

# Club Report

Dear Member

As the warm summer period finally comes upon us, Christmas and New Year celebrations are just around the corner! This is a fabulous opportunity to celebrate the festive season with your fellow club members.

Management and staff invite you to relax at your club and enjoy the extended **Christmas Happy Hour** on Thursday 21st December between 6 – 8 pm, with complementary snacks provided for all members.

While you're there, you can also enjoy the **Rowers Retreat Restaurant Summer Holiday Special**, comprising a 200g grain feed steak served with chips or mash, a small green salad and a choice of sauces for just \$10. This special is available from the start of December, from Monday to Thursday for lunch and Tuesday to Thursday for dinner.

Join in on the festivity of **News Years Eve by the water**. Enjoy a large buffet feast of seafood and Italian cuisine. Dance the night away and see in 2007 with friends and family. Tickets are only \$95.00 (children under 12 only \$50). Bookings are essential on 9797 8448.

**Members Badge Draw** (06/11973) is every Friday night between 6.00pm and 8.00pm with two draws held each night. A cash prize of \$200 will jackpot by \$25 each week until it reaches \$1,500. When it hits \$1,500 we'll keep drawing that night until it is won. During this years' badge draw over \$1,250 in prizes were given away to lucky members.

**Sunday Entertainment** is here all through summer. Come along on Sundays between 4pm -7pm to relax the afternoon away with some great artists covering all your favourite hits. There will be no Sunday entertainment on Christmas eve but you can dance the night away to our DJ on New Years Eve from 7pm.

Don't miss out on our last **Wine and Cheese Night** for 2006 on Thursday 7 December with great Hunter Valley Wines from Tulloch Winery. Wine and Cheese Night will return on Thursday 1 Feb 2007 with the introduction of some great wines from Nightingale Winery.

The last **Trivia Night** for 2006 will be Wednesday 6 December. Trivia returns on Wednesday 10 January 2007 with players having the chance to win some great prizes including bar vouchers valued at \$50 & \$20, restaurant vouchers and a brand new 'Jackpot Cash Draw' where you can test your trivia talents with three jackpot questions and win cash! The Jackpot Prize pool starts at \$50 and jackpots \$10 each week until it hits \$500. It will stay at \$500 until won.

Try your luck in our new '**Meat Raffles**' every Thursday Night @ 6pm and Saturday @ 4pm. Come along and be in the chance to win one of the three meat trays on offer each draw. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5.

**Wine Dine and Dance Night** has now finished for the year. You will see a return of this popular night on Friday 2 February 2007. Next year we will be putting a new twist to the evening with new entertainment to dance the night away.

Don't forget that the **Rowers Retreat Restaurant**, is open every day for lunch between 12.00 & 3.00pm and from 6.00 to 9.00pm for dinner on Tuesday to Sunday. Rowers Retreat caters for all types of functions with a great range of menus. Contact 9797 8448 for further information and bookings.

The Club and restaurant will be operational all throughout the Christmas and New Year period with the exception of Christmas Day.

Lastly, as many of you are probably already aware, memberships are up for renewal from 1st December 2006 until 31st of January 2007. Please see the enclosed member renewal notice for details.

On behalf of the management and staff and the Board of Directors I would like to wish you all a Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year period.

Simon O'Neill  
Secretary Manager

## KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

**Members' Badge Draw – Every Friday, 6pm–8pm**

**Entertainment by the Water  
Every Sunday, 4pm – 7pm**

**Meat Raffles  
Every Thursday, 6pm and Saturday, 4pm**

## December

**Trivia Night- Wednesday 6 December, 7.30pm**

**Wine and Cheese Night  
Thursday 7 December, 6pm**

**Christmas Happy Hour  
Thursday 21st December, 6pm – 7pm**

**Rowers Retreat Summer Holiday Special  
Mon – Thurs (Lunch) and Tues – Thurs (Dinner)**

**New Years Eve by the Water  
Sunday 31st December, 7pm**

# Rowing Down Under, Christmas 2006

Christmas is upon us once again and it has been quite a year for the rowers. We have had success at all levels including a World gold medal by our under 23 champion females. Currently we have all of our top men and some of our top women rowers training hard in Canberra at the Australian Institute of Sport. We hope that their efforts will be rewarded with some good results during the 2006/2007 season.

But the highlight, if it could be called that, of the season was the departure of our Head Coach Tim McLaren. In September Tim headed to the sunny shores of California and took up the inaugural post of founding coach of the newly formed California Rowing Club.

This club has its clubhouse next door to CalBerkley in San Francisco and is the brain child of an ex Berkley student who sees a potential for a high performance rowing centre on the West Coast. This is rather a departure from the traditional center for rowing built around Princeton and other East Coast establishments.

It presents as a great and exciting challenge for Tim and if he follows his past performances it won't be long before the top rowers are falling over themselves to become part of his squad.

Tim joined our club in 1992 and took it to the very top of Australian Rowing. He coached crews for world championships every year since then and had crews in three Olympic Games winning medals at every appearance. He attracted rowers not only from all around Australia but around the world for they all knew that improvement was assured under his watchful eye.

It is difficult to know what makes someone so outstanding. In truth it is a gift that no amount of learning can produce. Australia has produced such people in other sports but there have been none better produced in Rowing. When Tim arrived, the club was battling to stay alive as it fought off bankruptcy brought about by inept management. The UTS Union put several million dollars into the club but money alone cannot produce champions. Tim took on the massive task of putting the club back on the map and achieved that and more within the first few years of

his appointment. Tim was a born teacher and loved nothing better than sharing his skills with rowers and coaches and it was Ellen Randell who became Tim's understudy and the quiet achiever.

The Olympics of 1996 saw Ellen as the first woman rowing coach ever to take a crew to the Olympics and she and Tim between them had four Australian crews representing. An amazing achievement.

The Sydney Olympics probably saw Tim bring our club to its highest point with one quarter of the Australian Rowing Team coming from our club. His UTS Four displaced the Oarsome Foursome as our number one crew which came about after three years of hard competition.

In 2004 Tim was in charge of the Australian eight at the Olympics and six of the crew were UTS Club members. That same year he coached the Kings Cup crew to victory which was the first time NSW had won in 20 years. And he almost did the impossible by having Cambridge win over Oxford but gear failure in the last few strokes robbed them of victory.

It is often said that no one is indispensable and probably that is true however Tim was unique and leaves a mighty gap not only at this club but in Australian Rowing. If Tim was not indispensable it is far from obvious who will and can fill his shoes. And America is looking just that little bit more confident for the 2008 Olympics.

So it is thanks and Bon Voyage to Tim and his family and hopefully one day he will return to once again pass on his wisdom to all of those fortunate enough to work under him.

Neill Robinson  
Secretary / Treasurer