

MURWILLUMBAH ROWING CLUB "RAMBLINGS"

30



February 2023

March Birthdays:



| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Dagmar Wemmering | 3 rd March |
| Joanne Meehan | 4 th March |
| Lori Sword | 10 th March |
| Gary Betts | 11 th March |

Executive:

President – Roland Jahnke
Vice President – Rob Gee/Tamsin Brew
Treasurer – Jenny Culley
Secretary – Helen Albury

Committee Members:

Paul Barnes
Rob Blanch
Michael Mills

Club Captain:

Scott O'Reilly

President Rol

Greetings Club Members

I had the chance to go to the Qld Masters' Regatta at Lake Wyaralong on the weekend and it was a fantastic experience and a well organised event. Congratulations to our members who were extremely successful and an outstanding credit to the club, which keeps us in a very strong, competitive position.

The event also gave me the opportunity to touch base with Rowing Queensland and I advised that the Head of The Tweed will go ahead on June 18th, provided we are given permission by the relevant council and marine authorities. As such HoTT has been scheduled in the Rowing Queensland Regatta Calendar and please mark the date in your diary so you can assist since this is a major club fundraiser.

We are developing our Learn to Row Program and gratefully appreciate the contribution made by all those rowers who have supported new members. LTR is growing and now seeks additional support from experienced rowers to mentor novice rowers. Please see Paul Barnes if you can assist and this would be most welcome, particularly in terms of not only training but also safety requirements.

There are an enormous number of logs and debris floating in the river these days so please be very cautious about avoiding obstacles and if there is any damage to a boat then please record this in the newly developed MRC Incident Report Form which Tamsin has produced, and also make sure you let Scott know. This form must record **all** incidents including near misses, or hazards or accidents in the club house and on the water and at regattas, so that the club can develop improved safety measures. This is a requirement of Rowing Queensland and all other state authorities which we must comply with... aside from the fact

that it may save someone's life. If you are uncertain please fill in the form regardless, and you can always discuss the issue with our Safety Officers, Rob Blanch and Millsy.

Please remember lights must be attached to boats if rowing before sunrise (see below). This is a NSW Maritime requirement.

Congratulations to Mark Manteit who was successful in applying for a local government sports grant and we have received \$5000 to purchase two erg bikes and other gym equipment. This will expand the capabilities of the gym but as always, please be careful when using the equipment.

We still have not heard about the grant for the construction of the boat launch ramp but let's hope we hear in the coming week; please give comment on the recently circulated MRC Strategic Plan; and a revised Club Safety Management Plan is also being prepared for your comment.

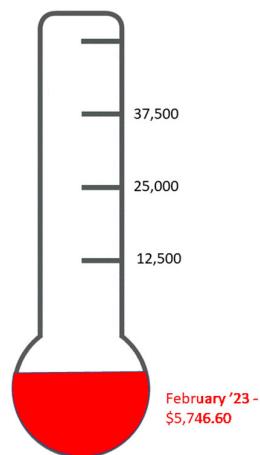
Safe rowing!

Cheers Rol

Tweed River Access Plan Update:

We are expecting to hear back from the Office of Sport any day so no further update at this time.

Fundraising Update



We are always looking for new fundraising ideas and people to help with them. If you have an idea, please let a member of the Exec know. Every \$ is important right now!

Sadly the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on 5th February was cancelled at the last minute (by Bunnings) and has now been rescheduled for 22nd April. Please put the date in your diary and come and volunteer!

The Return & Earn site in South Murwillumbah has now closed and is to be relocated (to Condong we believe). Once it has, we'll update you but in the meantime, bottles and cans can still be recycled at any of the other sites listed on the Return and Earn app.

This month's new funds have come from donations, Return & Earn and money raised at the Trickett event.

Clay without Borders




Clay without Borders is an organisation that connects clay creators along the New South Wales and Queensland border, holding events to help their members showcase their works. They are considering holding one of their market day events at the Club (and paying us for its use), providing a great opportunity for some much need funds! We are currently waiting for confirmation from them, but a big thank you to Helen Albury for leading the charge on this one. Fingers crossed!


Head of the Tweed – The Original!!

Below is the flyer for the very first and original Head of the Tweed held in 2008 together with an account of that original event, both kindly supplied by John MacDonald.

OUR FIRST HOTT, SUNDAY JUNE 29, 2008 SUMMARY BY JOHN MACDONALD



**Murwillumbah Rowing Club's Inaugural
TWEED RIVER HALF MARATHON '08**

Proudly Sponsored By 

This 21Km race, from **CHINDERAH BAY** to **MURWILUMBAH ROWING CLUB** on the beautiful Tweed River, is open to ALL rowers and ALL boat classes.

Major Prize
A new Carmody designed & built single trainer valued at \$4000

Other Trophies awarded:

- 'Head of the Tweed 2008' crews with the fastest time - both men's & women's
- 'Winner on Handicap 2008' both men's & women's handicap on class of boat.
- Participation Certificates awarded to all rowers (with recorded times).

Race Details:

- Date Sunday, 29th June, '08
- Time Pre-race briefing 8am, first crews away 8:30am (from Chinderah Bay)
- Cost \$10 per seat
- Entries Close 5pm Monday, 16th June, '08
- Course The Tweed River is wide, safe & one of the most picturesque in NSW.

Presentations & BBQ lunch 'celebrations' to begin at 12 noon at the club house.

**For further details, entry forms, course map etc. please visit the club's website,
www.community.better.net.au/rowing/**

The concept of HOTT was first put to the then committee in June 2007. That committee authorised John Ryan and this writer, to investigate the feasibility of such a race. Using a club tinny, the duo travelled the Tweed, searching for a place to launch, not only multiple boats, but also, with room for trailer and car parking. Chinderah, was the only suitable location.

The race distance of 21kms, was calculated by using a car odometer. These were the days prior to G.P.S. The resulting distance was 20kms, but the race was promoted as a half marathon; 21ks. In later years those with GPS declared the distance only 19.5kms. Not all the committee agreed with the concept, some saying that the distance was too far.

The race was open to all boats, including surf boats and dragon boats. To publicise the race from scratch, was a huge task. Phone calls to club secretaries, to rowing friends, followed by emails, and back up emails, flooded clubs and schools. A flyer, (see below) was attached to the emails. The flyer was handed out, and also placed under car windscreen wipers at regattas from October 2007 to June 2008. They were well received; the race, it seemed, was going to be successful. A logo was developed, 'The Tweed, the Friendly Place, to Race,' others considered something more aggressive would be more effective, such as, 'Feel the Heat, at Hott'.

Carmody Rowing gave the club a single trainer, to use as a promotional tool. Club names were put into a bowl and drawn at the conclusion of the race. Tweed Rowing Club won the single.

On race day, every club member had a task. A desk had to be transported to Chinderah, Michelle Grimes organized portable loos, Rick Kranen (captain at the time) organized the transportation of certain club boats to Chinderah; these boats were hired to competitors.

To make the club presentable, a working bee was organized. 'No Parking' signs were fixed on our neighbours' driveways. Some signs were ignored, neighbours complained to the committee.

John Henley, delivered not only the pre-race brief, but was also lead Marshal. He was assisted by Jo Meehan, who between them, 'pushed' competitors, who tended to dally, towards the starting line. Launch ramp Marshalls; Gabby Huxley and Helen Hampshire, hurried boats into the water. Lou McMillan issued boat numbers. Rob Blanch, was the emergency fixit man, and assisted with a number of competitors' boat problems. Kym Kranen, public relations manager quietly spoke to individual competitors calming nerves. John Sturmer; the parking control officer, ensured trailers and cars parked appropriately. Ron Brisby and Dr Bob were starters. Greg Newlands, led the race in a tinny, warning fishermen and leisure boats that rowers were approaching. Other members manned tinnies, which were moored in areas considered dangerous; The Broadwater, Stotts Island Channel, Tumbulgum bridge, and a member with a PA on the Condong Bridge warning rowers that they were approaching a bridge. Tim Rose was the finishing judge and also disputes manager; thankfully he was not required in the disputes role.

At the race's conclusion the draw for the Carmody give -a-away single was held, boat numbers had to be collected. A number of members drove competitors back to their cars which were parked at the start. Junior members helped lift exhausted competitors' boats from the river after finishing at the club. The canteen was in full swing.

At \$10 a seat, the club made \$7339 on the day, which included canteen takings, boat hire fees, and nearly \$2000 rental money received from All Hallows School, who occupied the top floor for the weekend. However, there were some costs, a drowned megaphone, and lost boat numbers. The race however, was considered successful by members and competitors alike.

After a recent exploratory trip to row from Fingal Head to Chinderah, it looks like we should be able to run an 'alternative' HOTT this year (with the suggested title of "It ain't half HOTT"). The tides look right on 18th June but watch this space for more news.

History Report – February 2023



A collage of images from Louise McMillan showing some new year activity. The large number of shells on the riverbank, centre top, belong to the Queensland Institute of Sport and the large lower image shows some of the typical cool summer weather enjoyed during the month.

The club got off to a cracking start in the New Year with a lot of members enjoying rowing in relatively cool summer weather, but they had to dodge some logs in the river. Once again the Queensland Institute of Sport chose our club as the venue for their summer training camp which took place over ten days.

The annual Trickett event was combined with an important boat naming ceremony on Australia Day. The contributions of four members; Jenny Culley, John McDonald, Helen Albury and Scott O'Reilly, over many years, were honoured during a boat naming ceremony after the completion of the Trickett row. This was followed by a presentation and breakfast in the club. The winning crew, closest to their estimated time, was a mixed quad scull. Nine crews competed in the event which was held over a relatively short course in beautiful calm weather this year.



The winning mixed quad scull crew at the Trickett presentation ceremony with Ned's great grand daughter, Helen A.



Jenny Culley and John McDonald with plenty of champagne flowing at the boat naming ceremony

Photographs by Louise McMillan and Rob Blanch. Text by Rob Blanch.



Boat lights



It's starting to get darker in the mornings and the time for lights is upon us! As a reminder, below are NSW Maritime's rules for lights on rowing boats (note that these are different from Queensland rules but are the ones applied to the Tweed River).

Lighting requirements for Rowing/Sculling/Paddle craft over 4m in length

1. **Two** all-round white LED lights, one attached to the vessel at or near the forward end, and one attached to the vessel at or near the aft end. The lights can be either two continuous white lights, 2 flashing white lights or a combination of the two.
 - o Continuous white LED lights are considered acceptable if they are visible in clear conditions from a distance of 1 kilometre.
 - o Flashing white LED lights are considered acceptable if they flash at least once per second and are visible in clear conditions from a distance of 1 kilometre.
2. Notwithstanding 1 above, it is considered acceptable for a light to be masked so as not to interfere with the vision of the vessel's occupants, provided at least one light is visible from any direction.

A good guide as to whether lights are needed is to look at the green flashing light on top of the green buoy out the front of the club. **If the green light is on, you need lights on your boat,** so that other rivers can see you. **No lights, no row!**

Below are a range of suppliers, in case you need some new lights ready for those dark mornings:

- Croker / Frog Lights - Starter kit with one rechargeable bow light, one rechargeable stern light and a single charger - \$294 - <https://froglight.com.au> (pictured left below)
- Active Lights /Tektite – Battery LEDs – range starts from \$42. Not rechargeable. (Middle and right pictures below) https://activelights.com.au/products/tektite-holder-combo?_pos=1&_sid=ce9962cf4&_ss=r&variant=41986861432994
- Whitworths - <https://www.whitworths.com.au/electrical-lighting/lighting?cat=1476>
- BCF - https://www.bcf.com.au/search?q=boat+lights&lang=en_AU



Just a reminder that we all need to be mindful that COVID is still in our community. Please carry out the recommended practises of hygiene and distancing when at the club and where possible in the community



COVID SAFETY - Although COVID rules have been relaxed please continue to comply with the following to ensure your safety:

- wash hands and equipment
- maintain 1.5 m distance indoors

Our MRC COVID 19 Safety Officers:
Roland Jahnke and Paul Barnes

MRC cleaning rosters- March 2023 to July 2023

| Date/ Area | Ladies & Disabled Bathrooms | Mens bathroom | Sweeping shed- using brooms | Upstairs floors, kitchen & toilets |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| March | Lori Dagmar | Greg David | Richard Rob B | Mark M |
| April | Mary Michelle G | John Macka John Ryan | Roland Jack | Helen A |
| May | Petra MJ | Delf Scott | Ron John R | Lou |
| June | Jo M Helen A | Bob M Gary | Mark T Millsy | Mark M |
| July | Jan Jacqui | Roland Chris L | Will D David | Lori |

Notes-

- Jobs to be done at least twice in the month, some may require more than that.
- The cleaning products for downstairs are stored in the cupboard near front door. Cleaning products for upstairs are in the office.
- Bathrooms -You may want to divide the tasks between the 2 people on so that the jobs can be done when it is convenient to the person, e.g., one person does toilets and basin, one person sweeps and washes floors and other clean the showers.
- The sweepers are to make sure the sanitizers in the areas apart from bathrooms are kept filled.

Calendar of Events – March

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|--------------------------------|----------|--------|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 NRRA Age Championships (Grafton) |
| 5 Tweed Heads Rowing Club regatta (Grafton) | 6 | 7 | 8 Committee Meeting 3.30 | 9 | 10 | 11 <i>Commercial R.C. camp to be held at MRC</i> |
| 12 <i>Commercial R.C. camp to be held at MRC</i> | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Scenic Rim Masters Regatta (Wyaralong) |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

April

- 15th April - 2023 Brisbane & GPS Rowing Club Masters Regatta, Wyaralong (Entries close Wed 5/4/2023 @ 23:00 AEST)
- 16th April - NRRA Masters Championships, Grafton (Entries close Wed 5/4/2023 @ 17:00 AEST)
- Bunnings Sausage Sizzle – 22nd April
- 29th-30th April - 2023 Queensland State Masters Regatta, Wyaralong (Entries close Wed 19/4/2023 @ 23:00 AEST)

If you have any items that you would like to include in the next Ramblings, please email to MRCRamblings@gmail.com by 20th of the month