

*The West Australian
Rowing Club*

(Inc.)

and

West's Sculling Club (1963)



AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY RECORD
OF THE FIRST ROWING CLUB FORMED
IN THE COLONY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1868 - 1968

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THE EDITOR

I dedicate this small booklet to my wife and my mother who have, despite late meals and early morning alarm clocks, borne with and understood my great love of rowing during the last 33 years.

The W.A. Rowing Club has meant so much to me over my many years of association with it, that I could not let its Centenary pass by without making some effort to record at least some of its illustrious history.

Over the last five or six years, my interest has been spurred by the thought that a man needs physical exertion to counteract the office work and labour saving devices forced on us by economic necessity; as a people we are becoming soft and are losing much of that stuff that made the "Vikings" so legendary. The soft life and the "CAR" without some adventure, are not for me and I sincerely hope that I have persuaded just a few boys not to flinch too much when they go out on the river in the cold damp and darkness of the early Winter mornings. It is in these conditions that I have made my best friends - people who will come up fighting no matter what - people who are reliable and who have a desire to build and not just to use and destroy.

I have never tired of messing around with boats and I hope I never will; somehow each boat is different and, like a woman, responds to care and attention. It is with a feeling of pride and pleasure that I thank the very many young men, who in this year of 1968, have put "Wests" back on the map. They have helped me to prove that it is the "man in the boat" that counts - they have won over 30 races in one season - surely a record for "Wests" and many of these wins in the so called old fashioned poppet, although they have also won well in our new "cox in the bow" swivel pair too.

To them I say, be proud of your Club and do not shirk responsibility - strangely enough it is good for you!! - Every Club is faced with the same problems of finance, organisation, training and provisions of boats and gear, so cherish that legacy of an established Club-house and gear left to you by members gone by, build on it and consolidate and remember that a Club is something you give something to, not that gives you something.

GUY NEGUS.

POEM: 'A RACING EIGHT' by James L. Cuthbertson

Who knows it not,
Who loves it not,
The long and steady swing
The instant dip, the iron grip,
The rowlocks linked ring.
The arrowing sway of hands away,
The slider oiling aft,
The forward sweep, the backward leap
That speed the flying craft.

A racing Eight a perfect mould,
True to the builders law.
What takes the waters gleaming gold,
Without a single flaw,
A ship deep resonant within
Harmonious to the core
That vibrates to her polished skin,
The tune of wave and oar.

Foreword by: Leslie Le Souef, O.B.E., E.D. (Club Patron)

The advent of its Centenary is a notable occasion in the history of any, and indeed every, Sporting Club. That its individuality should remain over such a period of time is in itself perhaps remarkable. With a heritage of one hundred years this the first Rowing Club to be formed on the Swan River looks back with pride on its past, examines the present and strengthened by the humility born of the knowledge of the achievements of those now passed on, faces the future hopeful that the torch lit by its founders will be burning even brighter as it is handed on to those yet to come.

Many Sports demand much of the individual. Self discipline with subordination of self to the strivings and endeavours of those others training and competing together must be of the highest order and in this regard Rowing takes a foremost place. It is not without interest that a Club demanding such qualities of character from its Members should include in its ranks, men who have achieved much. In their younger days a state premier, learned judges, and many other leaders in the various professions have been proud to row for the Club, alongside men drawn from all walks of life; and their mutual regard and friendship have never been dimmed. It is hoped to bring this great occasion much closer to the minds of past and present members. The Club over the years has had its vicissitudes, but nevertheless, the Spirit of Rowing has inspired it and will assuredly do so for countless years to come.

Well rowed, "The Wests"!

THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS

This is a brief history record of the first rowing Club formed in the Colony of Western Australia in 1868. Two old boats - fixed seat fours - were found in the mud at South Perth; they were probably discarded army craft sent out for use by the officers of the garrison.

These boats were the humble beginning of very proud and distinguished rowing club, known as the West Australian Rowing Club; they were used for racing among interested colonists who became the first members. To start with, the members raced amongst themselves but later another club was started at Fremantle, followed shortly afterwards by the Swan River Rowing Club.

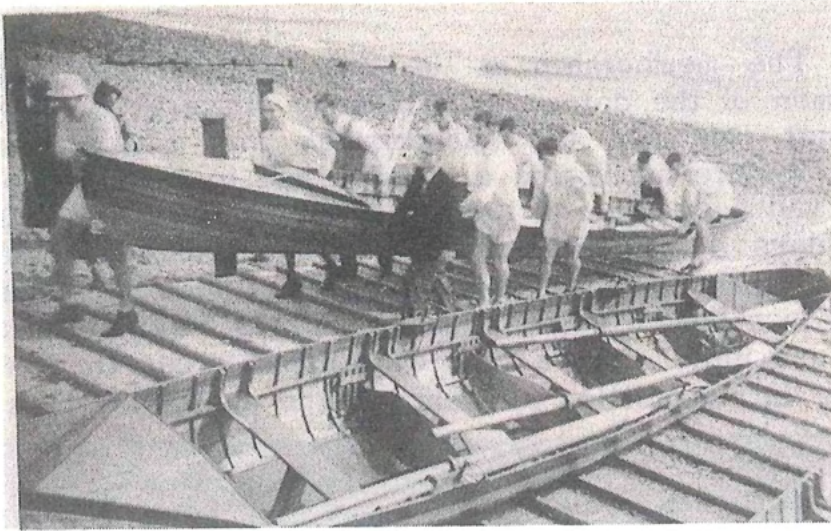
In 1883, some of the club members including Sir Walter James, later State Premier, R.B. Burnside, afterwards a Judge, J.N. Drummond, founder of J.N. Drummond & Co., Geo. Hillman, Clerk of Legislative Council, W.A.G. Walter, Police Magistrate, H.S. King, Surveyor General and Minister for Lands, and Fred Spencer, Commissioner of Stamps, gathered in the Criterion Hotel, and in the discussion that ensued, it was decided that the W.A.R.C. be properly constituted with a set of racing colours of blue and white. The Club archives contain a copy of these first rules presented to the Club by our old friend, George Rogers.

THE SECOND TWENTY YEARS

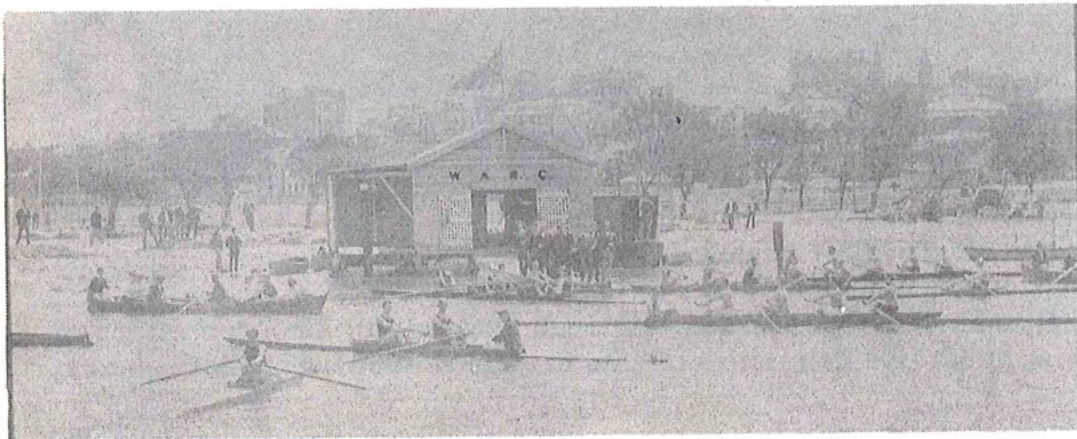
In 1902, Governor Lawley attended the Club's Annual Ball, which was a big social occasion each year for many years.

At this time the headquarters of the Club was a small wooden shed at the foot of Mill Street. The Club fleet was augmented by an Eight in August 1903. This boat was built by George McCarter and was the first Eight built in the colony in McCarter's boat shed near the Club premises.

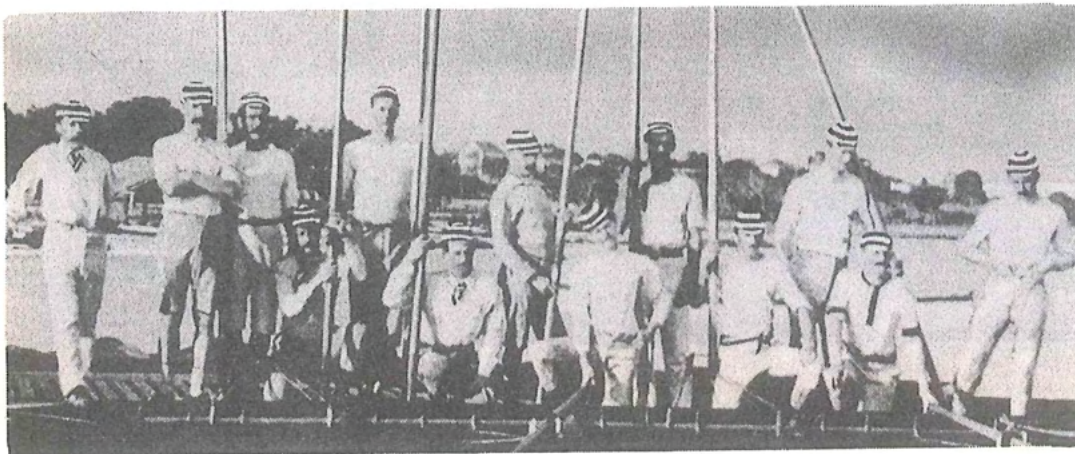
In 1903 there was a walking race from the Club house to Claremont and back along a dusty pot-holed limestone road. There was a big entry and E.S. Walker won, with Karl During second.



Type of fixed seat four used by the initial members of the Club.



The first clubhouse built near the foot of Mill Street. The picture shows the club fleet just before the turn of the century. On the left is the "gig" type craft used for taking ladies out on the river.



The original members of the W.A.R.C. taken in 1884.

The membership at the time, consisted of the gentlemen of the colony; mostly army officers and professional men and the subscription was £2.2.0. per annum. Before admission a member had to have a proposer and seconder and the same rule applies today. In those days it was difficult to gain admittance and the active membership was in the vicinity of 300. To obtain a seat in a boat a member had to put his name up on a board and quite often a race developed across the Esplanade in competition for seats in the available boats.



Winners of the first eight-oar race ever held in Western Australia. Rowed on the Canning River, October 26th, 1903. Bob Joyce (Stroke): Bob Hannah (7): George King (6): Jack Cowain (5): George Wallis (4): Charlie Streat (3): Don Harris (2): Horace Jones (bow): Don McLean (cox).



Rowed on Opening Day of New Shed March 10th, 1906.

"SHENTON" FOURS.

Won by W.A. Goland (Stroke), L.J. Jones (3), J.E. Rielly (2), A.A. Andrews (Bow), A. Howard (Cox).

Shortly after 1903 the other clubs purchased Eights and races began. The first Eight oar races were for Maidens and Juniors at Canning Bridge. W.A.R.C. won both races with a crew consisting of R. Joyce, Stroke, R. Hannah, G. King, J. Cowan, C. Street, G. Wallis, D. Harris, H. Jones, Bow, D. McLean, Cox, and H. Rockett, Coach.

It was after a regatta at Guildford in 1904 that the Club colours of blue and white were changed to cardinal and gold.

1904 or 5, when the Club fleet consisted of 3 Eights, 3 Fours, 1 Pair, 2 Tub Pairs and 1 Scull, was a most important year in the Club history; it was in this year that a committee comprising K. Fourdriner, E.S. Walker, Harry Bell, W.A. Goland, Horace Jones and others including the Captain, W.H. Young, who was a Public Works Department Engineer, obtained the site on which the Club House now stands, at the foot of Barrack Street, by interview with the then Governor Lawley. The finance for the Clubhouse was particularly difficult until the idea of issue of debentures was decided on. Each interested supporter purchased one or more debentures of £10 and in this way the new Clubhouse was paid for. Many years afterwards Committee Members were occasionally approached by executors of deceased estates to ascertain the value of these debentures. Fortunately no one pressed claims and the Club's always difficult financial position was not therefore, adversely affected.

The first Champion 8's was in 1908 and was won by Swans stroked by Bert Sadler in opposition to Bob Joyce. The race was so close that an excited supporter of the W.A.R.C. fell off the bow of "Bennett's" launch.



The shed in 1962 when it received a major face lift for the Empire Games held in Perth in that year.

THE ARRIVAL AND HISTORY OF GEORGE ROGERS.

In 1907 George Rogers, then about 22, arrived in Western Australia and joined the Club, and because he made much of the Club history, we have incorporated his history in this record as a tribute to him.

George had his first win in a rowing boat event in a Junior 4 on the river Lea in England in 1900. He won the State Sculling title in 1908 and remained undefeated sculling champion for 17 years; he won 19 champion 8's and stroked 18 of them. The exception was in 1947 when he filled the bow seat at a moment's notice. He won a number of Champion 2's and 4's and, altogether, won a total of forty State Championships.

In the interstate sphere he first represented W.A. in the eights in 1908. He next stroked W.A. in Hobart in 1910; in Melbourne in 1914, when W.A. finished 3rd; in 1920 in Brisbane when W.A. was second and in Launceston in Tasmania in 1921, when W.A. made history by winning the inaugural King's Cup race - Karl During was the coach. Prior to 1921, the race was for the Australian title only. He was stroke of a crew which finished 3rd in Sydney in 1922 and of the crew which was very narrowly beaten on the Swan River, the following year by the famous Murray Bridge crew from South Australia.

George also stroked two successful W.A. crews in the Stewards Challenge Cup at the Melbourne Henley regatta.

In addition to stroking King's Cup crews, he has also selected and coached them, perhaps his best crews were the 1947 and 1951 Interstate Eights, both stroked by the redoubtable Don Fraser.



Winners King's Cup 1921
Tasmania

W. White (Cox), G. Rogers (Stroke), F. Slee, J. Child, W. Brown, A. Sadler,
J. Gordon, J. Sharples, H. Mettam (Bow).

George continued to scull and row until well after his 70th birthday. In 1948, his amazing physical fitness attracted the attention of the Sydney University Department of Physiology. It considered him to be a suitable subject for certain physical experiments. After a few tests in Perth, he went to Sydney where he was put through some long and vigorous experiments. The report he afterwards received stated "The general result of the tests records fact that you have shown an extraordinary degree of physical fitness for a man of 65 years. In particular, it indicated that your performance was approximately equal to about 75% of what you probably recorded as a young man at your very best".

Each year a 12 mile sculling race is conducted from Fremantle to Perth; this race was inaugurated by George in 1940, who himself, won this gruelling race in 1952 at the age of 67.

George set a series of records in Western Australian rowing which will probably never be equalled.



Barrack St. Jetty - Perth

Veteran Oarsman George Rogers dressed in the traditional "Doggett Coat and Badge" welcoming H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF ROWING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Coaches of the W.A. Rowing Club have from the early 1900's trained and coached crews for Guildford Grammar School, Scotch College, Hale School and Christian Brothers College. The late Judge Edmund Drake-Brockman, afterwards a Judge of the Federal Arbitration Court, stroked a winning Guildford crew in 1902, coached by the Club. Later Hale School used the Club premises and George Rogers had many successes as coach of their crews.

Coaches from the Club have done much to advance rowing in this State by assisting with Public School crew coaching. Some details of successful coaches will be of interest:

- W.A. Goland Scotch College Coach for many years
- G.E. Rogers Hale School coach from 1915 to 1945
- D.H. Fraser Guildford Grammar and Christ Church
- A.G. Rosser Hale School

In 1961, members of the W.A.R.C. coached crews from every College represented in the Head of the River races.

D.H. Fraser and G. Norton (Christchurch); G.A. Negus and R. Little (Hale School); J.L.C. Wickham and J.D. Keogh (Guildford Grammar); J. Sharples (Wesley); T. McKenzie (Aquinas); K. Langley (Scotch College).

CLUB SUCCESSES

The Club has won the Pennant 21 out of 53 times, the last time being in 1959.

A lot of the History of the Club is recorded on shields and cups presented for open competitions. Many championships have been won by Club stalwarts. Since the inception of the pairs championship "West's" have won 25 out of 61. In the fours championship the records show 25 wins out of 52, and in the eights 27 wins out of 44. The sculling championship record of wins is even better, 49 wins out of 58.

CLUB TROPHIES AND RECORDS

Some years ago it was realised that work done on maintaining boats and Club premises was extremely important. Mr. E. Lance Barrett presented trophies for many years for the best Club Man and the Most Improved Oarsman.

These trophies were later allowed to lapse but the idea lived on and some years later an approach was made to F.W. Jacoby, Esq., a man always interested in amateur sports, and Mr. Jacoby presented the Club with shields for perpetual competition for the best Club man and Most Improved Oarsman. The F.W. Jacoby trophies are retained in the Club House and each year small medallions are presented to the members selected.

A record of captains and life members was commenced in 1946 and is now maintained at the Club House on the bow sections of two of the Club's fleet. Naturally the Club fleet has consisted of many boats and it was felt that this record would not be complete without a short resume of the oarsmen and others who have been honoured by having a boat christened in their names. It has been remarkably difficult to obtain the information detailed, and apologies are made for any omissions.



Club Members — 1927

ESPECIALLY HONOURED MEMBERS

Firstly there is George Rogers - he has had many boats named after him as you know, and his history is recorded specially herein.

Col. C.H. Lamb:

Patron of the Club for many years, was always a keen follower of the fortunes of the Club.

Col. Leslie E. Le Souef M.D., O.B.E., E.D.:

Life Member and patron of the Club and always able to find time to attend Club meetings and functions, where his words of experience and wisdom have proved invaluable, has assisted on a number of occasions with the rehabilitation of the Club when it was at low ebb, also a member of the legendary "Beef Steakers".

Mr. Justice Negus:

Life Member, a Club Trustee for many years and a very keen supporter, has assisted considerably both financially and otherwise to keep the Club boats on the water, especially when the going was tough, also a member of the "Beef Steakers".

K.W. (Sprook) Langley:

Life Member and Club President for many years, a most generous, thoughtful and helpful person who rowed for many years with George Rogers with whom he had many successes in pair, four and eight oar races, state sculling champion for many years.

T.W. Langley:

Sprook's father, a great benefactor of the Club both during and after "Sprook's" rowing years.

E. Lance-Barrett:

Life Member whose great love of rowing and generous financial support have always been a great encouragement for members, was the original donor of the annual trophies for "Most Improved Oarsman" and "Best Club Man" and latterly the shield for the "Most Consistent Coxswain".

Ed. Negus:

Life Member - Vice-President for many years, a very generous supporter of the Club. Always ready to help when called on.

W. Hare:

Life Member - almost a part of the Club who would willingly do anything to help the W.A.R.C.



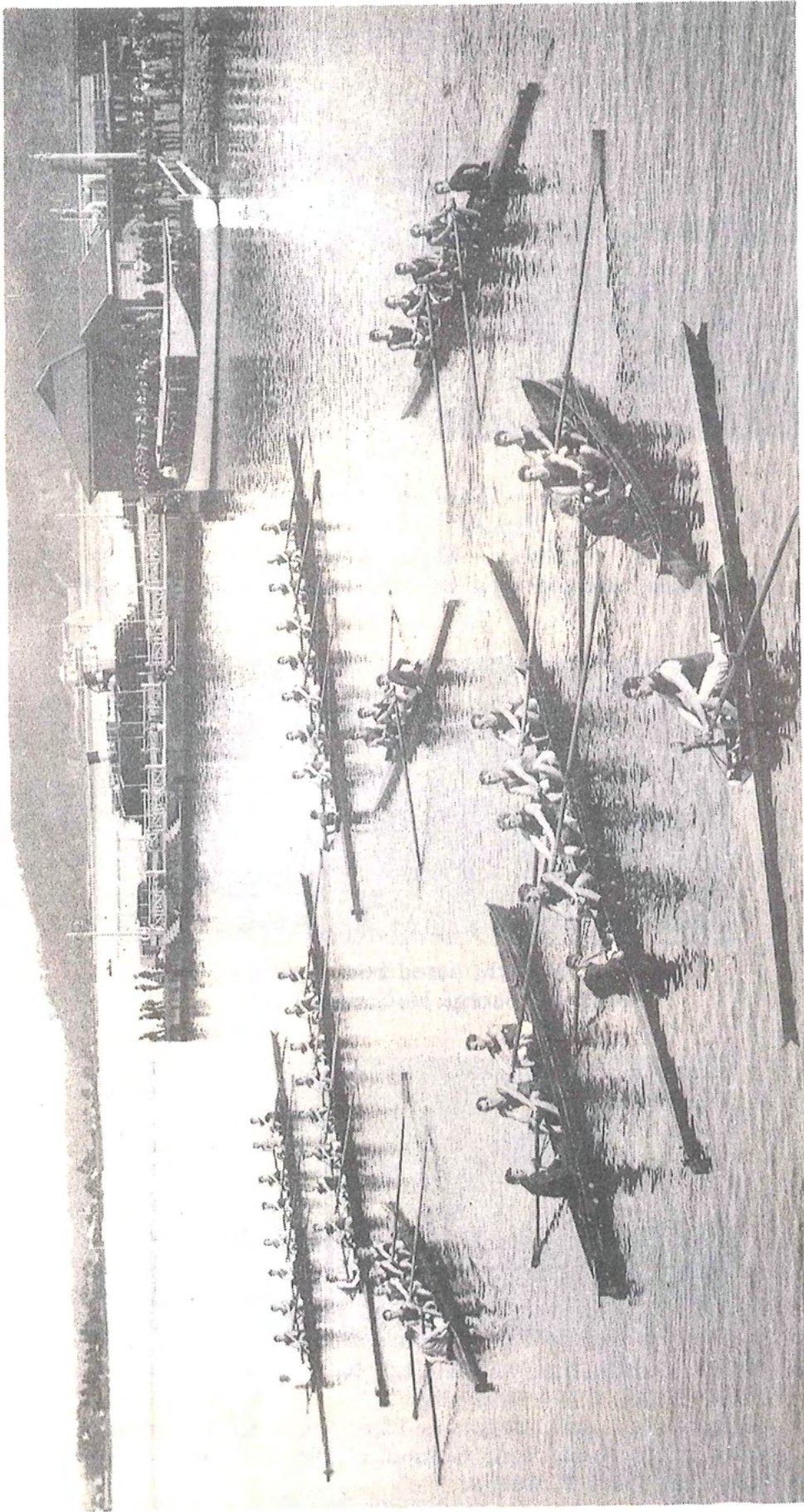
Regatta — Guildford, June 6th, 1904
 Finish Maiden Eights
 Colours - White, Blue Hoops
 Colours changed after this date to Cardinal and Gold



Launching of Eight oared boat — August 1903
 Built by George McCarter, Perth.



CREW: Stroke, E.S. Walker 11.7; No.7, H.J.G. Edwards 12.0; No.6, C.W. Horsburgh 11.4; No.5, P.J. Ryan 12.0; No.4, L.J.C. Magennis 12.0; No.3, S.E.C. Underwood 10.5; No.2, W.A. Goland 11.10; Bow, E.G. Bee 9.7; Cox, Geo. W. Wallis.



1912 Crews entered for the Fremantle regatta.

D.H. Fraser:

A most successful oarsman and coach, rowed in many W.A. and Australian crews, was particularly successful in inter-club rowing, who if possible, improved George Rogers rowing technique.

Karl Daring:

Coached the winning 1921 Interstate 8 stroked by George Rogers. One of the few old members who remembered the Club in his Will - he left the money to build the boat which now bears his name.

J. Banfield:

Life Member, originally a keen sculler, who always strongly supported the Club. He built and donated the Club's two first fibre glass tub pairs.

May Filmer:

President of the Ladies Committee for many years, both she and her husband (a Life Member) did so much to help the Club that, possibly for the first time in its long history, the Club named a boat after a lady. The bow of this boat has been preserved and now bears the names of the Club's Life Members.

J.R. Sharples:

A Life Member and keen Club supporter, very good friend of George Rogers.

G.E. Mettam:

A Life Member and keen supporter of the Club was a member of the first A.I.F. Crew in England which won the King's Cup, later presented to the A.R.A.A. for Annual Competition among the States.

G.A. Negus:

A Life Member and very keen supporter, helped to organise the Club finances on a number of occasions when boats were badly needed worked hard to assist with the rehabilitation of the old Club House and to raise funds for a new Club House. Was responsible for the introduction and encouragement of rowing in senior high schools.

W. Ninham:

A very good friend to the Club. On one occasion when the fleet was at low ebb Bill helped to build a new stern in an eight wrecked in a storm.

Terry Scook:

A most successful coxswain and coach. Terry listened and learned from George Rogers and Don Fraser and had much to do with West Australian successes in the interstate rowing sphere.



Moulton
May 21

Annual Ball 1923



Annual Dinner 1925

Winners Stewards Cup - Melbourne Henley 1925



F. Chisnell (Cox); G. Rogers (Stroke); A. Ffarrington (3);
P. Bessell-Browne (2); M. Buttfield (Bow).



1936 Melbourne Henley Winners Stewards Challenge Cup
G. Rogers Stroke, F. Le Souef,3, D. Fraser 2, C. Aldus Bow.

THE WORLD WARS

The old Club has passed through some very difficult times, especially just after the two world wars. Naturally the fitness of oarsmen made them certain of enlistment, except in special cases, and a past Captain of the Club, Mr. Frank Slee, has a photograph showing a membership of three during the 1914/1918 War. The same situation occurred during the 1940/1946 War when the Club was carried on mainly by Allun Negus who kept the boats operational for the service men returning.

POST-WAR DIFFICULTIES AND SUCCESSES.

In 1947 just after the war when the Club finances and rowing were at a fairly low ebb two things happened to help in its post war build up. 1) The successful Club maiden 8 decided to make the trip to the Melbourne Henley regatta. 2) Mr. O.J. Negus (now Mr. Justice Negus) opened an appeal for funds for a new racing pair, which to this day is still in regular use by the Club and bears the name of its sponsor. In this year also the racing four "May Filmer" was christened as a token of the very high esteem held for Mrs. Filmer and her husband who was also a willing helper at the Club.

In 1950 the "Carl Daring" was christened. This four was purchased with financial assistance from the estate of this esteemed member. The boat is still giving good service. In this year an active committee raised the balance of the funds for the purchase of this new four by running "The Big Swindle" i.e. a boat fund where contributors paid 1/- a week for 20 weeks (over £200 was raised).

In 1954, a turning point in the racing successes of the Club occurred with the purchase of the "Don Fraser". This boat proved very fast and is still going strong despite many repairs.

1956 saw the Club fleet in its best order ever with the addition of a new racing pair and four. The George Rogers and the Guy Negus respectively, both boats are still giving good service although they show signs of the good use to which they have been put.

In 1958 the Club, with its first class fleet won the Association pennant for the first time since 1947. The win was by the good margin of 64 points after having been very close to the previous few years.

In 1959 the pennant came to Wests again by an even greater margin.

THE CLUB FLEET

The present fleet and date of purchase is as follows:

1938	Sprook Langley	1963	(4) Bill Hare
1939	Tub pair	1964	Scimitar (second hand 8 for Applecross)
1940	World War		
1946		1965	Aspire (second hand 4 for Scarborough)
1948	(Pair) O.J. Negus	1966	J.H. Best (second hand 8 for Churchlands)
1950	(4) Carl During		
1954	(8) Don Fraser	1967	(8) Bill Ninham
1956	(8) E.L. Barrett	1967	Australian Native (second hand 8 for Tuart Hill) & GGS (second hand 4 for Applecross)
	(4) Guy Negus	1968	(2) Terry Scook
1957	(2) George Rogers		
1959	(4) Ed Negus		
1960	(8) Norm Golding		
1961	J. Banfield Tub Pair		
1962	Old timers tub pair		
1962	Romsey (second hand 4 for Tuart Hill)		

A total of 21 boats.



THE LAST TWENTY YEARS

Somehow or other, and occasionally with the help and guidance of old members the Club has struggled along. The last twenty years have been extremely difficult, with a small membership and mounting repairs for an old Club House continually battered by wind and waves.

In 1961 the condition of the Club House was very bad and repairs were completely beyond the capabilities of the then active members. At the same time the Government of the day began a programme of the river reclamation which threatened the very existence of the Club. A few old members called a general meeting which was held at the Perth Club, in Sherwood Court.



Henley-on-Yarra — 22nd Nov. 1947
 J.B. Chappell (Stroke), G. Norton (3), P.H. Gunnell (2), J. Speak (Bow), W.D. Gardiner, R. Fortune (Emergencies), G.W. Mettam (Coach) inset, D. Sargood (Cox), G.E. Rogers (Coach).



1956 Wests Olympic Test four group
 Raced Lake Wendourie, Ballaret, Victoria.
 Mrs. Fraser, Peter & Don Fraser, T. Scook, G. Negus, M. Francis
 G. Hubbard, A. Hall (of A.N.A.R.C.).

At this meeting a committee consisting of K.W. Langley, D.H. Fraser, G.A. Negus, J.C. Banfield; J.L.C. Wickham and the Club Captain were elected to back the Club up. An overdraft was arranged under guarantee and money was made available to the members for essential repairs to the old club house to enable compliance with Health Department orders, and to enable the Club to carry on whilst finance was raised for a new Club House.

Work went on for two and a half years and the final result was that from a wreck, a new club and spirit began to emerge. A considerable sum of money was raised towards a new club house whilst the additional income earned by the rehabilitated Club house began to pay for the repairs and new boats.

At the time of writing the Club finances were becoming increasingly strong and the Club fleet was being used to the fullest extent, not only by Club members but by schoolboys (and some girls) from the Tuart Hill, Applecross, Churchlands and Scarborough Senior High Schools.

The encouragement of rowing in Senior High Schools was a personal effort by Guy Negus helped by Herb Ende and Bill Hare, when the pressure became too great. Guy recognised the difficulty of obtaining recruits from Public Schools as these boys almost always joined the University Club and his encouragement of boys from the High Schools has resulted in a new and more optimistic spirit in the Club. Crews began winning again in 1967 and a special effort was made in 1968 to raise funds to send members to the Melbourne Henley regatta in March of that year. Much thought and planning went into this effort and actual training and fund raising commenced in January 1967. From a very small beginning this effort developed into a major undertaking and combined club members more than any other known effort in the past. From one eight the entries grew and grew until a crew was entered for almost every race in the Melbourne Henley regatta.

The total cost of the trip was over \$3,000 and it is interesting to note that this was raised mainly by young members of an average age of about 18 years. The amount raised was equal to the overdraft guaranteed by old members six years earlier and of which \$2,200 was still owing at the time of writing. It was an indication of what can be done with young people if they receive

guidance and encouragement. In this case mothers, sisters, and girl friends came to the fore and the Club Ladies Committee headed by Mrs. Ninham and ably assisted by Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Salisbury and Mrs. Ballantine, handed the boys a cheque for \$250 with a promise of another \$100 if it was needed. The main effort was the historic "ROWATHON" when two eights and a four rowed to Guildford and back in a temperature of 107°. This raised over \$600 and made the Henley trip possible for additional crews such as the State High Schools eight, a combination of 5 Tuart Hill 3 Churchlands and 1 Applecross rowers and a junior four and a light weight four.

We look forward to the future with a confidence built on past achievement and trust that the members of the future will carry on the wonderful traditions established by the innumerable fine men who have passed through the doors of "WESTS".

With guidance and help from old members, the Club will commence its second hundred years in good heart and with high hopes for future successes to enable it to maintain its enviable past records.



INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Durston, B.H.	Olympic Eight - Rome, 1960
Francis, M.A.	" " " "
Freeth, G.	Empire Games Four - Sydney, 1938.
Fraser, D.H.	" " " "
Le Souef, F.	Empire Games Eight - Sydney, 1938.
Mettam, G.W.	No.7 of the A.I.F. Crew which won the King's Cup at the Royal Henley Peace Regatta, England, 1919.
Ninham, R.A.	Olympic Eight - Rome, 1960.
Rosser, J.G.	" " " "
Scook, T.J.	" " " "

INTERSTATE REPRESENTATIVES

Oarsmen

Dempster, G.R.	1948, 49, 50
Devenish, D.	1951
Donohoe, R.	1924
Durstion, B.	1960*, 61,62,63,65
Ffarrington, A.P.	1922,23,27*,29
Flemming, B.W.	1959
Francis, M.A.	1955*,56,58,59 1960*,61,62,63 1964, 65
Fraser, D.H.	1937,38*,47,51
Freeth, G.	1937
Gray, M.	1951
Gummow, G.A.	1947
Golding, N.	1951
Hooper, S.	1914
Humann, V.H.	1924
Joyce, R.	1903, 4, 5, 8.
Keogh, J.D.	1946, 47
Lamb, C.H.	1911
Langley, K.W.	1935
Le Souef, F.	1936, 36
McHenry, A.	1925*, 28*
Mettam, A.H.	1913, 21, 23*
Mettam, G.W.	1911,13,14, 20, 1922, 23
Negus, G.A.	1946, 47
Negus, J.K.	1962, 63
Negus, O.J.	1927*
Ninham, R.A.	1960*
Norton, G.L.	1948,49,50,51 1952, 53
Rogers, G.E.	1908,10,14,20,21* 1922, 23
Rosser, A.G.	1925*,27*,29
Rosser, J.G.	1960*,61,64
Sadler, A.	1914,20,21*
Sharples, J.	1920,21*,22
Slee, F.D.	1921*
Slee, F.	1953
Stephens, S.	1946, 47
Strickland, A.	1908
Triplett, W.	1964
Winstanley, A.	1948

Coxswains

Chisnell, F.	1930,32,36
Hannaford, R.	1967
Hunt, J.	1946, 47
Nelligan, P.	1929
Scook, T.J.	1951, 54, 55* 1956, 58, 59 1960*, 61, 62 1963, 64, 65 1966
White, W.	1920, 21*, 23

Emergencies

Gent, A.	1959
Rosser, A.G.	1923
Winstanley, A.T.	1949

Coaches

During, A.F.C.	1921*, 22, 23
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Lightweight Four

Bezic, P.J.	1966, 67
Durstion, D.P.	1961, 62
Fordham, E.	1962
Robinson, H.T.	1964, 65, 66
Storey, G.L.	1959*, 60*,61,62
Windus, A.T.	1961, 62

Coxswains

Hannaford, R.	1966
Ninham, D.	1962

Lightweight Four Coaches

Golding, N.J.	1962
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Single Sculls

Forbes, P.	1947
Hubbard, G.N.	1953, 54*, 55, 1956, 57, 58 1959, 62
Langley, K.W.	1929, 36
Ninham, R.A.	1961*
Ninham, D.	1967
Rogers, G.E.	1912, 14
Rosser, J.G.	1956, 57
Sadler, A.L.	1923

INTERSTATE REPRESENTATIVES

Oarsmen	
Dempster, G.R.	1948, 49, 50
Devenish, D.	1951
Donohoe, R.	1924
Durston, B.	1960*, 61,62,63,65
Ffarrington, A.P.	1922,23,27*,29
Flemming, B.W.	1959
Francis, M.A.	1955*, 56,58,59 1960*,61,62,63 1964, 65
Fraser, D.H.	1937,38*,47,51
Freeth, G.	1937
Gray, M.	1951
Gummow, G.A.	1947
Golding, N.	1951
Hooper, S.	1914
Humann, V.H.	1924
Joyce, R.	1903, 4, 5, 8.
Keogh, J.D.	1946, 47
Lamb, C.H.	1911
Langley, K.W.	1935
Le Souef, F.	1936, 36
McHenry, A.	1925*, 28*
Mettam, A.H.	1913, 21, 23*
Mettam, G.W.	1911,13,14, 20, 1922, 23
Negus, G.A.	1946, 47
Negus, J.K.	1962, 63
Negus, O.J.	1927*
Ninham, R.A.	1960*
Norton, G.L.	1948,49,50,51 1952, 53
Rogers, G.E.	1908,10,14,20,21* 1922, 23
Rosser, A.G.	1925*,27*,29
Rosser, J.G.	1960*,61,64
Sadler, A.	1914,20,21*
Sharples, J.	1920,21*,22
Slee, F.D.	1921*
Slee, F.	1953
Stephens, S.	1946, 47
Strickland, A.	1908
Triplett, W.	1964
Winstanley, A.	1948

Coxswains	
Chisnell, F.	1930,32,36
Hannaford, R.	1967
Hunt, J.	1946, 47
Nelligan, P.	1929
Scook, T.J.	1951, 54, 55* 1956, 58, 59 1960*, 61, 62 1963, 64, 65 1966
White, W.	1920, 21*, 23
Emergencies	
Gent, A.	1959
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Coaches	
During, A.F.C.	1921*, 22, 23
Lightweight Four	
Bezic, P.J.	1966, 67
Durston, D.P.	1961, 62
Fordham, E.	1962
Robinson, H.T.	1964, 65, 66
Storey, G.L.	1959*, 60*,61,62
Windus, A.T.	1961, 62
Coxswains	
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Lightweight Four Coaches	
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Single Sculls	
Forbes, P.	1947
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Langley, K.W.	1929, 36
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Rogers, G.E.	1912, 14
Rosser, J.G.	1956, 57
Sadler, A.L.	1923

K. (Sprock) Langley. One of the West Club's greatest assets. Sprock represented the State in both rowing and sculling.

Jim Sharples. Rowed in the winning 1921 crew and has been a strong Club member all through the years.

Don Fraser. Rowed in four Interstate races and also the winning Empire Games four in 1938. Don has established himself as the greatest stroke and coach to come through the West Club.

Graham Norton. Rowed in six Interstate crews and during this period was regarded as the best 7 man in Australia.

Guy Negus. Rowed in two Interstate races 1946 and 47. Guy is the man responsible for putting the West Club back on the pedestal. No one could ever know the many hours that Guy has given to the Club to get it where it is today, he was also the driving force behind high school rowing.

Geoff Storey. Represented the State 4 times in the light-weight fours. Two of these crews were winning crews.

Gerry Hubbard. Represented the State in eight Australian Sculling Championships. Won the 1954 race in Hobart.

Roger Ninham. Represented the State in the winning 1960 eight and won the Australian Sculling Championship in 1961 in Adelaide. Roger has a very impressive record having represented Australia at the Rome Olympics and the 1962 Empire Games in Perth.

Terry Scook. Represented the State as coxswain in 13 King's Cups, this is three more than any other competitor in the history of Interstate rowing. Neville Howell of Victoria who represented Victoria 10 times is the closest to this record. Terry also steered the Australian eight at the Rome Olympics in 1960 and the experience gained in these competitions has enables West's Club oarsmen to benefit considerably.



G.E. Rogers
State Champion Sculler — 1908 - 1924.

SCULLING

For many years "West's" has been a home for scullers and much of the Club's rowing success has been attributable to the encouragement of this fine sport. Such champion scullers as George Rogers, Sprock Langley, Bert Sadler, Don Fraser, Gerry Hubbard and John Rosser have all helped to keep alive the sculling tradition in the Club.

Excerpt from Paper -

"Another young oarsman successful in two events on Monday last was K. Langley. He made his entry into maiden ranks this season, and has opened his account with

FIVE CONSECUTIVE WINS

He is a lightweight, a trifle under 10st., but, despite his lack of weight, is developing into a capable and resourceful bow. The value of sculling to rowing at every opportunity, in season and out, is exemplified in this young man's performances. Sculling among other things teaches one watermanship. It makes one "boat-wise", hence the difficulties which confront the ordinary crew when endeavouring to sit the racer would not trouble them if they had sculling experience."

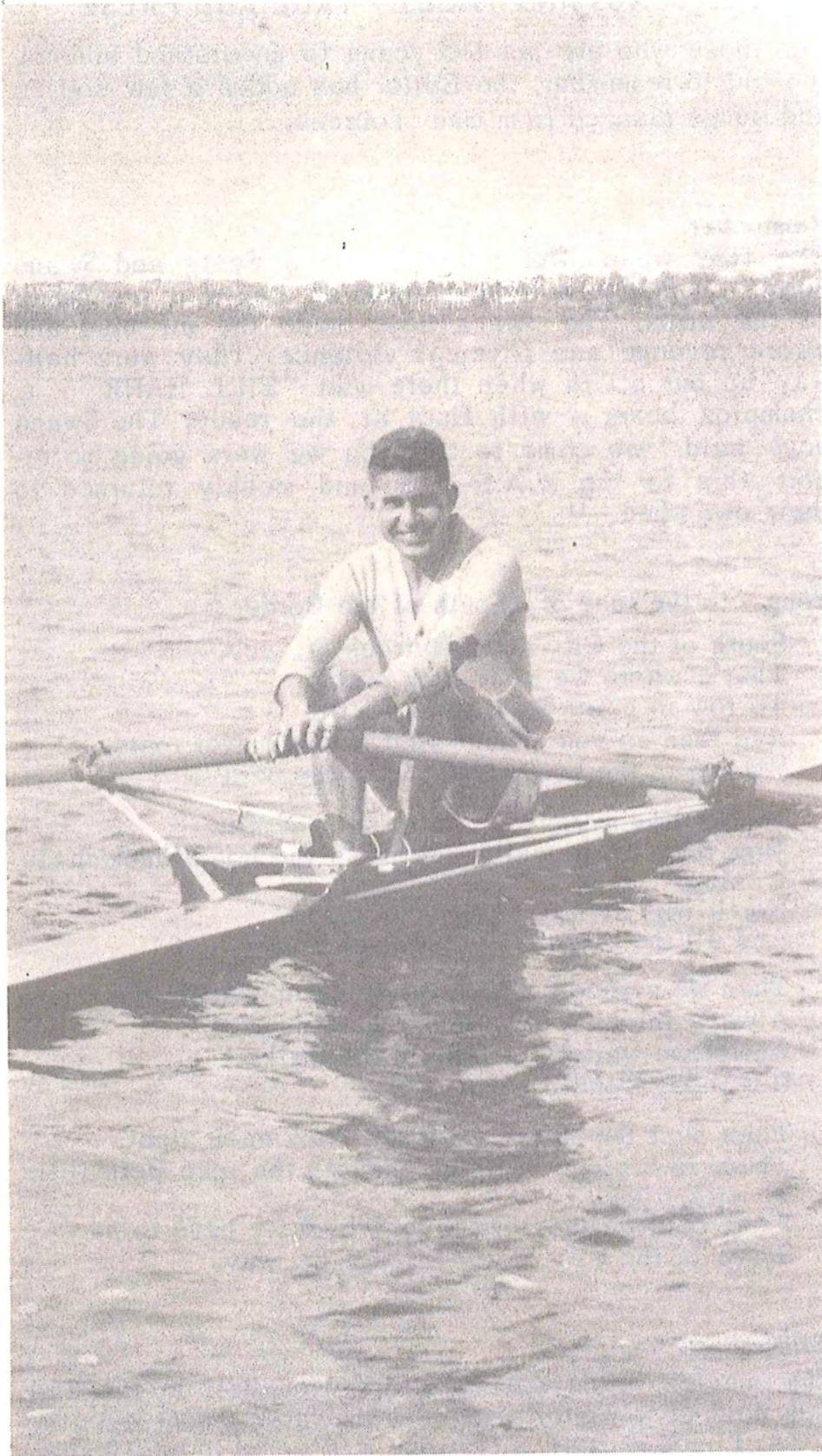
Unfortunately the Club recession in 1961 due to disapidation of the Clubhouse and other causes mentioned earlier in this history record, broke a fine run of championships and it was left to "Swans" to carry the torch which they have done quite ably since 1961. However, Guy Negus, once again stepped in; he saw the many advantages to be gained from encouragement of Club sculling and he and Alan Salisbury donated to a new offshoot of the Club "West's Sculling Club" its first scull - a rather battered boat which has been repaired so many times, that it is beginning to resemble a patch-work quilt. This boat is still in use today and is providing the young members with (a) an opportunity to scull which would have been otherwise impossible (b) valuable knowledge on repairs and maintenance!!

Later an old scull brought from England by George Rogers was acquired for \$60 and these two boats have started many potentially successful scullers on their road towards winning the State Championship for Wests once again. Another old boat was given to the Club in lieu of outstanding subscriptions and from this small beginning the fleet has grown to eight boats of which 5 are top class sculls.

THE LADIES

This record would not be complete without a tribute being paid to the many ladies who have served on the club committees over the years. Other ladies too must be mentioned; those who have kept dinners hot, put up with uncertainty that is always associated with a water sport subject to the vagaries of the weather; (and quite often without complaint too!!) Mothers, wives, sisters and girl friends, we thank you all for the wonderful support that has always been forthcoming especially in times of need and crisis. The number of boats that have been financed with money raised by Ladies would be hard to count. Oars too and trips away have all had a fair share of necessary dollars contributed by Ladies' efforts, and of course, social functions would be quite dull without their gracious presence. It would not be possible or fair to select any one for special mention because so many have helped during the Club's one hundred years. It is a matter for regret that the Club can no longer afford the "GIG" type boat that used to be operated especially to provide Ladies with some boating interest and relaxation. However, it is the day of the speed boat and the bikini which is a far cry from the hoop skirted ladies who were handed carefully aboard the Club's "gigs". On a few occasions rowing has been tackled by the gentler sex and it is good to see in this Centenary year of 1968, some revival of interest in the sport by girls. Rowing is essentially a rhythmic sport and the girls can certainly teach the boys a thing or two in that direction. It will be most interesting to watch developments and provided the boys help with maintenance of the boats, there is no reason why more and more girls should not enjoy the sport.

There is one thing certain and that is that without feminine interest no sport or occupation can really prosper. This interest makes the effort and dedication necessary in a hard sport such as rowing, much more worthwhile and many ladies must have reason to be thankful that their husbands, sons or boy friends have selected such a health and character building sport, which leaves little time for such frivolous things as street corner gatherings, smoking, drinking and so on. It must be much better to know that under that shirt is a "MAN" with a firm hard chest and plenty of muscle, rather than the hollow chested rather insipid individual we see too much of today.



K. Langley
State Champion Sculler
1927-38

OLD SONGS AND TALES – TRUE AND FALSE

For those who are not too young to understand and not too old to remember, the Editor has added a few stories and songs gleaned from many sources.

Remember:

The time when after a night spin a Wests and Swans eight clashed near to boat sheds as they were coming in to the slips. The Swans boys made the air blue and swore revenge and physical violence. They were half-way up our stairs when there was "BILL HARE" - a champion boxer - with fists at the ready. The Swans boys said "we come to tell you we were going to report this to the W.A.R.A.!!?" and meekly returned to their own shed - !!

Song - to the tune of "South of the Border"

South of the City down Barrack St. way,
That's where we meet each night,
To row in pairs & eights & fours.
And then as you change Bert's voice ever roars
"Down to the boats & out with the oars".

John's like a mascot in bow seat he sits
Just for a little while Guy nails the board back on the
slips,
For it was ev'ning & time for a row
And all the crews were anxious to go.

Then we sighed as Jack Bayly disappeared
Always thinking of what we were due for
Whilst we waited for Donald the Striker,
But ruddy Donald never came.

Then past the Brewery we row back each night,
There is a cloud of spray beneath the rose Bern yells
with fright,
From cold water showers for which we have to pay,
South of the City, down Barrack St. way.

Remember:

The maiden eight was launching its shell in the dark and cold of a Winter's night with water a foot over the slips. Lance Barrett, the stroke was found to be missing - he had walked right off the end of the slip. Someone yelled, "you allright Lance." A wet dripping voice came out of the darkness, "Rait as rain, old chap!!"

Song - to the tune of "Where the dog sits on the Tucker Box"

Gerald Nelligan steers our crew,
'Gainst the Swanee heavyweights
Where his voice is like a mighty roar
In the Champion Senior Eights

George Rogers is the stroke,
Easily we swing along,
'Gainst Swannees in their swivel boat,
Three miles across the Swan.

We think he's bonza,
But Swans wish that he'd roam,
He's such a veteran
That we've entered him for the Old Men's Home.

Oh Swans said "wait for us
To make it look just like a race"
But we'd be old age pensioners
If we rowed at their pace.

Remember:

That coxless four, flashing through the dark at South Perth when it suddenly came to a halt - the bow had sliced clean through an anchored launch, just below the bunk on which the owner was lying down. He never succeeded in his action for damages, as he carried no lights - he never found out that we carried no coxswain!!

Song - to the tune of "When Irish Eyes are Smiling"

When Irish eyes are smiling
Sure it's like the morn of Spring
With the lilt of Irish laughter
All the world seems blithe and gay;
and when Irish eyes are smi-ling
Sure - they steal your heart away.

OUR OWN VERSION (Every oarsman has had this experience - P.L.F.)

When our own crew is leading -
Sure they've got that lovely swing
You can see their grinning faces,
At the "catch" they all will spring -
When other crews start "spurting"
All is not so blithe and gay -
But when "coz" starts calling "doz-ens"
Sure - that smile doth pass away.



Champion 4 Clarence River N.S.W. - 1960
G. Storey Stroke, J. Negus 3, H. Robinson 2, A. Windus, Bow,
R. Birch Coxswain.

West Australian Rowing Club (Inc.) Club Centenary 1868-1968

As a build up to the Club Centenary in 1968, the club began encouraging rowing in senior high schools in 1962. Many of the school boys who learned to row at the club were its representatives at the special effort in 1968 at The Melbourne Henley Regatta. Every club member (37) made the trip which cost over \$3,000.



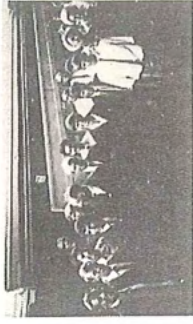
1968
New club trailer built for the club by Riverbank Reformatory



1968
First rowathon in W.A. which raised over \$600 towards Trip to Henley



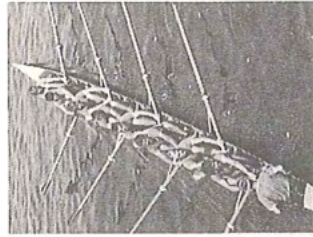
1968
Over eighty club members took the water in the club fleet on the occasion of the christening of a new "cox in bow" racing pair (first in W.A.) and the first shells owned by senior high schools from Tuart Hill, Applecross, Churchlands and Scarborough.



1968
Members departing for Melbourne by Westland Express



Members departing for Melbourne by Ansett-Australia 1968

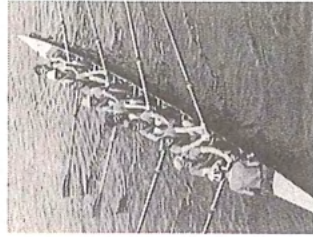


HENLEY



Terry Scook
Coach

1967 Champion Maiden 8
Str: D. Niham, R. Spurling, J. Booker, R. House, R. Hamley, R. Webber, G. Power
Bow: D. Hunt
Cox: T. Scook



CREWS



Guy Negus:
Organiser and coach

School Boy 8 (Subsequently won 1968 Maiden Pennant)
Str: J. Vos, C. Williams, J. Liddell, R. Curry, T. Blaxell, K. Gardner, R. Cadd, L. Crane
Cox: G. Hepworth
Emergency: D. Rowbottom
The coxswain, strokes 7,6 and bow: ex Tuart Hill 5, 4 and 3: ex-Churchlands 2: ex-Applecross



AND COACHES



John Little:
Coach

Junior 4
Str: E. Drok, D. Hunt, M. McHenry, R. Ballantine
Cox: G. Hepworth



Light weight 4
Light weight 2
Str: D. Italiano, T. Dixon, J. Scott, A. Listermoet
Cox: M. Coniff

Remember:

When Ed Negus was steering his own new four and speared a spit post so accurately that one of the crew had to swim back to the shed for a saw to cut the point of the bow off. It is true that Ed wrote to the authorities and had many old unused spit posts removed as a result!!

Song - to the tune of "Happy Days"

Rowing men are here again & Wests are without peer
again,

So let us celebrate & cheer again,
We have won that yellow flag.

Your blistered hands are all gone,
And chafes you once sat upon.
Pull together with a will, the finish is just near the
Mill.

You can hear the roaring of Old Bill,
Wests have won the yellow flag.

Thirsty days are here again, and
Summer's getting near again,
So let's fill them up with beer again
And this time you won't renege.

George Rogers looked the part in pants
he pinched from (whose) tart,
Pip Reay tried to start the crews but
Sprocket Langley smelt the booze.
Old Timers there's no time to lose,
and winners get the keg.

Charlie Lamb is here tonight & kind
regards from Arthur White,
Let us hope Sid Gorton won's get tight
for that Mount St., climb is hard.

Sid Underwood's blade ran hot -
behold Harry Rowell's pot.
Mister Snapshot please relent for if
we pay that five bob rent
Our finances may be badly bent
We'll be sleeping on the 'Nard.

Remember:

When Ted Blair led a cow into the "Gordons" Hotel in Bunbury and it was found jambed between the stair banisters on the way up to his room. It was said he was trying to convince the boys that milk was better than beer. Six of them had to put in £10 each to cover damage costs!!

Song - to tune of 'Tramp, Tramp, Tramp'

Sit your boats for action men, this is one occasion
when
There's a call upon our jo-viality
We must make the meeting night, of "old oarsmen";
brisk and bright
With goodfello-ship our spec-ial-ity.

CHORUS:

Sing men sing with lusty voices
Lift the rafters with your song
If the task you try to shirk
We will get the "cox" to work
For a night like this could never be too long.

Now, among this happy throng, to which we all belong,
Are many who have climbed their way to fame,
Side by side with rank and file, they recount their
deeds the while
For, all have helped the grand old rowing game.

CHORUS:

Row boys row and work together,
Strive for peace and un-ity
Let us make our mind up now
Every man from "stroke" to "bow"
To do something more than pay our L.S.D.

The "Coaches" of today are no different, so they say,
To the men who took the job on in the past,
They of course must work with zest, till they pass the
language test
And when that's acquired they progress very fast.

CHORUS:

Swing men swing you "Blanky" loafers
Use your legs and drive them hard
Tho' his stomach's in his throat
"Bow" is called a "something" goat
And is made believe he never tried a year.

One must always raise his hat, after listening to "old
Nat"
Telling stories - (Yes! his face all wreather in smiles)
Of the hardships that they faced, and the distances
they raced
Gee! I've often reckoned more than fifty miles.

CHORUS:

Cheer boys cheer the crews are racing
Each one striving hard to win
From the Quay to Pinchgut thrice
Round Goat Island once or twice
That was what they calmly termed, a "practice spin"

There is always lots of fun when Committee's work is
done,
And the list of "Haven't paid" has petered out,
We will hear the "Fairbairn" style
Pulled to pieces for a while
Till it's time to put the "bob" in for a shout.

CHORUS:

Fairbairn's got them all a-talking
Learn-ed Judges can't decide
"Dicky" says "I think I know!"
"Bill" admits he doesn't know
Doctor Athol swears they "shoot" their bally slide.

Now, before we put the toast, let it be our earnest
boast
That we're members of this grand aquatic clan,
What we'd like each one to do, is - enrol a pal or two
Now then - put your weight behind it to a man.

CHORUS: (Standing)

Stand men stand and drink in bumpers
May our spirit ne'er decline
Here's to oarsmen old and new!
Heaps of health and luck to you!
Here's to those dear happy days of "Auld Lang Syne"
The toast Gentlemen! "OARSMEN ALL" P.L.F.

Remember:

When George Rogers would never stop talking at Club
Meetings - Yawn - Midnight George!! When Sid Gorton
was seen stroking and eight one Sunday morning with
the coxswain covered with a wet bag!! You did enjoy
the keg party didn't you Sid?

Song - to tune of "Organ Grinder Swing"

Up in Northam Sergeants roar
At the recruits for the war,
There went Nelligan, tons of cheek
Now Young Nelligan's very meek
Yoo-oo Yoo-oo

At Northam Goldsmith is a Lieut.,
Teaches Privates how to toot,
He earned some praise for his Platoon
By teaching them to sing in toon,
Yoo-oo Yoo-oo

Up in Northam Chas. Lamb sits
Once he used to do audits,
Now He's heard to say "Oh, Lord
The pen is weaker than the sword"
Yoo-oo Yoo-oo

Remember:

When Guy Negus and Don Fraser, both non drinkers, got full after winning the State Champion 8 Don played chop-stocks, while Guy balanced on a glass on a chair on top of the piano!!

Song - to tune of "Daisy, Daisy"

Adolf, Adolf,
Get out your rowing boat,
We're so anxious to see you cross the moat,
You won't get a powerful crew
Training on ersatz stew,
But you can be subtle and ready to scuttle
Whilst we remain afloat!

Remember:

When Sprock Langley and Don Fraser rowed to Fremantle and back non stop!! Who had to lift them out of the boat? - they did win the champion pairs though!! Alan Salisbury and Guy Negus tried it too and were seen approaching the slips some hours later rowing with one hand and taking the weight off their aching tails with the other.

Song - to tune of "Rip I Addy I Ay"

"Vigorous lift and leg drive - plenty of swing and watch the time" - P.L.F.

Now come all you fellows, and tune up your bellows,
Let each one be merry and bright,
We MUST make our minds up, all troubles to pack up
At least, for the "Re-Union" night.
Dispense with all rigour, and sing up with vigour,
While Bacchus will help to sustain,
Just dream we're afloat, in a trim racing boat,
And grip the old oar once again.

CHORUS: with action (at the "catch" where words are in Capitals).

HALF-FORWARD!

RIP I addy I AY I ay, RIP I addy I AY,
UP with the shoulders, and GIVE her a lift!
HANDS away smartly! and WATCH the shell shift,
RIP I addy I AY I ay - it MAKES one feel happy and
GAY
Sing of JOY, sing of bliss, there is NO sport like this,
RIP I addy I AY

Dinner.

"May good digestion wait on appetite,
And health on both." —MACBETH.

. MENU .

"Are you ready? Go!"

Soup.

Macaroni

"Silence in the boat!"

Fish.

Oyster Patties

"Another dozen!"

Fried Schnapper

"Don't knife it!"

Entrees.

Steak and Kidney Pie

Beef Olives

Indian Curry and Rice

"Take a bladeful!"

Hot Joints.

Roast Sirloin Beef & Horseradish

Pickled Pork

Roast Mutton & Seasoning

Roast Lamb & Mint Sauce

Boiled Mutton & Caper Sauce

Roast Pork & Apple Sauce

"Straight through with it!"

Vegetables.

French Beans

Baked Parsnips

Baked and Boiled Potatoes

"Reach well out!"

Sweets.

"Our Ladies' Committee."

Peaches and Junket

Jelly and Custard

Apple Pie and Cream

Wine Trifle

Ice Cream

Cheese.

"A Strong Finish!"

Plain and Cheddar

Salads

Fruit

Coffee

Nuts

"A Dead 'Eat. Easy all!"

Toast List.



The King.

TOAST—"Success to Our Club" - The President

VIOLIN SOLO - Mr. Keith Cummings

Response by Club Captain

SONG - - - - The Company

TOAST—"Our Patron" - The President

HUMOROUS ITEM - Mr. Ned Taylor

Response by His Excellency Sir Francis Newdegate, K.C.M.G.

SONG - - - - Mr. Cliff Burridge

TOAST—"Old and Absent Members" - Mr. C. Courthope

SONG AT PIANO - Mr. A. Norwood

Response by Mr. Horace Jones.

SONG - - - - The Company

TOAST—"Our President" - Mr. G. E. Rogers

SONG - - - - Mr. Stan. Thyer

Response by Mr. Justice Burnside.

SONG - - - - Mr. Ned Taylor

TOAST—"Our Ladies' Committee" - Mr. M. C. Buttfield

SONG - - - - The Company

"God Save our King."

At the Piano, Mr. E. CUMMINGS.

G. Rogers, Esq.



Pull long and steady, boys. Strange though it may seem,
The hardest pull don't send the boat the fastest down the
stream.

If you wish to keep your boat afloat and brave life's stormy
weather,

You must not put your oars too deep, but **ALWAYS PULL
TOGETHER.**

— Old Rowing Song.



EASY ALL!

We've had a grand ye-ar - we went up to che-er,
Don Fraser and his hefty crew,
The boys from the "Rest", put our chaps to a test,
Yes! the pace was a 'cracker' right through;
Each pulling his weight, as they raced down the
straight,
Made the blood of all rowing men run,
They say Ernie Keary was worked to a frenzy,
Till HE heard the sound of the gun.

(Repeat Chorus).

Remember:

That "Rowathon" 35 miles in a temperature of 107° to Guildford and return by two eights and one four. Guy Negus had to sit on the water bottles with a loaded rifle!! It is true that over \$600 was raised for the Melbourne Henley trip with this effort and that the junior four not to be out done by the eights, sent back to Perth for a wheel to replace one broken and then went on to cover the full course.

Song - to tune of "Stein Song"

OARSMEN'S TOAST

(Stein Song slightly altered - P.L.F.)

Fill -- your glasses all and drink,
Drink to old Rowing mem'ries,
Stand-and give your glasses a clink,
And toast the days that we hold dear,
Sing - to all the happy hours,
Shout - till the rafters ring,
Drink-to good times spent together,
Let each and every one here sing.

Here's a toast - to the Boys!
Who rowed for their colours so joyfully,
To our Club! - to the Sport!
To the men who control it so zealously!
To the "Cox"! - to the "Coach"!
Who bore all his worries so patiently,
To the Judge! - to the Ump!
To Time-keeper, Starter and All!

So -- (Repeat first verse).

Remember:

Ken Skinner stroked many successful Novice maiden and junior events between 1922 and 1926 and also visited Henley in Melbourne with his crew. One Regatta Day Ken had an accident on his motor bike and finished up in hospital with concussion. The nurses still wonder where he went but he turned up at the Regatta and persuaded his substitute to keep out of the way, stroked his crew to victory in the maiden and junior 8's plus a maiden 4 for good measure.

George Rogers heard talking to a new well-known City businessman - "I'm going to put you on the stroke side" answer "but I can't row on the stroke side" reply "you can't row on the bow side either, so you'll row on the stroke side".

Song - to tune of "Mademoiselle from Armentieres"

What is the war cry of the Wests? Warc! Warc! Warc!
Open your mouths, inflate your chests, Warc! Warc!
Warc!

See that the pennant floats some more
Over the shed and then encore
Give her a dozen WARC! WARC! WARC!

Rowing is booming at the Wests, fill 'em up
Though they are not as big as that Stewards Cup,
Here's to the health of our Henley Four
Whose finishing sprint made Melbourne roar
Give her a dozen WARC! WARC! WARC!

Skinner's been smashing records in Maiden crews
Right through the season he has not had a lose.
There's an example Novice men
You'll have a chance to equal Ken.
Give her a dozen WARC! WARC! WARC!

All you old members of the Club listen here
We'd like to whisper these few words in your ear
We hope to see you any old time
Just as when you were in your prime
Roll up in dozens you old Warcs.

Remember:

In 1968 the whisper went around that girls from Tuart Senior High were taking up rowing. Result over 80 boys turned up too and every boat and oar in the shed was out on the water. It was interesting to see a number of active Club members volunteering to coach too!!

Remember:

Our State Champion 8 in 1960 was not going too well just prior to the race. Coach Don Fraser was determined they should beat the very strong Fremantle combination. Course on Sunday not satisfactory so Don took them back again for a repeat, course Monday night, course Tuesday night, course Wednesday night, course Thursday night and Friday night. The crew was so exhausted that they couldn't even cheer when it was too rough to row on Saturday. The next week Don was away and the boys had a rest, but the hard work paid dividends. Fremantle went to a two length lead which Bob Birch (Cox) continually reported as being reduced until at the two mile mark it did happen; fitness told and our boys crept up on the leaders until they were a canvas in front. It was reliably reported that 10 "FRASERS" (20 strokes sprints to the uninitiated) in the last half mile just kept us in front to win by than canvas!!

Song - to tune "It aint gonna rain no more"

George Rogers went to Melbourne,
Just for the Henley Four
'Australia's foremost oarsman'
said the "Sun" and then some more.

Now Mister Browne of Guildford
keeps quietly aloof
But when we won the Steward's Cup,
Buck nearly hit the roof.

James Gow has changed his status,
Guess Cupid is to blame
Since Teddy George is well behaved,
It must have been the same.

Carl During hitting sixty
makes one reach out and row
He never scorches in the bus or
at the Movie show.

Now here's to Prohibition, let's fill
'em up again
But, like the Scotchman in the ad,
We don't like saying when.

CHORUS:

For we aint gonna row no more today
The pennant came our way,
And every "West" must do his best
To make the title stay.

Song - to tune "Show me the way to go home"

When you're rowing and you're going to the front each
stroke

There's no need to "Easy All" or stop and have a
smoke.

Now the boats are on the rack and the pennant won
You can smoke and laugh and joke singing just for fun.

CHORUS:

Let's show the world how to row,
Does any one want to try his luck?
We had a treble win upon the Yarra Course
Monty, George and Perce and Buck,
Wherever our boys go, they're in the foremost "row",
And we've never head that any old "Warc"
Was fined for rowing too slow.

If the river stirs your liver then you're out of nick
But tonight there's far more danger of your getting
"shick",

When we met the old N.Z. on the Henley mile
Every fellow from our shed shouted with a smile.

Now we're happy make it snappy lift your voices up
Let us get a good old bladeful, night is still a pup,
All our clubmates pull as one, make those bodies swing
When the starter pulls the gun, grab the "catch" and
sing.

Remember:

The time when Club Captain Allan Negus asked his girl-
friend (now wife) to steer a four (he had previously sent
all coxswains home!!). As usual the slips were covered
with water and Allan, naturally, offered to carry the lady
to the boat! He didn't bargain for that missing board
and was last seen feverishly trying to find some reason-
able old rowing shorts and jerseys for her!!

What about that never to be forgotten time when Captain
Bern Bayly organised a week end away at the "Ascot
Inn". The police raided the place that night and the
Licensee took some time to explain away the 24 rowers
spread out all over the Hotel on lounges, dining room
floor and even the kitchen. Everyone was very envious
when Ted Blair was ferreted out of that maid's room
though - well it was a cheap week-end and the licensee
was kind and the police did understand, so all was well.
The tug of war next day was also a highlight - "Bayly's
Bashers" versus "Brigg's Bruisers" and 'Blair's Beau-
ties" versus "Negus' Nasties". No one ever found
out just who won but everyone finished up in the drink!!

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

THE HON. D.H. O'NEIL, M.L.A.
Minister for Housing and Labour
Representing The State Government

COUNCILLOR A.C. CURLEWIS, C.M.G.

Representing The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Mr. T.E. Wardle

THE HON. H. GRAHAM, M.L.A.

Representing The Hon J.T. Tonkin, M.L.A.,
Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. J.E. Jeffreys President Amateur Rowing Association
of W.A.

Mr. R.J. Bond Chairman Swan River Conservation Board
Mr. J.E. Lloyd Commissioner Town Planning Board
Mr. J. Griffin Principal Churchlands Senior High School
Mr. B.S. Naughton Principal Applecross Senior High School
Mr. J. Macaulay Principal Governor Stirling Senior High
School

Mr. J.S. Clough Principal Tuart Hill Senior High School
Mr. R.J. Jennings Principal Scarborough Senior High School

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

DON FRASER CONSISTENCY TROPHY for most wins
Jointly presented to
J. VOS
C. WILLIAMS

MOST IMPROVED OARSMAN

R. HANNAFORD

BEST CLUB MEMBERS

D. ITALIANO

GEORGE ROGERS TROPHY most pennant points won.
Jointly presented to
J. VOS
C. WILLIAMS

E. LANCE BARRETT TROPHY most consistent coxswain
S. SEBO

1868 - 1968



WEST AUSTRALIAN

ROWING CLUB (INC).

Centenary Dinner

CLUB HOUSE, RIVERSIDE DRIVE, PERTH

11th OCTOBER, 1968

Menu

SAVOURIES

CREME OF ASPARAGUS

SCHNAPPER CAPRI with TARTARE SAUCE

BREAST of TURKEY and LEG HAM

ASSORTED SALADS

LIQUEUR ICE CREAM

COFFEE and PEPPERMINT CREAMS



And as they rowed
Towards the western bank
The setting sun lights up
Their strained faces
They all rowed fast
But Bow rowed fastest of all.

ANONYMOUS.

Toast List

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Message from

His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia
Sir Douglas Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Read by

Mr. Justice Negus

TOAST — "OUR CLUB"

The Patron Dr. L.E. Le Souef, O.B.E., E.D.

Response by Mr. G.A. Negus

TOAST — "THE ROWING ASSOCIATION"

Mr. J.E. Little

Response by The President, Mr. J.E. Jeffreys

TOAST — "OLD AND ABSENT FRIENDS"

The President Mr. K.W. (Sprock) Langley

Response by Mr. J. Wickham, Q.C.

A. ITALIANO — Accordionist

TOAST — "OUR GUESTS"

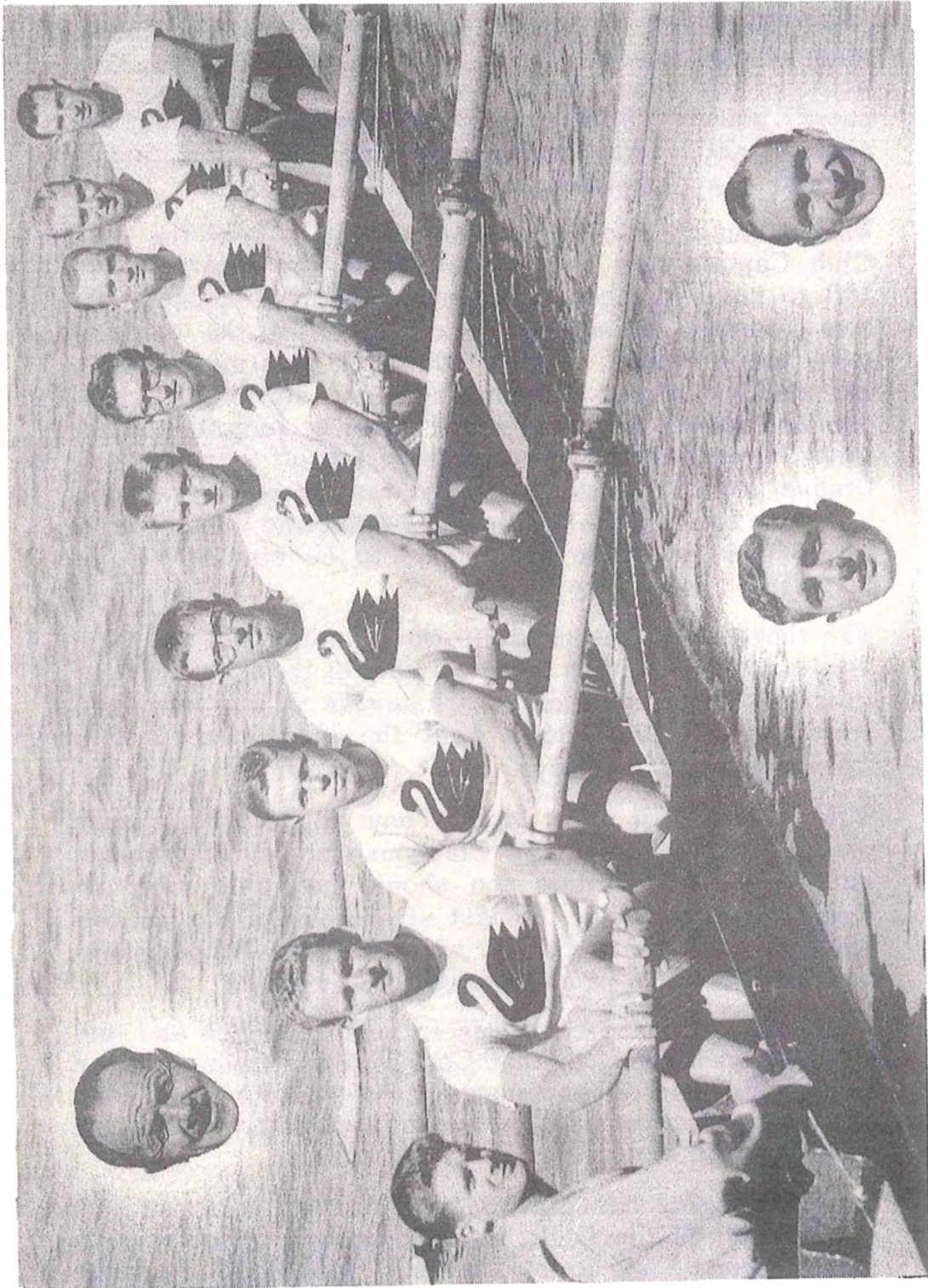
Mr. D.H. Fraser

Response by Hon. D.H. O'Neil, M.L.A.

Minister for Housing and Labour

TOAST — "OUR LADIES COMMITTEE
AND MUSICIANS"

Captain of the Club Mr. D. Ninham



"Interstate and Olympic Crew"

T. Scook, Cox (Wests); J. Rosser, Stroke (Wests); R. Ninham, 7 (Wests); B. Durston, 6 (Uni); M. Gamble, 5 (Perth); M. Cunningham, 4 (Swans); J. Ledger, 3 (Swans); G. Hale, 2 (A.N.A.); M. Francis, Bow (Wests); K. Grant Coach (Top inset); R. Argyle, emergency (left inset); R. Polglaze (Mgr.)

The funds for the "Centenary" trip to Melbourne for the 1968 Henley Regatta were lagging and the participation of a "State Senior High Schoolboy eight" was in doubt, when a telephone call from old member and friend Alex Williams put things right. Alex said "how much are you short" answer "\$240" reply "my cheque will be in the post tonight" - Alex was unanimously and automatically elected as a "Life Member".

What about the time that Graham Norton told the then Club Captain that he wouldn't be in the race to raise £40 to cover the cost of painting the boat house. Graham finished up acting as organiser of the painting party and although he didn't do much painting himself, his sterling efforts at filling pots and stationing everyone who walked in the door will never be forgotten. When Harry Staples and his party of three fell off their platform Graham roundly abused them for wasting paint and soon had them back on the job dripping paint and water everywhere and they were even heard to be singing "We're just WILD about Harry"!

The time Guy Negus used his Navy knowledge and shipping contacts and with the loyal help of the then members finished the painting of the Clubhouse in one week-end - a record - Just shows what the Navy can do with 'paint stages' and pulleys.

Those there, will never forget Tony Windus who, almost on his own, re-roofed the Clubhouse and built the new club toilets. Bill Hare too should have his name in lights for digging out the last six inches of clay in the six foot deep French drain, when all the younger members gave it up as impossible. Bill you beaut!!

That time when the fleet was in poor condition and the message came through that Carl During - ex-club rower and coach - had left the money in his Will for a new four to be named after him. That four is still giving service after 18 years of use.

Sprock Langley has always been a most generous and good friend to the Club. Many functions were supplied with "greens" and many donations have helped to keep the Club fleet on the water. The "Sprock Langley", now the oldest boat in the shed, was reconditioned at Sprock's expense in 1964 and is still giving good service after 30 years of life. Phew, what a record!!

Les Le Souef often tells the story of the time the Club was so low, that a few old members got together and organised an eight which rowed past the other Clubs one Sunday morning and had everyone peering through windows and cracks wondering just what Wests were up to this time!! The Club has bounced back so many times when the opposition thought it was down and out that it has always been quietly feared and respected.

The even bang of the oar on the poppet has scared many opposing crews over the years and it is good to see the same gear winning in 1967/68 as won in years gone by. 1968 record number of wins will go down in the book and will be extremely hard to beat in the future. It didn't bring in the pennant but what a great effort it was by the young boys only recently out of High School who took on everything thrown at them and still earned respect and applause with that ability to bounce back again.

In the last few years the requirements for higher education have meant that it has not been possible to boat full crews in the evenings after work, because technical school courses are normally scheduled between 5.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. In 1967 a far reaching decision was made to train in the early morning and although only 2 or 3 mornings were set aside, the successes achieved made the early morning rising well worth while.

The story is told of crews pushing off in the early morning darkness which was hiding a fog. All crews except one found their way back. It seems that a voice was heard saying in the vicinity of Canning Bridge "well the Narrows Bridge should be here". The eight arrived back $\frac{3}{4}$ hour later guided by a dim shore line to which they clung grimly, much to the relief of parents and members waiting on the slipway.

It has also been reliably reported that John Vos, determined to maintain his training schedule, would telephone delinquent crew members at 5.30 a.m. and leave the receiver off the hook.

One of the latest innovations by the 1968 Secretary is an all girl crew - Domonic Italiano was seen standing on the coxswain's seat telling the girls what to do, then one did it and Domonic was last seen swimming sadly ashore.

Our youngest sculler Matthew Cox-Sutton was told he could not enter the Fremantle to Perth Marathon; there was some doubt about him covering the distance. Since then he has done the trip twice, so good luck in the big race Matthew.

One member had an arrangement for early rising which never failed. The loudest alarm would not wake him, so he asked a friend to call and tied a string around his big toe and led the string to the window - you can guess the rest.

The following letter came in from one old member:-

In respect to the request for an anecdote for the history of the Club, I have bought my bum to anchor in an endeavour to contribute.

Perhaps one of the most amusing incidents that I can recall was during an evening training session in our very successful 1958 junior eight, in which I think we remained undefeated during the pennants - which the Club won that season.

We were coming down the south bank of Heirisson Island homeward bound after dark, just off the Fisheries Dept.'s Jetty when during a 'dozen', we impaled an ancient bondwood skiff belonging to a professional fisherman who at this time was engaged in netting in closed waters, naturally without a light.

Fortunately, we had a misfortune the previous evening in the "Fraser", at that time our best boat, and this night were in a practice eight of herculean construction. Nevertheless, the combined weight of the rapidly sinking dinghy and a very vocal fisherman threatened to snap off the bow of the eight, so being a stalwart clubman, also being bow, I quickly unshipped my paddle, and using it as a ram, eased dinghy and fisherman off into the darkness - needless to say he became considerably more vocal at this - so as we retreated we encouraged him to forward his account to Swan River Rowing Club. Fortunately he was rescued by one of his mates, and we were able to continue on our training row, secure in the knowledge that we had aided the Fisheries Dept. to stamp out illegal netting.

❖ W.A.R.C. Champions -- 1961

State Champion Pair



D. Ninkam (cox) R. Ninkam (Stroke) J. Negro (Bow)

State and Australian Champion Sculler



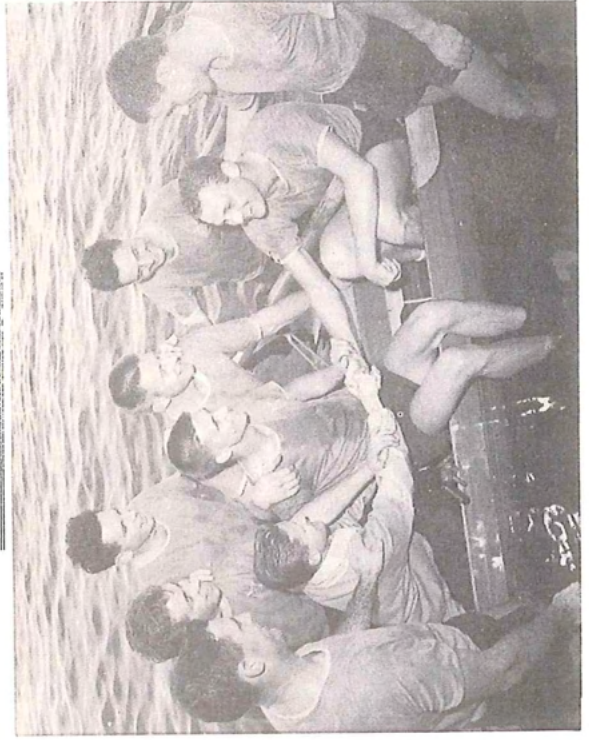
R. Winkam

State Champion Four



J. Booth (Bow) R. Ninkam (Stroke) J. Negro (3) D. Durston (2) A. Winkam (Bow)

State Champion Eight



*L.H.R. M. Francis (4) A. Winkam (Bow) J. Booth (cox) D. Durston (2) G. Storey (6)
M. Gamble (5) A. Salisbury (4) J. Klosser (Stroke) J. Negro (3)*

I also recall after an evening at the Club, encouraged by a few ales a few of us securing a neighbour club's pennant - blue and white in colour - and spiriting it to a street of ill-repute still operating at that time, draping it over the cyclone wire enclosure while our stroke - a photographer - secured some excellent photos, and then beating a hasty retreat pursued by a motely crowd of customers who obviously considered we were from the Press.

Copies of the photos were very well received in some quarters at the next Regatta - not at all well in others!

In the early 1920's the old Club was a seething mass of industry with about 250 members. As well as hard work there was plenty of fun and a quoits club was going strong with quite a few good players but ditto baddies like the writer. Also a Swimming Club affiliated with the Swimming Association. Some of their swimmers could hold their own with the best of them.

Football was played in front of the Club much to the annoyance of the P.C.C.; hence the palm trees to stop our fun. A Social eight was organised with the primary idea to keep members just missing the senior races owing to the many aspirants in the Club from Maiden and Junior ranks. The idea was to keep members semi fit who could be called on at the last moment to replace a member who was not available.

Old members may remember Arthur Sadler who was a great fighter in the boat - seems he was seen one day filing his teeth in front of the club mirror, when asked why he replied "sharpening my teeth so I can eat an extra lb. of steak for that race on Saturday"!! The same man used to ride a very old "Triumph" motor bike and left it parked in the shed for convenience. He came down one day to find his ancient steed draped in a Union Jack with R.I.P. on it. They say Arthur wasn't amused.

Some may remember Alf Chapman the only Club Treasurer who ever achieved a credit balance in the Club bank account, unfortunately the Club didn't have any boats either and the members were extremely suspicious when Alf turned up in a "modern" baby Austin car; whilst Alf was inside collecting subs the boys placed his car between the metal gratings kept around trees at that time. It was then Alf's turn not to be amused.

Let us turn back the pages a long way back – to the twenties, nearly fifty years ago!

In those days we had a busy and full club regatta programme. I knew George Rogers and what a rowing machine he was. In his fifties he tangled up with a kid named Langley and what a combination that proved to be - pairs, fours and eights. They both won the Championship Pairs ten times for they could sprint the two miles. Today we still see "Sprock" Langley interested in the Club.

In the Club house we became expert at quoits, did lots of skipping for leg exercise and wind and sparred with boxing gloves. We had some tough boys I can tell you. Pro's came down to give us a spar and I can still remember my sore ribs. Butch Smith and Johnny Miller were two old members who could take two and give one! One of my young mates was Jimmy Butler who was good with the gloves. After a lot of persuasion he enticed a big boy, Cyril Courthope, to have a go, but the tables were turned after Cyril became rather annoyed after collecting a series of left jabs and he let go with a "haymaker" in the target zone and Jimmy Butler was out for quite some time.

I have mixed in a few sports and seen wonderful Club men but none as energetic and capable as Guy Negus. His work and keen interest has put the old club in business again. The trip to Melbourne he organised to mark the centenary of the foundation of the Club, was a glowing example of his organising ability and hard work. All I can say is I hope we fellow members can carry on when he leaves us, temporarily, we hope.

*Song dedicated by D. Italiano to our next Henley
on Yarra (or New Zealand) venture in 1969/70.*

*We started off at forty two
Hurrah Hurrah
We started off at forty two
Hurrah Hurrah
We started off at forty two
and left the others to row in these few
And we all slapped our oars and cried
Ho ho - He he - Ha ha*

*We settled down at thirty six
Hurrah Hurrah
We settled down at thirty six
Hurrah Hurrah
We settled down at thirty six
when Terry shouted steady your sticks
And we all slapped our oars and cried
Ho ho - He he - Ha ha*

*Victoria said reduce your pace
Hurrah Hurrah
Victoria said reduce your pace
Hurrah Hurrah
Victoria said reduce your pace
to make it look just like a race
And we all slapped our oars and cried
Ho ho - He he - Ha ha*

*The New South Welshmen said to us
Hurrah Hurrah
The New South Welshmen said to us
Hurrah Hurrah
The New South Welshmen said to us
Don't be in such a big bloody rush
And we all slapped our oars and cried
Ho ho - He he - Ha ha*

*The Tasmans followed by our stern
Hurrah Hurrah
The Tasmans followed by our stern
Hurrah Hurrah
The Tasmans followed by our stern
But W.A. had power to burn
And we all slapped our oars and cried
Ho ho - He he - Ha ha*

*Now West went on and took the lead
Hurrah Hurrah
Now West went on and took the lead
Hurrah Hurrah
Now West went on and took the lead
The others cried they did not heed
And home we sped to win the race
Ho ho - He he - Ha ha.*

PATRON

Dr. L.E. Le Souef, O.B.E., E.D.

PRESIDENT

K.W. Langley, Esq.

PAST LIFE MEMBERS

G.F. Hillman	E.F. Darlot
E.S. Scott	M.J. Jephson
R.A. Sholl	H.S. King
G.H. Stone	F.H. Cheesewright
W.A.G. Walker	A.H. Filmer
G.E. Rogers	G. Parker
S. Underwood	S.H. Parker
A.F.C. During	H.D. Forbes
J.G.H. Amherst	M.A.C. Fraser
F. Bird	R.C. Hare
M. Brown	E.W. Haynes
Justice R.B. Burnside	G.E. Mettam
F.D. Slee	E.J. Negus
A. McHarrie	

PRESENT LIFE MEMBERS

Justice O.J. Negus	A. Sadler
J.R. Sharples	G.A. Negus
E.U. Long	L.E. Le Souef O.B.E., E.D.
K.W. Langley	S. Gorton
V.H. Humann	E.L. Barrett
D.H. Fraser	J. Banfield
J.L.C. Wickham, Q.C.	W. Hare
R. Little	A. Williams

VICE-PRESIDENTS

M. Buttfield	P. Trouchet	G. Norton
D. Fraser	J. Miller	Gra Rosser
G.A. Negus	A.N. Negus	J. Wickham

KNOWN CLUB CAPTAINS

Prior to 1946

W.H. Young, E.S. Walker, J. Gow, D. Hooper, A.P. Ffar-
ington, F. Slee, G. Rogers (for many years), K. Langley,
M. Buttfield, B. Bayly, A. BRI GGS.

1946	A. Negus	1954	A. Salisbury	1962	D. Durston
7	D. Fraser	5	"	3	"
8	G. Norton	6	K. Bassett	4	J. Little
9	"	7	G. Storey	5	"
1950	G. Negus	8	F. Hansson	6	A. Giles
1	H. Staples	9	A. Johnson	7	D. Ninham
2	D. Devenish	1960	A. Salisbury	8	"
3	"	1	T. Windus		