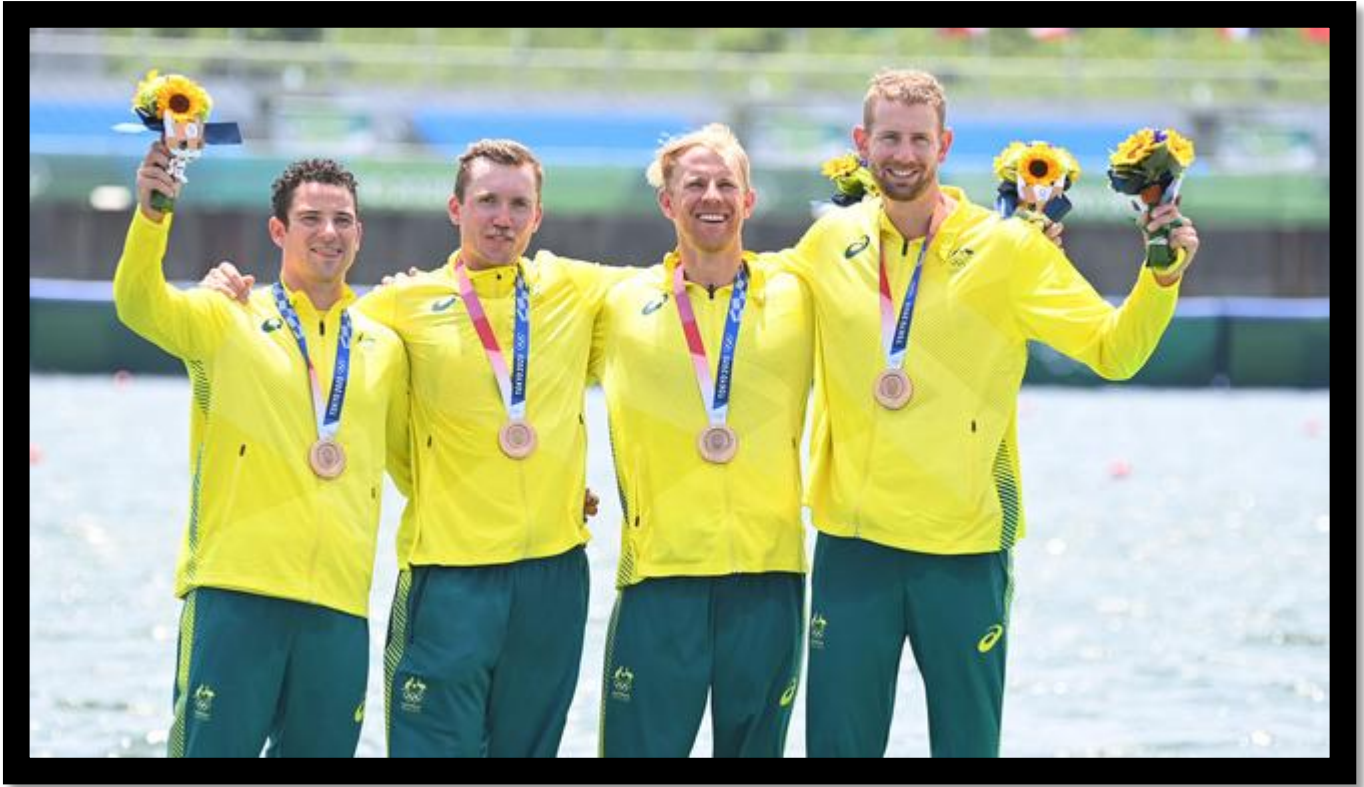


## CLUB Update August 2021



Bronze medalists Jack Cleary, Caleb Antill, Cameron Girdlestone and Luke Letcher. **Picture AFP**

Congratulations to Luke Letcher and the Australian Men's Quad Scull for winning a Bronze Medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

Rowing Australia reported:

*Jack Cleary, Caleb Antill, Cameron Girdlestone and Luke Letcher had tough competition, facing the Netherlands, Great Britain, Italy, Poland and Estonia.*

*But a hard-fought race saw the Australian crew fight back in the second half of the course and take the bronze behind the Dutch and British Crews with a time of 5:33.97.*

*"Having no international competition coming in, we only had each other to race against so the Men's Four is our key competitor at home and we knew we were up there with those guys so to come away with bronze is awesome." Antill said.*

*"We haven't raced these guys in two years." Girdlestone added. "We came here to shock the world, as the Australian Rowing team and we've done that."*

At the 1500 meter mark the Australians were in fourth place. The Australian reported:.....*with 250 metres to go they had lifted their stroke rate to 42 – easily the highest of the final.*

*Stroke Luke Letcher took a cheeky peek across to the left but Netherlands held on to win in 5min32.03 secs with Great Britain next and Australia 1.94 seconds behind.*

*But for Australia's Jack Cleary, Caleb Antill, Cameron Girdlestone and Letcher it was a race within a race.*

### **From the President**

Welcome to the August newsletter. I would like to start by congratulating the Australian Rowing Team for the great results from Tokyo. Despite a COVID - impacted lead up, with limited-to-no opportunities for racing, the squad delivered with some fantastic rowing and sculling.

I would also particularly like to recognize the Canberra connection in the Men's Quad with Caleb Antill and Luke Letcher. Luke is a current BMRC member, is a product of the Radford rowing program under Philip Winkworth and was coached by David Bagnall. I can remember watching Luke win an Australian Championship in the schoolboys' coxed quad in Adelaide in 2011. Luke has gone on from strength to strength, and is well supported by his parents – BMRC member Vicky Newman, and avid Rowing ACT photographer Graham Letcher. Congratulations to you all!

**Membership came due for renewal in June, with the majority of members paying on time by 31 July. Payments after 31 July attract a late fee of \$50. The Trybooking link is <https://www.trybooking.com/BRTVZ>**

The Annual General Meeting has been set for 18 September. I encourage members to consider nominating for a Committee position. The BMRC Committee comprises President, Secretary, Treasurer, Boat Captain, Vice Captain, and four General Committee members.

To enhance the process of electing Committee members at the AGM, nominees will be invited to submit a short description with their nomination. The description should include claims against a Committee position and a photograph to help members to identify the nominees. Please look out for an email from Judith with more details.

Leigh Gordon

## **Main points from the Committee meeting August**

- Rechargeable lights have arrived for Club members' use. Directions for their use, and recharging directions will be available soon.
- The Murray River Rowathon has been cancelled due to Covid concerns.
- A defibrillator is being ordered for the Club. It will be positioned in the boat storage area for maximum accessibility.
- The two new boats on order (A quad/four and a double/pair) are expected to arrive in October.
- In order to improve safety when rowing in the dark the Committee has decided all Club boats will have a **flashing light on the bow, and a fixed light on the stern**. Club boats have a washer attached to the stern canvas so lights can be attached via magnets. The Club has a few **stern** lights for sale for \$10 and we will be ordering more. Watch for a separate email with a link to purchase these.

See Captain's advice later in this Newsletter re the Club's **new rechargeable bow lights available for members' use**.

- 2 safety reminders for members:
  - If you cannot see the bank of Weston Creek because of fog, it is not safe to venture onto the water.
  - The pontoons can be VERY slippery due to black ice on these very cold mornings. Take extra care.
- The AGM is pencilled in for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Committee candidates are asked to write a short blurb to introduce themselves to other members.
- The Committee is gathering information together to create an Honour Board – so our high achievers are not forgotten as the years go by. Categories are yet to be decided but might include Founding Members, Life Members, Australian representatives.

## **From the Safety Officer**

There has been one reported incident this month involving a BMRC boat. This occurred in the wee small and dark hours of the morning. Hence the proactive advice from the Committee to increase our lighting requirements over and above RACT recommendations.

Mary Bonney

## **From the Captains**

As reported earlier, the Committee has agreed to require Club boats to be fitted with **two** lights when rowing in the dark – a fixed light on the stern canvas, and a flashing light on the bow. A number of rechargeable lights have been purchased for members to use, with the priority being Club boats. The lights are stored in a recharging case when not in use.

While their operation and charging is reasonably intuitive, we will soon have some instructions on how to use the lights

We will shortly be wiping the boat booking board for the new competition season. Please keep your eyes out for emails that will explain the process where you can ask to have a current booking retained.

Ian Mongan and Jenny Simmons

## **Need a new BMRC visor or cap???**

We have stock at the Club. Caps come in black or white, visors in white only. All one price \$20 plus TB fee of a mighty .50c.

Purchase via the Trybooking link below, and contact Kate Freebody or Judith to collect your merch.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BTLYY>

## **Recent events**



Unfortunately Vicky Newman and Graham Letcher could not be in Tokyo to cheer on their son Luke Letcher. But the rowing community joined them at The Dock in Kingston to cheer Australia on. 4 medals in 1 hour. Bring on the champagne!!

## Upcoming Events

August					
14/8/2021	Sat-Sun	Winter Time Trial 4	Lake Burley Griffin	WTT	<a href="#">Info..</a>   <a href="#">Events</a>
September					
11/9/2021	Sat-Sun	Winter Time Trial 5	Lake Burley Griffin	WTT	<a href="#">Info..</a>   <a href="#">Events</a>
18/09/21	Sat	BMRC AGM	Shed		TBC
October					

## Shout outs



- Damien Pentony for power cleaning the pontoons – brilliant job with all that icy sludge buildup now removed
- Pam Nash for reporting the hole near the pontoons to Access Canberra, and David Bagnall for filling the hole with rocks to make it safer.
  - Good to see that the hole has now been permanently filled and made safe by the ACT government.