



Japanese Rowers coming to Sydney to welcome North Shore Rowing Club as a Sister Club - this weekend. Join us to celebrate!!

North Shore Gets a Sister Club in Japan

On the weekend of the Drummoyne Masters (April 11-14), 14 members of Seta Rowing Club, Japan, are visiting Sydney to celebrate the new sister club relationship between North Shore Rowing Club and Seta Rowing Club. **They are coming here just to row and just to begin this new relationship.**

The sister club arrangement will allow North Shore members visiting Seta to use the facilities of their club, and vice versa. Seta Rowing Club is on the Seta River, where it enters Lake Biwa, in the city of Otsu, just north of Kyoto, and about 500km south-west of Tokyo.

The Seta visitors will be welcomed to North Shore clubhouse on Friday April 11, about 3pm. The Mayor of Lane Cove, Ian Longbottom, will also be there to add a civic welcome. We'll sign a few documents, have afternoon tea, and then the visitors will go out for a practice row, before helping with boat loading for the next day's regatta.

On Friday evening there's a new-boat naming ceremony at the Club, followed by a barbeque at 7pm. All club members are invited to both the Seta welcome and the boat-naming/welcome Seta BBQ. Please let me know if you're coming to the BBQ.

On Saturday NSWRA have invited Seta to compete in the Drummoyne Masters Regatta. They're boating a men's D8+, a men's C quad, two

men's F doubles, and a women's F quad.

On Sunday Tamsin Brew is organising an Extraordinarily Pointless Exercise for Seta and North Shore Members. Please join us in welcoming our new "relations" and take part in this special event. See details...

There'll be breakfast afterwards, as usual, at which we'll farewell the Seta people. They leave for home on Monday, April 14.

Anyone who's going to Japan soon and plans to be near Seta RC should come down and introduce themselves. There are also two events on the Seta calendar which sound interesting - the Seta Head of the River and a five-day row around Lake Biwa. If there's anyone interested in either of these, please contact me.

You can get a good idea of the Seta Rowing Club on this website: <http://photoguide.jp/pix/thumbnails.php?album=383>.

Another website showing pictures from one group's row around Lake Biwa is <http://photoguide.jp/pix/thumbnails.php?album=367>. And if you'd like to start practicing the Lake Biwa Rowing Song, I have a CD in both English and Japanese.

I hope this sister club relationship will be enjoyable and well used by both Seta and North Shore. I'd also like to thank Hiro Kobayashi for making the initial introductions and doing so much work to get all the arrangements off the ground.

Extraordinarily Pointless Exercise this Sunday with our new "sisters" and "brothers", Japanese Seta Club Members

The April Pointless Exercise will be a little different. Seta RC members will be our guests to take part in the Pointless Exercise, which will now be run on Sunday 13 April (not Sunday 20 April as previously advertised).

Come and celebrate this new relationship with our Japanese friends who have come to Sydney specially to row with us at the Drummoyne Masters Regatta and join us in the Pointless Exercise.

So that we can form composite crews with Seta Members, all entries will be individual (no crew entries). We also need 2 marshalls (boat drivers) and 2 coxes for the eights.

Race starts at 7am - be at the Club by 6.30am. Race from the wires to the finishing post opposite the sailing club. No race experience necessary.

Email name, scull or sweep (and preferred side) to nsrc.pointless.exercise@gmail.com by 8pm Wednesday 9 April.

Tea, coffee & toast after.
Tamsin Brew, Vice Captain

Alexa Hearn Wins Gold!

Congratulations to one of our youngest members, Alexa Hearn! Alexa competed in the Girls' Head of the River at the end of March where she placed third in the Year 10 Single Scull. A matter of 3 days later she won Gold in the Combined High Schools Championships in the Under 17s Single Sculls.

15 year old Alexa, amazingly, entered her first race last winter in the J. B. Sharpe Series. So this is her first season competing in club and school regattas. Alexa is coached by Paul Tout with her father, Bob Hearn, being the official boat driver! Alexa attends Crestwood High School in Baulkham Hills.

While this is an impressive track record for Alexa, her father, Bob says, modestly, that it is in the genes. Bob started rowing at North Shore in 1961, was active with the Club until 1968 and then rowed with University of NSW for several years. So he is an accomplished oarsman which helps to encourage his lovely daughter in her chosen sport.

Well done, Alexa. We wish you success in your rowing career.

Captain's Report

Thank you to all those who attended the recent Maintenance sessions. The work was performed cheerfully and well. I trust we all learned something about the difficulties of maintaining the fleet. There will be a couple more sessions to finalise the work that wasn't completed, painting the oars and some small tasks and these will be advertised shortly.

Congratulations to all those who have participated in the recent regattas. Geoff Wannan and Chris Pollett won Gold at the recent Balmain Regatta. Jusin Peter's and Andrew Boyce's Eight, affectionately known as the "Taliban", also performed well at this regatta. It is good to see that the efforts they are putting in to train and be coached are paying off.

There will be a "boat naming" ceremony at the BBQ on Friday after boat loading. The newish eight will be christened the "*Graham Wood*" after our recently deceased Treasurer, a popular member of the club. Graham's widow Robyn will attend and be accompanied by their children. Graham came to us from the Macquarie Rowing Club when it was afflicted with arson. The new 4X/4- will be named the "*Norma Perry*". Norma has performed quietly for many years and has been Treasurer and subsequently Captain - possibly the first female of Rowing Club Captains! The recently purchased 4X will be named the "*Margaret Taylor*" another Member who contributes to the smooth running of the club.

The many new faces at the past regattas has been a welcome sight. Well done to all those who have been participating in the racing and I look forward to seeing many of you at the NSW masters on the 10th of May. There are a number of the old faces out injured this season and I take this opportunity to wish them all a speedy recovery and a quick return to man/woman the oars.

I hope to see many of you maintaining the interest shown for rowing during the forthcoming winter months. Remember it only takes twenty strokes to warm up and the mornings during winter can be very rewarding.

John Pyle, Captain.

Members' 'Mindere

Contribution to Repairs

Members are reminded that crews who are responsible for boats incurring damage while in their care will be levied \$50 per crew member. This helps to offset the cost of repairs.

Regatta Petrol Costs

Regatta entry fees are now \$10 per seat with the additional \$1 being applied to the cost of petrol for local regattas. Additional petrol money will be collected for regattas at SIRC and out of Sydney.

Noise - the neighbours complain

One of the Club's neighbours has been irritated enough by early morning noise from the Club to complain to Council. As it's important to stay on good terms with our neighbours, could everyone please revert to their customary pre-dawn, monosyllabic mumbles and all should be well.

Parking

Another reminder to members who arrive in the early hours of the morning to please park sensibly and reasonably close to the car beside yours so we can fit a few more cars into the parking area.

Corporate Regatta 2008

- * Training starts 22 September
- * Regatta is on 19 October
- * If you work for a "Corporate" or know someone who does (preferably who controls the budget!), ask them to sponsor a crew and provide 8 crew members
 - * Or give us a contact and we'll follow it up
 - * Contact Helen Ritchie, hritchie@bigpond.net.au, Sue Wannan, swannan@internode.on.net or Linda McDonald, linda@corporatelearning.com.au