



## NEWS AND HAPPENINGS FROM THE PETONE FORESHORE - JULY 2009

### Annual General Meeting

We scheduled two dates for this year's AGM. Regrettably neither evening produced a quorum so the meeting was unable to take place in either case. However some good healthy discussion did take place. There are several statutory requirements that the Club has to meet to remain in existence so it is essential that a formal meeting be held. The formal part of the proceedings will be brief – probably less than an hour.

In an effort to stimulate a little bit of interest in what is happening at the Club from the wider membership we have decided to hold the AGM on Sunday 9 August at 11am. This enables you to gather on a warmer part of the day, have a good look at our latest plant, catch up with our latest batch of rowers, and stop for refreshments at the Jetty Café. You could even stop for lunch or brunch. For those inclined to do so you can spend the rest of the day in relaxing mode.

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I apologise for our failure to nurture the activities of the wider Club membership over these last few years. I am undertaking to make sure that all the Club members get a proper notice of Club events by real mail for the many members who may not have text or email facilities. The information will also continue to be distributed by email and on the Club's website. [www.petonerowingclub.com](http://www.petonerowingclub.com)

Certainly the recent passing of Dennis Sellars and Dick Martin brought a significant number of the older stalwarts together and cause for those contacts to be renewed. It was agreed not to confine those get-togethers to sombre occasions.



Dennis Sellars and Bill Jonassen  
NZ Champ Pairs 1952-53 & 1953-54



Camilla Andersen Under 18  
NZ Secondary Schools Champion 2009  
Winner Stephanie Foster Cup

**Dennis Sellars** passed away on 23 June in Lower Hutt. It was evident from his funeral service how important Petone Rowing Club was in his life. Stories of his life around the Club and of his rowing feats featured strongly in the service to honour his life. A surprising aspect of his life revealed by his family was that he had suffered from chronic asthma from a young age and certainly throughout his rowing career. Dennis was National Championship Coxless Pairs Winner with Bill Jonassen in the 1952-53 and 1953-4 seasons. He has numerous other credits on the Club Honours Board.

**Dick Martin** passed away in Kawakawa on 26 June, the day of Dennis' funeral. He had a similar passion for Petone. Throughout the 1950's and 60's, Dick has numerous entries on the Honours Board and also contributed many years of significant service on Club Committees and Administration. He was an accountant by profession and contributed his expertise to the Club's benefit. In recent years he has contributed significantly to memories of his era on the Club's website.

### **New Plant**

I am pleased to advise that new Coxless Pair/Double has arrived at the Club in the last few weeks. The purchase was supported by The Pub Charity and we thank them for their continuing support. This enables one of the 1974 wooden Empacher Pair/Doubles to be retired from active service. Although still looking in nice condition –the Empachers are now costing too much in maintenance costs to continue as useful training boats. The Plant Committee is seeking funding to replace the other Empacher as soon as possible.

### **Camilla Andersen**

Camilla is stroke of the NZ Junior Women's Quadruple Sculls crew leaves for Hazewinkel in Belgium on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July to acclimatise at Rowing NZ's European training base for a few days with the rest of the NZ Junior Rowing Team. The team leaves there for Brive in France on 1 August for the World Junior Rowing Championships. These take place 5-8 August. Regular reports of the crews' progress appear on the Rowing NZ website. [www.rowingnz.org.nz](http://www.rowingnz.org.nz)

### **RPC Relationships with Grassroots Rowing**

A number of club members met with Rowing NZ High Performance Commissioner Luke van Velthoven and High Performance Manager Allan Cotter, in Wellington this week to hear of changes implemented to the criteria for selection to New Zealand representative crews. Those members interested in hearing details of these changes could discuss this matter with Greg Stothers or Viv Haar.

### **Ben Norling**

Ben and his family have moved to Cambridge so that Ben can spend more time rowing. Despite the relocation he has indicated that he still wishes to row in Petone colours. What ever the future holds we wish Ben and family all the best for the future.

### **Samsung Wellington Regional Rowing Awards**

Greg Stothers	Coach of The Year	Congratulations and thank you
Dave Pullar	Administrator of the Year	to each of you for your effort
Camilla Andersen	Most Promising Rower	and commitment

I wish to thank the small band of Trojans who continue to drive the Club and its rowers toward wider success in the sport. Also to those who have supported me during my time as Club President thank you.

See you at the Club sometime soon

Russell Baxter  
President

July 2009