Premiership flag was our goal and that I would do whatever it took to achieve that end. What followed was more like a Laurel & Hardy comedy than a premiership quest but we finally managed it by five and a half points in what was a remarkable 'all in' club effort. Not only did we win the premiership but we had eight members selected in the Commonwealth Games Team, six members in the NSW Kings crew, five in the NSW Penrith Cup crew, provided the NSW single sculler who won the President's Cup and won seven of the 10 NSW State Championships on offer.

Next Highlight The winning of the 1958 Australian Singles Championship at Penrith on 3.5.1958. Made more memorable by the enormous grin on 'MY DAD'S' face when I returned to the Nepean RC staging after the race. I thought I was at Luna Park.

I think that this would have to be my greatest achievement, many would say that being selected for the Games would overrate it but I am a winner and we only finished third at the Games.

Next Highlight Being phoned by Harry Alderson in the evening of 5.5.1958 and asked if I would be available to replace Jim Chapman in the bow seat of the Coxless Pair for the Commonwealth Games. It was so unexpected that I had to ask my family if we could raise the money before I could ring him back and accept the selection.

Next Highlight Kevyn Webb and I being presented with our Bronze Medals for the Commonwealth Games Coxless Pair on 22.7.1958 by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Next Highlight After the Games I was invited to race in the Middle States Regatta at Philadelphia USA where I won the 2000 metre Championship Singles. 'MY DAD' was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and it was a very proud moment for me to be able to present him with an American trophy when I got home.

Next Highlight Winning the first NSW Lightweight Double Sculls Championship with Lionel Robberds on 21.2.1959. The Lightweight limit was raised from 66 kg to 69 kg for the 1958 Australian Lightweight Four and I raced in the Presidents Cup at a fraction under 70 kg without even trying so I made the decision to race in both weight divisions whenever I could.

Next Highlight THE SECOND BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT. Being elected Club Captain at the 1960 AGM. In my humble opinion this is one of the highest honours that the club members can confer on anyone. It represents the respect and the confidence of the members in the individual to get the job done.

Next Highlight Being stroke of the first NSW crew to win the Penrith Cup, in Adelaide on 6.5.1961.

Next Highlight THE BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT. Being elected Honorary Life Member of Leichhardt Rowing Club at the 1961 AGM. No matter what I did before or have done since, nothing else even gets a second place medal to this election.

Next Highlight Winning all five NSW Lightweight Championships on offer in 1962 season. From its inception on 21.2.1959 I won every NSW Championship for Lightweight Double Sculls, my last win being 16.12.1972, 14 in total.



Steve Roll reflects on rowing and more ...

ctd from p. 8

into the water and to start rowing them in. I made several mistakes and had many swims but I was convinced that this had to be the way so I kept going. Eventually I was getting onto the catches cleaner and my boat sopped wiggling at the catch and I could 'FEEL' the boat moving faster. The following Saturday I beat Tom for the first time and I was a Senior sculler.

Too many coaches use too many big words and elaborate phrases in an attempt to get their charges to row correctly. When one is flat out trying to make a boat go at its maximum speed, one does not want to be bothered trying to interpret a coach's lengthy phraseology.

You served on the committee and are a life member. What are your thoughts about unexpected, unlooked-for benefits of volunteering?

The unexpected, unlooked for benefits for me are covered in the results of 1957–58 and 1960–61 when, as club captain, I put 'the club' ahead of my own wishes and desires and achieved far more than I could have expected had I been looking after my own goals. Having to lead by example often made me do things that I might not otherwise have attempted e.g. the two three milers in 1958.

We had a much smaller membership during my grade career, most of our rowing members came straight upstairs from training to the committee meeting. Sometimes being on the committee was difficult but most times it was just part of what had to be done. JFK's famous 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country' applied just as readily to Leichhardt Rowing Club. And it still does!

Why do I do it?

When Herby Yuile coached our Novice Four in 1952, he just 'did it'. Various coaches in the intervening years have just, 'done it'. Many non-rowing people have been elected to various committees over the years and they just, 'do it'.

There is more to rowing than just winning races. The 'pulling together' in races carries on around the committee meeting with the common goal changing from training for a particular event

to making sure that 'The Club' maintains its place near the top of NSW rowing.

There are no 'naturals', every rower/sculler owes their skill to somebody else. Most loyally accept their debt and attempt to repay it by many and varied areas of participation in 'The Club'.

Some, myself included, have got more out of the sport than what we can ever repay, so we just keep trying.

Some just accept that the sport owes them and put nothing back. For these people I feel a profound sense of having let them down, for, in the midst of all we have taught them, we have not taught them to be club members.

[Ed: A question for LRC members:
Have you ever felt like doing a longer row?
To Newcastle maybe?]

After the running of the Womens Australian Championship Four at Leichhardt on 14.4.1956 the organising committee hired a ferry to take the interstate crews on a tour of Sydney Harbour. I was a budding Maiden sculler at that time so I tagged alongside the ferry in a sculling boat. When the ferry stopped at Watsons Bay for lunch I kept going and had a look out through the Heads. A thought came into my mind that I would like to row to Newcastle and I left it at that. Years went by and this thought still nagged at me until I finally decided to give it a go but to come from Newcastle to Sydney instead. I made the journey on 4.7.1973 in 18 hours 30 minutes. This prompted me to have a go at the world record for 100 miles as listed in the Guinness Book of Records. In finishing the distance in 16 hours and 40 minutes I took some five hours off the old record. We raised enough sponsorship money from the row to purchase a new quad scull for the Australian Championship on 2.4.1975.

I rowed in the two seat and we won.



Sydney Women's MLC and



Chris Bursill and Sarah Allen



A delicate balance



Top: Austen Hunt and Levan Andronikashvili

Above: Tom Harper and Yann Pearson

... the Drummoyne masters



Balcony experts all ...



There may not be any photo evidence here, but Ross Tout's squad continued their habit of doing well in their events, getting places and providing plenty of competition for the other LRC masters men's crews. Ross may well have been watching them when this photo was taken ...

Learn to row is on now

Learn to row has started and runs until 22 May for adults, and 13 June for juniors. The juniors' sessions run from 7 to 9 am, and adults run from 9 to 11 am. Let's all make them welcome.



Kerry's corner

A reminder

- that red bins are for recycling bottles, plastic and paper
- normal garbage goes into the garbage bins
- blue bins in the shed are for chamois and sponges – please store them there (and don't use the blue bins for recycling).

Thank you

To all the LRC members who so happily joined in the club shed clean up or tidy up and/or worked on boats. Lots of people. Everyone found jobs and just did them. Great morning.

Winners

Dr Terry Horgan, one of our social rowers, won the Easter hamper. You can see more about him in the January/February 2010 issue of *Easy Oar*. He was very excited to win the raffle, and thanks all of LRC for the prize.

Tim Clare won the Raspberry Guessing Competition, and Sandy Rourke won the Jelly Guessing Competition.



Terry Horgan collecting his hamper

Calling roving reporters and budding photographers

Do you feel the urge to write? See your name in print? Follow a story? Why not start here? Start your writing career with *Easy Oar* and see where it can take you. Any and all writers, photographers and ideas are welcome. Contact me (Anne, aparbury@gmail.com).

A special thank you to all the contributors to this issue: *Onno, Izzy, Shé, Robyn, Sue, Tina, Kerry, Steve, Kara, Mel, Doreen and Steve for photos, text and other stuff.*

LRC merchandise

The hoodie is a cotton-poly mix and the zip sweatshirt is 100% cotton. There are sample sizes available to try at the club. They are \$40 each and only available through ordering.



Leichhardt hoodie, available in children's 8-14, adults S-XXL

If anybody would like to order, please send an email to Sue Andrews (see below) with your name, contact details, size and style required.



Leichhardt zip sweatshirt, available in adults S-XXXL

We have good stocks of zooties in all sizes at \$85 each.



Contact Sue Andrews email: girlsrule99@optusnet.com.au or mob 0415 386956.

Book the date: 22 May LRC presentation night



Leichhardt Rowing Club Corporate Challenge 2010

Get ready for the LRC 2010 Corporate Challenge

Is your company entered? Do you know someone who wants to enter? Go to the website: www.lrc.com.au

See Deanna Fekete or Tim Clare or email corporate@lrc.com.au

Diary dates

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday 2 May | NSW Union of Oarswomen Friendship day |
| 15-16 May | NSW Masters Championships |
| Saturday 22 May | LRC Presentation Dinner |
| 3-6 June | Australian Masters Championships |
| Sunday 20 June | LUOR winter reunion and AGM |
| Sunday 25 July | Winter clean up |
| Sunday 14 August | Corporate regatta training begins |
| Saturday 21 August | Fund raising dinner (proposed) |
| Sunday 12 September | Corporate regatta |
| Sunday 24 October | Spring clean up |
| 6-7 November | Pan Pacific Masters Games |
| Saturday 20 November | LRC Christmas Party |