



Torrens Rowing Club Inc
GPO Box 512, Adelaide SA 5001

BOATSHED BULLETIN

MARCH 2007

FROM THE CAPTAIN

Captain On Tour !

Hi from Cornwall on the south-west coast of England, where in Spring we are enjoying a windy 5 degrees max with a little snow. I've managed to find, among the charming cottages, spectacular scenery and castle ruins, a gym with a couple of 'good-old' concept2 ergos.....ahhh.....salvation! The only rowing boats I have encountered in Cornwall are life-boats which are rowed and raced on the ocean and in the open estuaries....fixed seat, eight to a crew, deep and wide clinker hulls. What has impressed me most has been the stunning condition in which these boats are kept by their clubs.....maybe it's time we at TRC addressed the issue of beginning the proper restoration of our precious older boats.

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2007 Nationals

Congratulations to the entire SA team attending the regatta at Nagambie in country Victoria, and especially to our TRC rowers who did themselves and all of us at the club proud. The experienced brigade of Maja, Alana and Beau all won medals, and the younger brigade of Peta, Libby, Alex, Jess and Daniel performed very well. Thanks also to Sarah-Jane for her coxing duties and to Phil for his coaching achievements.



Regional Masters

Twenty one TRC masters rowers attended this very enjoyable regatta at Mannum and all tasted success. Notable victories came in special trophy races, 3M4+ Arnold Cup and Mixed Eight (both TRC crews winning), as well as the big events Mens 8+ and Womens 8+. Chris 'Heater' also impressed the crowd with his spectacular 'croc death-roll' performance in the single scull.....once in the warm-up and again during the race.....what a star! I am hoping that SARA will adopt this very successful format of regatta program for next season in what are currently schools-only regattas.

I wish all at the club well....please include our vice-captain, Hamish, in your TRC communications, so that he can be informed of activities and issues.

FROM THE COACH

Senior Women's Squad / National Championships

The second half of the season has been very successful for the girls who have now won 9 State Championships and have a healthy lead (with some help from our masters women) in the Premiership competition. All this with a relatively small (in numbers) squad.

At the recent National Championships, a total of 9 TRC members represented their club and/or their state in singles, doubles, pairs, fours, quads and eights. All competed well in at times, very difficult conditions. Of special note, Maja Fiddler won 2 Gold medals in Open Lightweight Quad and State Womens Lightweight Quad. Beau Gora won gold (for the second year in a row) in Under 23 Mens Lightweight Pair and Silver in Under 23 Lightweight Four. Alana Monson won bronze in Under 19 Womens Single Scull and made the final of Under 19 Womens Coxless Four but steering failure cost them a medal.

Our Under 17 Womens Quad in their first Nationals, raced well, reaching the semi-finals but a very difficult and unfair course cost them a place in the final. Two of these girls, Peta White and Jessica Molsher-Jones competed in the Under 17 Womens Double Scull finishing a very creditable fourth in the final.

Congratulations to all of our Torrens Rowers competing at the Nationals and throughout the season and our sincere thanks to the club for their wonderful support of our young rowers.

Phil Blesing

FROM THE SECRETARY

With the season at the "sharp end" for the schools and senior clubs having just about completed their season, it's the masters turn to shine with the upcoming Masters National Regatta – June 1-3 at the SIRC, Penrith. Expect to see plenty of the "red & whites" out there having a red hot go !!



Just to share a note with you from Michael Eastaughffe (our man in Rowing Australia). In case you did not know, Michael is the competition manager for RA.

Michael,

I hope everything is going well. Busy, I imagine.

Thank you very much for remembering me and forwarding the newsletter. I know I am very bad at keeping in touch with old friends and associates etc but I certainly do appreciate hearing everything that is going on. I keep an eye on the SA Rowing website but it is much better getting newsletters and the like. Hopefully I will see you at the Nationals.

*Cheers,
Stephen Mann*

(Steve raced with the TRC and represented S A in the Kings Cup during the 70's, and now lives in Perth W A. And just to prove the old adage "the fruit does not fall far from the tree", his daughter Brittany was in the Australian Junior team last year. Ed)



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A Tale of “High Seas” and Adventure

The Wooden Boat Festival at Goolwa on the weekend of the 11th and 12th of March proved to be a much bigger adventure than any of those who participated ever expected.

The races planned for Sunday the 11th were cancelled due to strong winds and rough water.

However the 5km race planned for the crews on Monday the 12th went ahead despite the fresh wind and choppy water which greeted the rowers when they arrived at 7am at Goolwa to rig the boats and get on the water.

The Torrens crew consisted of Peter Busby, Rob Curkpatrick, Loch Mitchell, Chris Heaton-Harris, Karen O'Keefe, myself (Correne Sandow), and two intrepid composites from Prince Alfred College, Kirsty Kneebone and Heather Jones. Little did we know the perils that awaited us as we rowed out from the bank of the Hindmarsh Island Marina and headed up to the start line.

Now it must be mentioned at this point that there was a little bit of "rock 'n roll" occurring as we rowed up to the start line and a couple of waves did roll past the top of the riggers and splash playfully in our faces however not enough to be too concerning and just enough to be a bit exciting.

As we waited our turn to start at the start line, chatting and joking with the other crews trying to line up in some orderly fashion, we did note that the wind had seemed to pick up somewhat and the waves were gaining much more force and velocity. The Torrens crew found themselves being blown into the reeds close to shore and although at this stage we were about 50 metres inside the start line it was becoming obvious it would be impossible for us to back up to the start, so the officials in their wisdom decided to just get us going and flagged us to start.

And what a start! We were flying along despite the wind and waves. We passed numerous crews and seemed to be gaining on everyone and had just passed under the Hindmarsh Bridge when the full realization of the deteriorating weather conditions began to dawn on us.

It soon became obvious that the area we had begun the race in was quite sheltered compared to the water on the other side of the bridge. It was not long before waves began hitting the side of the boat and splashing up at us in large bucket full amounts and then started to break over the side of the boat and the boat began to fill with water.

"Just keep rowing" was the cry from the rest of the crew and I can remember someone offering a timely bit of advise in the form of "watch your timing!" Needless to say I was a little more preoccupied with watching the water level inside the boat gradually get deeper and deeper. It was at this point that I glanced up to see the "F-Troop" boat at the left of us slowly begin to fill with water and sink. The rowers sat in their seats while the boat got lower and lower in the water and finally disappeared completely with only the rowers heads poking through the surface of the water.

Now do not be fooled into thinking that I calmly watched this! I (with a few others, mainly the female members of the crew I must add) began to squeal a bit about this. Having never witnessed a boat sinking before and certainly not while I was on the same treacherous bit of water I was a bit alarmed! Forget that saying about "don't be alarmed be alert!"

I think at this point we were all very alert and very alarmed and Kirsty decided it was time to start bailing. Kirsty and I tried using the only vessels we had available to us to do this, our caps. As we filled our caps with water and threw the bit of water we could manage to get into our caps, out of the boat, only to have it all just fly straight back at us, and as another wave broke over the side of the boat, the futility of our efforts and the impending consequences of our situation began to become obvious to us.

This was made even more obvious to us when a Pembroke boat to our right began to sink and the decision was reluctantly made to abandon the thought of winning the Goolwa Wooden Boat Festival and just salvage ourselves and the boat and so we headed into shore.

Chris Heaton-Harris deserves a mention here for the tiresome work he did on the day to help get the boats to Goolwa, recover the boat from the race and then transport boats home. Not to mention finding numerous pieces of clothing in his ute which he generously handed out to those of us turning blue and shivering on shore while we waited for the trailer to collect the boat from where we had prematurely brought it into shore.

And so with the help of friends and fellow rowers we managed to get the boat back to the Hindmarsh Marina where we dried off, changed our clothes into whatever we could find and tried to warm up.

Kirsty's fingers finally went from "blue" to "pink" and the feeling gradually came back into Heather's and mine.

We then enjoyed a wonderful and very welcome egg and bacon breakfast put on by the Goolwa rowing club and heard tall tales and true of how some made it and some didn't! Of the 18 boats that began the race, 6 sunk and one apparently broke up while doing this.

Despite the events of the day, I have to say, and I'm sure all the crew that went to Goolwa with me would agree, that we all thoroughly enjoyed the day and I would recommend strongly that in 2 years time, when the Goolwa Wooden Boat Festival is held again that everyone should try to get down there to join in the fun of rowing on a very picturesque and challenging piece of water. But hopefully next time not too challenging!

Correne Sandow



P.S., "Stop Press"

How's this for an excuse - "well, we stopped and lined up the foot bridge over the Causeway at West Lakes (we knew the bridge is there), so that we would go straight through the middle. So off we went and bugger me, we hadn't rowed more than ten strokes and there was an almighty bang -

crash, and over we went, must have been a side wind, or something. At least the water was warm.”-
wonder who they are ?, any ideas Lui/Bill (wish I had a camera, Ed)"