

# MURWILLUMBAH ROWING CLUB "RAMBLINGS"

41



## January 2024

### February 2024



|               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Jack Willson  | 14 <sup>th</sup> February |
| Rob Gee       | 17 <sup>th</sup> February |
| Roland Jahnke | 22 <sup>nd</sup> February |
| Dave Hughes   | 28 <sup>th</sup> February |

#### **Executive:**

President – Rob Gee  
Vice President – Tamsin Brew  
Treasurer – Jenny Culley (interim)  
Secretary – Tamsin Brew

#### **Committee Members:**

Paul Barnes  
Michael Mills  
Helen Albury  
Lori Sword

#### **Club Captain:**

Scott O'Reilly

## President

Happy New Year – 2024! What a start to the year it has been, with two minor flooding events keeping us off the water for a few days, a lot of logs and hosting training camps – certainly a busy time! Hopefully everyone is now signed up to the "WhatsApp Noticeboard" and is receiving updates as needed?



Off the water, we were very proud to receive an "honourable mention" in the Tweed Shire Council's Group Sports Achievement Awards on Australia Day, with the Masters Rowers having won 19 medals at last year's Australian Masters Championships and placing a very credible 6<sup>th</sup> on the medal tally. It was great to attend the awards last week and be inspired by so many amazing people who really make our community better!

Last Friday MRC held the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Trickett Row which was run by Helen Albury, a direct descendant of the great [Edward Trickett](#). It was a great morning of rowing with Scott and

Lori taking out first place, estimating their time for the row to within 35 seconds! We were also privileged on the day to be able to celebrate the naming of the "Greg Newland" double scull, honouring all that Greg has done for the Club over so many years.



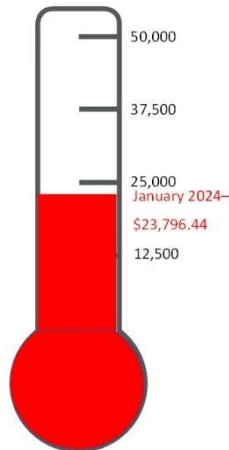
The Trickett presentation also gave us the opportunity to hand out the awards for Club Person of the Year, which was shared by Paul Barnes and Mark Taylor who have both gone above and beyond in their work for the Club over the last year – a huge thank you to both!

I'd also like to welcome Dave Hughes who has joined us this year and we hope you all have a chance to meet Dave in coming weeks. Stay hydrated and I hope to be able to update further on the Ramp next month.

Cheers, Rob

## Fundraising Update

This month's fundraising total reached \$2,839, thanks in large part to all your efforts in voting for MRC in Greater Bank's Community Funding Program. Not only did they present us with a 'Big Cheque' (see picture) but they also transferred the actual dollars (\$2000) to us as well!



That means that we have raised a total of **\$23,814** to date and are looking to crack the \$25,000 mark very soon!

We still have calendars for sale, with the proceeds all going to funding the ramp. If you haven't got yours already, email [MRCRamblings@gmail.com](mailto:MRCRamblings@gmail.com) or complete an order form at the Club and leave it in the drop box by the front door.



## New Member Focus

### Dave Hughes



*Quick summary of your rowing experience, including where you started and how long ago?* TSS 1983-1987 (all boats sweep & sculling) / 2019-2024 @ Griffith Uni/Gold Coast Masters/MRC

*Scull or sweep – any preference?* Sculling only since I've been back rowing in the recent years but was bow seat in the school 2nd eight in '87. No real preference but I barely remember what it was like to sweep row it's been so long.

*Favourite food?* Seafood & Pasta - I'm not fussy though and will eat almost anything.

*What do you like to do when you aren't rowing?* Taking the boat or jetski out, family catch-up's, particularly to see the new grandson.

*Something not many people know about you?* I was a smoker for 20+ years after finishing school in '87. Never too late to lift your game I guess!

## History Report – December 2023

The annual Christmas Party and Presentation Dinner was a little different this year. It commenced with a social game of Barefoot Bowls at the Condong Bowling Club, which was highly enjoyable, followed by a dinner and the presentation ceremony. This year the Championship trophies were awarded to Scott and Tamsin. Paul and Mark T were jointly awarded the Club Person of the Year award which was a new initiative for this season. Rob G received the much-coveted Roll Over award in spite of a last minute attempt by two unnamed rowers!

Gregory Terrace Boys College held a rowing camp at our club early in December from Wednesday until Saturday training twice each day. A small team trained for the last regatta of the year which was held in Grafton. Only seven members attended but they were highly successful and won most of the races that they entered. Every member returned home with medals.



*The Murwillumbah team displaying their medals after the presentation ceremony at Grafton.*

A working bee was held to prepare a site for the garden shed. A small space beside the entrance foyer was cleared which required the removal of some plants including a small tree. Used concrete pavers to set the shed on have been acquired and are on site.

Another Bunnings Sausage sizzle was held during the month before Christmas which was successful earning \$2366. We also Won the first prize of \$2000 from Greater Bank which was a welcome contribution to our fundraising activities.

A small group of members have continued to train over the Christmas break with a few enjoying a row on Christmas Day in hot and humid weather. A small contingent of rowers from the Armidale club have arrived at the club with a small trailer loaded with a few small boats to row on our course during their Christmas vacation.

*Text and photograph supplied by Rob Blanch.*

# Gym Hygiene

Please consider your fellow members by following these basic hygiene requirements:



**Use a towel to cover all equipment whilst training**



**Wipe down all equipment before and after use with a towel and our disinfectant spray or wipes**



**Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after each session**



**Skip training if you are feeling unwell**

## HOTT – Head of the Tweed – So what is all about?

*John MacDonald & Jenny Culley*

The HOTT concept was put to the committee at a meeting in October 2007, by John Macdonald who was impressed by the financial success and popularity of Melbourne's Head of the Yarra. Prior to that meeting John Macdonald and John Ryan travelled by tinny searching for a suitable launching place with an adjacent car park large enough for boat trailers. Chinderah Bay was the only option, plus it had toilets and an early opening general store/coffee shop.

A huge amount of work was required to have HOTT operational by June 2008. Flyers were printed and distributed at every regatta! Phone calls and emails were sent to schools and other rowing clubs, plus dragon boat and surf clubs. John Ryan approached Carmody Rowing and persuaded them to donate a trainer single valued at \$4,000.

Our first HOTT went off brilliantly with about 70 boats entered. Kayaks and surf boats started first followed by singles, doubles, quads, fours and eights. The grand finale was 8 dragon boats drumming their way to the finish. Even though each individual craft was timed the emphasis was on the 21km challenge and having fun. Many rowers dressed up and brought music and snacks to eat on the way. We even had the Whopping Big Band from Murwillumbah playing to greet the tired rowers.

The profit for the day was \$7339.38. This figure included an amount of \$2000 from All Hallows School who hired the top floor of the clubhouse for the weekend plus raffles, sale of merchandise and canteen sales.

Medals were awarded to the fastest time in each category with each entrant then going into a draw for the Club prize of the Carmody single scull – not a bad prize!

This event could only run as smoothly as it did then and over the following 10 years (with a few changes and tweaks) with the help of all members and in many cases the help of family and friends. From the first year it was decided by the Committee that no club member would participate as a rower as they would be required to help run the event.

Types of jobs/responsibilities include:

**Pre Day -** Marketing (for entries). Applications for licences. Monitoring of Entries. Preparation of hire boats/ tinnies. Merchandise – presales/ on the day sales. Canteen – food preparation, purchase etc. Safety equipment checking. Collection of porta loos. Putting up of signs and setting up the club area

**At Chinderah -** Meet and greet people. Giving out boat numbers. Last minute entries. Safety briefings. People to help get the boats on the water. Marshalling boats on the water. Starter and timekeeper in the boat. Safety boats strategically placed on the course.

**At the Club -** People to help get the boats off the water. MC. Canteen. Raffles. Parking attendants. Finish line admin – timekeepers/ entering in data etc. Presentations. Clean up.

It has been a fantastic fundraiser and a fabulous challenge. We have not been able to hold it for 3 years and so it is time to bring it back bigger and better than ever!! Watch this space for more information and opportunities to volunteer – provisional date for 2024 is **June 9<sup>th</sup>**!

## Call for Interest in a “Ladies and Gentlemen’s *Elegant* Rowing Group”!

Is anyone interested in forming a crew (or more than one!) to row regularly at around 7.30am – 8.00am in a group more focused on elegance than exertion 😊? If this sounds like something that interests you, please email [mrcramblings@gmail.com](mailto:mrcramblings@gmail.com) !

### Calendar of Events – February

| Sunday                           | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday                           |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
|                                  |        |         |           | 1        | 2      | 3<br>Dragons R.C<br>Rowing Camp    |
| 4<br>Dragons R.C.<br>Rowing Camp | 5      | 6       | 7         | 8        | 9      | 10<br>Capsize Drill                |
| 11                               | 12     | 13      | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17<br>Lake<br>Wyaralong<br>Masters |
| 18                               | 19     | 20      | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24                                 |
| 25                               | 26     | 27      | 28        | 29       |        |                                    |

### March

10<sup>th</sup> March – Scenic Rim Masters Regatta, Lake Wyaralong

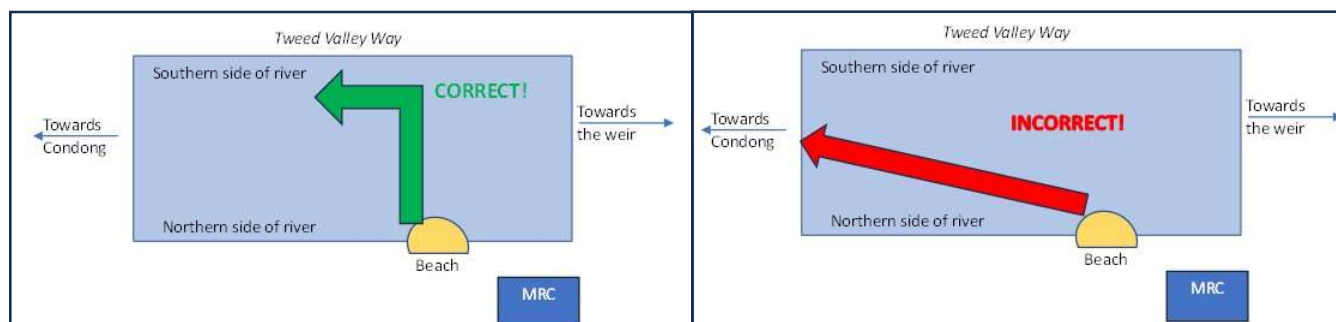


### Capsize Drill – Take 2

The capsized drill was a great success, with many participants keen to give it another try. So, by popular demand, we’ll be holding a second one on 10<sup>th</sup> February and encourage everyone to come along and give it a try. Sign-up sheet is on the noticeboard!

## Leaving the Beach

There are a few people who are not crossing immediately to the other side of the river when they leave the beach to travel downstream (instead rowing across the river at an angle, often in the path of crews travelling downstream). For the safety of all, please row straight across the river before heading downstream, as shown in the diagram below:



## MRC cleaning roster - February 2024

| Date/<br>Area | Ladies &<br>Disabled<br>Bathrooms | Mens bathroom           | Sweeping<br>shed- using<br>brooms | Upstairs floors,<br>kitchen &<br>toilets | Safety Audit<br>(1 member<br>+ 1 Exec<br>Committee) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Feb           | Jan<br>Petra                      | Roland<br>Chris L       | Doug<br>Bob M                     | Lori                                     | Paul<br>MJ  |
| March         | Cass<br>MJ                        | Michael H<br>James      | Scott<br>John Henley              | Helen L                                  | Millsy<br>Rob B                                     |
| April         | Lou<br>Dagmar                     | Greg<br>Delf            | Richard<br>Rob B                  | Mark M                                   | Rob G<br>Helen L                                    |
| May           | Mary<br>Lori                      | John Macka<br>John Ryan | Roland<br>Chris L                 | Helen A                                  | Tamsin<br>Michael H                                 |
| June          | Helen L<br>Tanya                  | Jack<br>Scott           | Ron<br>Paul                       | Lou                                      | Helen A<br>Chris L                                  |
| July          | Jo M<br>Helen A                   | Bob M<br>Gary           | John R<br>Millsy                  | Mark M                                   | Lori<br>Dagmar                                      |
| Aug           | Jan<br>Cass                       | Roland<br>Chris L       | Delf<br>Jack                      | Petra                                    | Scott<br>Mark M                                     |

### 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.
- The safety audit is conducted monthly by a club member and a member of the Exec Committee reviewing the various items on the Rowing Queensland safety audit checklist. The Exec Committee member will bring the checklist.

**If you have any items that you would like to include in the next Ramblings, please email to [MRCRamblings@gmail.com](mailto:MRCRamblings@gmail.com) by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.**