



# Up The Creek

Issue: May 2010

Barwon Rowing Club Inc.

[www.barwonrc.asn.au](http://www.barwonrc.asn.au)

## Dates for the Diary May/June

FRIDAY 18 <sup>th</sup> June 6.30	AGM and Presentation Night- Corio Bay RC
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### From the Editors

Welcome to the May Edition of Up the Creek. What a month it has been with Roman 'Goose' Tomczak being recognised for his years of service to the Barwon Rowing Club through the presentation of Life Membership, the 140<sup>th</sup> Dinner and The Demolition. Much sentiment has been expressed now that the shed no longer stands tall.

**Many thanks to Doug Ferguson for many of the photos for this edition.**

Beth and Di

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Presented to  
ROMAN 'Goose' Tomczak  
17<sup>th</sup> April 2010.



Every club has them.....they are the people who appear to live at the club, always involved in every activity whether it be a rowathon, catering, security at HOSG., working bees or functions.

They are generally the " behind the scenes" ones, the quiet achievers with no fanfare, plaudits or bravado contributing in every possible manner and without them most clubs could not function as they do. They are generally called 'Turkey, Chicken or.....Goose

This is the story of one such Goose:

Wandering down to the river in 1973 as a result of a 'Len Gladman' recruiting drive amongst his work colleagues, it soon became apparent that this was going to become a home for a lifetime. There was excitement, fun and soon success.

The rowing years:

- member of the very first ever state youth eight squad
- member of the first entire BRC crew to win a national title
- numerous state titles including youth 4, junior 8, sprint 4.... On 3 occasions
- contributor to the many state champion club pennants
- best 2km erg score from the combined BRC and CBRC senior eight, out ranking Olympic silver medallist Andrew Cassidy.
- recently rowing in the He3ad of the Yarra with, amongst others, his nephew Carl.

If you are lucky enough to be in a crew coached by Goose, you are getting all that experience and knowledge.

There were many 'Goose moments' along the way, some of which I would like to share with you:

- 65 hd holden
- Murcheson train station
- crb tent
- ducking under bridge in Melbourne
- getting lost in the reed channels in Lake Wendouree

As time passed Goose became an outstanding contributor as a Club Captain and Vice Captain and a long serving committee member. However it has been as a coach and mentor over the past 25 years that has been his passion.

He has coached the young, the beginners, seniors and masters relating to all sections and relaying his message in search of the perfect stroke. Most in this room tonight would have had some occasion to interact with Goose in a coaching sense with his major assets being commitment and patience.

His technical expertise is no accident learning his craft from the many influences including Len, Lex and Peter McHugh although things are a little different these days.

-We talk about flat hands, set position and balance. In those days it was 'doomp, doomp, doomp'.  
-We talk about slide control, squeeze and brakes into the catch, in those days it was 'woop, woop, woop'.  
-We talk about connection at the catch, raising into the catch and connect before you drive. Those days it was 'don't choomp, choomp, choomp'.  
-We talk about commitment to the back turn. In those days it was simply draw up.

The equipment has changed as we rowed in timber boats with tree trunk 12ft 7in Croker oars and paid little attention to gearing and rig. When we needed an adjustment it was normally the pitch and we resorted to the Phil Morgan persuader technique..... A cylinder pipe that fitted over the pin and crank. Today it's gearing ratios, pitch meters, adjustable oars and zooties. They now talk about lay which meant something totally different back then!

Coaching has always been an issue for the BRC as both the major schools and Sacred Heart utilise some 60 coaches leaving little for the clubs. Goose has been loyal to the BRC cause, resisting the lure of the major schools instead focussing on Matthew Flinders and Clonard which are the feeder schools for our club.

Goose has over the past few years added the role of course commentator to his outstanding cv. This particular day I had been searching for Goose at a local regatta and asked someone if they had seen him. His voice had been ringing out over the p.a. for some time above me. I had no idea that it was him doing the commentary!

His commentary is always accurate, insightful, concise and entertaining.....especially when local BRC crews are involved.  
-'Coming under the Harrison Bridge it is MLC by half a length over Lauriston and if the Barwon girls lift the rating and drive their legs a little harder.....now..... They could be right in the finish'.  
-'And the Barwon sculler Marcus Tomczak is six lengths clear approaching the finish and will record a convincing win.....it's enough to make an uncle very proud'.

ROMAN JOHN TOMCZAK: You are a legend of the BRC and life membership places you in esteemed company alongside W.R. Grose, Lex Quinn, Keith Cook and Kevin Chandley but to name a few. It is availed to those prepared to dedicate a life time of selfless service to our wonderful club and to this end you are no exception.

**Life membership is no medal to be worn or a trophy to be displayed. It is recognition, acknowledgement and an honour bestowed by your peers.**  
**Well done and well deserved. Congratulations.**

(Printed as presented at the 140<sup>th</sup> Celebration by Richard Tomczak.)



*Goose accepting his Life Membership certificate from club President Sean Drew and Club Captain Sam Elliott*

### **Captain's Corner...Sam Elliott**

It's been a very quiet month on the water with only a handful of members competing at various masters' regattas. At the Banks Masters Regatta Andrew Cleary and Ross George won the Male Masters C Coxless Pair. Andrew also rowed in a winning Corio Bay Coxed Masters C Four. At the Geelong Masters Regatta Richard Tomczak, Dave McPherson, Ross George and Andrew Cleary coxed by Bex Gibson had a win in the Male Masters C Coxed Four. In a couple of weeks we have the RV Masters State Championships and then the first week in June we have the Australian Masters Championships which will be held in Perth. The Winter Sculling Series starts on Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>. It would be great to see as many BRC members compete this winter as this provides a great starting point for next season. Even though this time of the year is normally our "down time" on the water it's been great to see so many of our members still out on the water. Wednesday nights seem very popular at the moment with many crews out.

A reminder that the AGM and Awards Night will be held on Friday June 18<sup>th</sup> at Corio Bay Rowing Club from 6:30pm.

See you on the water soon.  
Sam Elliott Club Captain

*'The Barwon Rowing Club will provide the most enjoyable rowing environment in the region'*

### **SHED UPDATE**

Going to go....



Going....



Gone



### **From the President...Sean Drew**

Well what a month we have had, if you don't know the rowing shed is gone and all that is left is the slab of concrete the old shed was on. I think there were a few tears shed by some of the older members, (Chicken and Jim). That being said the work behind the scenes for the construction is booming with the steel frame work is nearing completion and most of the panel walls are completed. Over the next few weeks you should start to see the construction begin.....

I have to thank all those who attended the 140<sup>th</sup> year celebration function at Lydon Grove and I think we all agree that it was a great night so thanks to Scott and Sam for the organization, well done. I have spoken with Andrew GUERIN since the night and he has asked to pass on his thanks as he thoroughly enjoyed himself and looks forward to attending future Barwon functions. In relation to the trophy which was presented to us on the night it will be proudly displayed in the new trophy cabinet in the redeveloped shed.

For those of you who don't know we are still rowing in a capacity out of Geelong College and Geelong Grammar so if you feel inclined to come down in the dark of winter we will still be able to cater for you. Don't forget the winter sculling series will begin soon and it would be great to see as many Barwon members as possible competing. The racing is handicapped so don't worry about your ability, just have a go. On another point Figure Gym in Geelong have offered all our female members the opportunity to attend the Gym for 14 days at no cost, so get along and support them.

We are still having a get together on Friday nights at about 5.00p.m. on the club slab so if you feel inclined come down have a look and catch up. Hope to catch up soon,

Sean DREW



Sean Drew proudly accepts the 1870 trophy that was returned to its rightful place at the Barwon Rowing Club by Andrew Guerin at the 140<sup>th</sup> Dinner Celebrations

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

#### **AWARDS NIGHT**

*When: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 at 6.30pm at Corio Bay Rowing Club. More details to follow in next newsletter and via email.*

## **Opportunities to continue rowing**

During the "off season" and the building of the shed there are still opportunities to row using the small fleet housed in Geelong Grammar and the Geelong College sheds. On **Wednesday** evenings at **5.30pm** and **Saturday** mornings at **8.00am** all members – junior, senior, male, female – are welcome to come down and have a row.

Although there is no shed there is still a Club. So show that the Spirit of Barwon continues, come down and enjoy some time on the water with other Barwon members.

## **Storm Boy arrives at BRC:**

Kara Wilson is now to be known around the club as Storm Boy. In a tribute to the classic Australian children's book, Kara felt that during a friendly race between the Barwon and Corio Bay masters the pelicans should hold right of way. So she steered around one...and into the bank.

Never mind that it was her first time in a bow coxed boat, here at Up The Creek we will give her the benefit of the doubt and attribute the feat to her Storm Boy-like love of pelicans and not her coxing ability. The fact that they were 300m behind at the time doesn't need to be mentioned.

## **Fundraising News**

### **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle**

At very short notice the Club had the opportunity to host the sausage sizzle on the Sunday of the Anzac weekend. Thanks to Rob Gardner for taking on the role of coordinator and for those who were able to assist at such short notice. It proved to be a success with much needed funds finding their way into the building fund.

The Club has the opportunity to again host the sizzle on the Father's Day weekend so keep your eye out for updates closer to the time.



Rob and Richard with the 'Bunnings' man!

## **Entertainment books have arrived:**

Many people are familiar with the **Entertainment Book** which is full of vouchers and ideas for places to go and things to do. Barwon will be selling the 2010/2011 Book for \$55 each of which the club receives \$11. Please see Scott Penning (0409 954506) together with your cash to pick up your book.

## **Thanks to those who have nominated the Barwon Rowing Club as part of the Bendigo Bank Community Program..**



### **Ways to participate:**

When you bank with your local Bendigo branch you can help the Barwon Rowing Club fund raising. Bendigo Bank contributes a percentage to the club, based on the accounts attached by members.

Forms are available at the club or by speaking to Heather Palmer (committee member.)

Confidentiality is maintained at all times Take your completed form to your local Bendigo Branch and feel free to ask Bendigo staff any questions you may have."

**Fruit Real Estate** is one of the Club's newest supporters! If people mention the Barwon Rowing Club when selling their house through Fruit Real Estate, estate agent Brad Morris will donate up to 20% of his commission to the club. Make sure you **email Lyn George [secretary@barwonrc.asn.au](mailto:secretary@barwonrc.asn.au)** to ensure that the club receives their donation from Fruit.

You're invited to...



Offer includes:

- 3 x 30minute one-on-one sessions with a trainer
- unlimited use of our vibration machines
- unlimited use of Geelong's only Sunlight infrared sauna
- Futrex assessment - estimates body fat, lean weight, total body water and BMI

( The fine print reads: Offer includes:

- 3- 30 minute one on one sessions with a trainer
- Unlimited use of our vibration machines
- Unlimited use of Geelong's only Sunlight Infrared Sauna
- Futrex assessment- estimates body fat, lean weight, total body water and BMI.)

Apologies Andrew. The photos will be in the next edition.



# Geelong Winter Sculling Series 2010

**Starting June 12<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**At Corio Bay Rowing Club. 12:30hrs**

**Same great format**

**Same competitive racing**

**Great Winter training**

**Entry fee : \$4.00 (or \$30 season )**

**Don't miss out!!**

The 2010 Winter Sculling Series will maintain much the same format as previous years. That is; Single sculls will be raced on the "Barwon Mile". The entries will be broken down into "heats" of approximately 10 competitors, and separating tub boat competitors and "best boat" rowers.

The first events will be the "Round the Island" Time Trial (3km) and "Machine Gun" Sprints (2 X 500m) to establish a handicapping time. After this, 6 events will follow with handicapped start and points awarded for finish position. The highest points score in Tub boats and Best boats will be the series winners.

The final event of the series will be the Sculler's Head of the Barwon, a 4.5km race from Queen's park to the finish of the Barwon Mile – also handicapped on the same basis.

Following each event, all competitors and supporters are welcome back at The Club for a celebratory drink, complimentary toasted sandwiches, heat awards and point score.

# Winter Sculling Series 2010

**Starting date: June 12<sup>th</sup> 2010**

The Geelong Winter Sculling Series is open to bona fide members of a Rowing Club or School affiliated with Rowing Victoria. Competitors not members of Corio Bay Rowing Club are requested to organise their own boats. CBRC members should request boat use from the rowing Committee.

Competitors under the age of 18 years will require a parent or guardian signature on the entry disclaimer. This is available on the CBRC web site and at the event on the day.

## Dates

June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Round the Island on the Barwon ( <a href="#">Albert Park Grand Prix*</a> )
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Machine Gun Sprints
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	race 1
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	race 2
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	race 3
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	race 4
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	race 5
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	race 6
<a href="#">Aug 7<sup>th</sup></a>	<a href="#">Sculler's Head of the Maribyrnong*</a>
<a href="#">Aug 14<sup>th</sup></a>	<a href="#">Sculler's Head of the Barwon</a>
<a href="#">Aug 28<sup>th</sup></a>	<a href="#">Sculler's Head of the Yarra*</a>

\* These events are conducted by the Victorian Scullers Association and are open to all affiliated rowers but note that an additional fee applies.

## Categories

Tub boats	(1,500 metres)
Racing boats	(1,500 metres)

## Entries

Week 1	Enter on the day	(Register by 12.45pm)
Week 2 onwards	via e-mail to <a href="mailto:geelongscullers@hotmail.com">geelongscullers@hotmail.com</a> by 6pm on Wednesday prior to the race or write in the entry book that will be out each race day	

With your entry, state name, club, and category and the name of your boat (if it's likely to be rowed twice.)

## Time

**Arrive 12:30 pm**  
**First race approx. 1:30**

For more information eMail [geelongscullers@hotmail.com](mailto:geelongscullers@hotmail.com)  
Or phone Peter Aberle : 0404 452482