

## Club Captain Report 2016/17

It has been another successful if not eventful year for the Club, which apart from a few bottle neck areas, seems to be going from strength to strength.

We have experienced a number of successes this year both on and off the water. With four world indoor rowing records being set by current members Izzy Ahearn and Abbie Pritchard and past member Erin-Monique O'Brien. I can't speak highly enough of the work all our members have put in to their off season fitness training. Special mention and thanks has to be made of Axel Dickenson the driving force behind the on-shore training, long may it continue.

A total of 26 athletes represented Petone Rowing Club at the New Zealand National Rowing Championships at Lake Ruataniwha this season, made up of four RPC, 10 senior and club and 12 novices rowers. Overall the PRC and PRC-composite crews made 22 A finals winning 12 medals, including 3 Gold's. With the ongoing support and camaraderie of the Wellington Clubs and their willingness to step in to help make up crew numbers due to sickness or injury. Has resulted in Wellington winning the regional overall cup this year.

In September 2016, 22 members presented PRC at the Masters National held at Karapiro. Reaching 13 A finals, gaining 2 medals. Of this a small group has gone on to represent Petone at The World Master Games held in April this year medalling in 5 events.

Special mention to all those members you got to Trial for greater honours. We applaud Izzy Ahearn (North Island Under 18), Laure Feinson (New Zealand U19), Lucy Bird and Ruby Willis (NZ Under 21 Team) Beth Ross and Phillip Wilson (NZ Under 23 Team).

There has definitely been an upsurge in new athletes, including at one stage (Capsize Drill 2016) what looked like 24 novices. This has put extra pressure on the Club's facilities and equipment resulting in a marked increase on boats repairs and maintenance (170%), again I thank the senior Masters for their help in trying to keep this under control. With ongoing training and maintenance we hope to bring this under control.

I'm still a firm believer in the need to buy New, especially with our salty environment. And with this in mind we currently have grants in for 5 new boats and 2 Ergs. If successful we will hopefully be in the position for the first time in a long while to be able to offer top quality racing boats across all classes within the club.

Going forward the Building is to undergo some major refurbishment and strengthening, the final makeup and timing of this will be communicated to the club once ongoing consultation between City Council, Engineers, Architects and not least our members is completed. But it is hoped that we will be able to keep open the Gym. Storing our racing fleet off site and positioning our training boats on one of the rivers so weekend rowing camps can take place.

Again a club is not a club without those unsung heroes operating tirelessly behind the scenes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody involved with the running of the club, the hardworking committee members, Parent help, without whose help, we couldn't attend out of town regattas. Coaches who work incredibly long hours helping our members achieve their goals. I personally would like to acknowledge Caroline Robertson our Club President and Andrew Bird our head coach and VC without whose help the club I'm sure would grind to a halt.

Finally I would like to thank all our members who have helped to make it truly a "Club of Champions"

Guy Aitchison  
Club Captain  
Petone Rowing Club May 2016/17

