



Nelson Rowing Club 2021 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

Richard Martin



As we look back over the last year, despite the Covid-19 rollercoaster, there are many achievements worth celebrating for the Nelson Rowing Club.

The Club season started as per normal in September (apart from NZ Masters Champs) and the attendance to the usual pre-Christmas regattas through to NZ Nationals in February was a welcome relief. Sadly, Covid reared its head again resulting in the cancellation of SI Secondary Schools Regatta but, to everyone's delight NZSS's Maadi Cup was able to proceed as scheduled. We congratulate all Club members on their achievements at these Regattas and acknowledge Marnie Brown and Jacqui Day and their Regatta Management team for their smooth organisational input.

It is with a great pride that we congratulate our Nelson athletes who were selected into NZ Teams. Congratulations to Brook Robertson for his inclusion in the NZ Elite Team and competing at the Tokyo Olympics. To Luke Brady for his selection in the NZ U23 Team and to Nicole Campbell and Ollie Ransom's inclusion in the NZ U19 Team. Sadly, they were denied international competition due to Covid. Congratulations also to Lucy Munro for her selection in the South Island U18 team.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible accomplishments of club member Zoe McBride. Zoe recently retired from competitive rowing, and we wish her continued success in her future endeavours.

To me, the highlight of the year was Nelson Rowing Club winning the coveted "Club of the Year" award at the Rowing NZ AGM awards function.



President's Report cont.

Our growth in membership and diversity within the Club were significant factors towards the win.

It is with the utmost sadness that we record the sudden passing of Myles Sellers. Myles has a long history with the club and the generosity of Myles and Margarete to the Club has been immense. We will miss his bubbly personality and we extend our sympathies to Margarete and family.

The competitive success of Club members (not forgetting Learn-to-row) is heavily aligned with competent and encouraging coaching. Accordingly, we thank Tim Babbage and his enthusiastic Coaching Team for their time and for sharing their extensive knowledge and encouragement on the water.

The Club is very fortunate to have at its disposal an extensive and modern range of plant and equipment. Many of us, too often, forget the damaging effects of salt water and the general wear of continued daily usage. I propose a vote of thanks to Terry Bourke and his group who meet weekly to ensure our plant is in top working order. Morning tea is a highlight, so I encourage you not to be afraid to share some of your favourite recipes.

Enabling us to deliver the sport at an affordable cost and keeping our plant competitively modern, we sincerely acknowledge and thank our supporting partners. To our naming partner Nelson Pine Industries and long-time supporter Bowater Toyota as well Mainland Foundation, Pub Charity, NZ Community Trust, Lion Foundation, Rata Foundation and Air Rescue & Community Services – thank you!

Aquatic Centre

Another year goes by, but we are encouraged that the proposed facility will come to fruition.





President's Report cont.

It is pleasing to report that construction is expected to start in 2023. We propose a vote of thanks to Tim Babbage for his patience and perseverance in driving this project.

Coastal Rowing

Coastal Rowing continues to flourish within the club. In early January, the Club ran a successful coastal Beach Sprint Regatta at Moturoa/Rabbit Island attended by 60 competitors from around NZ. Thanks to Phil and Sally Knight, the Coastal sub-committee and all the Club members who contributed to the success of this event.

Corporate 8's

Due to Covid this annual event was postponed from the usual May competition and held in October with the finale at the Rough Island course. Nine crews entered for the Head of the Haven Trophy. Congratulations go to all crews especially The Young Professionals for your on-water success. Again, our thanks go to Trish Strickland and her team for organising this popular fun event.

Rotoroa Lodge

Again, Rotoroa Lodge was the home of many successful training camps during the year for both our younger club members and Masters. Thanks to all the club members, led by Terry Bourke, for the ongoing renovation work on the accommodation block.

Club Renovations

In October last year, with the help of several Club member submissions, the Club won a much-needed makeover from Dulux and Emma Twigg (apparently it was the female changing rooms that clinched the win!). A sincere vote of thanks goes to the team at Guthrie Bowron and the many Club members who assisted with the renovation.





President's Report cont.

As with all sporting organisations, our future and resilience hinges on strong governance and management. To Fiona Lulham, our Club Administrator, you are an absolute gem, and we sincerely thank you for your contribution, professionalism, enthusiasm, and dedication to the Club. To our committee, thank you for your guidance and support. After 30 odd years of continued service, Warren Amos is stepping down from his committee position. Warren, the Club owes you a huge debt of gratitude for your contribution. From Treasurer, to President, and in recent years, Safety Officer, we thank you. To Tony Crosbie, our Treasurer, such an important role with a workload that that many underestimate - huge thanks. Thanks also to Chenae Smith our Secretary, Bob Gilchrist our Club Captain, Sally Knight for all the newsletters and fundraising, and Grant Wilson, Rebecca Inwood, Colin Brown, Rua Sargent and Hamish Tomlinson for their immense contribution to the Club.

When I accepted the nomination for Club President all those years ago I had two goals in mind. To grow the club membership and more importantly, to create a more inclusive club culture across all groups; competitive, recreational, younger and older. With your help (the members) I feel we have come a long way to achieve this. This said, the time is right for me to “pass the baton”. I have enjoyed the journey and offer my best wishes and ongoing support to the incoming committee.

All the best to everyone for the upcoming season.

Richard Martin





Club Captain's Report

Bob Gilchrist



At the time of writing this Club Captain's report for the 2020/2021 season we are again in a Level 4 lockdown situation. I was elected to the position of Club Captain after being away for a few years, so it took a while to settle into the position.

With the start of the season thrown out of kilter we had a high-pressure period with the Corporate 8's fundraiser, school rowing starting and the club winning the Dulux Club Refurbishment competition. Our members rolled their sleeves up and we celebrated the rowing shed looking sharp and having Emma Twigg spending a couple of days with us. I was lucky enough to observe Emma working an erg session. The time Emma made herself available for the Club was fantastic and it was great to see her have her first row in the coastal quad.

The season was opened with the naming of two boats, the NELSON PINE and the MAINLAND FOUNDATION and later in the season we had a boat naming ceremony for the Nelson College for Girls boat HANNAH STARNES.

In January the Club hosted the inaugural New Zealand Coastal Rowing Regatta. The event was very successful - all who came enjoyed the weekend even when the conditions got lively at the end.

Again, covid put its oar in by shortening the NZ Rowing Championships regatta and cancelling South Island Secondary Schools. The Club held an impromptu regatta on the Wairau River - it was a great weekend. To add another stroke to the rowing calendar, the South Island Masters regatta was also cancelled, this time due to the flooding in Ashburton. The Club had a big group training hard for this regatta.



Club Captain's Report cont.

The Club had a successful season winning National titles at NZ Club Nationals and at Maadi Cup as well as placings in finals. We had one rower selected to the South Island U/18 team and two rowers selected onto the NZ Junior Team.

On the International arena the Club had two rowers with Zoe McBride and Brook Robertson. Zoe has had a distinguished rowing career from secondary school, junior, U/23 through to an elite level. Zoe made a big decision in retiring from the sport this year to focus on her wellbeing.

Brook was in the New Zealand Olympic squad and represented NZ in the men's pair. To represent our country at the highest level is a great achievement - well done Brook.

Our three scholarship students from the USA were home for the season - Gabby, Kayla and Luke. Kayla had a season of frustration with injuries but competed in the inter-provincial champs. Gabby rowed with the senior girls and was also invited to row in Zoe's premier quad at NZ Nationals - just missing out on picking up a red coat. Luke rowed in the Central RPC and had a great season winning the U/22 single and making the New Zealand U/23 team.

The Nelson Rowing Club won the Club of the Year! We won this trophy because of our members' commitment to the Club to foster the sport and promote all levels of rowing. This would not have happened without the support of all our rowers, parents, committee members, coaches, the Rusty Washers and our sponsors.

Thank you all for an amazing season.

Bob Gilchrist





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. 2020/2021 Committee (from left to right): Bob Gilchrist, Chenae Smith, Warren Amos, Sally Knight, Colin Brown, Rua Sargent, Grant Wilson, Rebecca Inwood, Tony Crosbie, Hamish Tomlinson, 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.

Warren Amos



Warren Amos has been a magnificent supporter of the Club for many years. Warren's rowing days started in Dunedin where he rowed for North End Rowing Club until moving to Nelson in 1979. At a chance meeting (around 1983) with Wayne Sellers (Myles' brother) he was approached to consider coming onto the committee as Treasurer even though he wasn't rowing at the time. Warren joined the committee. That was 38 years ago! Since then he's held the positions of Treasurer, President and H&S Officer. This year Warren has indicated his time on the committee has come to an end and he will be stepping down at the AGM. We think he deserves a well-earned break. Thank you for your unwavering support of the club and rowing. We wish you many happy hours of rowing on smooth waters.



2020/2021 - The Year in Review

June 2020: NRC was announced the winner of the Dulux Rowing Club Renovation in association with Emma Twigg

June 2020: South Island Masters postponed and then cancelled due to Covid 19

August 2020: Rowing NZ announces the cancellation of NZ Masters (19-20 September) due to Covid-19

May 2020: Clubroom and boat sheds reopen after 2020 lockdown

July 2020: Winter Coastal Beach Sprints at Motorua Rabbit Island

October 2020: NRC clubrooms are painted inside and outside as winners of the Dulux Club Renovation competition.

October 2020: NRC hosts Emma Twigg for club renovations, Q&A and training session, breakfast fundraiser and a coastal row

October 2020: Boat naming ceremony for the "Nelson Pine" Womens Pair, and the "Mainland Foundation" Mens Quad

October 2020: Picton RC Long Distance race - Anikiwa to Picton paddle

October 2020: Traverse interclub regatta at The Traverse, Rabbit Island

October 2020: Corporate 8's Fundraiser at The Traverse, Rabbit Island

November 2020: Beach Sprints racing at Motorua Rabbit Island

December 2020: Marlborough Champs, Wairau River Blenheim. 58 college, club and Masters rowers from NRC take part in the 2 day regatta



2020/2021 - The Year in Review

January 2021: NZ National Beach Sprints,
Motoroa Rabbit Island

January 2021: South Island Club Champs, Lake
Ruataniwha Twizel. 53 rowers - 4 gold, 2 silver,
4 bronze, 16 A finals, 4 B finals

March 2021: South Island Secondary Schools
regatta cancelled due to Covid

March 2021: Maadi Cup, Lake Karapiro
Cambridge. 35 rowers - 1 gold, 2 silver, 8 top
ten placings

May 2021: NRC 2020/2021 Prizegiving is held
at The Boathouse Nelson

May 2021: Rowing NZ AGM, The Novotel
Hamilton Tainui, Hamilton
Nelson Rowing Club wins Rowing Club of the
Year
Tim Babbage is awarded a Rowing NZ Service
Award

July 2021: Brook Robertson represents New
Zealand in the Mens Pair at the 2020 Tokyo
Olympic Games

February 2021: NZ National Rowing Championships,
Lake Ruataniwha Twizel. 20 rowers - 5 gold, 4 silver,
4 bronze

February 2021: Naming of the "Hannah Starnes"
Womens Double funded by Nelson College for Girls

April 2021: Lucy Munro represents South Island in
the U/18 North vs South regatta.

April 2021: Ollie Ransom is selected into the NZ
U/19 Junior Mens crew and Nicole Campbell is
selected into the NZ U/19 Junior Womens crew.

June 2021: The Club was deeply saddened by the
sudden passing of Myles Sellers on 2 June 2021.



Club and College Rowing

Tim Babbage, Head Coach



The 20/21 Season was memorable for a number of reasons - some superb on the water performances, great team interaction and of course for our recent friend Covid 19 rearing its ugly head again.

After a Covid interrupted 19/20 season the rower retention was very pleasing with a general feeling of unfinished business. It also contributed to the largest intake of Novice athletes for a number of years. Planning for the season always had the shadow of potential regatta cancellations hanging over it. This resulted in an extra trip to Twizel for the Otago Champs and the expansion of the group size to Club Nationals.

The first of the medal scoring regattas was South Island Champs at the end of January. This was also the first time it was apparent we were not the only Club with a bigger competitive group. As became the pattern for the rest of the season's regattas, there were a record number of entries at SI Champs. Our final takeaway was 27 "A" Finals with 4 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze medals.

Club Nationals a couple of weeks later at the same venue was both frustrating and exciting. With the South Island under Level 2, Rowing NZ would not allow the regatta to be run. So began a lot of sitting around and waiting for the Government announcement on Wednesday afternoon. The cheers could be heard all around Twizel when we were told that we would be moved to level 1 that night. It did mean that 5 days of programming was squeezed into 3, and then having to race all the finals in 1 day instead of 2. The coaching team goal for Club Nationals was to win both Men's and Women's Quads. The club has won both over the years but never in the same year.



NRC Club and College Rowing cont.

The Women made it fairly squeaky with only 0.5 sec covering all the medallists, but a win is a win. The Men made it less heart stopping with a more comfortable 2 second win. Gold as well in the Club Women's Single for Nicole Campbell. Silver for the Men's Intermediate Quad and Bronzes for the Women's Club and Intermediate Doubles, and also for the Men's Intermediate Double. In a composite crew with Blenheim RC a Gold Medal in the Mens Intermediate Eight was also won.

With a change to the way the Premier Quad and Eight were run this season, Nelson had a crew in the Womens Premier Quad with Zoe McBride and Gabby Hannen from Nelson joined by a couple of other NZ team members. Great race from the crew with being oh so close and being shut out of the Gold and finishing with a Silver Medal. Luke Brady rowing for the Central RPC was dominant in winning the U22 Single and has recently gone back to Boston to continue his degree at Boston University. Many thanks to Melisa Kappely and Aimee Mirfin for feeding and looking after the team at such short notice.

South Island Secondary Schools was cancelled due to Covid alert levels. Medals were awarded to both SI and NI crews based on their performance at Maadi. So 1 Gold, 5 Silver and 3 Bronze medals were awarded.

Maadi Cup, or more correctly the NZ Secondary School Rowing Champs, is a huge Regatta these days and this year was a record breaker. With 2432 athletes fighting it out in 50 events it made for cut throat qualification and some big fields. For example, the U18 Double had





NRC Club and College Rowing cont.

more than 50 entries for both boys and girls events. 8 “A” Finals and 7 “B” Finals were achieved after 4 days of tough racing. Gold medal to the Nelson College Double of Ollie Ransom and Rico Fraser with a superb race. Silvers to Nelson College for Girls in the U18 Double and Quad.

Special mention for a fourth place with the U18 Boys quad being one of the tightest U18 races I have seen. Less than 2/3 of a boat length covered the first four places. The NC lads had a great race just getting squeezed out of the medals. It should be noted that the way our program is structured we place emphasis on achieving at U18 with the program ramping up as the athletes go through the age groups. The fact we made 7 U18 sculling A finals does show the system works.

Representative Selection time was again difficult for many with all international racing on hold for NZ crews. However, with the standard of NZ Rowing just making a rep team means you are a World Class athlete. Luke Brady made the U23 Mens Sculling team and spent the winter training at Karapiro with the team.

Ollie Ransom, Rico Fraser, Macy Kappely and Nicole Campbell were awarded NZ U19 Trials after their performances over the season. Nicole and Ollie were both selected in the NZ U19 Quads respectively. For the South Island U18 Team Bryce Stace, Flynn Mercer and Lucy Munro were awarded trials. Lucy made the team and because they didn't have to travel overseas raced at Karapiro and was part of the team that dominated the North Island





NRC Club and College Rowing cont.

My thanks to the entire coaching team with many hands making light work. Men's lead coach Joe Bennion had a breakout year with his crews and I look forward to seeing what he does this year. Kylie Johnson coaching our Novices and securing her first ever coaching medals was a real treat. The first of many I am sure.

To all who helped out with the crews over the season - Bob, Terry, Grant, Dylan, Stew, Chris and of course the late Myles, I thank you all. The whole coaching team is indebted to the "Rusty Washers" for making sure our gear works on both a day-to-day basis and when we come to race. To our Club Administrator Fee and Regatta Managers Marnie and Jacqui our sincere thanks for getting everyone to and from and feeding them. Also all the parents who came along to Regattas and Training Camps and made the coaching team's job a heck of a lot easier. And final thanks to Super Dad Rua Sargent for his contribution over the last 4 years.

Finishing on a positive note, moving forward as I write this is the news that Rowing NZ will endorse the running of regattas at level 2 as long as they can be run under government guidelines.

I'm looking forward to our next season.

Tim Babbage

Nelson Rowing Club College & Club Coaches from left, Joe Bennion, Tim Babbage & Kylie Johnson





Masters Rowing

Tony Crosbie



The strength of the master's squad has increased twofold over the last couple of years, and it is encouraging to see younger masters joining the club. Combined with the influx of learn to rows, our membership is on the rise and there is an increasing spirit and willingness of people wishing to help out. New initiatives like the Rusty Washer squad, the anticipation of what's for morning tea on Sunday and Bob's story telling all create camaraderie and a pleasant atmosphere in the club. Have to say Josh's carrot cake is up there, go Josh.

The 2020/21 season was a bit of a mixed bag for masters rowing with the onset of COVID in March putting us into lockdown. We were ever hopeful that the annual South Island Masters Championships would still go ahead, however it was not to be. A certain sigh of relief was heard from those who prefer to stick their noses out from under their duvets to test the temperature before leaving the comforts of home, Lake Hood has a bit of a reputation of being a tad cold in June.

The diehards crossed their fingers, hoping the Masters National Champs due to be held at Lake Karapiro in September would still go ahead. Training continued as planned in anticipation, but COVID had other ideas and alas it was also cancelled. In true spirit Masters will not be beaten (well in spirit anyway, the body might have other ideas), so South Island Rowing got together and put on a regatta at Twizel in October. A contingent from NRC attended and numerous ribbons were earned, and the ones that got away, well we won't mention those.

What's next? Marlborough Champs. Ok, let's get training again, so off to Marlborough Champs we go. We had a strong contingent of Masters, the relaxed atmosphere allowed



Masters Rowing cont.

the opportunity for some of the younger female Masters to mix with the College girls, and some of the older masters to enter the intermediate events. A good time was had by all, apart from maybe Sally who slipped in the boating area and broke her wrist “Ouch”. Some great results from the girls crews led to prizes being awarded at our annual prizegiving.

Coming into 2021 life was pretty normal in NZ considering what was happening with COVID everywhere else in the World. 2021 got off to a good start. We had an influx of learn to row mums (aka novice ladies) who were quietly going about improving their technique and fitness, coached by Russ, Hamish and Karl. The South Island Club Champs was held at Twizel at the end of January with Masters attending and racing.

Having been cancelled in 2020, the 2021 South Island Masters was rescheduled to be held at Lake Hood in June. We had the largest contingent of Masters wishing to attend a regatta for some years. Spirits were high, and a bit of healthy interclub competition was developing nicely. Grant, who thinks he has retired from racing, was out with the crews at the weekends, taking lots of video and giving tips on technique, “rock over”, maybe we could turn it into a song.

In April the masters attended a training camp at Lake Rotoroa. Combinations were coming together well, and everybody mucked in to make the training camp a huge success. The novice ladies were in very high spirits, particularly when they kicked butt in the pieces, some of the men folk were taken by surprise, the octi had never moved so fast. Lesson learnt “never underestimate your competition”, and it’s not over until the novice ladies say so.

Training for South Islands was going well and we were all set to go to Lake Hood and take on the other clubs, but it was not COVID this time, but mother nature decided Ashburton needed some rain, so she sent it in bucketloads, flooding the region. CANCELLED again. Disappointment reigned (rained?). Maybe the odd person thought not all bad, the duvet feels pretty good in June.





NRC Medallists for 2020/2021

Ruataniwha Masters Champs

17/18 October 2020
Lake Ruataniwha

1st place: Mixed Masters E-K Double Sculls. Tony Crosbie, Sue Bonham-Carter

1st place: Mens Masters E-K Coxless Quad Sculls. Tony Crosbie, Colin Brown, Grant Wilson, Steve Odinot

2nd place: Mens Masters E-K Double Sculls. Tony Crosbie, Colin Brown

2nd place: Mens Masters E-K Coxless Four. Tony Crosbie, Colin Brown, Fred Murray, Steve Odinot

Otago Champs

12/13 December 2020
Lake Ruataniwha

Regatta abandoned part-way through Day 1 due to adverse weather. No finals racing on Day 2.

South Island Club Champs

30/31 January 2021
Lake Ruataniwha

Gold: Womens Club Coxless Quad Sculls. Lucy Munro, Macy Kappely, Nicole Campbell, Sophie Hawkins

Gold: Mens Intermediate Coxed Quad Sculls. Flynn Mercer, Jack Burrows, Buster Jennings, Bryce Stace + Charlie Parker

Gold: Mens Club Coxless Quad Sculls. Bryce Stace, Ollie Ransom, Jack Burrows, Rico Fraser

Gold: Womens Club Double Sculls. Macy Kappely, Nicole Campbell

Silver: Womens Novice Double Sculls. Maddie Collis, Skye Lasenby

Silver: Mens Intermediate Double Sculls. Flynn Mercer, Buster Jennings

Bronze: Womens U19 Coxed Quad Sculls. Macy Kappely, Nicole Campbell, Ella Sargent, Rosie Mirfin + Jessie Swain

Bronze: Mens Senior Coxless Pair Oars. Ryan Flintoft, Will Samson

Bronze: Mens Novice Coxed Eight. Thomas Goode, Lachlan Mirfin, Freddy Griffiths, Jaxon Taylor, Ethan Steele, Michael Jones, Flynn Hennessy, Felix Radman-Brown + Zac Irving

Bronze: Womens Novice Coxed Squad Sculls. Maddie Collis, Skye Lasenby, Elise Reid, Thea Speake + Jessie Swain





NRC Medallists for 2020/2021



18/20 February 2021
Lake Ruataniwha

Gold: Womens Club Coxless Quad Sculls. Lucy Munro, Macy Kappely, Nicole Campbell, Sophie Hawkins

Gold: Mens Club Coxless Quad Sculls. Bryce Stace, Jack Burrows, Ollie Ransom, Rico Fraser

Gold: Womens Club Single Sculls. Nicole Campbell

Silver: Mens Intermediate Coxed Quad Sculls. Bryce Stace, Jack Burrows, Buster Jennings, Flynn Mercer + Charlie Parker

Silver: Womens Premier Coxless Quad Sculls. Zoe McBride, Ashlee Rowe, Katie Lush, Gabby Hannen

Bronze: Mens Intermediate Double Sculls. Bryce Stace, Flynn Mercer

Bronze: Womens Intermediate Double Sculls. Sophie Hawkins, Millie Kappely

Bronze: Womens Club Double Sculls. Macy Kappely, Nicole Campbell



26/27 March 2021
Lake Karapiro

Regatta was cancelled due to Covid-19. Results from the 2021 Aon Maadi regatta were used to identify the top 3 placed South Island crews in each event and award them SISS medals.

Gold: Boys U18 Double Sculls. Ollie Ransom, Rico Fraser

Silver: Boys U17 Double Sculls. Flynn Mercer, Bryce Stace

Silver: Girls U18 Double Sculls. Macy Kappely, Nicole Campbell

Silver: Girls U18 Novice Double Sculls. Maddie Collis, Skye Lasenby

Silver: Girls U18 Novice Coxed Quad Sculls. Maddie Collis, Auriela Naughton, Chloe Wallace, Skye Lasenby + Ruby Southwick

Silver: Girls U18 Coxed Quad Sculls. Lucy Munro, Nicole Campbell, Macy Kappely, Sophie Hawkins + Jessie Swain

Bronze: Boys U18 Coxed Quad Sculls. Bryce Stace, Ollie Ransom, Rico Fraser, Flynn Mercer + Charlie Parker

Bronze: Boys U16 Single Sculls. Buster Jennings

Bronze: Girls U18 Single Sculls. Nicole Campbell



22/27 March 2021
Lake Karapiro

Gold: Boys U18 Double Sculls. Ollie Ransom, Rico Fraser

Silver: Girls U18 Double Sculls. Macy Kappely, Nicole Campbell

Silver: Girls U18 Coxed Quad Sculls. Lucy Munro, Nicole Campbell, Macy Kappely, Sophie Hawkins + Jessie Swain



Coastal Rowing

Sally Knight



Nelson Rowing Club continues to be at the forefront of growing Coastal Rowing in NZ. We hosted beach sprint events at Moturoa Rabbit Island on a perfect winters' day in July and again in early November. Each event grew slightly bigger, and we've been learning more every time about how to set up and run these races.

So we were ready to run the first ever NZ National Beach Sprints champs in January 2020. This was a fun event, attracting over 60 competitors from 9 Clubs around NZ, who raced in Coastal coxed quads. The event was organised by a subcommittee of five, and a huge proportion of the Masters and parents of the Club were involved in running the event, as boat holders, marshalls, coxswains, BBQ cooks, and competitors. A huge team effort, which really put us on the map as a Club willing to try new things.

MOTUROA, the coastal quad at the NRC is primarily used by Masters members, and makes outings possible in less-than-ideal weather. It's also a great boat to take out a visitor or curious rower, as it's very stable and forgiving of crew differences. It was a big thrill for a few of our Masters to row the Coastal with Emma Twigg straight after the Dulux breakfast. Emma had not been in a Coastal before that, and enjoyed her tour around the Nelson Haven.

We're well advanced in the planning for the 2022 National Champs which will be held at Tahunanui Beach on 3 January 2022.



NRC Fundraising - Corporate 8's

Trisha Strickland



After Covid-19 impacted the event earlier in the year with a postponement, we were thrilled to run a successful Corporate 8 event in October 2020. 9 corporate teams took part: ANZ, Cawthron Institute, Nelson Young Professionals, Johnston & Assoc, Martin Farming, Pitt & Moore, FINDEX, Port Nelson and Tasman District Council.

The format was the same as previous years with an exciting erg night relay challenge where all the crews were presented with their crew tee-shirts. Some incredible erg times were recorded and there was great competition between the crews. The winning crew on erg night was the Martin Farming crew with NYP in second and Pitt & Moore in third.

Race day saw perfect conditions and lots of excitement on the water plus a great number of spectators – a wonderful day was had by all. The winning racing crew was the Cawthron Institute who showed some great form. They were coached by no other than Myles Sellers and Steve Odinet.

Acknowledgement and thanks must go to all the volunteer coaches, club coxswains, the team of helpers on the ground organising the logistics and H&S requirements, Martin Farming for the donation of food for the bbq, Strickland Holdings for the hire of the pavilion for the erg relay night, and special mention to the fantastic team of club parents who cooked the bbq to feed 100 people on race day.

All this wonderful support by volunteers contributed to a great fundraising event for our club and saw many of the participants continue with the club in our learn-to-row programme.



2021 NRC Prizegiving



The 2021 Prizegiving was held at The Boathouse to celebrate the successes and highlights of the 2020/2021 rowing season.

Rowing was hugely popular in early Nelson, so much so, that by the 1900's, the NRC had outgrown its clubrooms and in 1906 it built bigger premises on Wakefield Quay which is now The Boathouse. The Club's Prizegiving event is always a fun and social evening for all our members. It's also wonderful to be able to honour the Club's history by holding it in the Club's old home.

Congratulations to this years trophy winners:

Most Improved Novice Girl - Chloe Wallace
 Most Improved Novice Boy - Thomas Goode
 Novice Girl - Maddie Collis
 Novice Boy - Jaxon Taylor
 Most Improved Male - Buster Jennings
 Most Improved Female - Sophie Hawkins
 Coxswain - Ruby Southwick
 Masters Contribution - The Rusty Washers
 Administrator - Fiona Lulham
 The Cowbell Award (most vociferous) - Ricky Meffan
 Club Contribution - Warren Amos
 Club Captain's Award - Janeen Strawbridge
 Masters Competitive Rower - Crew:
 Pandora, Amanda, Arnia, Yvanca
 Outstanding Male Rower - Ollie Ransom
 Outstanding Female Rower - Nicole Campbell
 Nick Byrne Trophy (for most points in season) - Macy Kappely
 Crew of the Year - Mens U18 Double: Ollie Ransom & Rico Fraser
 Taylor Trophy (Sportsperson of the Year) - Rico Fraser



Club Awards



At the 2021 Rowing New Zealand's Annual General Meeting, Nelson Rowing Club was presented with the coveted "Rowing Club of the Year" award.

"Established in 1876, Nelson Rowing Club (NRC) is proud to be celebrating its 144th year – and what a year it's been! The club has gone from strength to strength as it embraces all forms of rowing including strong College and Club rowing programs; a growing number of Masters rowers (both recreational and competitive); as well as establishing ourselves at the forefront of New Zealand's Coastal Rowing." - *excerpt from the award nomination.*

Also taking to the winner's stage was our very own Tim Babbage who was acknowledged with a service award as "Volunteer of the Year". Not only is Tim the head coach for Nelson, he is also the Chair of the Marlborough Rowing Association, a regional association representative on the Board for South Island Rowing, a member on the Rowing NZ Domestic Rowing Committee and a NZ Selector. A well deserved winner!

The Club was recognised for its awards with a feature article and photo in the Nelson Weekly.



"Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a curious newcomer, Nelson Rowing Club has a place for you. This inclusive attitude and an unprecedented season of success saw Nelson named the best rowing club in the country. The win was Nelson's first in 14 years and makes them just the second club in history to win the award twice, behind Christchurch juggernaut Avon."

The Nelson Weekly



Elite Rower - Brook Robertson



The club was thrilled when Brook was selected to represent New Zealand at the Tokyo Olympics in the men's pair with Stephen Jones. There were big shoes to fill in this boat class with Hamish Bond and Eric Murray winning the pair at the London and Rio Olympics in 2012 and 2016 respectively.

Prior to heading off to Tokyo, Brook said there is a lot of prestige rather than pressure about following in the footsteps of Kiwi legends Bond and Murray. "They are two of the best rowers in history. We are going in with no expectations but are just going to have a good crack, I'd love to get a medal but also just excited to see what we can do."

Their campaign started well with a 3rd placing in their heat sending them straight into the semi-finals. Tough conditions in the semis meant they progressed through to the B Final, where they finished their Olympic campaign with a 6th place in the B.

It is an enormous achievement to represent your country at an international level and all members of the Nelson Rowing Club are so proud of Brook's success.

As Tim said "It's fantastic to have played a part in his rowing journey. Brook started with Nelson Rowing Club as a young 13-year-old and through hard work, guts and determination has now represented his country at the Olympics."

He is an inspiration to us all - well done Brook!



RIP Myles Sellers, 1967-2021

Grant Wilson



Training on Lake Rotorua back in the day, left to right: Grant Wilson, Myles Sellers, Pete Campbell and Danny Guard

Myles left us all far too early at the age of 54. He leaves a big hole in the lives of his family and friends. He leaves a great legacy too – inspirational words that guide us through his lens of positivity – magnificent, bloody marvellous and outstanding.

Rowing

Rowing was in Myles' blood. His great uncle was Darcy Hadfield, who won an Olympic bronze medal at Antwerp in 1920, the first NZ Olympic medal.

Myles was a successful college rower. In 1983 he won the U17 4+ at the Maadi Cup. He was part of the 40+ intake from Nayland College in the early 1980's with rowers like Brenda Lawson (a world champion in the 90's). Early on he showed promise, gaining a memorable win in a 4+ race at the Marlborough Champs in 1982 without being in the boat at the finish line! He broke his oar towards the end of the race and had the presence of mind to abandon the boat so that the crew could win the race. In 1984 he was a Junior Trialist with another Nelson Rower Danny Guard. It is important to acknowledge that the Nelson Rowing Club back in the 1980's was resurrected by Jack Collin. In those days, they only had one racing boat! It was Jack and his rowers, including Myles, that built the foundation of the Club we have now.



RIP Myles Sellers

I had the privilege of meeting Myles not long after moving to Nelson in 1989, and rowed with him briefly before he set up his first joinery business. It was great to catch up with Myles in recent years through rowing again, this time with him coaching. Myles had a nice way of encouraging crews and could relate well with all ages from College to Masters.

Myles has been a great supporter of rowing throughout his life and the Nelson Rowing Club is the stronger because of that.

Successful businessman

Success in rowing comes through hard work and sacrifice, or in one word “discipline”. Rowing is a metaphor for life as it takes you to places of pain, suffering and exhilaration. In the tough times in rowing your character is tested and you have to build true grit to carry on. These rowing lessons apply to life and rowers tend to be successful in life.

In Myles' case he was a successful businessman with his wife, Margarett. Myles was disciplined, organised and focused. He had his hard times and was not perfect, however he was able to keep positive in times of adversity and push through. He was passionate about developing the joinery industry and was instrumental in improving apprentice schemes.

So sad to say goodbye to Myles too soon

Myles' optimism was and still is infectious. We all have a choice to look at a glass half full or half empty, being grateful for what we have. Seeing Myles close to death in October 2020 was a clear reminder of that lesson - the strength he displayed was true to his character. Almost like the "Knights of Ni" Monty Pythonish - Myles had more than a “flesh wound” but brushed it off. For younger generations I recommend you look up Monty Python.

Myles was getting back to health this year and a number of us were playing a small part in that, which is why it is still so hard to say goodbye. At a personal level it is incredibly hard to lose a mate far too early. Myles was getting back to health like me too, we were born in the same year, we share a love for rowing and a philosophy of life.

We will always remember Myles, the strong, positive, “outstanding” and “magnificent” man that he was. I encourage all of us to continue to channel these traits through our lives and to stay connected with what is important.

We thank Myles so much for his support for Nelson rowing over the years. To Margarett, Olivia and Hollie we thank you too, welcome you and appreciate the continued support from the Sellers Room. It is great to have Myles' name on one of our coaching boats along with the words – “magnificent and outstanding”.

We will keep alive the rowing legacy of Myles and his great uncle Darcy Hadfield, and plan an appropriate memorial event in May 2022.

Grant Wilson



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