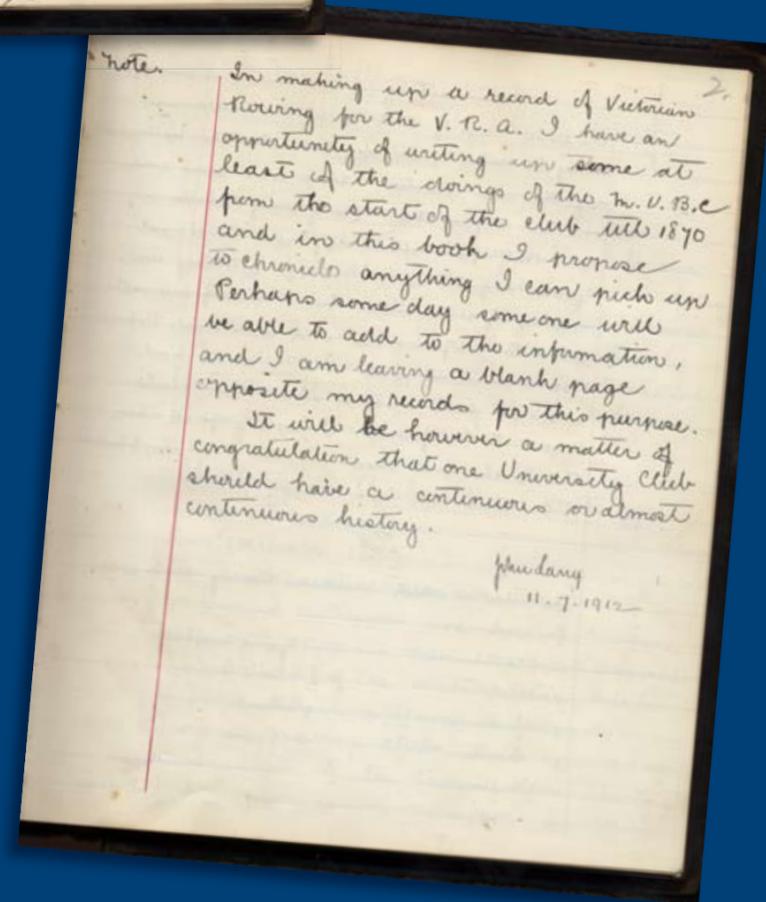


The front page and accompanying note to the reconstructed records of the Club 1859-70, completed by John Lang in July 1912



Well Rowed University

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BOAT CLUB

THE FIRST 150 YEARS

Judith Buckrich



MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BOAT CLUB INC.



CHAPTER SEVEN

One of Australia's most successful sporting clubs



1988 Australian women's lightweight four training in Italy (Barbara Gillett, coach): Brigid Cassells (bow), Leanne Whitehouse (MUBC) (2), Minnie Cade (MUBC) (3), and Justine Carroll (stroke)
Minnie Cade collection, reproduced courtesy Barbara Fenner

1980, gold

1980 was another brilliant year for the Club. Simon Gillett and Charlie Bartlett from MUBC were selected for the lightweight four, joining Clyde Hefer and Graham Gardiner from Drummoyne Rowing Club in New South Wales to represent Australia at the FISA lightweight championships in Hazewinkel, Belgium. Phil Gardiner (Graham's brother) of MUBC was emergency. The crew was selected from the two fastest lightweight pairs at the national championships. It was coached in a masterly fashion in Sydney by a former New Zealander, the revered Rusty Robinson. Although the crew had no lead-up regatta racing it won convincingly, leading from the start in a close race with a very fast time. Because of boat damage suffered in training, the four had to race in a borrowed boat. They beat the Dutch in a controversial final. Although the Australians clearly won, and were officially placed first, the crews behind had collided near the finish, so the minor medallist crews had to re-row the next day for silver and bronze. The Australian crew had to wait until the next day for the presentation of their gold medal.



TOP: Rusty Robinson (left) and Phil Gardiner (right) preparing the boat at a World Championships regatta
Pam Westendorf collection

CENTRE: The 1980 Victorian King's Cup crew celebrating their win at Ballarat. Left to right, Jim Lowe (MUBC), Bill Magennis, Andrew Withers (face obscured), Brian Richardson with the King's Cup, Stephen Sherriffs (face obscured), David England (MUBC), Tim Young, Alex Sloan and David Douglas
Photograph courtesy of The Courier, Ballarat

BOTTOM: 1980 MUBC women's intervarsity eight boating on the pond outside old Parliament House, Canberra and putting sport into politics (Michael Nicholson, coach): Lyndsay McKendrick (bow), Julie Cathcart (2), Anni Rowland (3), Xenia Boynton (4), Margie Gillespie (5), Sarah Pizzey (6), Sarah Secombe (7), Margot Foster (stroke), Kerry Willcock (cox)
Photograph courtesy of The Canberra Times

1980 Moscow Olympics

Things were not straightforward for the Club's Australian representatives heading to Moscow. After the Russian invasion of Afghanistan the Australian Government tried to prevent the team from going, following the US decision to boycott the games. The ARC withstood the pressure. John Boulton and John Coates played important roles in the decision.

Jim Lowe, David England and the four MUBC members in the women's coxed four, Anne Chirside, Verna Westwood, Sally Harding and Susie Palfreyman were already on the plane along with the rest of the Olympic team, when the pilot informed them that the government had decided to leave it up to individual members to decide whether they participated or not. At the 1981 annual meeting, Harvey Nicholson was able to report that despite the nightmare of the 1980 Olympics, Jim Lowe and David England in the Australian Olympic eight, and the women's four had reached the final in 'the Moscow basin'. The women's four were the first women to row for Australia at an Olympic Games.

Lightweight women begin to stand out

Back home at the 1980 intervarsity, the Club won the men's scull, men's pair, men's eight, men's lightweight four, women's four, women's eight and women's lightweight four—seven of nine events. Adrian Maginn was team manager and coach of the MUBC intervarsity men's eight in 1980. It was the first time that any university had won all four men's events at the same regatta. The eight had an average age of just over eighteen, which made its win a very good effort. MUBC won the Centenary Cup by a huge margin.

Perhaps not entirely coincidentally with the rise and rise of men's lightweight rowing at MUBC, the early 1980s also marks the growing success of lightweight women at



First Australian women's Olympic Games crew (1980 Moscow) at the christening of their boat *Dawn Fraser*. Left to right: Dawn Fraser, Pauline Kahl (reserve from NSW), Sally Harding (MULRC), Pam Westendorf, Susie Palfreyman (MULRC), Verna Westwood (MULRC) and Anne Chirside (MULRC)
Barbara Fenner collection

MULRC. This continued through to the mid 1990s and has been attributed to the drive and determination of coaches such as Brian Dalton and later, Barbara Gillett. Because MULRC lightweight women were beginning to form a large proportion of Victorian and Australian crews, MULRC was beginning to become the preferred Club for those who wanted to achieve selection in the state and national teams and was regarded as a very professional outfit in an amateur sport.

More activities cost more

The Club's many activities were stretching the budget. New crews represented the Club during the summer of 1980–1 including a Melbourne/Monash University composite crew which won the Jelbart Trophy for senior eights and the senior coxless four. The composite senior eight was stroked by Geoff Rees and coached by Colin Smith and David England. During training Paul Reedy, who was in the 7 seat and feeling unwell, was diagnosed as suffering from malnutrition and promptly moved to the bow seat! The lightweight crew came second in the Jelbart Trophy, but its members also competed in



smaller boats, winning the lightweight coxless fours, senior pairs, senior double sculls and senior sculls. A youth eight raced for the first time at this regatta and won both youth eight and junior eight races. Jim Peters was successful in the maiden sculls event.¹

At the 17 March 1981 committee meeting, the Treasurer was able to report that the Club was \$2302 in the black. But during the summer many riggers had gone missing and there was no money set aside to replace them. The Club could not claim insurance because evidence of theft was impossible to prove. Staying on the right side of the Sports Union was increasingly important, considering the Club's escalating numbers and activities. However, there was no denying the Club's success and it had to have state-of-the-art equipment to keep up with national and international competition. Accordingly, several new boats were added to the Club's fleet with the *Bled '79* and two women's boats. They were christened on 3 May 1981.

1981, success at home and abroad

The Club continued its successes at the national level by dominating the national championships at Queensland's Hinze Dam from 8 to 12 April 1981. The event was televised by the ABC over the last two days. Wins recorded for the Club included the men's lightweight eight, lightweight four with cox, lightweight pair, and—as composite crews with other clubs—the senior four with cox and the youth four. The King's Cup crew, coached by Colin Smith, included several MUBC members of the successful composite senior eight, including John Cumper, James Kiellerup and Jim Lowe, with Paul Reedy

ABOVE: 1980 and 1981 World Champion Australian lightweight coxless four (Rusty Robinson, coach): Graham Gardiner (bow), Charles Bartlett (2), Clyde Hefer (3), Simon Gillett (stroke)

BELOW: 1980 Australian women's lightweight four, winners at Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, St Catharines: Barbara Phelan (bow), Gwenda Bennetts (2), Barbara Griffiths (3), Lesley Cummins (stroke), Alison Davidson (cox)
Barbara Fenner collection





ABOVE: MUBC heavyweight double scull, Andrew Rigby (bow) and Andrew Cassidy (stroke) training in 1980
Andrew Cassidy collection, reproduced courtesy David Yates

BELOW: 1982 MUBC National Champion lightweight pair, Charlie Bartlett (bow) and Simon Gillett (stroke)
Courtesy Hebfotos



as emergency. It was narrowly defeated by South Australia in the final. Four of the crew went on to win the Australian coxless four championships.

Those selected to represent Australia in the forthcoming 1981 FISA World Championships in Munich were Bartlett, Gillett, Antonie, Gardiner and Spurling.² The Club's success with lightweight crews was again proved when MUBC members Bartlett and Gillett won gold again in the lightweight four at these championships.³ They won convincingly from Holland and Canada, having come through the heats and semi-finals unscathed. Again, the Australian lightweight four dominated. It was an exceptionally well-drilled crew with the same members as the previous year. It led for most of the race, and the crew went on to win its second successive gold medal by holding off the Dutch, who finished in silver position. The Australian crew was very powerful with Gillett, Hefer and Bartlett being among the world's strongest lightweights. The bow was Graham Gardiner, who was an exceptional talent, in that he only weighed around 64kg but also had great tenacity, skill and power. Phil Gardiner was joined by Peter Antonie in the lightweight double scull and Steve Spurling was the lightweight single sculler. Jacqui Marshall also rowed in the women's pair with Pam Westendorf.

The team left Australia early to compete in lead-up regattas in Europe. The lightweight

four and heavyweight coxed four combined to row in an eight at a regatta in Norway and won comfortably. At the same regatta, the lightweight four rowed in their own event and won in 6.09—the fastest time a lightweight four had ever rowed.

MUBC oarsmen had been part of every Australian lightweight crew which had won a medal since the introduction of the FISA lightweight championships in 1974. This was Simon Gillett's fourth FISA medal, and he was later appointed to the Australian Selection and Grading Committee.⁴

The matter of Student Union membership was still being discussed in November 1981 because some oarsmen had still not paid their Student Union fees, putting the Club in danger of closure. The Club was again waiting for a cheque from the Sports Union, this time for \$4000, which would not be paid till the membership matter was sorted. In January of 1982, members of the no. 2 veterans eight were disputing any obligation to pay.⁵ There was also some confusion as Monash University oarsmen, who were no longer housed at Richmond Rowing Club, wanted to join MUBC—under the rules they could not. The Club decided to form composite crews with Monash, many of which were very successful. And two Monash boats were temporarily stored at MUBC shed.⁶

The Club continued successfully in state and national competitions. At the 1982 annual meeting held on 18 June, Harvey Nicholson was able to report that the Club had again won the Centenary Oar for the most successful club in Australia, with double the points in total from the runner-up, St. George. MUBC also won the senior premiership of Victoria and MULRC won both senior and lightweight premierships.

The rise of the scullers

A win of particular significance for the Club was that by Andrew Cassidy in the 1982 President's Cup. Cassidy was coached by David Yates, whose team of talented scullers were beginning to dominate the men's sculling scene in Australia. The names emerging in 1982 in 'Team Yates' (as they came to be known) included Andrew Cassidy, Paul Reedy, Don Cooper, John McKenzie, Peter Antonie, Phil Gardiner, Simon Cook, Jim Peters, Hamish McGlashan and Jacqui Marshall.

During this period MULRC women were also well represented in national and international crews, most notably winning every lightweight four, heavyweight four and eights race in the state, interstate, national and universities championships. The women's greatest triumph up to that point on the international scene was the Australian women's lightweight four, with Barbara Phelan (3), Barbara Gillett (stroke), Alison Davidson (cox) and Brian Dalton (coach) from Melbourne University, which won the gold medal at the 1982 Royal Canadian Centenary Regatta at St Catherines.⁷

At the 1982 World Championships in Lucerne, Switzerland, MUBC was very well represented in the lightweight eight by Simon Cook, Steve Spurling, Peter Antonie, Charlie Bartlett, Simon Gillett and David Fisher (cox). The crew won the hardest of the two heats, but unfortunately could not maintain their form in the final, and came a very close fourth. Jacqui Marshall again represented Australia in the women's coxless pair.



TOP: 1982 MUBC heavyweight double scull, winners national selection test race: Andrew Cassidy (bow) and Paul Reedy (stroke)
Courtesy Hebfotos

MIDDLE: 1982 Victorian lightweight four (all MUBC members): Charlie Bartlett (bow), Simon Cook (2), Steve Spurling (3), Simon Gillett (stroke)
Courtesy Hebfotos

BOTTOM: 1982 MUBC quad scull, winners of the Australian championships: (left to right) Andrew Rigby (coach), Phil Gardiner, John (JD) McKenzie, Paul Reedy and Peter Antonie
David Yates collection



David Yates's coaching photos analysing the technique of Peter Antonie and John McKenzie
McKenzie family collection, reproduced courtesy David Yates



LEFT: 1982 Australian Sculling Champion, Andrew Cassidy, holding the President's Cup, pictured with coaches Andrew Rigby (left) and David Yates (right) after defeating Ted Hale
Courtesy Hebphotos



ABOVE: 1982 Australian Champion Lightweight Double Scull: Phil Gardiner (left) and Peter Antonie
David Yates collection

BELOW: 1981 and 1982 Australian women's pair Jacqui Marshall (MULRC) and Pam Westendorf
Pam Westendorf collection

A new Japan venture

Secret negotiations regarding another international event were underway throughout 1982. They were finally made public in November regarding a joint invitation to Melbourne and Sydney Universities from two of the strongest rowing universities in Japan, Waseda and Keio, for a challenge race in Tokyo on 17 April 1983.

The race was to be held over 4000 metres on the Sumida River in the heart of Tokyo as part of the annual regatta between Waseda and Keio. These universities had first raced each other in 1905. The invitation was considered very prestigious as Oxford and Cambridge Universities had raced in the regatta in 1981. The crews and their boats were to be flown to Japan.

The Australia Japan Foundation was to meet the cost of flying both crews to Tokyo return. The crews were to be accommodated at the Mitsubishi Lodge at the Toda Olympic



1983 MUBC Japan team: left to right, Bill Magennis (coach), an unidentified representative of the Australia Japan Foundation, the Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Professor RD ('Pansy') Wright, Harvey Nicholson (manager), Jim Kiellerup, Niall McConchie, Mark Gishen, Mark Howden, John Negri, Peter Howe, Craig Stevenson, Cam Murrell, Mike Keeley and David Merrylees
Courtesy Norman Wodetzki

Course, just near the Tokyo Marine Boatshed, where the MUBC team was accommodated in 1969. The living expenses were to be borne by Waseda and Keio Universities. The object of the invitation was to advance friendship and understanding between the countries. During the second week the Australians would stay in the homes of Japanese students. Bill Magennis was the coach and Harvey Nicholson was the team manager.⁸

The crews rowed their boats down to the Sumida on the Saturday for the regatta the next day, the distance being about 16,000 metres. The course is situated in Tokyo and the river is about 150 metres wide with vertical concrete walls on both sides.

...

The officials' and T.V. launches and several large spectators' boats which follow the main races create large washes which are slow to subside. The racing boats carry high protective "snow plough" like fixtures in front of the bowman's back and splash boards out to the rigger swivels. However the Melbourne crew was well prepared as Harvey had had special splash canvasses tailor-made before leaving for Japan and all swivels were wired down. As the crew launched the *William Stokes II* and prepared to push off nine plastic bailers were distributed to the crew by Harvey as a final precaution ...

...

Melbourne ... completed the race in 13 minutes 39.72 seconds, defeating Sydney by the large margin of 15.68 seconds.⁹

Internal changes at the Club

Back at home, the Club had another successful year winning the Centenary Oar again, for being the most successful club at the national regatta, and the Centenary Cup, for being the most successful university at intervarsity.¹⁰

1983 was quite a thin international representative year. However, Peter Antonie and Steve Spurling secured silver medals in the Australian lightweight eight at the 1983 Duisberg World Championships.

Despite efforts to recruit young members as they entered university, MUBC was beginning to develop a reputation as an elite club. At an April 1984 meeting a special discussion took place on 'The Future of MUBC'. The Club's new President, Rob Stewart, circulated an agenda for the discussion with the following points:

MUBC currently had five members in the Australian Team, but no Junior or Maiden crews. This situation makes MUBC look like an elite club. The Sports Union are very concerned that MUBC is not performing its role in helping those who want to row, especially interested beginners. To help overcome this, various things can be done:-

- present undergraduate members need to be encouraged into helping run the club (communication may be a problem)
- a recruiting and marketing programme backed up by organised training (O Week posters etc. members going to their old schools)
- boats and coaches for beginner and maiden crews
- selection committee established rather than the present 'ad hoc' system

- publicise meetings, invite anyone who is interested
- list of committee members and minutes to be put on noticeboard
- the committee should be more visible doing its task, enforcing rules.¹¹

Further talk resulted in questions about the structure of the committee which they decided was not working. The college delegates—still two each from Ormond, Queen's, Newman and Trinity (other colleges did not participate in the structure)—hardly ever attended meetings.

The committee decided to put a motion to decrease college representation to one per college and cancel the position of extra-collegiate representative altogether. Six new general representative positions were to be created, five of whom had to be undergraduates. Rob Stewart was to arrange a meeting with the undergraduate members to discuss the Club's problems and aims.

A potential coaches' list had to be established and a VRA coach accreditation course was to be run. Professional coaches were here to stay and funds had to be found for them.

The old problem of students not wanting to pay a subscription (on top of Sports Union fees) was also examined, with Rob Stewart presenting a separate paper on the issue. He thought the structure could be improved by making life membership and non-rowing membership more attractive and increasing active rower's fees. A new structure was recommended and tabled to be put to the annual meeting.

The committee agreed to include a note with subscription invoices to the effect that the amount included all regatta entry fees, which could amount to between \$20 and \$100. MUBC would try and collect the MUSU fee from graduate members, and schoolboy membership would be just \$15.¹² Most of these motions were carried at the 1984 annual meeting. There is little doubt that the Club was changing and its success was the reason.

However, the Club's success drew attention to its archaic committee structure and inaccessibility. The Sports Union's concern was that the Club had become so elitist that it was not performing a 'role in helping those who want to row—especially interested beginners.'¹³ This was not really a new problem for the Club, which had never been an inviting place for anyone who was not already an experienced rower, despite the best efforts of several men, most recently Harvey Nicholson, to encourage extra collegiate and non-elite students to join.

Structural change in Australian rowing

Changes at MUBC did not happen in a vacuum: they were part of the move to professionalism for all sports in Australia that culminated in the 1981 establishment of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). The AIS was set up after the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games at which Australia failed to win a gold medal. The aim of the AIS was to provide athletes with excellent coaching and intensive training in an on-site residential environment, as well as good education opportunities. It offered world-class facilities and equipment, as well as sports science and sports medicine support, and the financial assistance to enable travel to local and international events.



1983 Dimboola regatta winning women's four (left to right): Sarah Liversidge, Sally Haisman, Olivia Gobbo, Edwina Kinnear
McKenzie family collection

George Harvey Nicholson

(always known as Harvey)

1917–1997

COACH, MENTOR, DRIVING FORCE OF THE CLUB

Born in 1917, Harvey was an all-round athlete whose sports at school were athletics, skiing, rowing and later, rugby. He was Captain of Scotch College, and both Captain of athletics and Stroke of the first eight in 1936. He studied Law at the University, was awarded Blues in athletics and skiing, and resided at Ormond College, where he coxed just before the War. Following a serious knee injury suffered while playing rugby at University, and complications arising from the operation, Harvey's athletic career came to an end. He began coaching crews for Ormond and then for MUBC.

During the Second World War he was a Captain in the army's history unit witnessing, among other events, the signing of the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay.

Harvey became a MUBC committee member in 1948 and in 1949 he was a coach and selector at the Club. From the start, he championed extra collegiate crews and wanted the Club to be open to anyone who wanted to row.

From 1949 until the 1980s, he was probably the most influential member of the Club. He was first elected President in 1952 and was re-elected four times, totalling twenty-two years—the longest period being 1972 to 1983. His coaching technique emphasised the accumulation of miles on the water and his crews were always superbly fit. He pioneered the filming of oarsmen from a speedboat kept at a constant pace alongside the racing shell. He then showed the footage (with the 8mm film strips spliced to make continuous 'loops') to enable each rower to study their technique. He initiated the visits to Japan that were the Club's first formal international forays. He established the Club newsletter *Mubc* which he largely produced for most of the period from 1961 to the 1980s. For some years, he was one of the few people in Australia to be accredited as an official with FISA for World Rowing Championship regattas.

Harvey was regarded as a benevolent dictator in the administration of the Club. Not everyone liked his style of coaching. While some members felt it lacked focus on technique, and regarded him as a better trainer than a coach, others felt the results his crews achieved demonstrated his effectiveness as a coach. Everyone however acknowledged his dedicated and unstinting contribution to the Club; his unceasing efforts to maintain contact with past Club members; his extremely effective fundraising efforts in support of the Club and the Club's international oarsmen; and the fact that, above all, he had a lifelong love for, and was a great student of the sport of rowing. His two sons Peter and Michael were both brought up with a similar love of rowing and they were important influences within the Club in their own right.

Harvey devoted himself to the Club in a way that compared with no other member, except perhaps for John Lang.



Harvey Nicholson
Nicholson family collection



TOP: 1983 MUBC senior eight: Phil Gardiner (bow), Charlie Bartlett (2), Andrew Rigby (3), Hamish McGlashan (4), Andrew Cassidy (5), John McKenzie (6), Paul Reedy (7), Peter Antonie (stroke) and Robert England (cox) *David Yates collection*

BOTTOM: 1983 winning MUBC women's intervarsity eight preparing to race at the first intervarsity held at Middle Harbour in Sydney (Michael Nicholson, coach): Christine Burren (bow), Liz Mickan (2), Danielle Galvin (3), Terry Smith (4), Lucy Carruthers (5), Caroline Kay (6), Vanessa Mathews (7), Lyndsay McKendrick (stroke) and Siobhan Ryan (cox) *Michael Nicholson collection*

The worldwide trend towards professionalism began after 1972 when the word 'amateur' and amateur requirements were dropped from the Olympic Charter subsequent to the retirement of long-time and often controversial International Olympic Committee President, Avery Brundage.

Until the establishment of the AIS, organised sport in Australia was maintained and funded locally. There had been few formal arrangements for government funding since the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. Until the 1980s most people in Australia regarded sport in amateur terms, and if they thought about competition internationally, there was nothing to suggest that Australians could not compete against the best in the world; after all, the halcyon days of success on the tennis court and athletics track and in the pool were not that long ago. The notion of amateurism remained pervasive and people were expected to succeed using their own resources and abilities and this had always been the case. Australian athletes who had to work and were only able to be part-time sportsmen and women became increasingly frustrated at the huge gap between many countries that were willing to finance long-term training. The situation, in rowing at least, was exacerbated by the attitude of key individuals who were perceived by some as holding the view that the pinnacle of rowing success for oarsmen was at club level.¹⁴

Although rowing was not one of the original AIS sports (they were athletics, basketball, gymnastics, netball, soccer, swimming, tennis and weightlifting) it was introduced in 1985. The rowing programme aimed to develop elite oarsmen and women who would be competitive internationally and offered centralised crew-based training in Canberra on the icy waters of Lake Burley Griffin.

The establishment of the AIS had been preceded by a general change in attitudes to sport and recreation because of the trend to reduced working hours and a broadening of the range of leisure activities. A 1974 conference organised by Federal Department of Tourism and Recreation came to the conclusion that physical activity was one of the desirable uses of spare time.¹⁵ The Confederation of Australian Sport (CAS) was established as a result in 1976, the charter of which was to lobby the government for more funds for sport and recreation. For the first time, an equation was made between physical exercise and fitness and health. Melbourne University too began a programme of encouraging students and staff to participate in sport and recreation. The appointment of Cheryl McKinna as Director of Sport and Physical Recreation saw the integration of recreational users into the structure of university sport.

The Club benefited from the changes in attitude to sport and became more and more a training ground for national and international champions, in a manner similar to that which had been informally achieved by the Club's lightweight men's squad. It provided the University with the prestige that national and international sporting success brings, and on which it had been able to rely in the 1950s and 1960s, with the likes of John Landy, Merv Lincoln and Ralph Doubell among others.

1984

The 1984 intervarsity regatta displayed MUBC's continuing strength, with the Club winning six of the nine championships at Lake Barrington in Tasmania. MUBC won the Centenary Cup for the seventh consecutive year. The Club came second in the women's

coxless pair (Challenge Cup), and in the men's single scull (WD & HO Wills Trophy) and coxless pair (Carlton and United Goblets). It came first in the men's lightweight coxed fours (Sir Fred J Schonell Cup), women's coxed four (Lady Margaret Cup), women's lightweight coxed fours, women's single scull (Kath Suhr Sculling Trophy), women's eights and men's eights (Oxford and Cambridge Cup). It was a sign of the times in those days that the intervarsity sculling trophy was actually named after a maker of cigarettes!

The event was boosted by the return visit to Australia of the Universities of Waseda and Keio. On Tuesday and Wednesday four sprint races were held over 1000 metres for the Japanese crews and any other crews wanting to participate, without the Japanese crews meeting each other. Melbourne rowed in three of these races beating Waseda, Keio and Sydney. In the exhibition challenge race Waseda won from Keio by 1.38secs. The Melbourne women's eight invited Keio to dinner on the Tuesday night and many other receptions were held in Tasmania. The official dinner was attended by 250 people, with Keio and Waseda giving their war cry and song. The Club also hosted Keio for four days in Melbourne while Waseda went to Sydney. A barbeque was held at the MUBC boatshed and trips were also taken to Sovereign Hill and Lake Wendouree, where a Keio eight had represented Japan in the 1956 Olympics. There were also visits to Melbourne's then hottest nightclub 'Underground' and the Healesville Sanctuary.¹⁶

A chapter that had begun with the Club visiting Japan in 1969 continued in 1984 with this return visit. The Club had indeed moved into the world and henceforth, it would remain there.

At the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, MUBC member, Paul Reedy, won a silver medal in the quadruple scull, with crew members Garry Gullock, Tim McLaren and Tony Lovrich in the stroke seat. They were only just overtaken on the line and beaten by 43 one-hundredths of a second by West Germany, who were the reigning world champions. This crew was coached magnificently by Rusty Robinson, while Paul Reedy was another member of 'Team Yates'.

The women's coxed four which won a bronze medal at these Olympics (and in so doing became Australia's first women Olympic rowing medallists) included two MULRC members, Margot Foster and Sue Chapman-Popa, with Club member Jacqui Marshall crew emergency, who raced in the single scull. They were beaten by Romania and Canada, but defeated the USA, Holland and France. Margot recalls the race:

Our race was the first for the day in perfect conditions. We had survived the heat and repechage and looked forward to our third and last 1,000 metres race for the Games. The race, over in slightly more than 3 minutes, passed in a blur. Sue Lee our cox told us at the 500 metre mark we were coming third. Then we crossed the line hoping we had come into a medal. Our hopes were dashed by some officials in a speedboat who told us we'd come fourth. After uttering some expletives we were then informed we'd come third. So much for de Coubertin's "it's not the winning but the taking part". The medal made it all worthwhile.¹⁷

The Olympics were once again affected by boycotts, this time from several Soviet Bloc countries, in retaliation for the 1980 boycott by the USA. Margot and Sue remain as the only two MULRC/MUBC women to have won an Olympic medal.



1984 MUBC/Fremantle quad scull: Simon Cook (bow), Tony Loverich (2) (Fremantle), Paul Reedy (3), John McKenzie (stroke) McKenzie family collection



MUBC members were also selected for the 1984 FISA lightweight championships in Montreal, where four MUBC oarsmen were selected for the men's lightweight eight. They were Phil Gardiner (bow), Charlie Bartlett (4), Peter Antonie (5) and Steve Spurling (stroke). Unfortunately a number of the crew became ill and it finished fourth in the petite final.

With his selection in the Australian team in 1984, Peter Antonie had participated in six FISA lightweight championships. The number had only been previously equalled by Simon Gillett. Antonie had won the lightweight four silver medal in Amsterdam, Netherlands in 1977; the lightweight four bronze medal in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1978; had come sixth in the lightweight eight event in Bled, Yugoslavia (now Slovenia) in 1979; fifth in the petite final of the lightweight double scull in Munich, Germany in 1981; fourth in the lightweight eight in Lucerne in 1982; and won the lightweight eight silver medal in Duisberg, Germany in 1983. Immediately after the 1984 FISA championships, Antonie was back rowing, rather than sculling, and won test races with Charlie Bartlett in the lightweight pair for selection in the Australian team for Montreal, Canada.¹⁸

The women were successful in 1984, with the first lightweight eight ever being sent from Australia to the invitation women's event at the FISA lightweight championships, winning silver a length behind the USA. The crew included Gayle Toogood in the 7 seat, with Megan Robertson as cox and Angela Turrell as emergency. They were coached by MULRC's lightweight women's coach, Brian Dalton. These were the first 2000 metre

1984 presentation ceremony at the Los Angeles Olympics for the women's coxed four bronze medallists: from left to right, Robyn Grey-Gardiner, Karen Brancourt, Susan Chapman (MULRC), Margot Foster (MULRC) and Susan Lee Margot Foster collection



1984 Los Angeles Olympics women's coxed four bronze medallists, Bill Dankbaar, coach: Jacqui Marshall (MULRC) substituting for Robyn Grey-Gardiner (bow), Karen Brancourt (2), Susan Chapman (MULRC) (3) and Margot Foster (MULRC) (stroke) with Susan Lee (cox) Courtesy Hebphotos

races for women; prior to this, they had been raced over 1000 metres. From this time, all national and international women's events would be rowed over this distance.¹⁹

It was a good time for MUBC crews locally too, and the President's 1984 report for the 125th anniversary of the Club celebrated many victories. Steve Spurling, Peter Antonie, Charlie Bartlett and Phil Gardiner, coached by David England, were the members of the Victorian crew that won the Penrith Cup; Paul Reedy ended the season successfully by winning the President's Cup. The Club won the Centenary Oar for the most successful club in Australia at the national championships for the fourth year running.²⁰

The 1984 King's Cup Regatta was a happy occasion for the Club. University crew members were among the Victorian women's lightweight coxless four including Jim Gobbo's daughter Flavia, Gayle Toogood, Angela Turrell and Megan Robertson (cox). The coach, Brian Dalton, was also from MULRC. Another victorious crew was the women's interstate coxed four for the ULVA Trophy consisting of Margot Foster, Sue Chapman, Jacqui Marshall, Pam Westendorf (Dimboola) (stroke) and Sue Lee (cox).

The 1985 sculler's eight and Team Yates

One of the finest achievements of David Yates's sculler's squad was ironically in a sweep-oared event: the 1985 Victorian men's heavyweight eight state championship race. Despite the fact that the sculler's eight was basically a scratch crew, comprised of a number of lightweights, they won the race, defeating a strong Mercantile crew. In an interesting sequel, however, none of these scullers were selected in the Victorian King's Cup squad announced after the championship race. When the scullers queried one of the selectors on this decision, they were told: 'Oh you guys just don't take it seriously'.

David Yates, modestly, does not claim all the credit for the success enjoyed by his sculling charges and notes that during the period 1979 to 1988, everyone in the squad helped coach and organise the Club's sculling squad. Rob Stewart, Andrew Rigby, Brian Richardson and Stuart Wilson were involved for parts of it, and everyone helped analyse each other's technique and rigs, and brought ideas back to share after rowing in the national team under Rusty Robinson. Nevertheless David got the ball rolling and maintained the momentum right up until he retired from coaching in 1989 and became an Australian national selector. The following is a brief summary of some of the most notable victories and successes of that period:

President's Cups (Cassidy 1982, Reedy 1984 and Antonie 1991); The Wills Trophy for intervarsity men's sculls (Rigby 1979, Cassidy 1980 and McGlashan 1985); The Kath Suhr Trophy for intervarsity women's sculls (Marshall 1983 and 1984); More than 20 national titles (for Team Yates alone, excluding other MUBC victories) from 1979 to 1988; the World Lightweight Single Sculling Championship and the Commonwealth Games Lightweight Single Sculling Championship (Antonie 1986); Hamish McGlashan's magnificent 1988 international year, winning the famous Diamond Sculls at Royal Henley, the almost as famous Holland-Beker (the Dutch National single sculling championship) and finished a close fourth in the Olympics at Seoul. Spurling, Reedy, Antonie, Gardiner and McGlashan became frequent members of Australian



1984 Blues Dinner: (left to right) Bob Fels, President, Melbourne University Sports Union, Flavia Gobbo and Jim Gobbo. At this dinner it was announced that Jim and Flavia were the first father and daughter to be awarded Blues in rowing
Courtesy Norman Wodetzki



LEFT: 1985 MUBC/Corio Bay/Wendouree-Ballarat scullers eight winning the Victorian State Championships (David Yates and Stuart Wilson, coaches): Sandy Marshall (bow), Phil Gardiner (2), Simon Cook (3), Gary Gullock (Wendouree-Ballarat) (4), Andrew Cassidy (Corio Bay) (5), John McKenzie (6), Paul Reedy (7), Peter Antonie (stroke), David Fisher (cox)
McKenzie family collection

BELOW: Presentation to the winning crew: (left to right) David Yates, coach, Paul Reedy, John McKenzie, Andrew Cassidy, Peter Antonie, David Fisher, Phil Gardiner, Sandy Marshall, Simon Cook and Gary Gullock
Courtesy Hebfotos



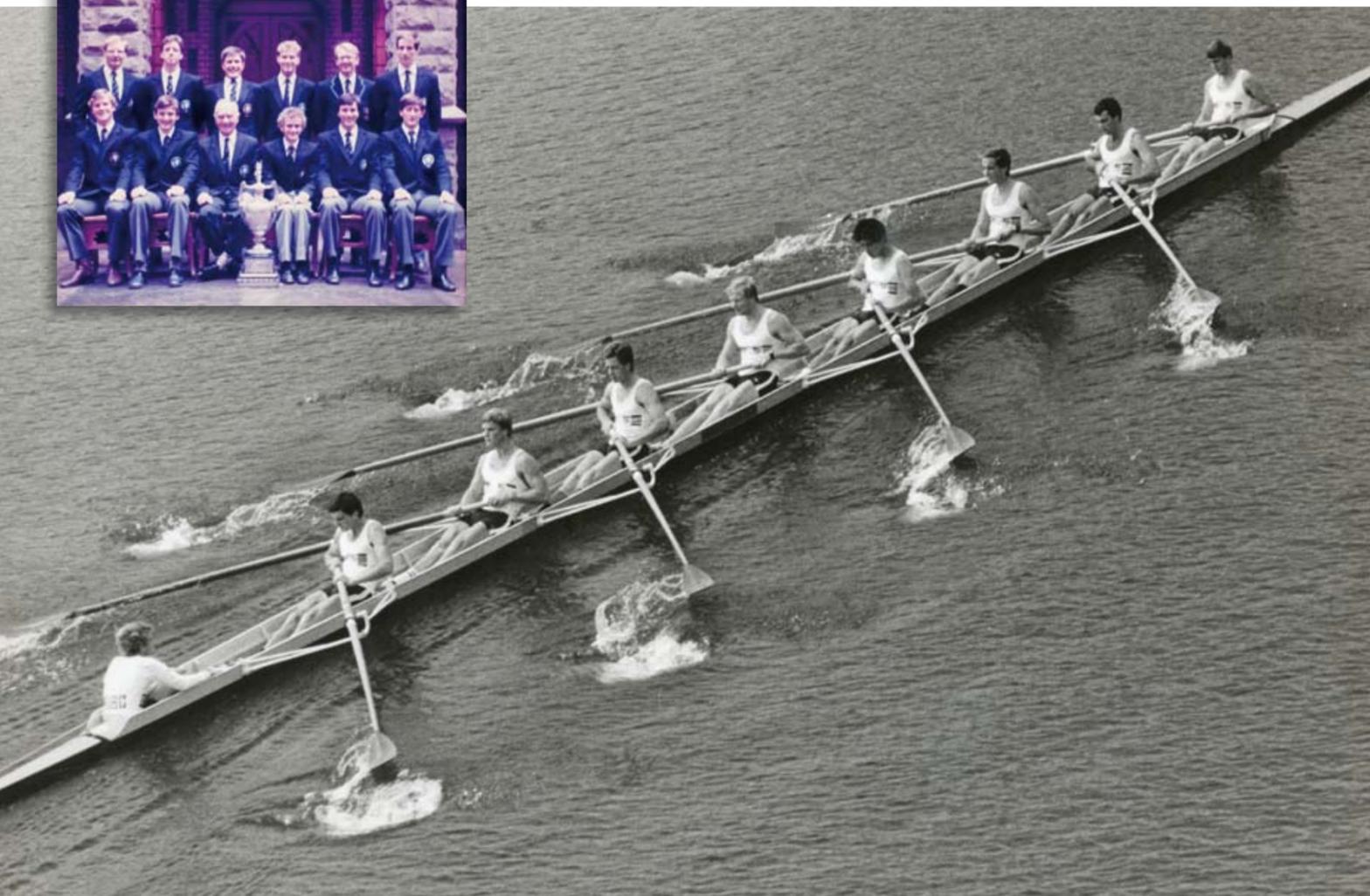
national teams with Reedy winning an Olympic silver medal in the 1984 quad scull, and Antonie an Olympic gold medal in the 1992 double scull. Antonie and Reedy also won a bronze medal at the world championships in 1990 at Lake Barrington, rowing in the double scull together.²¹

1985 intervarsity and Japan again

INSET BELOW: 1985 MUBC eight, winners of the Oxford & Cambridge Cup, the Universities' Challenge Race, Tokyo and other important regatta events in 1985: (standing left to right) Robert Leach (5), Scott Nelson (6), Brad Fenner (coach), Will Alstergren (Reserve), Richard Hall (4), James Carnegie (3), (seated) Tom Griffith (7), Richard McMahon (stroke), Field Rickards Snr (manager), David Fisher (cox) Cameron Murrell (2) Andrew Peele (bow). The Oxford and Cambridge Cup win was Richard Hall's remarkable fifth intervarsity win, a Club record. Richard is the son of John Hall who rowed intervarsity in 1952 and 1953

BELOW: The 1985 MUBC eight rowing in Tokyo with the captain of the Keio University Boat Club replacing Richard Hall in the 4 seat for a publicity row
Brad Fenner collection

1985 saw a continuation in this vein with MUBC and MULRC (still separate entities) winning seven of nine intervarsity events: women's lightweight four with coxswain, men's single scull (Hamish McGlashan), women's eight (which included Jim Gobbo's second daughter Olivia), men's coxless pair, women's heavyweight coxed four and the men's eight, where they beat a strong Monash crew that was stroked by 1984 Olympic bronze medallist, Sam Patten. Stroke for the Melbourne crew was Richard McMahon, James Carnegie, son of former MUBC oarsman, Rod Carnegie, was in the 3 seat and the coach was Brad Fenner. Also in the crew was Richard Hall, who achieved considerable fame by winning his record fifth Oxford and Cambridge Cup, a feat unequalled in intervarsity history. The regatta was held on Lake Wendouree with Monash University hosting. For the first time the women's races were also held over 2000 metres.²² New boats were acquired by both the men's and women's crews. MUBC christened its new men's pair the *Hazewinkel '80* to commemorate the outstanding lightweight coxless four at the 1980



World Championships, which included MUBC oarsmen, Simon Gillett, and Charlie Bartlett. The women's boat was called *Jacqui Marshall* after the President of MULRC.²³

In 1985 the Japanese universities of Waseda and Keio again invited Melbourne and Sydney University Boat Clubs to Tokyo; this time with the added bounty of two racing eights built in Japan for their sole use. The boats were to be permanently stored at Mita, the rowing lodge at Toda, overlooking the Tokyo Olympic rowing course that was used solely by Melbourne and Sydney universities when they visited for the race. Places for the Japan invitation were keenly contested and the coach, Brad Fenner, had selected his crew by early February for the April event. The race was over 4000 metres. The visit was a triumph for the intervarsity eight, who won the race by one and a half lengths. Field Rickards Snr was team manager.²⁴

At the 1985 World Championships, MUBC member Paul Reedy rowed in the bow seat of the Australian quad.

The year saw the retirement of several members of MULRC. They included Pam Westendorf (who had retained her membership of the Dimboola Rowing Club while racing in many top Melbourne University crews), her partner at two World Championships, Jacqui Marshall, and Angela Turrell.

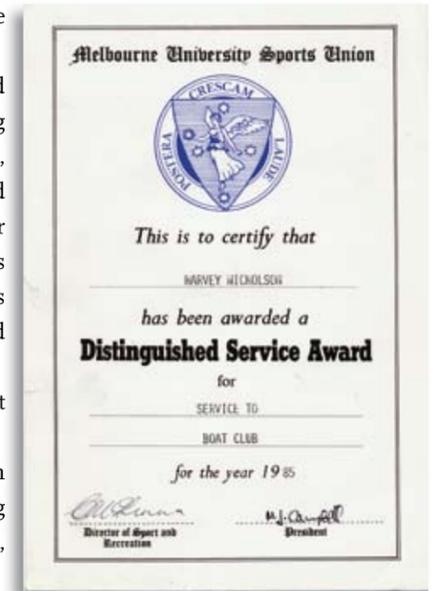
At the December 1985 state championships, the women's lightweight coxed four lost the race for the first time. They were outpaced by Banks who had trained throughout the winter.²⁵

More international success, 1986

Seven of ten MUBC members of the 1986 Australian rowing team were women. The sixty-two team members were the largest contingent ever to leave Australia and more than a third were from Victoria. They would take part in the Lucerne International Regatta in mid-July, the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games in late July and August and the World Rowing Championships at Nottingham in August. The women's eight and pair trained at the AIS in Canberra while other Melbourne University members trained in Melbourne.

The Club had great success with gold medals for lightweight sculler Peter Antonie, coached by David Yates, at both the Commonwealth Games and World Championships. The women's eight won gold at the Commonwealth Games including Margot Foster (stroke) and Sue Chapman-Popa. Sue Chapman-Popa also won silver in the coxed four. Gayle Toogood was stroke of the silver-medal-winning lightweight four. Paul Reedy won silver in the double scull and Simon Cook won silver in the lightweight four.

Antonie's win in the lightweight single scull at the 1986 World Championships was particularly memorable as one of the epic races in his illustrious career, if not in international rowing. His main rival in the final, the experienced Dane, Bjarne Eltang, was one of the few men to have won the title twice and he was going for a third win. From the start Antonie cleared out to lead by two lengths going through the 1000 metres. He still had clear water at the 1500 metre mark, but Eltang was starting to wind, and was mowing him down. With 250 metres to go Antonie held Eltang's assault for a while, but with less than 100 metres left and without the ability to row full strokes any longer, Antonie found something extra and sprinted at well over 40. The judges called for a photo finish before declaring Antonie the outright winner, and world champion, by the



Distinguished Service Awards were awarded by the University to Harvey Nicholson in 1985 and Field Rickards in 1986
Nicholson family collection

1986 Australian Champion Quad Scull (David Yates and Stuart Wilson, coaches): (left to right) David Yates, Peter Antonie (MUBC), Andrew Cassidy (Corio Bay), Gary Gullock (Wendouree-Ballararat) and John McKenzie (MUBC)
Courtesy John Hall



Brian Dalton

Brian Dalton began rowing in 1964 at the South Melbourne Rowing Club where he remained until moving to Melbourne Rowing Club in 1973. He coached at Albert Park Rowing Club and South Melbourne and first coached women at the YWCA Rowing Club in 1978. The YWCA crew won the state titles and he was appointed state coach to women in 1980 when Barbara Griffiths and Gwenda Bennetts of MULRC were part of the crew. From 1980 to 1986 he was MULRC women's lightweight coach. He briefly stopped coaching in 1986 after the Commonwealth Games. From 1990–1993 he coached lightweight women and from 1995–1997 was AIS coach for the women's eight which went to the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. In 1990 he coached the silver-medal-winning women's lightweight four at the Lake Barrington World Championships in Tasmania. He continued to coach the lightweight fours for world championships in Vienna (1992) and Czechoslovakia (1993).

Barbara Griffiths

Barbara Griffiths (later Gillett and then Fenner) first rowed for Melbourne University Ladies Rowing Club in 1978. She was Captain and Secretary of MULRC from 1979 to 1986 and was awarded a Distinguished Service Award by the Sports Union in 1989. She was a member of the Victorian rowing team from 1978 to 1982 and the national rowing team in 1978 and 1980. In 1982 Barbara was a member of the gold-medal-winning lightweight coxed four at the 1982 Canadian Henley. She went on to coach for the Victorian state team (1987–1989) and the South Australian team (1994–1996). Barbara became the National Director of Coach Education for both rowing (1997–2002) and equestrian (2002–2004).

incredibly narrow margin of two one-hundredths of a second.

Politics now seemed to dog international sporting events. The Commonwealth Games had managed for twenty years to successfully avert boycotts and protests because of apartheid in South Africa, but the XIII Games, the second to be staged in Edinburgh, were to become known as 'the Boycott Games'. Thirty-two Commonwealth nations decided they could not attend because of their opposition to apartheid in sport. Twenty-six nations did attend and sent a total of 1662 athletes and 461 officials.²⁶ This however had a minimal effect on rowing entries as the boycotting nations were from Africa and South America.

Local problems caused by international success

International success had its negative and positive consequences and in June 1986 the Club President, Rob Stewart, expressed his concern that the 'advent of the National Selection Policy based on results in pair-oared racing in 3 selection trials led to the demise of club rowing.'²⁷ Experienced oarsmen were rowing less and less with inexperienced oarsmen. Young rowers aimed at state youth eight selection and hoped for a place in Australian under 23 crews: 'If a schoolboy oarsman doesn't make the State Youth Eight then he tends to drift away from the sport. The base in the sport is simply not being built.'²⁸ The intervarsity and college competitions were divorced from the rest of the rowing season as focus built on international representation. Stewart was also concerned that the Club administration was too dependent on too few.²⁹

There is no doubt that from the time the new national and international selection process was in place, the once vibrant tradition of rowing at club regattas rapidly diminished in importance and popularity. MUBC also changed, with the focus increasingly on elite rowing. Although college and intervarsity rowing continued, and veteran's rowing was slowly becoming more popular, club rowing at local regattas at a non-elite level was fading from the scene. This meant that it was becoming more and more difficult to encourage a broad base of interest and participation in the Club, and the sport generally.

As Minnie Cade explains:

From when I started at the club at the end of 1985, IV rowing was already regarded as just a stepping stone to national and international success and not something to strive for in itself. Among the new members who began in 1986 that I knew who attended university, blues were not regarded with high esteem. There were still those who rowed college, IV and club but the majority were aiming for national selection. Barbara Gillett and Brian Dalton were instrumental at this time, from the end of 1985–1989, in further cementing the success of lightweight women at the club. The Victorian and Australian crews in these years always had a number of MULRC members as a result. The training program was now far more structured and onerous. The athletes that wanted to "make it" now had to invest far more time than in the past completing up to 13 sessions a week. Rowing at the club had a more professional focus and those going for state and national selection began to commandeer the use of the fleet and resources at the expense of club rowing.³⁰



TOP: 1986 World Champion Lightweight Single Scull, Peter Antonie

BOTTOM: 1986 MUBC Australian Champion Lightweight Double Scull: John McKenzie (bow) and Peter Antonie (stroke) Courtesy Hebfotos

Maintaining the fleet

The Club's reputation was such that there was now enormous pressure for it to maintain the best possible fleet, an increasingly difficult task considering the price of boats and the constant need to be up-to-date with new boat technologies. With this in mind, it was imperative that members pay their dues and a \$30 'regatta entry deposit' to be set against regatta entry fees during the season. The committee had to 'look at every avenue to raise money for the Club if it is to maintain the racing fleet at a competitive level.' The Club spent in excess of \$2000 a year on entry fees for the men alone—women ran their own entries separately until amalgamation with the men's club. The Club was buying boats at an average of two a year. They were often christened on the occasion of the farewell to the intervarsity crew as they left for the annual regatta.

In 1987 three new boats were launched including a women's coxless pair, humorously called *S&M*, donated by Sue Chapman-Popa and Margot Foster, which is how they described their successful experience of rowing together! A double scull was called *Sunbeam* after the Sunbeam Sultana company that donated most of the money for its acquisition, and a heavyweight men's four was called *Rob Stewart* after the then president of MUBC. Stewart had rowed with the University from 1967. He was Captain of Boats in 1968–9 and Club Secretary in 1971. In 1972 he won at the nationals in the lightweight eight. He left Melbourne for Harvard in 1974 but returned to Melbourne and MUBC in 1976. He rowed in the successful lightweight eight at the nationals in 1978 and was subsequently selected as an emergency for the 1978 lightweight team at Copenhagen. In 1979 Stewart rowed in the no. 3 Victorian Penrith Cup crew and he was coach of both the MUBC lightweights and the Victorian Penrith Cup crews from 1980 to 1982. Rob took up the Club presidency in 1984 and remained President till 1991.

1986–7

The Club's efforts to increase the depth of membership paid off and the Club's Captain, Stephen Charles, was able to report that there were an increased number of rowers for the 1986–7 season. Plenty went on during the season including a third (fourth including the 1969 visit) invitation from Japan for Melbourne and Sydney universities to participate in the Keio v Waseda universities regatta. The Australia Japan Foundation provided financial assistance again, though to a lesser degree, but participants were able to travel Japan Airlines on greatly reduced airfares. As always the trip was a great success, though Sydney beat Melbourne for the first time.

The women's lightweight four was very successful in the 1986–7 season, winning nearly every selection regatta and the national championships. This crew coached by Barbara Gillett comprised Gayle Toogood (stroke), Minnie Cade (3), Pam Westendorf (2) and Leeanne Whitehouse (bow). They also won the Victoria Cup at the interstate regatta. After having retired in 1984, 1980 Olympian Pam Westendorf resumed rowing, this time as a lightweight and MUBC member. This was no mean feat as her heavyweight racing weight had been some 70kg and she was able to lose 12kg and still race.

Seven university men's and women's eights started in the 27th Head of the Yarra in March 1987. The veterans no. 3 crew did especially well at the 5½ mile trial, starting



1986–87 MUBC and Victorian women's lightweight four: Leeanne Whitehouse (bow), Pam Westendorf (2), Minnie Cade (3), Gayle Toogood (stroke)
Leeanne Ambrose collection



LEFT: 1987 Australian lightweight four training in Switzerland (Barbara Gillett, coach): Gayle Toogood (bow), Leeanne Whitehouse (2), Virginia Lee (3) and Minnie Cade (stroke)

Minnie Cade collection, reproduced courtesy Barbara Fenner

BELOW: 1987 Australian Champion women's heavyweight eight: Barbara Gillett (coach), Sarah Ham (cox), Minnie Cade (stroke), Pam Westendorf (7), Margot Foster (6), Sue Chapman-Popa (5), Kate Hall (4), Sue Varley (3), Leeanne Whitehouse (Banks) (2), Gayle Toogood (bow)

Minnie Cade collection



number 70 out of a field of 81, and passing fifteen to twenty crews to finish close to the winners in the veteran A section.

The 1987 world rowing championships held in August at Lake Bagsvaerd in Copenhagen, Denmark saw Peter Antonie, coached by David Yates, come fifth in the lightweight single sculls. Other MUBC members participating were Hamish McGlashan in the Australian eight, which came fourth, and Paul Reedy in the heavyweight double sculls.

The MULRC lightweight four, having won the Victoria Cup earlier in the season, also rowed in the World Championships with just one change—Virginia Lee from Mosman Rowing Club in Sydney stepping in for Pam Westendorf. The crew, coached by Barbara Gillett, finished fourth behind the USA, West Germany and the People's Republic of China—the Chinese being the surprise packets of the regatta in one of their first appearances in lightweight women's rowing.



TOP: 1988 (centenary of the eight-oared event) winning MUBC intervarsity eight (Queensland): (left to right) Simon Wylie (6), Rod Maule (bow), Phil Jobling (4), Craig Adrians (5), Jim Peters (coach), Andrew Muller (stroke), Bill Peden (7), Andrew Tulloch (cox), Greg Lindsay (2), Phil Bell (3)
Rod Maule collection



MIDDLE: 1987 MUBC intervarsity lightweight four (Peter Antonie, coach) celebrating after their win: (left to right) Greg Lindsay (3), Paul Joyce (stroke), Dan O'Callaghan (bow), Rod Maule (2) and John Walker (cox)
Rod Maule collection



1988 Australian women's lightweight four (left to right): Justine Carroll, Minnie Cade (MUBC), Leeanne Whitehouse (MUBC), Brigid Cassells, Sue Donoghue (reserve), Barbara Gillett (coach)
Leeane Ambrose collection

Back home the Club did not do so well, losing the Centenary Cup at the intervarsity regatta for the first time in years. Held on the Nepean River at Penrith in 1987, MUBC and MULRC won 62 Centenary Cup points to the University of New South Wales 64. Queensland came in a strong third with 59 points.³¹

The 1987 winning national women's interstate four for the ULVA trophy had also been coached by Barbara Gillett and included MUBC member Sue Chapman-Popa. Gillett had also coached the winning crew in the 1987 Australian women's lightweight coxless four for the Victoria Cup, which included Gayle Toogood (stroke), Minnie Cade (3), Pam Westendorf (2) and Leeanne Whitehouse (bow). It was Victoria's eleventh consecutive win in this event.³²

The 1988 Olympic year

As a prelude to the Seoul Olympics, Peter Antonie excelled himself as a new heavyweight oarsman by stroking a very fast Victorian King's cup crew on the Nepean River at Penrith. They won by over ten seconds in the fast time of 5mins 25.99secs.

At the 1988 Seoul Olympics, the Club was strongly represented, though controversially no women were deemed to be of sufficient standard to compete. This decision dashed the hopes of Felicity McCall, Margot Foster, Sue Chapman, Debbie Bassett and Kay Fry, who had hoped to be in contention for selection.

The men's quad scull, stroked by Peter Antonie with Paul Reedy in the 3 seat, came fifth and Hamish McGlashan came fourth in the men's single scull; one of the best individual performances by an Australian single sculler at an Olympic Games since 1956. David Yates coached both crews, which had earlier that year won the Queen Mother Challenge Cup and the Diamond Sculls at Henley Royal Regatta.

Lightweight rowers were, at this time, not included in Olympic regattas, but there were world lightweight championships held in every Olympic year. MULRC lightweight women did well at the 1988 championships in Milan, Italy, winning the silver medal. This crew had had a tumultuous lead-up to the World Championships, with one of the key members of the crew being banned for failing a drug test. The months of training were now in jeopardy, with the reserve moved into the crew and the seating combination changed. This was not to be the last disruption.

The crew's departure for the World Championships was delayed a day behind the main team, following a dispute arising from two members of the crew failing a check weigh-in at the training camp. But the difficulties were still not over for this crew. In the warm up prior to the race, another crew, rowing in the wrong direction in the warm-up lane, crashed into the Australian boat, injuring the bow and the 2 seat. The race was postponed, the boats repaired and the athletes injuries iced. This setback was mentally and physically very difficult for the Australian crew, with the two injured athletes rowing with bruised backs and legs. Given the circumstances, the silver medal, though disappointing, was a great effort. The four included MULRC members Minnie Cade in the 3 seat and Leeanne Whitehouse in the 2 seat, with Justine Carroll from Mosman in the stroke seat and Brigid Cassells from Canberra in the bow seat. It was coached by Barbara Gillett.

The Club won back its championship status at the 1988 intervarsity in Brisbane in May, winning the Oxford and Cambridge Cup and the women's four, and coming second



in the women's eight, women's lightweight four and women's scull events.

The year also saw the rise of Nick Green who, with other MUBC members, Matthew Dingle and Andrew Muller, came fourth in the national men's coxed four championship. They were coached by 1980 and 1984 Olympian, Ion Popa, of Banks Rowing Club.

Club Treasurer, Bill Stokes, retired in 1988 after twenty-five years as a committee member and fifteen as Treasurer. Bill was another stalwart of the Club, having both rowed in and coached Trinity, intervarsity and Club lightweight and heavyweight crews for many years with great success. He also served as President. He rowed with Field Rickards Snr's veterans and continues to row with his fellow masters group.

The 1988 season also included the Victorian Universities Regatta, held since 1969 when Melbourne and Monash universities decided to host a VRA sanctioned regatta. It was organised by Melbourne University with the Victorian Rowing Association providing experienced officials. For years the secretaries for this event were at various times Rob Zahara, Tony Oakley, David Ball, Greg Longden and Ag Michelmore. Ag had returned from a stint as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford. While there, he stroked the Oxford crew to victory in 1977 and again in 1978 when he was president of the Oxford University Boat Club. During the 1978 Boat Race, Cambridge sank behind Oxford.³³

1988 Australian quad scull winning Queen Mother Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta: Richard Powell (University of Queensland Boat Club) (bow), Brenton Terrell (Port Adelaide Rowing Club) (2), Paul Reedy (MUBC) (3), Peter Antonie (MUBC) (stroke)
Photo by © sportgraphics.com



ABOVE: 1988 Seoul Olympics Australian quad scull: Richard Powell (University of Queensland Boat Club) (bow), Brenton Terrell (Port Adelaide Rowing Club) (2), Paul Reedy (MUBC) (3), Peter Antonie (MUBC) (stroke)
Courtesy Hebfotos

RIGHT: David Yates, coach of the 1988 Seoul Olympics Australian quad four and single sculler, Hamish McGlashan
Courtesy Hebfotos



ABOVE: Hamish McGlashan* (MUBC) wins the Diamond Sculls at the 1988 Henley Royal Regatta.
Photo by © sportgraphics.com

RIGHT: Hamish McGlashan with the Diamond Sculls trophy
Michael Nicholson collection



*Hamish is the son of David Macglashan who rowed for MUBC 1949–50. The difference in the spelling of the family name, recalled with amusement by Hamish, evolved as a result of a misspelling of David's firm's brass plaque which was erected outside his office during a temporary absence overseas

1989 and preparations for Lake Barrington in 1990



ABOVE: 1989 Australian selection trials, following which Sam Golding was selected as a member of the Australian lightweight double scull for the 1990 Lake Barrington World Championships
Sam Golding collection

BELOW: Peter Antonie (stroke) and Paul Reedy (bow) win bronze at the 1990 Lake Barrington World Championships
Courtesy Hebfotos

MULRC had now existed for almost twenty years and its president was Margot Foster, who had been elected Secretary General of the Australian Rowing Council, replacing John Boulton. In June 1989 Foster reported that women's rowing had become 'the flavour of the decade ...' With much larger numbers of women rowing (as a direct flow on result of the large numbers of schoolgirls who were taking up the sport in secondary school) the demand for boats was becoming impossible to meet without constant fundraising. The Sports Union was not able to provide enough funding to meet the demand. In part this problem was solved, with the cooperation of Jeff Sykes and Associates Pty Ltd boat builders, by favourable terms being negotiated for the regular rollover of the Club's fleet.

Melbourne University hosted the 1989 intervarsity at a new championship course at Carrum in Melbourne's south-east, 40km from the city centre, on 7 and 8 July. Melbourne University again won the Centenary Cup easily, followed by Queensland, La Trobe, Monash, Adelaide, Sydney, Australian Defence Force Academy, UNSW and Macquarie. The women were very successful at this regatta, winning the four, eight and lightweight four. The men won in the lightweight four and came second in the heavyweight four and eight.

The Club was again well represented at the world rowing championships held in 1989 at Bled, Yugoslavia (now Slovenia) though no Australian crews won any medals.³⁴ Peter Antonie and Paul Reedy came a very creditable fourth in the double sculls, which was a good omen for their chances in Tasmania in 1990. The women's lightweight four coached by Barbara Gillett came fourth and comprised Sally Ninham from Canberra



and Rebecca Joyce from Mercantile, with Gini Skinner, Linda Boldt and Josie Millard from MULRC. Minnie Cade and Eugenie Kayak from MULRC also competed in the Universiade or World Student Games in Duisberg Germany, coming fifth in the women's lightweight pair.

With the 1990 World Rowing Championships coming up at Lake Barrington in Tasmania, there was great excitement and competition was intense to make the national team.³⁵ It was the first time the World Rowing Championships had been held in Australia. The choice of Lake Barrington was largely the result of then FISA President, Thomas Keller, having travelled to Australia to witness the 1984 national championships and being most impressed with what he saw and experienced.

The national team included a record number of MUBC and MULRC members, and both Australia and the Club enjoyed a very successful World Championships regatta. Peter Antonie and Paul Reedy (double scull, bronze) and Nick Green (coxless four, gold), were among the medallists, and Brian Richardson and Jim Peters were coaches for the men's team.

Pam Westendorf, Rebecca Joyce and Sally Ninham won silver in the women's lightweight coxless four, with Kathy Lloyd as an emergency for this crew. They were coached by Brian Dalton.

1991 and the Club is a dominant force

MULRC was still operating as a separate entity to MUBC and was now the premier lightweight women's club in Australia. This position was in no small part due to the work and dedication of coaches Barbara Gillett and Brian Dalton. The continued and increasing need for coaches and boats was the Club's pressing issue.

Often individual members contributed enormously to fundraising for boats. Such was the case in 1991, when Mark Schapper and Cam Johnston volunteered to assist the Club with purchasing a boat. They laid down two conditions: first, it had to be the fastest boat



ABOVE LEFT: Silver medallists for Australia at the 1990 Lake Barrington World Championships (Brian Dalton, coach): Amanda Cross (bow), Pam Westendorf (MUBC) (2), Sally Ninham (MUBC) (3), Rebecca Joyce (MUBC) (stroke)
Pam Westendorf collection

TOP: 1990 MUBC intervarsity lightweight coxed four (left to right): Georgina Brown (cox), Eugenie Kayak, Julia Scott, Jackie Brown and Georgia Radcliffe-Smith
Eugenie Kayak collection

BOTTOM: 1990 Australian Champion Lightweight Four (left to right): Brian Dalton (coach), Kathy Lloyd, Pam Westendorf, Josie Millard and Eugenie Kayak
Pam Westendorf collection

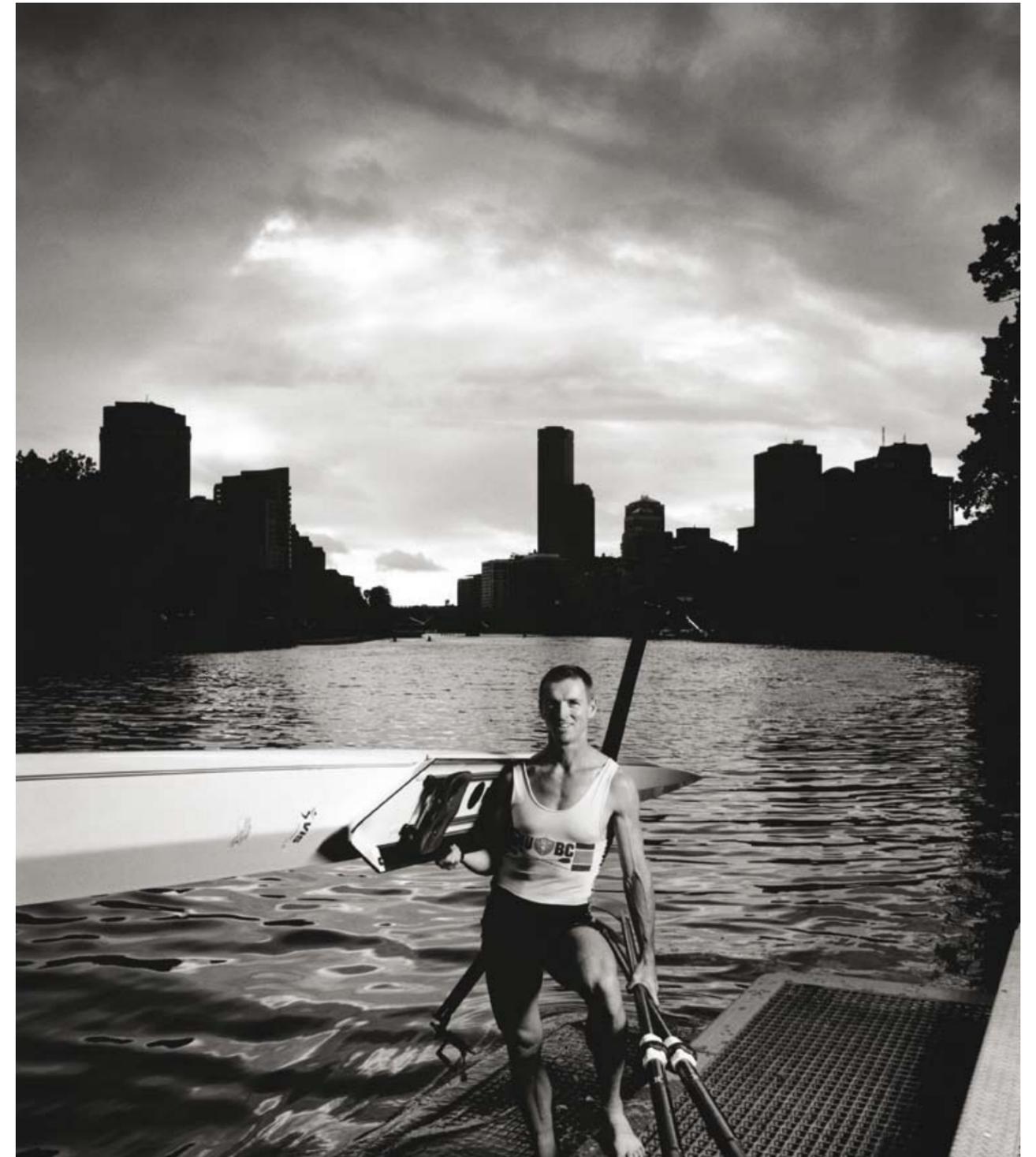
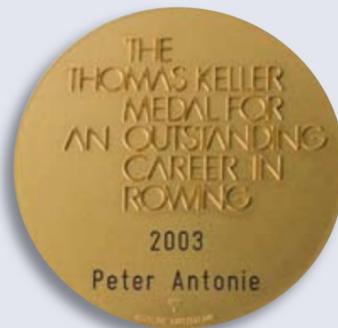
Peter Thomas Antonie, OAM

PRESIDENT, MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BOAT CLUB, 1996– (ONGOING)

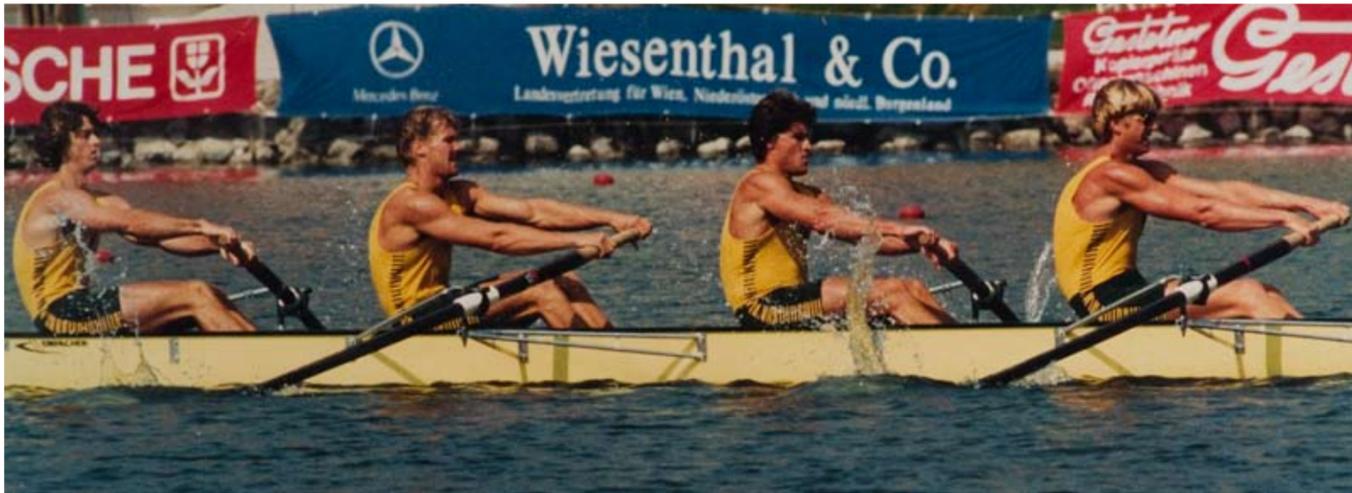
Peter Antonie represented Australia in rowing at the Commonwealth Games, fifteen World Championships and four Olympic Games. In these events, he won three gold medals, two silver medals and two bronze. His international career spanned twenty-four years. In terms of longevity and success his international record is without peer in the annals of Australian rowing. He has won numerous national and state titles and is the only oarsman to have won all three of the most prestigious events for men in Australian rowing: the King's Cup for men's interstate eights, the Penrith Cup for men's lightweight fours, and the President's Cup for men's single sculls. His reputation in competition has been one of determination, combativeness and never-say-die.

In 2003 Peter was awarded the FISA Thomas Keller Medal, given to very few outstanding rowers with a long and successful international rowing career, who have made an outstanding contribution to rowing as a competitor and as a sports personality; only one medal may be awarded in any one year. It is the highest award which can be given to a rower by FISA and Peter was the first Australian to receive it. The citation for the award included not only his 'exceptional rowing career' but also his 'exemplary sportsmanship'.

Since 1996 Peter has been President of MUBC and has helped take the Club to a new level of international participation and success. He is an inspiration, not only to his fellow Club members—men, women, elite or masters—but to all rowers, whether they are novice or elite, members of MUBC or not, for whom he willingly and freely gives of his time to encourage their betterment in, and enjoyment of the sport.



Peter Antonie
Courtesy Gavin Blue Photography



1991 World Champion Coxless Four, the 'Oarsome Foursome' (Noel Donaldson, coach): Nick Green (MUBC) (bow), Mike McKay (2), Andrew Cooper (3), James Tomkins (stroke)
Courtesy Hebfotos

around and second, the Club had to do everything to put the fastest possible crews in it. The boat was a lightweight coxless four called *Bladerunner*. It took almost a year and eight lunches, each with a bottle of wine, to think of the name for the boat.³⁶ The Harvey Nicholson Trust Account, which had been established as the No. 2 Trust Account in 1969 to assist the Melbourne eight to go to Japan, continued as the main repository for donations to assist members travelling to overseas competitions. Club members gave generously to this fund year after year.³⁷

At the 1991 World Championships, Nick Green won another gold medal, and Peter Antonie rowed magnificently to come fourth in the final of the heavyweight single scull. Considering that Antonie was only just over the lightweight limit, his effort was remarkable. This was also the year that Peter won the President's Cup and MUBC had another nine members representing Australia that year.

By the 1990s there was hardly any true interclub competition, as the aim was to win state and national championships. Individual members of different clubs would form composite crews in whatever combinations were thought to be fastest in attempts to be selected in national teams. In December 1991 at the state championships held at Carrum, the VRA made an effort to re-ignite club rowing by not allowing composite crews. MUBC dominated the competition with victory for the lightweight eights and Peter Antonie led home Matt Dingle, Paul Reedy and Hamish McGlashan in an MUBC dominated final of the senior sculls. Peter Antonie and Paul Reedy then went on to regain the title for the double sculls. Coaches were Charlie Bartlett and Sandy Marshall. MULRC also dominated lightweight sweep events winning the four and the pair.³⁸ The MULRC senior A lightweight four was Minnie Cade, Rebecca Joyce, Deidre Fraser and Pam Westendorf. Three of the crew (Minnie, Rebecca and Deidre) would go on to be selected in the Australian crew to compete at the World Championships in Vienna, coached by Brian Dalton. The crew again trained out of the Club as it had for almost a decade; such was the strength of women's lightweight rowing at MULRC.

Charlie Bartlett, one of the Club's champion oarsmen was elected President in 1991, taking over from Rob Stewart who was retiring. Another new era in the Club's history was about to start.



1991 winning MUBC intervarsity lightweight four (John (JD) McKenzie, coach): (left to right) Field Antony Rickards (stroke), Tom Rickards (3), Alistair Campbell (cox), Saxon Nicholls (2), Stuart Peele (bow)
McKenzie family collection

Emergence of the Victorian Institute of Sport

The period of the early 1990s saw the emergence of a state sporting institute in Victoria. The Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) established in 1991 was based in Melbourne and headed by well-regarded sports scientist, Dr Frank Pyke. Rowing was one of the sports included in the VIS from the outset. This development enabled Victorian sporting clubs like MUBC and MULRC to retain some of their very best athletes and not lose them to the allure of a fully funded scholarship at the AIS. The VIS also provided support for lightweight men and women who were not eligible for the AIS program. MULRC rower at the time, Deidre Fraser, quickly identified the positive impact of the VIS:

... semi professional athletes were able to continue their membership of the club in a physical way, in that they could still gain access to resources and a growing number of facilities via the VIS but not have to relinquish their involvement with the club to reside in Canberra. High calibre athletes that had risen up through the MUBC membership were able to still train at the club, provide an influence and layer of role modelling and aspiration that had not previously been possible to the same magnitude. It was during this time that the Club received formal recognition as a stable for elite rowers not just in Victoria but nationally. The high quality athletes that the Club was producing also attracted funding from other entities such as the AIS.³⁹

1992, the Club's golden year

One of the highlights of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics was the gold medal won by the Club's most successful international oarsman in terms of longevity and results, Peter Antonie, who teamed up with the Tasmanian rower, Stephen Hawkins, in the men's double scull. They were coached by Tim McLaren. Their outstanding performance was a brilliant feat since both Antonie and Hawkins were essentially lightweight oarsmen, having both competed in international lightweight events in prior years. They were several centimetres shorter and many kilos lighter than their Austrian and Dutch competitors, whom they beat by half a length. They had formed a combination which had superb sculling technique, an extraordinary power-weight ratio and an indomitable will to win.

The other highlight was the gold medal win in the coxless fours by MUBC's Nick Green, together with James Tomkins, Michael McKay and Andrew Cooper (all of Mercantile), coached by Noel Donaldson. The four became the first Australian crew to win a gold medal in an Olympic sweep-oared event. The win was the first of two Olympic gold medals in the same event for Nick, who went on to become the Club's most successful oarsman at Olympic level.

MULRC member, Jodie Dobson, rowed in the women's four which came sixth and Hamish McGlashan was in the quad scull which finished ninth at these Olympics.

In Montreal in August at the world lightweight championships MULRC members, Minnie Cade and Deidre Fraser with coach Brian Dalton, inspired especially by the win of Peter Antonie and Stephen Hawkins in Barcelona, won gold as part of the women's lightweight four. This was the first Australian women's crew to win a gold medal at a



TOP: 1991 MUBC State Champion Senior Eight (left to right): Jim Peters (coach), Matt Tehan (cox), Matt Dingle (stroke), Ion Popa (7), Andy Muller (6), Nick Green (5), Gary Gullock (4), Hamish McGlashan (3), Peter Antonie (2), Paul Reedy (bow)
Courtesy Hebfotos

BELOW: 1991 MUBC State Champion Lightweight Eight (left to right back row): Sandy Marshall (coach), Anthony Hall (cox), Bill Peden (stroke), Simon Pringle (7), Raoul Leuscher (6), Nick Weston (5), Tom Rickards (4), Tom Serong (3), Stuart Peele (2), Antony Rickards (bow), (front row extreme left, presenting medallions) legendary English oarsman, Steve (later Sir Steve) Redgrave and Hubert (Freddy) Frederico
Courtesy Hebfotos



TOP: 1992 Olympic Champion Double Scull (Tim McLaren, coach): Peter Antonie (centre left) and Steve Hawkins (centre right) *Courtesy Hebfotos*

БОТТОМ: 1992 Olympic Champion Coxless Four (Noel Donaldson, coach): (left to right) Andrew Cooper, Mike McKay, Nick Green (MUBC) and James Tomkins *Courtesy Hebfotos*



world championship. Only Adair Ferguson in the single scull in 1985 had ever won a gold medal at these championships. Minnie recalls the race:

We got out of the blocks very well but due to the strong crosswind and exuberance and power of our bow seat rower we veered onto the buoys in the first 250m causing the stroke to partially have her oar dragged under a buoy. This almost stopped the boat and dragged us back into last spot, much to the consternation of Brian Dalton and Peter Antonie (who had flown from Barcelona for the race) who were both cycling beside the course. Instead, we somehow managed to mow down the field to win in the last 250m. The overwhelming sensation on winning was pure relief!⁴⁰

1992 World Champion Women's Lightweight Four (Brian Dalton, coach): Deidre Fraser (MUBC) (bow), Virginia Lee (2), Elizabeth Moller (3) and Minnie Cade (MUBC) (stroke)

Meanwhile, back at home, 1992 proved a great year for the Club at intervarsity where it regained the Centenary Cup. It was narrowly followed by Adelaide, UNSW and Sydney universities, probably the closest grouping of universities ever for this trophy. The championships were held on Friday 2 and Saturday 3 October at West Lakes in South Australia. The regatta was hosted by Adelaide University. With 350 competitors, the regatta was the largest university championships ever held. The social events included a black-tie dinner for 440 people, a wine tour of McLaren Vale and the post-regatta party at AUBC on the banks of the Torrens River. The regatta saw the introduction of the men's and women's double sculls, taking the total number of events to thirteen with more women's events than men's.

The women also did well at the Victorian state championships. Deidre Fraser and Minnie Cade won the lightweight pair race and then teamed up with Gayle Toogood and Georgia Radcliffe-Smith to win the lightweight four event. The four were then selected as an all MULRC Victorian crew, going on to win the women's interstate lightweight four championship, The Victoria Cup, at Carrum by only 0.20 seconds. In the women's

heavyweight events, both MULRC pairs made the final, and they combined to win the four. Eight MULRC members were part of the state team.

There was another visit to Melbourne in 1992 by the Keio and Waseda crews. This time MUBC were less successful and the Japanese crews easily beat the MUBC crew. But socially the visit was a huge success, with the now large numbers of 'old boys' enjoying the opportunity to reunite with friends from previous years.⁴¹

1993

Curiously, despite the obvious success at an elite representative level, the Club was finding it difficult to recruit young, less experienced rowers. It was with some relief that the President reported in 1993 that many of the intervarsity oarsmen—inspired by the enthusiasm of Field Rickards Jnr—were committed to the youth eight and many squads of athletes were training. Rod Maule, Craig Adrians and Mike Hagbeck were responsible for recruiting and training young members.

The growing band of masters oarsmen did exceptionally well at the Fourth Masters Games held in Perth from 24–25 April 1993. One group was made up of fifteen people comprising twelve rowers, two coxes and a team manager. They were formed from the MUBC nos. 1 and 2 veteran eights and a number of recruits from other clubs. In addition, a second group came from the no. 3 veteran eights. The team had its most successful Masters Games since its inception in 1987 at Lake Barrington, with MUBC members taking two gold, three silver and one bronze medal.⁴²

The MULRC lightweight women coached by Brian Dalton again dominated the state championships, winning the pair and four. Minnie Cade, Deidre Fraser, Georgia Radcliffe-Smith and Gayle Toogood were again selected as an all MULRC Victorian crew. They successfully defended the title, winning the Victoria Cup at the national interstate regatta at Lake Wivenhoe in Queensland, this time by a mere 0.10secs.

The season concluded with the christening of a new boat, the *Paul Reedy*, on 6 June 1993.

The Club's international representation continues, 1993–5

In the 1993 World Championships, Minnie Cade stroked the lightweight four and Peter Antonie competed in the men's double scull. In 1994, Peter again competed in the double at the World Championships and Gayle Toogood was in the Australian lightweight four, while in 1995, Paul Reedy was in the men's double and Nick Green in the Oarsome Foursome again. Peter Antonie competed for MUBC at the 1995 Henley Royal Regatta winning the coveted Double Sculls Challenge, together with Marcus Free of Tweed Heads Rowing Club. This was Peter's second win at Henley, having won the Queen Mother Challenge Cup for the men's quad in 1988, representing MUBC with Paul Reedy, together with Brenton Terrell of Port Adelaide Rowing Club and Richard Powell of the University of Queensland Boat Club. On the local scene, the Club was successful in winning the men's and women's eight, the women's pair and the men's lightweight four at the 1995 intervarsity regatta.



1995 Henley Royal Regatta winning double scull, Peter Antonie (stroke) and Marcus Free (bow)
Courtesy Hebphotos

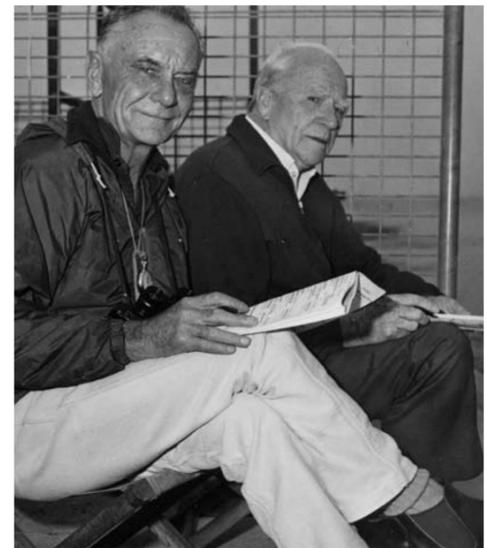
Vale Field Rickards Snr

On 10 May 1993 Field Grosvenor Rickards, known as Field Snr (or Field I) died, aged 77. He had been involved with the Club for more than twenty-five years and had represented the Club as a delegate to the Victorian Rowing Association, where his high standing lifted the status of the MUBC. In 1976, Field wrote the most definitive history of the Victorian Rowing Association since John Lang's *Victorian Oarsman*. He managed the King's Cup crews in 1977 and 1978. Field Snr rowed in the Head of the Yarra on twenty consecutive occasions, competing against his son, Field Jnr, in his first and his granddaughter Emma in his last race. Field, the family man, was intensely supportive and proud of the achievements of his son, Field Jnr, who rowed intervarsity, senior and lightweight eights for the Club, coached Club crews and was also deeply involved in the Club's administration. Field Snr was no less proud of, and passed his spirit and commitment on to his three grandchildren, Antony (Field III), Emma and Kate, and nephew Tom, each of whom rowed at MUBC for several years during the 1990s, and won intervarsity lightweight events respectively in 1991, 1997, 1998 and 1989–91. Field's love of life inspired each to continue their sporting interests after rowing, resulting in many notable achievements including national and international success in the Ironman Triathlon, marathon running, duathlon and cycling.

When the Club named a boat after Field Snr in 1985, veteran rower, Arthur Adams, paid him homage in the April 1985 Club newsletter:

If I tell you something of Field's past you will understand why the Melbourne University Boat Club is so proud to have him as a member and why he is honoured today by having this boat named after him. In 1938 Field was completing his Arts Course at the University. War in Europe was imminent and Field as a member of the Melbourne University Rifles, joined the army full time, undertaking a one year officer training course at Duntroon. During the war he trained as a Commando and fought as an infantry officer in both the Middle East and the Islands. After the war he returned to rowing, watching his son row at Melbourne University. Field became a member of Yarra Yarra and ultimately Captain. Some fifteen years ago he decided to come back to his old club, Melbourne University and form a veteran crew. It is for practical purposes impossible to get veterans to row without constant prodding, kidding and jollying them along. Field's success has been such that he has had at times three veteran eights rowing from MUBC. I have rowed behind him on many occasions. He has won the veteran section of the Head of the Yarra four times. He is a very tough determined oarsman and it is a great tribute to him that of his veteran crew, all the members except one, are still rowing. Field has made a very substantial contribution to the Committee of MUBC as Honorary Secretary and a Vice-President for many years. He has been the only coach of recent years prepared to take out novice oarsmen and he has coached through many winters, people who would not otherwise have been introduced to rowing. He has, as we all know, coached many crews of considerable distinction. Field Rickards is universally liked and admired all along the river bank and he is thought of as the complete "good bloke". ...⁴³

Field will always be remembered for his classic riverbank greeting: 'Ah, this is the life!'



TOP: Field Rickards Snr with megaphone in the 1940s
Field Rickards collection

BOTTOM: Field with Tom Rodda, former president of the Victorian Old Oarsmen's Association
Courtesy of The Herald & Weekly Times Ltd



1996 Olympic Champion Coxless Four (Noel Donaldson, coach): (left to right) James Tomkins, Nick Green (MUBC), Mike McKay and Drew Ginn
Courtesy Hebfotos

The Sport and the Club become professional

The following few years saw Club members continue to participate internationally and locally with some success. Nick Green in the 'Oarsome Foursome' won gold again at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. On the whole, however, Australian rowing struggled during these years, although the Club had representatives in the 1996 world lightweight championships in the men's and women's lightweight pairs. Andrew Guerin, who managed the 1996 Olympic team, said:



The 1995 World Championship results were ordinary, five crews had to qualify through the Lucerne regatta in 1996 just prior to the Games, the Australian Rowing Council was in financial difficulty, a new head coach and new selectors were appointed and the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Olympic Committee had taken over the elite programme.

The ASC and AOC established an interim administration under John Boulton, who was then the director of the Australian Institute of Sport, Doug Donoghue from the AOC and Matt Draper, the newly appointed High Performance Manager of rowing. This bold and difficult move was the catalyst for the success enjoyed by the Olympic rowing team. The support of the ASC and the AIS director John Boulton and the AOC through its President John Coates during this time must be remembered by the sport.⁴⁴

MUBC was professionalising with the appointment of Paul Reedy as a paid, part-time senior coach in 1996. Paul was a very experienced competitor for the Club and a medallist at both the Olympics and World Championships. Chris O'Brien was also appointed as a part-time coach and administrator. He had come from teaching at St Patricks in Ballarat and brought along some good young athletes such as Christian Ryan, Nigel Sullivan and Paul Myers.

Paul Reedy instigated a new element into the training schedules of Club athletes by introducing bike riding. As recalled by Christian Ryan:

Some of the sessions included the infamous 'Studley Park' ride with five laps round the circuit, big chain ring on riding up the hills, small chain going down; 100 km down to Frankston and back; a weekend ride round the Grampians with a steam train ride on the way home; and 5 minutes on, 5 minutes off on the stationary bike at a heart rate at about 90% max.

The MULRC lightweight women again comprised the majority of the Victorian crew, with the selection of Emma Rickards, Minnie Cade and Eliza Blair. The crew however was beaten at the interstate regatta held in Penrith NSW by the NSW crew, which included former MUBC rower, Rebecca Joyce.

ABOVE LEFT: 1998 MUBC State Champion Youth Eight (left to right): Ben Robson (bow), John Ballizia (2), Alex Danne (3), Warren Keeble (4), Peter Moore (5), Michael Raisbeck (6), Peter Hannan (7), Troy Kooloos (stroke), Ben Ibrahim (cox), Robert Heath, Frank Stone (coaches)
Courtesy Hebfotos

ABOVE RIGHT: 1998 MUBC State Champion Elite Eight (Chris O'Brien and Paul Reedy, coaches) (left to right): Robert Spinks (bow), Paul Myers (2), Peter Antonie (3), Richard Shenfield (4), Christian Ryan (5), Nick Green (6), Paul Gray (7), Nigel Sullivan (stroke), Sam Pullin (cox)
Courtesy Hebfotos



ABOVE: 1997 MUBC winning Taiwan eight (Paul Reedy, coach): Ben Robson (bow), Dan Fahey (2), Sam Golding (3), Jon Stone (4), Bill Peden (5), Damian Barlow (6), Tom Paul (7), Rob Spinks (stroke), Sam Pullen (cox)
Sam Golding collection

Moving towards the new millennium

In 1997 the Victorian crew again had three MULRC members: Kath McCallum, Minnie Cade and Eliza Blair. At the interstate regatta at Lake Barrington in Tasmania, the crew won back the Victoria Cup.

At the 1997 World Championships in Aiguebelette, France, Eliza Blair was in the women's lightweight coxless pair that won gold. Bronwyn Thompson rowed in the women's heavyweight coxless pair and Stuart Peele rowed in the lightweight pair. Also in 1997, Margot Foster retired as President of MULRC, after nearly a decade.

Peter Antonie had become Club President in 1996 and remarked in his update for the year that the senior eight and junior eight had been seriously disadvantaged at the state championships due to the standard of the Club's fleet of eights. As a result of his efforts, in the following year, the Club boasted 40 boats, including 14 pairs and 5 eights, and declared that it had the best fleet in Australia.

Rob Heath had been made head of recruitment and secured a good group of recruits. In 1997 Paul Myers, Paul Grey, Nigel Sullivan and Christian Ryan were selected in the Australian men's eight in the under 23 Nation's Cup team. Lachlan McPherson, Tim Widmer, Anthony Coghlan and Karsten Forsterling were all selected to row for Australia in the men's junior coxless four. Chris O'Brien, then the Club's assistant coach, was selected as Australian coach for both the under 23 eight and junior four crews. This was the first in a series of Australian under 23 teams in which the Club had representatives.⁴⁵ In 1998 MUBC had five representatives in the Australian under 23 eight that won gold at Ionnina in Greece.

In 1998, Nick Green re-joined the Oarsome Foursome, and won gold in the coxed pair and coxed four at the World Championships in Germany.

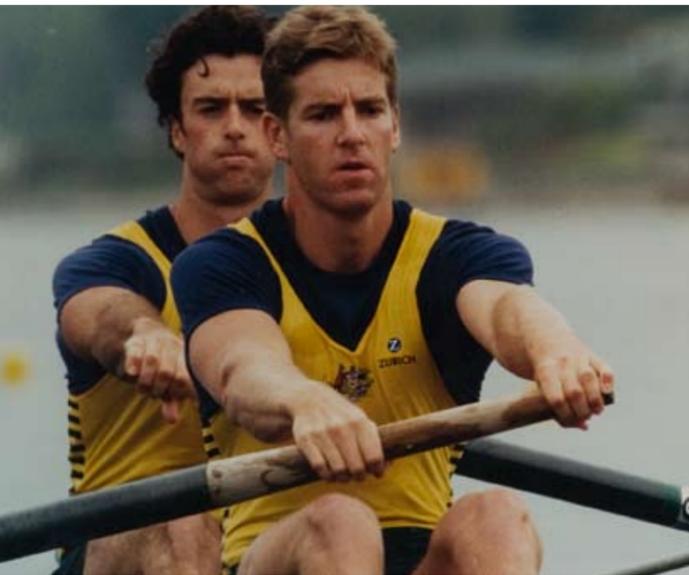
Rachel Kininmonth rowed in the Australian women's eight. Fiona Milne, a member of MUBC, rowed for Canada in the women's lightweight double scull at the same championships.



ABOVE: 1997 World Champion Lightweight Women's Coxless Pair: Justine Joyce (left) and Eliza Blair (MUBC)
Courtesy Hebfotos

BELOW LEFT: 1998 World Champion Coxed Pair (Noel Donaldson, coach): Brett Hayman (cox), Nick Green (MUBC) (bow), James Tomkins (stroke)
Courtesy Hebfotos

BELOW RIGHT: 1998 World Champion Coxed Four (Noel Donaldson, coach): Brett Hayman (cox), Nick Green (MUBC) (bow), Mike McKay (2), Drew Ginn (3) and James Tomkins (stroke)
Courtesy Hebfotos



In June 1998 the Club won the Victorian Senior Premiership and the I-Lan International Collegiate Invitational Regatta, in Taiwan, against Sydney, Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, Toronto, Hamburg, Japan and Taiwan. This event was held in I-Lan County, Taiwan. This was the third successive year that MUBC had sent a crew, having won silver in 1996 and gold in 1997.

During this time the Club was active at many levels: four members in the King's Cup eight; five members in the winning Victorian youth eight; and two members in the Penrith Cup lightweight four.⁴⁷ The Club won the overall trophy, the Centenary Cup, at intervarsity.⁴⁸

Nick Green announced his retirement from elite rowing after the 1998 World Championships. This brought the career of MUBC's most successful international athlete to a close. Nick had won two Olympic gold medals and four World Championship gold medals. Nick has continued his involvement in sport being President of the Victorian Olympic Committee and has been appointed as the Chief de Mission of the 2012 Australian Olympic Team.

Fiona Milne is the only MUBC member to have represented another country while being an active MUBC member. A member of the Club since 1997, she would spend Canadian winters (October to April) in Melbourne training, and then return for Canadian trials (April and May) each year, except pre-Olympic years, when she stayed in Canada for the full winter. She rowed for Canada with distinction from 1998–2004 at the Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cup.⁴⁶



LEFT: 1999 winning MUBC intervarsity eight (Paul Reedy, coach) training on the Yarra with the now replaced Batman Avenue in the background: Tim Widmer (bow), Dan Meehan (2), Mike Raisbeck (3), Peter Moore (4), Travis Johnston (5), Julian Voller (6), Tom Paul (7), Paul Gray (stroke), Cam Muir (cox)
Michael Nicholson collection

ABOVE: 2005 Henley Royal Regatta, Fiona Milne competing in the 2005 Princess Royal Challenge Cup against Rumyana Neykova
Reproduced by kind permission of Henley Royal Regatta and PJ Pix



1999 MUBC intervarsity team, Lake Wendouree, Ballarat
Michael Nicholson collection

The professionalisation of coaching had come about as a natural flow-on from the Club's international participation and the professionalisation of sport in general. But the impetus was now much stronger in the run up to the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

The merger

1999 saw moves for the merger of MUBC and MULRC. There was some opposition from both the men and women: some women had joined the Club because it was separate to the men's and had its own boats.⁴⁹ Other women were concerned that the women might be overwhelmed by the men on a combined committee given that most of the members of MULRC were young and active rowers. Also some of the members of the committee of MUBC comprised men who had been associated with the Club for over twenty years. Things had become a little absurd with the boys having a Coke machine and the girls a Pepsi machine at the boatshed. But Peter Antonie approached Catherine (Taff) Jones with the concept of merging the two clubs. They made a strong push, and in 1999 a timeline was drawn up, in which members of both clubs were to be sent a letter outlining the merger proposal. A draft constitution was to be completed at the end of May and the new constitution voted on by 13 June, with the inaugural meeting of the new club to be held in the week ending 4 July. Jim Morrison, on behalf of MUBC, and Catherine Jones, on behalf of MULRC, prepared the draft constitution. The proposed structure was for a President, up to three Vice-Presidents, a female and male Captain, Secretary, Treasurer,



Paul Reedy, champion oarsman, sculler and first professional coach at MUBC
Michael Nicholson collection

and a committee of eight including a VRA delegate and Melbourne University delegate. An extraordinary meeting of MUBC was held on 20 June 1999 regarding the merger. Each club was to meet separately and make the decision independently, which they did in the affirmative. The clubs were merged under the name of MUBC on 4 July 1999.⁵⁰

The run up to Sydney 2000

In 1999 eight Club members were selected to row for Australia in the under 23 Nations Cup. They were in the under 23 eight coached by Chris O'Brien which came fourth. Paul Reedy coached the heavyweight quad, while Jonathon Stone was in the lightweight quad that won a bronze medal. These championships were held in Hamburg, Germany.

At the 1999 World Championships held at St Catherine's in Canada, MUBC had Christian Ryan and Nigel Sullivan in the men's eight, while Bronwyn Thompson and Rachael Kininmonth were in the women's eight.

In 2000 Paul Reedy coached the senior MUBC athletes with Christian Ryan gaining selection in the Australian men's eight. Other athletes who had been coached by Paul also gained selection that year after having been moved to the AIS for the final years of the Olympiad.

The year 2000 concluded well at an international level. MUBC member Christian Ryan was a member of the silver-medal-winning men's eight that was only very narrowly defeated by Great Britain at the Sydney Olympics. Rachel Kininmonth and Bronwyn Thompson had been in the women's eight which had come fifth. Peter Antonie was emergency for the men's team. Eliza Blair had won silver in the lightweight women's quad at the world lightweight championships in Croatia.

Post Sydney 2000

There was a large MUBC representation at the 2001 Nations Cup in Copenhagen, for under 23 crews, where several members won silver medals including Karsten Forsterling, Warren Keeble, Lachlan McPherson, Julian Voller, Catriona Oliver and Jonathon Stone. The coaches included Craig Adrian, Chris O'Brien and 'Pup' Somerville.

Cameron McKenzie-McHarg was in the men's eight for the 2001 Lucerne World Championships. Cameron, also a talented Australian Rules footballer, had decided to return from football to rowing.

Following the Sydney Olympic Games, Paul Reedy decided to accept a role as head coach at London Rowing Club, looking to further his coaching career internationally. For the 2001 season, Chris O'Brien was appointed the Club's full-time coach and manager.⁵¹ Paul Francis joined the Club as coaching coordinator.

The Club issued a paper for the 1999–2000 season on the 'Club Mission', its 'Framework for Success', 'Key Objectives' and 'Primary Measures.' The mission was to 'strive for excellence and success at all levels of competition and to provide our members with every opportunity to realise our goals.' The framework included a 'Structured Training Programme', 'Sound Administrative Support', 'Quality Coaching at all Levels' and 'Integrated Club Social Programme'. The objectives were to participate in local regattas, state and national championships; have Club athletes selected in state



1999 Head of the Yarra MUBC Master's E eight at the finish: (shown in photograph) Cam Johnston (stroke), Paul van Veenendaal (7), John Harry (6)
Michael Nicholson collection



Chris O'Brien, MUBC's first full-time head coach, 2000–2005
Paul McSweeney collection



2001 winning MUBC intervarsity eight (Paul Francis, coach): (left to right) Mike Raisbeck, Julian Voller, Nick Owen, Peter Moore, David Crawshay, Cameron McKenzie-McHarg, Tim Widmer, Paul Gray, Marc Douez
Marc Douez collection

and national teams and win medals nationally and internationally; increase the overall membership of the Club; win intervarsity; and develop alliances with other universities in Australia and throughout the world.

Melbourne University was again the most successful club at intervarsity in 2001, including a victory in the Oxford and Cambridge Cup, thus retaining the Cup from the previous year's win. The Club also won eight of nine races at the Australia and New Zealand Varsity Test Regatta and twenty-two state championships.

The end of the year also saw discussions regarding proposed alterations and extensions to the boatshed. A complete refurbishment was long overdue and urgently required. Club members and architects, Peter Martin and Peter Sandow, prepared plans for submission to the University with complete new amenities, including a kitchen, new change rooms and a new third level, providing administrative office facilities built into the roof space. With assistance from Field Rickards Jnr, funding approval was obtained. Renovations to the sheds had begun with an initial \$800,000 funded by the University.

In 2000 the road around the boatsheds was renamed Boathouse Drive having previously been Jeffries Parade. Finally Melbourne City Council had recognised the cultural and historical significance of the sheds on the Yarra.⁵²

London Rowing Club visit

At the beginning of 2002 Club Vice-President, Jim Morrison, wrote a new year letter informing the Club of a visit by London Rowing Club members (two eights) who were to visit MUBC with Paul Reedy, who had become coach of LRC. Members were asked to put the guests up who would take part in the Australia Day Regatta. Social rowers were asked to contact Jim if they wanted to race with friends:

Rowing does have that "All or nothing" approach at times, but it doesn't have to be. A couple of starts, a bit of fun with friends and a few beers to re-hydrate after all is done and you have yourself a good day out!⁵³

Peter Antonie recalls the tour:

London came to race in an Australia Day event against a Melbourne City Council crew made up mostly of MUBC members. The London crew won and handled the very hot conditions during their tour well, although many of them got quite sunburnt!⁵⁴

More internal issues

A survey held in April 2002 clarified many of the pros and cons of the Club. Members liked the social aspects of the Club and the advice available from older members as well as the depth of athletic talent. They also liked the sense of unity and pride, the Club's history, and the physical position and attractiveness of the shed. The social side seemed to really please, with people liking the Thursday dinners and Club 8, which constituted both a social and rowing program for the non-elite stream in the Club. There were also

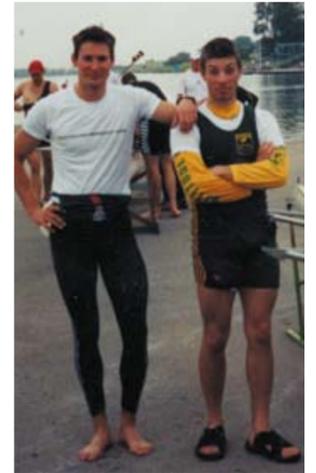
quite a few things they didn't like. It was difficult for new members to know where to go for advice; there was a lack of organisation and communication and coaches for women, there were too few boats for women and segregation between squads. Interestingly, a lack of social and cultural diversity was cited as a negative, as was the 'tedious use of alcohol, implicitly condoned'. The serious problems seemed to be regarding women's rowing and the division between elite athletes and the rest of the Club, creating resentment. Some members also found that some coaches 'lacked in some areas' and the Club was not well organised regarding entries to events, with an increasing dependence on unknown persons in positions of authority. Perhaps worst of all, the Club did not give a place to all rowers who wanted to participate and the Club 'chewed them up and spat them out'.⁵⁵

But distraction by internal affairs did not have much effect on the enormous impact the Club was having at an Australian representative level. In 2002 MUBC rowers filled five seats in the Australian men's eight; Karsten Forsterling, Cameron McKenzie-McHarg, Sam Pullin, Warren Keeble and Paul Myers. The crew finished seventh at the World Championships in Seville, Spain. MUBC was represented in the men's eight at the 2002 Nations Cup, as well as by George Jelbart, who was in the gold-medal-winning quad scull, and Catriona Oliver in the women's double scull. Tim Smith (son of Colin Smith who rowed in the 1974 gold-medal-winning lightweight four) and Andrew Sypkens represented MUBC in the lightweight double scull at the 2002 World University Rowing Championships in Nottingham.

The Club restructures in 2002

In October the Club announced that it was restructuring. Members elected to be in the elite stream or club stream, but head coach, Chris O'Brien, was aware that this was not going to an easy way of organising members, and that 'opportunity exists for people to change between each stream based on performances'.⁵⁶ In December a new boat allocation system was introduced and a new booking system.⁵⁷ In March 2003 the committee allocated 'portfolios', members taking on 'Employment and Governance', 'Equipment and Membership' and 'Masters'.⁵⁸ There was still confusion about the role of committee members and a suggestion was made that 'each committee member be elected to fulfill a specific role, in much the same way that Ministers are elected in Parliament'.⁵⁹ There were always too few people for all the work that needed to be done and committee members were often unsure about what they were supposed to do. Committee meetings got bogged down in detail and processes were slow with the implementation of motions delayed for months.⁶⁰

In June 2003 a special meeting was held to find ways to improve the women's squad. The complaints were the same: not enough coaches; boat allocation; team atmosphere; women not aware of which stream they were in; lack of management regarding injury; and a lack of retention of senior women. The Club tried to lay out clearer training times, boat allocation and organised a bonding night. As far as retention went, all the women wanted to remain in MUBC. But this was always harder for women than men because of family responsibilities and a lack of spare time once work and families were part of women's lives.⁶¹



2002 MUBC lightweight double scull World University Rowing Championships: Andrew Sypkens and Tim Smith
Susan Sypkens collection



2003 Head of the Charles, Boston, USA, MUBC, winners of the Men's Club Eight: Jamie McDonald (bow), Stephen Thomas (2), Michael Lagogiannis (3), Conrad Tulloch (4), John Colley (5), Benjamin Sullivan (6), Joseph Walsh (7), Peter Antonie (stroke), Rachel Wilson (cox)
 Courtesy JET Photographic

2003-4

Notable achievements for the 2003-4 season included seven members representing Australia at the 2003 World Championships in Milan, at which Marc Douez won silver as cox of the men's coxed pair, and three members representing Australia in the under 23 Nations Cup in Belgrade, Serbia, including George Jelbart who won silver in the lightweight single scull. The Australian men's eight at the Milan World Championships had five MUBC rowers including Karsten Forsterling, Cameron McKenzie-McHarg, Lachlan McPherson and Paul Myers, with Marc Douez as cox. The crew finished fifth in the A final, thus qualifying the boat for the 2004 Olympic Games.

One outstanding performance by an MUBC rower was that of Fiona Milne who, rowing for Canada, won gold in the women's lightweight single scull at the 2003 World Championships.

The Club had increased involvement in all levels of rowing from interclub, inter-collegiate and intervarsity. At the Head of the Yarra, MUBC had the largest representation of any club with eleven eights. Two MUBC crews raced in the Head of the Charles, in Boston, USA where they won the club eights event. The Club continued to host the Victorian Universities Regatta which in this year incorporated the Victorian championships.⁶²

In the 2003 under 23 Nations Cup, MUBC was again represented in the lightweight four and by Nick Phelps who won bronze in the men's quad scull.

The 2003 Head of the Yarra Regatta was one of the most memorable races in the long history of MUBC and Mercantile rivalry. The Mercantile crew included three members

of the Oarsome Foursome, and other Olympians. The MUBC crew was filled with young up-and-coming rowers excited about the opportunity to take on a crew of stars. Mercantile started ten seconds ahead but combined with an aggressive start and some masterly steering by the MUBC coxswain Marc Douez, the MUBC crew drew level with Mercantile along the Scotch straight and powered past, to eventually win convincingly. It was a fine example of a champion crew being able to beat a crew of champions.

2004 was not a successful year at Olympic Games level for the MUBC heavyweight men's sweep squad that went from regularly having majority representation in the Australian men's eight to having no members selected. Despite strong bids, Karsten Fosterling, Cameron McKenzie-McHarg and Marc Douez narrowly missed selection for the 2004 team. The competition that year was particularly fierce because of the return that year of previously successful Olympians who had not rowed in 2003. Nevertheless, Karsten, Cameron and Tim Deveson were in the Australian coxed four at that year's World Championships. However, MUBC had two members selected for the Olympic Games, namely George Jelbart in the men's lightweight double scull and Catriona Oliver in the women's eight.

Tim Smith and Marc Douez were the most successful of the MUBC Australian representatives in the 2004 World Championships, winning a bronze medal in the lightweight eight.

At intervarsity on Lake Barrington, the Club was again the champion university, winning the women's eight, men's four, men's lightweight four and women's lightweight quad.

2004 Head of the Yarra MUBC winning open eight: Kier McKenzie-McHarg (bow), Paul Gray (2), James Marburg (3), Jason Heard (4), Nick Phelps (5), Christian Ryan (6), Joe Walsh (7), Cam McKenzie-McHarg (stroke), Mark Douez (cox)
 Courtesy Hebfotos



2005 MUBC bronze medallists I-Lan International Collegiate Invitational Regatta in Taiwan: (in MUBC singlets left to right, back row) Josh Fahy, Peter Kupcis, Tom Larkins, Andrew Sypkens, (middle row) Tom Paton, Matt Bernard, Tim Rogan, Neil Hucker, front, Sarah Smith
 Rod Warnecke collection

2005 World Champion men's
coxed pair, Gifu, Japan: Hardy Cubasch
(bow), Sam Conrad (stroke),
Marc Douez (MUBC) (cox)
Courtesy Hebfotos



2005 World Champion
women's eight, Gifu,
Japan: Sarah Outhwaite (bow),
Robyn Selby Smith (2), Sonia
Mills (3), Kate Hornsey (4),
Emily Martin (5), Fleur Chew (6),
Sarah Heard (MUBC) (stroke),
Lizzie Patrick (MUBC) (cox)
Courtesy Hebfotos



TOP: Ian Wright, MUBC head coach appointed 2005, after an early morning training session on the Yarra
Courtesy Dr Edward Hodgson

BOTTOM: 2006 Australian Champion Lightweight Four (Ian Wright, coach): left to right, Mark Patterson (MUBC) (bow),
Sam Waley (Lindisfarne RC) (3), Tim O'Callaghan (SUBC) (stroke), Tim Smith (MUBC) (2). Colin Smith, Tim's father presented the four
with the Lucerne Cup. Colin and Tim are the only father and son members to have rowed for Australia and won medals at
the World Championships. Sarah Smith, Colin's daughter coxed the winning MUBC women's intervarsity eight in 2004
Courtesy Hebfotos



IMMEDIATELY ABOVE: 2006 Victorian Universities Regatta, MUBC youth coxed four (left to right): Alie Crowe, Grace Hicks, Sophie Robson, Jessie Smith, Nicki Hirst
Rod Warnecke collection

TOP LEFT: 2006 Melbourne Head, winning MUBC women's eight: Jane Watson (bow), Georgie Harvey (2), Lucinda Gooderham (3), Sarah Heard (4), Sophie Robson (5), Sassie McCarthy (6), Kim Crow (7), Sylvie Withers (stroke), Lizzie Patrick (cox)
Rod Warnecke collection

TOP RIGHT: Alice McNamara, a member of the 2007 and 2008 Australian World Champion Lightweight Quad Sculls, and 2007 Australian University Sport, Most Outstanding Athlete of the Year
Rod Warnecke collection

RIGHT: 2006 Melbourne Head, winning MUBC men's eight: Nick Phelps (bow), Simon Booth (2), Ben Springer (3), Jason Heard (4), James Marburg (5), Cameron McKenzie-McHarg (6), Karsten Forsterling (7) Tom Paton (stroke), Mark Douez (cox)
Rod Warnecke collection

ABOVE: 2007 Australian Universities crew (all members MUBC) competing in the Trans Tasman race in New Zealand: Gina Hicks (bow), Benita Pringle (2), Lauren Burgess (3), Jess Foran (4), Lauren Wilton (5), Jane Watson (6), Sophie Robson (7), Anna McKenzie (stroke), Nicki Hirst (cox)
Rod Warnecke collection

LEFT: 2006 Victorian Universities Regatta, MUBC youth coxed four: Diana Arden (cox), Chip Delaney (bow), James Adams (2), Tom Larkins (3), Gus Tyers (stroke)
Rod Warnecke collection

BOTTOM: 2006 State Champion Men's Youth Eight (shown winning): Will Lockwood (bow), James Osborne (2), Ian Mitchell (3), Simon Booth (4), James Adams (5), Gus Tyers (6), Tom Mosley (7), Ben Quinlan (stroke), David Webster (cox)
Rod Warnecke collection



A new head coach

In 2005 Ian Wright was appointed as the new MUBC head coach, following Chris O'Brien's departure to take up the position as head coach of the Victorian Institute of Sport. Although Chris was a great loss, Ian, the holder of the second highest number of premier titles in New Zealand history, was a very experienced and welcome replacement. He represented New Zealand in seven World Championships, three Olympics and one Commonwealth Games, including bronze medals in the coxless four at the 1989 World Championships, the coxed four at the Seoul Olympics, the eight at the 1986 Commonwealth Games, and won silver in the coxless pair at the 1986 Commonwealth Games.

Preparing for Beijing, 2006–8

In 2005, Lizzie Patrick steered and Sarah Heard stroked the Australian women's eight to victory at the World Championships in Gifu, Japan. Lizzie and Sarah secured their positions in the eight through to the Beijing Olympics. Tim Smith was in the lightweight four which achieved a creditable fourth and Marc Douez coxed the men's coxed pair to a bronze medal.

2006 saw Victoria win back the King's Cup title in a record time of 5mins 26secs. MUBC was represented by no fewer than six rowers: Karsten Forsterling, Cameron McKenzie-McHarg, James Marburg, Christian Ryan, Jason Heard and Nicholas Phelps. Mark Douez was cox. Chris O'Brien was coach.

The 2006 Australian men's eight included three MUBC members; Karsten Forsterling, Cameron McKenzie-McHarg and James Marburg. The crew had a successful campaign, winning the Posnan World Cup in Poland in almost world record time, before obtaining a slightly disappointing fourth place at the World Championships in Eton, England. In the women's quad, Catriona Sens won a bronze medal, while Sarah Heard, Lizzie Patrick and Kim Crow, a newcomer to the sport with only twelve months experience, won bronze

in the women's eight. Tim Smith rowed in the lightweight pair that was placed fourth in the final.

During the years leading up to the 2008 Olympic Games, Rowing Australia decided to centralise many of the rowing programs at the AIS in Canberra. Some of the MUBC male rowers were unhappy about this, as they felt they had established a high performance unit down on the Yarra that had produced consistently good results over the 2006–7 season. Nevertheless, the MUBC rowers had little option but to relocate to Canberra for part of the 2008 rowing season.

The Club was successful in winning the Centenary Cup for champion university at intervarsity. The Club was again invited to compete in the World University Challenge in the I-Lan International Collegiate Invitational Regatta in Taiwan, winning a bronze medal in competition against universities such as Harvard, Yale, Cambridge, Oxford, Toronto and its old Japanese friends in Waseda and Keio.

2007–8 season

This season was another successful one for the Club internationally with a gold medal to Alice McNamara in the lightweight women's quad and a bronze medal to Phoebe Stanley in the women's four, both at the World Championships. Other Club members to represent Australia were Lizzie Patrick, Kim Crow, Sarah Heard, Jason Heard, Catriona Sens, James Marburg, Cameron McKenzie-McHarg and Karsten Forsterling. Tom Larkins won bronze in the men's eight at the under 23 World Championships.

The Club also had a very large number of athletes in the Victorian team and an MUBC women's eight was invited to race at the Opening Day regatta in Seattle, USA in May.

Masters programme finally becomes professional

2008 saw the first steps taken towards a far more professionally oriented masters programme in the Club. The catalyst for this came from the appointment of Fiona Milne as the coordinator for all masters rowing activities and the liaison person between the head coach and the masters group. A further impetus came when Christian Ryan developed a modern coaching, training and skills program for the masters group. As a result, the latest training techniques and skills were introduced to people who had been rowing for many years (in some instances for fifty years or more) but had not received any serious coaching since the days of their competitive youth.

The results were immediate and at the 2008 National Masters Regatta at Nagambie, the Club won eleven gold, nine silver and three bronze medals—in most cases with full MUBC crews, not composite crews. The Club was clearly the best-performed club in Australia in masters competition. In September 2008 an older masters eight successfully competed in their masters' division in Austria at the Blue Ribbon of Lake Worther Regatta.⁶³

Two weeks later, one of the MUBC masters oarsmen, John Whiting, 102 years after his grandfather HJ Whiting stroked the last of his six MUBC intervarsity eights to a victory, won his masters division for single sculls at the same Austrian venue at the Rose of Lake Worther Regatta.



2006 National Regatta (left to right): Christian Ryan, Karsten Forsterling, Cameron McKenzie-McHarg and James Marburg
Marc Douez collection

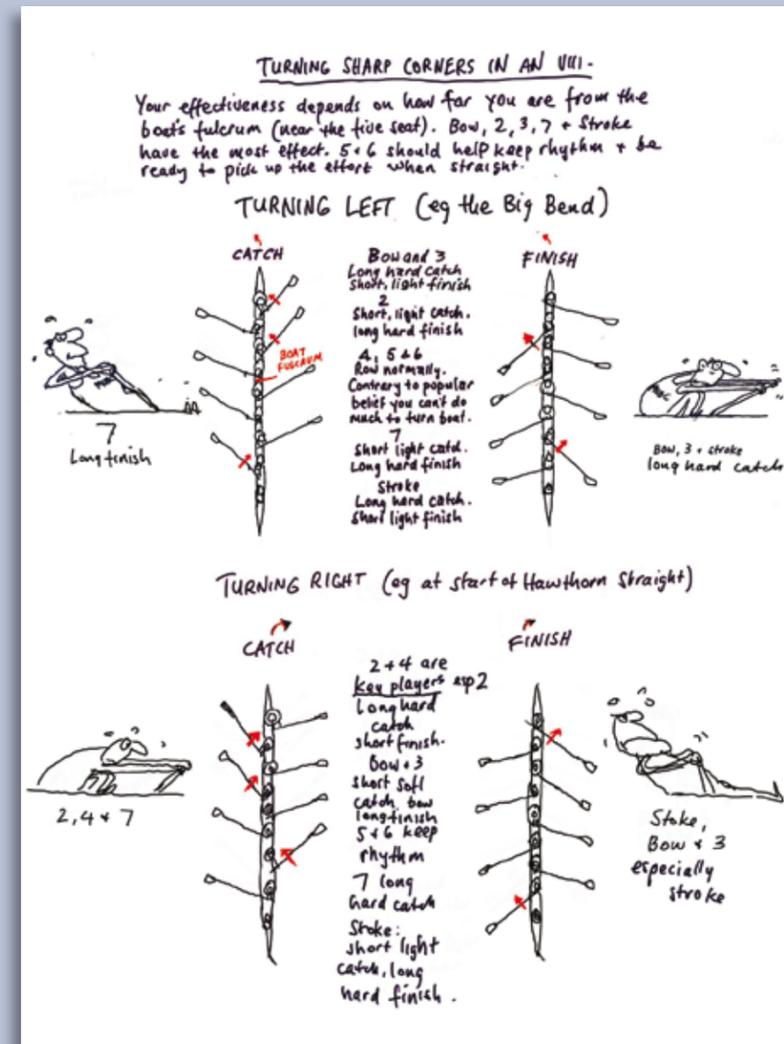


2006 National Regatta, U23 winning coxless pair: Phoebe Stanley, left, and Kim Crow, right
Marc Douez collection



TOP: 2005 MUBC Bairnsdale camp, mixed four: Christian Ryan (bow), Sassie McCarthy (2), Michelle Funder (3), Karsten Forsterling (stroke)
Marc Douez collection

BOTTOM: 2006 National Regatta, facing the camera, Christian Ryan (left) and Marc Douez (right), with fellow Victorian team members
Marc Douez collection



OPPOSITE PAGE TOP LEFT: 1997 FISA Masters Champion C eight (left to right): Field Rickards (bow), Greg Longden (2), Tim Brew (3), Peter Aberle (4), John McKenzie (5), Geoff Rees (6), Bill Peden (7), Charlie Barlett (stroke), Rob England (cox)
 Courtesy Hebphotos

OPPOSITE PAGE MIDDLE: 2002 Henley Veteran's Regatta, MUBC Masters eight, Michael (Taffy) Jones (coach): Peter Druce (bow), Jim Robson (2), Ian Bult (3), Campbell Penfold (4), Arthur Adams (5), Rob Paxton (6), Bill Stokes (7), Peter (Harry) McKeon (stroke), John Henry (cox)

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM LEFT: 2007 MUBC Masters quad scull: Jim Morrison (bow), David Yates (2), Tom Wood (3), John Michelmores (stroke)
 John Michelmores collection

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM RIGHT: 1987 Australian Masters Champion B eight: Tom Yuncken (bow), Tony Oakley (2), Field Rickards (3), Lachie Payne (4), John Harry (5), Geoff Rees (6), Colin Smith (7), Ag Michelmores (stroke), Robert England (cox)
 Tony Oakley collection

LEFT: Peter Nicholson's illustrated instructions, for the benefit of Head of the Yarra competitors, on how to turn sharp corners in an eight while racing
 Courtesy Peter Nicholson

BELOW LEFT: 2008 Australian Masters Champion E eight: (left to right) Field Rickards (bow), Tim Marshall (2), Sandy Marshall (3), Greg Longden (4), John McKeand (5), Peter Antonie (6), John Whiting (7), Geoff Rees (stroke), David England (cox)
 Courtesy Rowing Victoria

BELOW RIGHT: 2008 Australian Masters Champion women's E quad scull: (left to right) Pamela Whiting, John Reddaway (coach), Anne Nicolay, Beth Walter (Nagambie) and Patsy Montgomery
 Courtesy Rowing Victoria





TOP: 2007 Victorian State Champion Men's Senior Eight (Ian Wright, coach): Nick Phelps (bow), Jason Heard (2), Christian Ryan (3), Josh Halder (4), James Marburg (5), Cameron McKenzie-McHarg (6), Karsten Fosterling (7), Tom Paton (stroke), Mark Douez (cox) *Courtesy Hebfotos*

BOTTOM: 2007 Victorian State Champion Women's Senior Eight (Cam Muir and Connie Vanderwerp, coaches): Katie Minogue (bow), Sarah Lazar (2), Kim Crow (3), Sylvie Withers (4), Sassi McCarthy (5), Phoebe Stanley (6), Catriona Sens (7), Sarah Heard (stroke), Elizabeth Patrick (cox) *Courtesy Hebfotos*

2008 and the Beijing Olympics

MUBC had its greatest-ever Olympic selection in 2008. The women were represented by Sarah Heard, Phoebe Stanley and Lizzie Patrick in the eight, Kim Crow in the coxless pair, Catriona Sens in the double scull, and Alice McNamara was the reserve for the lightweight double scull. Alice had earlier in the year won her second consecutive world championship title in the women's lightweight quad. James Marburg and Cameron McKenzie-McHarg were selected in the coxless four and Karsten Forsterling was reserve for the men's sweep squad.

The women's coxless pair finished tenth, the women's double scull finished eighth, and the women's eight finished sixth in the final. The Australian team's outstanding performances were the gold medal wins to the heavyweight men's pair, Drew Ginn and Duncan Free, and the heavyweight men's double scull, Scott Brennan and David Crawshay. David, a Mercantile member, was a member of MUBC's 2000 and 2001 winning intervarsity eights and a University Blue. However, the highlight from the perspective of the MUBC representatives was the silver medal for the men's coxless four, comprising Cameron McKenzie-McHarg and James Marburg from MUBC, and Francis Hegerty and Matthew Ryan from Sydney University Boat Club, with Tim Conrad as coach.

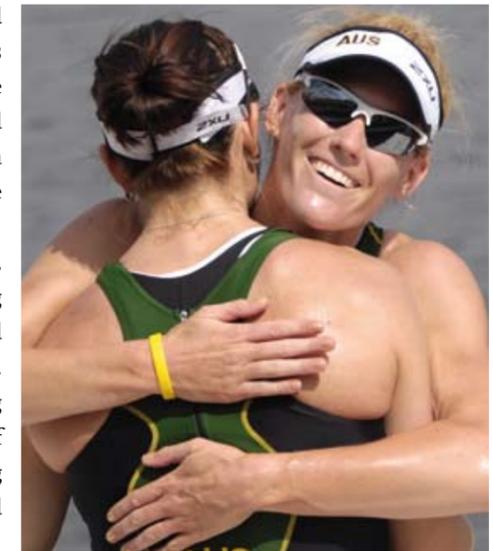
After winning the Lucerne World Cup the coxless four first had to qualify the boat for the Beijing Olympics at the final qualification event in Posnan, Poland, only two months prior to the event. Despite having to row with an emergency in the final due to the bow man's illness, the coxless four won, which qualified the boat for the Beijing Olympics. The crew continued its run of good form in a thrilling Olympic final by leading almost all the way. They were just caught on the line by the reigning world champions and pre-race favourites, Great Britain. A silver medal was an outstanding achievement for the Australians.

A final reflection

One can only imagine what Martin Irving would have made of the Club's achievement at the Beijing Olympics, or for that matter its engagement over recent years in a multitude of local, national and international events. The journey from a tiny university club to the world stage was not always an easy one. But periods of inactivity are too few to remember. Even though the international development of Australian rowing itself, which was for so many years isolated from the rowing hubs of Europe and North America, was slow to burst onto the world scene; whenever it did, there has been a tendency for MUBC members to be part of the vanguard.

For 150 years the Club has represented the joy of rowing with friends on the Yarra River as well as around Australia. It has now grown to be one of the most successful sporting clubs in Australia. It has a broad representative record that would be the envy of any rowing club in the world (see Appendix VII for MUBC's international elite representatives).

One of the Club's distinctive features over the last forty years has been that it is a leading rowing club in almost every area in which it competes. Compared to other leading international rowing clubs such as Leander (UK), London Rowing Club (UK), Harvard University (USA), and Vesper (USA), and its strong Australian competitor clubs such as Mercantile and Sydney University, MUBC is unique in its success across all categories:



Catriona Sens (MUBC) hugs Sonia Mills after they had qualified their boat for the women's heavyweight double scull at the Beijing Olympics by placing second at the 2008 qualifying regatta at Posnan

Courtesy Richard Wearne

men, women, heavyweight, lightweight, elite, club and masters (see Appendix IX for MUBC's Australian champion crews). At the same time, the Club has retained its core roots in both intercollegiate and intervarsity rowing, both of which continue to thrive and are supported by the Club (see Appendix X for MUBC's winning intervarsity crews).

More recently MUBC has reinforced its own unique identity by competing in its own right, with some notable successes in international events such as the Henley Royal Regatta in the UK; the Windermere Cup in Seattle, USA; the Head of the Charles in Boston, USA; the Armada Cup in Lucerne, Switzerland; the Great Race in Auckland, New Zealand and the I-Lan International Collegiate Invitational Regatta in Taiwan.

The challenge for the future is to continue to promote the multifaceted aspects of MUBC's activities, but at the same time retain a strong and cohesive membership group which satisfies all its constituents.

During its history MUBC members have made significant contributions to the community including as Ministers of the Crown, Governors, Chief Justices, professionals in all spheres, leaders of industry and commerce, academics, artists and war heroes. But perhaps most importantly, like all other rowing clubs, MUBC has given its members lifelong friendships and a lifelong love for the sport. Perhaps their feelings are still best expressed by John Lang's words of ninety years ago as he finished his records: 'Good luck to the Melbourne University Boat Club, may you go on and prosper.' Professor Irving and his fellow Club members in 1859 would be immensely proud of their Club now, just as the present members and office holders are appreciative of the foundation stones they laid so many years ago.

Well rowed University!



ABOVE: 2008 Australian men's coxless four: Matthew Ryan (bow), James Marburg (2), Cameron McKenzie-McHarg (3) and Francis Hegerty (stroke), winning their heat at the 2008 Olympic Games qualifying regatta held in Posnan
Courtesy Hebfotos

RIGHT: 2008 Beijing Olympics Games silver medallists (left to right): Cameron McKenzie-McHarg (MUBC), Francis Hegerty (SUBC), Matthew Ryan (SUBC), and James Marburg (MUBC)
Cameron McKenzie-McHarg collection

