

TAPPING IN - September/October 2019



THEY WON BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD

September was the last of the off season months of rowing, but nevertheless managed to keep us busy on the water with two country events that were supported by Riverside members.

The 14th of September provided members with a sweep training day at the Mannum Rowing Club with Steve Pennington kindly offering his expertise in rowing technique when rowing in a boat with only one oar.

After the rows on the river, members were keen to watch the videos taken from the tinny alongside the rowers and certainly took Steve's suggestions of how their rowing to be more effective and efficient on board (pun intended).

The weather was friendly and Wayne Chadwick once again invited those who were interested to come back to his place just across the river for a BBQ and a sing along (not that we all joined in mind you! – the singing I mean).

The following weekend, the 21st of September Renmark Rowing Club had a dinner to celebrate their Centenary with Olympian James McCrae as their Guest Speaker and a boat naming the next day. Great to see that Margaret Rose, a longstanding Riverside member, was there too.

Jo Wall describes the celebrations below:

RENMARK ROWING CLUB CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

21 September 2019

Invitations had been sent out to all rowing clubs several months prior and noted in diaries for future reference.

When the time came the *Resting Rowers Consortium* decided this was an event to be recognised, so Paul Logan, Geoff Playford and others booked accommodation (which was in high demand!) and headed to the beautiful banks of the Murray River. *And* it was a very relevant occasion to wear our Riverside Rowing Club blazers in recognition of the close friendship and rivalry between the two clubs.

The dining room of the Renmark Hotel was full to capacity, the bar was busy and cocktail tables presented pre-dinner nibbles nearby.

Geoff and I were pleased to be seated with the Riverside contingent namely Margaret Rose, Justin Ross, Peter Furze, Tim Hender (all men resplendent in club blazers!). The only other blazers noted were one at our table from Torrens Rowing Club and, of course, the Australian Blazer worn by James McCrae. The next table was compromised of a large group of our good fun loving friends from Port Adelaide Rowing Club.

James was guest speaker for the event and spoke extensively on what it was like to be part of the prestigious and outstanding rowing teams, the travelling and the support he was given by his family, and all in the rowing community.

This occasion allowed for the launch of the Renmark Rowing Club's Centenary book, toasts were proposed and the anniversary cake presented to be shared the next morning.

On Sunday morning we all gathered on the river at the Renmark shed on the lawns for a BBQ breakfast. It was then time for the boat naming ceremonies for three boats - one new and others recently obtained. Recognition was given to long time members and supporters of their club.

Bids were made to take part in crews for the row past of which Riverside and Port Adelaide were the majority of participants together with 94 year old Ted James, a Renmark stalwart!

Peter Furze kindly took two wooden boats from Riverside up to Renmark but they were unfortunately not used as Renmark wanted to show off their old boats.

It was a very pleasant weekend with good camaraderie between all clubs.



Seeing as members looked so resplendent in their blazers at the Renmark dinner, others might be tempted to join them. See below the blazers that are in stock in Adelaide:

- 1 x Size 12
- 1 x Size 14
- 2 x Size 15
- 1 x Size 18
- 1 x Size 26 (with short sleeves)

These are all for sale for \$250. I have just placed another order for a Size 26 (with longer sleeves). Hopefully, to be delivered prior to the HOY weekend.

If any members want to order a blazer at this same time, please let Janet Lawrenson know on 0427 199 522 or email her on jl7seat@gmail.com asap.

INTRODUCING A NEW RIVERSIDE CLUB MEMBER: **JOHN SEALE**



A Summary of My On the Water History

by John Seale b. 1937 Perth Western Australia.

For as long as I remember I've always 'mucked' around in rivers and later in oceans; first in old corrugated iron canoes, some with sails on bamboo spars and later in racing dinghies and yachts.

From age 10 I trained and swam competitively with the Scotch College and later became a

proficient skin diver exploring for wrecks of the Dutch East India Company and spear fishing.

During the years 1949/50 I was in the crew of a cadet dingy *Lady Dainty* representing WA in the Australian championships in Adelaide and later in Melbourne. Thereafter through 1972 I crewed in a heavy-weight sharpie *Mischief* on the Swan River and a series of WA coastal ocean racing yachts out of Fremantle. Later I was with Rolly Tasker (d) in *Siska*, *Siska 2* and *Siska 3*. We did several Sydney Hobart races, all with circumnavigation back to Fremantle.

In 1973 I crewed on *Apollo* with Alan Bond (d) in the 'Onion Patch' series out of New York and Rhode Island culminating in the 850 mile Bermuda race. We raced through a force 3 hurricane and suffered structural damage which was repaired in Bermuda, and then we raced in the Trans Atlantic race from Bermuda to Vigo in Spain.

Back at Scotch College in 1952 I rowed 4 seat in the second eight and in 1953 I stroked the first eight to second place and on leaving school in 1954 I joined University Boat Club and rowed maiden eights and fours for a few years.

My wife and I had relocated to Melbourne and by 2004 I was in an unenviable physical condition, fat - 80+ kgs - clicking knee joints and all the usual complaints. I joined Essendon Rowing Club close to home and when I attended a 'newbies' session the instructor asked if I had rowed before to which I replied in the affirmative so he promptly allocated me a single scull. I replied that I had rowed sweep but never sculling. His reply was "Never mind. Jump in" which I did and promptly wet my pants but I never capsized.

Over the years that followed I gradually regained a degree of fitness and enjoyed some coaching and participated in club regattas and all the head races throughout Victoria and the Nationals in Queensland, Sydney, Nagambie, Ballarat, West Lakes and Champion Lakes Perth. A fellow member of Essendon, Marian Camiller, and I rowed double sculls with increasing success and in 2014 we went on to win the World FISA I grade Masters.

Earlier Marion had introduced me to the name of Elaine Guterres (d), a lady from Adelaide, with whom she rowed a composite ladies eight. That was my first introduction to Riverside RC.

During a few of Banks' lay-bys I stroked the Ancient Mariners' I/J eight in the Iron Cove Classic and the Melbourne Henley. I started rowing with the Banks RC senior masters squad and in 2010 we won the I/J bracket in HOY and in 2012 we did it again.

2014 was, for me, a stellar year culminating in the World FISA championships where I rowed 6 races and we won 6 gold medals; MM H8+, MM I8+, MM I4+, MM I4-, MM J4X and MMix I2X.

Two months later I was diagnosed with cancer of the neck which was treated with chemo and massive doses of radiation and then in 2015 I rallied sufficiently to enter and compete with a Victorian composite squad in the Australian Masters Games at West Lakes where I rowed 6 races and won 6 gold medals.

By 2018 my arrhythmia became unmanageable so after 2 ablations and 3 cardioversions I elected to have a mitral valve repair and by early 2019 I was intermittently back in the Banks squad until the interruption necessitated by the relocation to Adelaide through to September 2019. I'm now working on regaining fitness and being able to compete with my new-found friends at Riverside and Port rowing clubs.

Thank you John for proving the above information.

AUSTRALIAN MASTERS' GAMES 2019

Adelaide 11 – 12 October

It was thanks to Riverside that the Games' Rowing programme actually went ahead. Due to small numbers originally registering for the Rowing, there was talk that the Rowing would be cancelled. Rowing SA felt that that just wouldn't do so they rallied around and encouraged more rowers to enter and made it happen with six SA and two interstate clubs taking part.

And what a great two days they were.....

Being the Games, *medals were handed out* and this was such a thrill for all who received them - especially the newer rowers or those who were just 'giving it a go'. Some people discovered their hidden talents in coxing and nobody was stressed or under pressure – and they still got a medal!

I was hoping to provide some of the photos taken on the day in this edition of the newsletter but am having difficulty accessing them so I have sent them to Liz Gibbs to ask her to post them on the RRC website as soon as possible. If this not able to happen soon, I will put them on our club website when I return from my Kenyan/South African working holiday on the 21st of November.

ooOOOoo

Whist on the subject of me and my role as editor of our newsletter.... I am taking this opportunity to advise members that, due to family and work commitments, I am stepping out of the role of editor of the newsletter for the forthcoming season.

This will be the last one for me and I am hoping that another member will put their hand up to send it out with club news, events that are coming up or happening and with whatever else they find relevant to impart to our members.

I do have a few likely candidates in mind and hope that one of them will agree to take it on for the future editions.

ROWING TOURS 2020

If members are interested in any of the rowing tours that are on offer in Australia in early 2020 e.g. Tasmania or NSW - or any later in the year in other parts of the world (booking for which will open in January) e.g. South Africa, Ireland or Italy to name a few, please contact me for further details *any time after the 13th November* which is when I shall have reliable internet access and phone coverage again.

TASMANIA – 22 to 30 March 2020 - 8 nights

Distances covered will be 15 – 35 km per day.

Boats will be coxed quads and doubles.

Limited to 15 rowers.

Non rowing companions are welcomed.

AND/OR

CLARENCE RIVER, N.S.W. – 02 Apr 2020 - 09 Apr 2020 - 7 nights

Distances covered will be 10 – 25 km per day.

Boats will be coxed quads and doubles.

Limited to 15 rowers.

Non rowing companions are welcomed.

\$220 savings on each tour if booked by 31st DEC '19

Inclusions for both:

Rowing boats, accommodation in character hotels and country cabins (in Tassie) and accommodation in hotels, country B&B and an ocean resort (Clarence River), most meals, transportation where necessary, sightseeing, two trip leaders and local rowing guides and more.

For those rowers wanting to arrive early or extend their holiday, further accommodation, car hire, transfers, flights etc. can also be arranged.

For details of the rowing tours and any other extended travel see below..

CONTACT DETAILS:

janet.lawrenson@ktravel.com.au or 0452 058 483

VALE

It is with great sadness that, on Tuesday the 29th of October, Bernadette Irwin's father, William 'Bill' Clohesy, at 94 years of age, slipped away from us after a relatively short illness. Bill was a caring, loving, deeply religious man, who was devoted to his family and they to him. He will be very much missed by Bernadette, and very fondly remembered by all who had met him, shared Christmas lunches with him or just sat and had a chat. He was a genuine, kind soul. Our thoughts and condolences go out to Bern at this sorrowful time.