



# Nelson Rowing Club 2020 Annual Report





## NRC Guiding Principles



**Mission Statement:**  
**To facilitate and foster the sport of rowing to the wider Nelson Community for personal development, competition and pleasure.**

Guiding Principles:

1. Governance  
 Establish an effective governance structure that provides leadership in a transparent and accountable manner.
2. Health & Safety  
 Maintain and regularly review all Health and Safety policies and practices in line with regulatory guidelines.
3. Membership  
 Grow our membership, within our capacity, to responsibly cater for all members.
4. Financial  
 Be a financially responsible and sustainable organisation.
5. Facilities  
 Keep current facilities operational to meet the needs of all our members.
6. Culture  
 Develop and support a culture (internal and external) that is friendly, respectful and inclusive.
7. Coach Development  
 Develop a coaching pathway that aligns with Rowing NZ and provides enough skilled local coaches.



## President's Report



2020 will be remembered as one of initial season excitement, then in March this turned into disappointment and commiseration due to the pandemic Covid-19, that swept around the globe.

We congratulate those who performed with distinction at the scheduled regattas pre-covid and our hearts go out to those affected by the cancellation of subsequent regattas, especially our college rowers on the cancellation of the pinnacle regatta, Maadi Cup. Appropriately we thank Marnie Brown and her regatta management team for their organisational input.

We also congratulate Zoe McBride and Brook Robertson on their selection into the NZ Elite team and commiserate

with them on the cancellation of international Championships and the postponement of the Olympics.

On a positive note, the Club continues to thrive. Masters numbers continue to grow as we welcome people new to the sport and those making a return after many years. College rowers remain static and we strive for more recruitment, especially boys. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, coastal rowing continues to evolve with beach sprint events and longer coastal touring within our region. We propose a vote of thanks to those club members involved in fostering this rowing code.

Our coaches are an integral part in the success of our competitive athletes. We thank them for their enthusiasm, commitment, and I'm sure often at times "patience".

Living within a sea environment brings associated maintenance issues, and we thank all those behind the scenes that keep our plant in top working order.

In previous reports, I have raised the proposal of a collective Aquatic Facility. It is a pleasure to report that we are hopeful in securing final sign off from council. The proposed facility would be constructed on our current site. Thanks must go to Tim Babbage.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our supporting partners. To our naming partner, Nelson Pine Industries as well as Bowater Toyota, Mainland Foundation, Pub Charity, NZ Community Trust, Lion Foundation, Rata Foundation and Air Rescue & Community Services - your



## President's Report cont.

contribution and association enables our club to deliver “our purpose”.

Like similar organisations, our future hinges on strong club governance and management. This past year we welcomed Fiona Lulham in a new role as Club Administrator. Fiona, we cannot thank you enough for your contribution and dedication.

To our committee, we thank you for your guidance and support. A special thanks to retiring Secretary Sally Knight. Huge thank you for being the author of all those club newsletters.

To Tony Crosbie, our trusted Treasurer for guiding us through these financially challenging times. To Warren Amos for keeping us safe, and committee members Rebecca Inwood, Rua Sargent, and Colin Brown, we thank you.

To Tim Babbage, standing down from the Club Captain role, thank you for many years of service at the coal-face.

I would like to conclude by sharing a comment made by one of our college rowers at our 2020 awards function. In addressing the function, he spoke of how he has enjoyed the positive culture within the club this past year. For that, I thank you all.

All the best in achieving your 2021 season rowing goals.

Richard Martin





## Club Captain's Report



A well worn cliché in Rugby is a game of two halves. This last year was a season of two halves. A time of BC (Before Covid) and of course AD (After Disease).

We are a club that spans a wide range of members from 12 year olds still in Intermediate School to 70+ year olds with more than half a century of rowing experience. From rowers taking their first tentative strokes to professional athletes winning World Championships. That diverse range at times can bring its struggles but overwhelmingly it is a positive environment and a great place to be.

The club has a large coaching team and I would like to thank Joe, Kylie, Henry,

James, Chris, Stew, Myles, Shane, Russell and Terry for their work over the past year in bringing improvement to the clubs members. We engaged in more coach education in the last twelve months and the club needs to thank Marlborough Rowing Association for footing the bills and Rowing NZ for sending us Duncan Holland a couple of times to facilitate further education.

Last year's Women's Lead Coach Hannah Starnes moved to the Waikato after guiding her NZ Junior Women's Quad to Gold on what is supposed to be the Tokyo Olympic course (fingers crossed). I thank Hannah for her time at the club and know it is her intention to return in the future.

As a Coach as well as Club Captain I have to thank the many people behind the scenes who make travelling to regattas appear such a seamless exercise. I can promise you from experience it is not an easy task. So huge thanks to Marnie Brown for running this side of the Club's operations so well.

Huge thanks to Terry Bourke and team of self-styled Rusty Washers, possibly more aptly named as Crusty Washers for their maintenance work on our boats. We have a large and very valuable fleet and they are doing us a great service in looking after it.

My personal commiserations go out to all of the athletes whose pinnacle event for the year has been cancelled due to Covid 19. Both the school athletes from Nelson College, Nelson College for Girls and Waimea College for whom Maadi was taken away less than two weeks before they



## Club Captain's Report cont.

were to travel. And to our Master's athletes whom only the day before I write this had their Master's National Champs cancelled next month. It doesn't matter what age you are this disappointment is keenly felt. Obviously these things are completely out of the Club's control but that doesn't make it any less difficult to deal with.

I am stepping down as Club Captain at the AGM so wish my replacement all the best, and they can secure in the knowledge I will be around to offer "advice".

Tim Babbage





## NRC Committee



The Nelson Rowing Club is a Charitable Trust and Incorporated Society. It is run by a volunteer committee who meet monthly to ensure the smooth running of the Club. 2019/2020 Committee (from left to right): Warren Amos, Rebecca Inwood, Rua Sargent, Tim Babbage, Sally Knight, Colin Brown, Tony Crosbie, Richard Martin.



## Our Patron



### Brian Palamountain

Brian is the Club's Patron of many years. He first joined the Club in 1952 when he was 17. This was when the Clubrooms were situated in what is now The Boathouse and the Club hosted Saturday night dances which featured live bands. Brian rowed with NRC until 1966, when he took a break from rowing until he retired. He then joined the Masters crews and rowed until he was 80.

Brian is pictured with NRC Life Member Kevin Strickland enjoying the 2020 Prizegiving dinner.



## NRC Life Members



The Nelson Rowing Club is proud of its Life Members who have contributed huge amounts of time and energy to the Club over many years. From left to right they are: Kevin Strickland, Tim Babbage, Nanette Thompson, Warren Amos, Terry Bourke and Jack Collin.

Kevin has been involved in rowing at national and local levels for many years and has held most of the offices in Nelson Rowing Club. Kevin was Domestic Manager at Rowing NZ for over ten years.

Tim - Head Coach, Club Captain, keeper of a vast amount of rowing knowledge and expertise, Tim always knows what is going on in the rowing world.

Nanette was Club Manager for many years. Whilst she has been less involved in the daily running of the Club over the last 2-3 years, she retains a huge interest in everything we do.

Terry has done every possible job in the Club over the years, and the last few seasons has been a stalwart of towing the boats up and down the country to regattas. He also does lots of maintenance on boats and around the Club.

Jack was a coach for Nelson for many years (even coaching Tim when he was at school)! Jack moved to Westport about three years ago and is growing rowing there. He regularly brings his crews to regattas at The Traverse and is always interested in the life of the Nelson Rowing Club.



## NRC College Coaching Team



Nelson Rowing Club boasts a strong coaching team who deliver our College programmes and maintain the Club's enviable reputation as one of New Zealand's top performing clubs.

2020 College Coaching Team (from left to right): Kylie Johnson, Tim Babbage, Joe Bennion, James Sandston (absent - Henry Williams).



## LTR Coaches



### Chris Sutcliffe & Stewart Mitchell

Chris and Stew have been running the Club's College learn to row programmes for many years and have been involved with rowing for many more.

Each year they engage with the next wave of young College recruits and instill in them the correct technique and attitudes they will need to become successful competitive rowers.



## Regatta Manager



Integral to the smooth running of any rowing Regatta is an organised and efficient Regatta Manager. Marnie Brown took on this role for the 2019/2020 season.

"Marnie has been an amazing regatta manager throughout the 2019-2020 season. She was able to help us behind the scenes to perform at our best when it really counted. She was always there to support us at every regatta and boat loading, as well as giving us medical advice if we were injured. She was organised, dedicated and always put our best interests first as well as putting up with us all on every bus ride down to Twizel." - Eva Lloyd

"We all thoroughly enjoyed the 19/20 season which was a result of Marnie's hard work and organisation. She was essential for ensuring our club's success and enabling us to feel supported throughout the season. Marnie carried a smile with her everywhere she went, which also contributed to the positivity we strive for within our Club. We have been lucky to experience both Marnie's leadership skills and support and she is a real asset to our Club" - Ella Sargent



## NRC Volunteers



The Club is fortunate to have a passionate team of volunteers who contribute a huge amount of time and effort into the successful running of the Club. Special thanks to Russ, Myles and Shane for coaching our Club, Masters and learn-to-row rowers. We thank Terry, Warren and the Rusty Washers for their stellar maintenance work to ensure our boats and equipment are fit for purpose. And thanks to our regatta team of parent helpers who provide transport and shop, clean and cater for our rowers at regattas and camps. Your support and enthusiasm for the club and rowing are hugely appreciated!





## Elite Rower Zoe McBride



Nelson Rowing Club elite rower Zoe McBride (at right above) has had another dominant year with the highlight being crowned World Champion with Jackie Kiddie in the Lightweights Women's Double Sculls. This automatically qualified them to compete at the 2020 (now 2021) Olympics. Zoe was also named Nelson Sportswoman of the Year!



## Elite Rower Brook Robertson



2019 was also a great year for NRC's elite rower Brook Robertson. Brook was part of the Men's 8 crew that won the Grand Challenge Cup at the Henley Regatta (beating the British) as well as winning bronze at the World Rowing Cup III in The Netherlands. Brook has been selected into the Elite Men's 8 team who will be vying for a spot at the Olympics.





## South Island Masters

JUNE 2019



Nelson master rowers brought home a swag of medals from the SI Masters Championships held at Queenstown, rowing on Lake Wakatipu and Lake Hayes. Nelson sent a team of 17, with every member placing in at least one event. Amongst the notable winners were first time competitors, the "Mum's Quad" who won gold, and a bronze to the men's novice double sculls.



## NZ Masters

SEPTEMBER 2019



Nelson Rowing Club attended the New Zealand Masters Rowing Championships at Lake Ruataniwha. The club won 5 gold, 6 silver and 1 bronze medal. The weather gods were with us - the sun shined and the wind stayed away. It was "Rowing Nirvana". The event was an opportunity for Club masters to compete in boats with some of New Zealand's rowing elite, most notably past Olympians Bill and Lynley Coventry, and Dave Shaper. A tightly fought race in the mens D8 had the heart rates well and truly raised, losing gold by 0.04 seconds, a toenail. The mens F4- was a similar battle, neck and neck all the way down the course, narrowly losing gold to Melbourne by less than half a second, with commentators spilling their coffee with excitement and marvelling with raised voices, "surely race of the day".

Regatta round-up provided by Tony Crosbie



## Marlborough Champs

DECEMBER 2019



A big team from Nelson Rowing Club crossed the Whangamoas to enjoy a great weekend of rowing at the Marlborough Champs, competing against teams from Blenheim, Picton, Christchurch and Wellington. It was a weekend of team bonding and comradery.



## South Island Club Champs

FEBRUARY 2020



Nelson Rowing Club completed a successful weekend of exciting racing at the 2020 SI Club Champs regatta. The Club was well represented at Lake Ruataniwha by a team of 34 college rowers, 7 club rowers and 3 masters rowers who brought home a medal haul of 3 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze. Team spirit and comradery were high. Go Nelson!



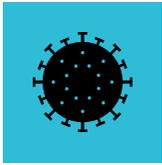


Dylan Crick and Will Samson finished the week at NZ Club Champs with two podium finishes – taking a silver medal in the Mens Premier Lightweight Pair and a bronze medal in the Mens Premier Lightweight Double Sculls. The Club was also ably represented by Eva Lloyd and Macy Kappely who gained lots of experience and rubbed shoulders with NZ's elite rowers.



Nelson Rowing Club took a team of 33 rowers to Twizel to compete at the South Island Secondary Schools Rowing Championships. Rowers were competing for their schools and all four Nelson Colleges were represented. The final medal tally was 1 silver and 7 bronze medals. Congratulations rowers!





## The Covid Effect



On 25 March 2020, New Zealand went into Level 4 lockdown due to Covid-19. The boat shed and clubrooms were closed and locked. This was sad news for all our members, but with the cancellation of Maadi Cup, it was devastating for our College rowers. They had been training hard all season with Maadi as the end goal. To have Maadi cancelled only two weeks before the regatta was difficult to accept but the Club is confident that our crews will come back just as strong next season. "We have some unfinished business."

Covid also affected the Club's ability to host its major annual fundraising event - the Corporate 8 regatta. The event was due to be held at The Traverse but was postponed until later in 2020.





## NRC Fundraising

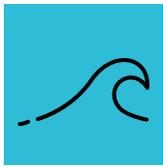


Fundraising is vital to the running of the Club. The proceeds from fundraising help to keep club subscription fees at a reasonable level and allow for plant and equipment purchases to benefit all Club members.

In August 2019 the Club hosted a successful Quiz Night, run by an enthusiastic group of Masters led by Sally and Phil Knight with Quiz Master Tim Babbage. Funds raised were used to purchase a new set of sculls. "Lots of people stepped up to help with the Quiz, which made it fun to organise and to execute. Let's do more of that!" says Sally.

The Club's major annual fundraising event is the Corporate 8's. Each year Trisha and Kevin Strickland and Murray Wiffin co-ordinate the running of this event. Unfortunately due to Covid the Corporate 8's was not able to be held in the 2019/2020 season - and was postponed until later in 2020. (At the time of writing, preparations are in full swing).





## Coastal Rowing



Nelson Rowing Club is among the first clubs in New Zealand to embrace the evolving sport of Coastal Rowing.

Coastal boats are wider, more stable and more robust than regular rowing shells, so they can cope with rougher water.

The Masters group have used Coastal quads for weekend tours in the Abel Tasman National Park and in the Marlborough Sounds, and we've had regular jaunts outside the Cut and around Haulashore Island.



The whole club have enjoyed the thrills and spills of Beach Sprint Racing, and we're well-placed to become the centre of Coastal Rowing in NZ.





## 2020 Prizegiving



The 2020 Prizegiving was held at The Boathouse to celebrate the successes and highlights of the 2019/2020 rowing season.

Congratulations to this years trophy winners:

Novice Girl - Jemma Mead

Novice Boy - Jack Burrows

Most Improved Male - Flynn Mercer

Most Improved Female - Rosie Mirfin

Coxswain - Florence Munro

Masters Contribution - Myles Sellers

Administrator - Tony Crosbie

The Cowbell Award (most vociferous) -  
Ella Sargent

Club Contribution - Phil & Sally  
Knight

Club Captain's Award - Chenae Smith

Masters Competitive Rower - Steve  
Odinot

Outstanding Male Rower - Will  
Samson

Outstanding Female Rower - Macy  
Kappely

Nick Byrne Trophy (for most points in  
season) - jointly won by Eva Lloyd and  
Macy Kappely

Crew of the Year - Will Samson and  
Dylan Crick

Taylor Trophy (Sportsperson of the  
Year) - Eva Lloyd





**Huge thanks to  
all our Supporters**



Nelson Pine Golden Edge has been the main sponsor of Nelson Rowing Club since 1989. That's over 30 years of unwavering support!



**BOWATER  
TOYOTA**

Bowater Toyota is another long-time sponsor of the Club. We love their trusty Toyota Hilux vehicles.



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