

Vale Mike Newington 1947 to 2010

We knew Mike as a sculler, a rower, a cox and a coach. He's been a member of our club for 22 years, and there's not too many of us who haven't had reason to thank him for one thing or another. He was a good club member, generous with his time and advice, but never a pushy bloke. The sort of man everyone liked.

But he was so much more. A pilot, a sailor, a motorbike rider, a soccer player, a man with a penchant for getting married in unusual places, a bargain hunter, an enthusiastic father and an avid Queens fan. No cook, though, say his wife and children with amusement.

David, Mike's eldest son recalls a Sunday roast of his childhood. "It was dreadful! Burnt on the outside and cold in the middle. Peter and I sat there looking at it, not wanting to say anything because we knew he'd tried so hard. Finally Dad stood up: 'Oh, forget it!' We went to Maccas."

Michael Newington was born in London on April 14, 1947. He trained first as a draughtsman and later got an engineering diploma. When he was 21 he came to Australia as a "ten-pound Pom". He loved being Australian. He got his citizenship in the early '70s, and always called himself Australian. He said he had a document to prove it.

His first marriage, to Marian, was conducted in a light plane over Sydney Harbour. It made the newspapers. His two sons, David and Peter, were born in 1975 and '78.



"He was a really active father," says David. "He was always keen to do new things and we got to do so much."

On Saturday morning a week after Mike suddenly passed away, 50 club members in 17 boats and 3 coaching boats paid their respects to our long-standing and loyal friend and club member. With flowers from the wreath that covered Mike's coffin at his funeral the day before in each boat we rowed up to the factory where he and Jim Hole had rowed just the week before for their usual Saturday morning paddle. The coaching boats were stocked with champagne and when all of us had a glass of bubbly we toasted Mike. Mike's wife, Madeleine and his son, David were with us.

We rowed back down the river and stopped just past the Fig Tree Bridge where we paid tribute to Mike as we threw the flowers in the river. It was the spot where Mike likely died when he collapsed and fell into the river. It was touching and fitting and we all felt our loss of a friend of many months or years.

Breakfast back at the club allowed many past and present club members to remember Mike the way we knew him. The memorial row was a fitting tribute to Mike and we will miss him.

On Sunday morning 13 June a fleet of three eights, a four and single along with Madeleine in a coaching boat rowed to the beach just before the narrows. In a perfect setting a background of Queen music David Pedder scattered Mike's ashes on the river. *Paddle on!* As Mike would shout from the cox seat.



David Newington (right), Mike Perry, Madeleine Newington and David's friend Clive joined the memorial row for Mike on 29 May.

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NSW Masters Regatta Medal Winners National Masters Regatta

50 members including a few non-rowing spouses made the journey to Grafton in May to compete in the annual NSW Masters Regatta. North Shore had a great medal haul. Congratulations to all those who came home with medals.

Gold

MH-J Double	John James composite
MG-J Eight	John James composite
Mixed F-J Quad	Sue & Len Walter, Sue & Geoff Wannan
MG Quad	John James composite
WE-J Pair	Sue Wannan composite
Mixed G-J Double	Martin Tattersall composite
MH-J Pair	John James composite
MAB Four	Phil Quick, Stevan Caldwell composite
MH-J Four	Rod Keable, John James composite
WB Single	Tamsin Brew
WA Double	Tamsin Brew composite

Silver

WF-J Eight	Mab Gross, Jan Williams, Linda McDonald, Helen Ritchie, Janet Mathews, Di Brown, Sue Walter, Sue Wannan. Cox Robert Wright
MF Four	Bill Russo, Bob Hearn, Mike Tyler, Geoff Franklin
MB Pair	Phil Quick, Stevan Caldwell
MH-J Pair	Rod Keable
WF Single	Mab Gross
WF Four	Mab Gross, Selina Pyle, Linda McDonald, Jan Williams
MC Eight	Peter Shaw, Jono Ryce, Phil Quick, Stevan Caldwell, Tim Taylor, Andrew Boyce, Kim Ballingall, David Dickison, Cox Robert Wright
WE Eight	Mab Gross, Janet Mathews, Di Brown, Selina Pyle, Sue Walter, Sue Wannan, Jacqui Wilkinson, Cate Brown
WB Double	Tamsin Brew composite
WA-B Quad	Tamsin Brew composite

Bronze

MF Four	Len Walter composite
WF Quad	Linda McDonald, Sue Wannan, Norma Perry, Janet Mathews
ME Pair	Justin Peters, Geoff Franklin
MC Four	Tim Taylor, Andrew Boyce, Kim Ballingall, David Dickison
MF Eight	Bill Russo, Bob Smith, Geoff Wannan, Bob Hearn, Michael Tyler, Jim Hole, Justin Peters, Geoff Franklin. Cox Jan Williams
MH Single	John James
WE Quad	Sue Walter, Sue Wannan, Norma Perry, Tamsin Brew
WF Double	Sue Walter, Sue Wannan

Four club members travelled to Perth to compete in the Australia Masters Regatta. Rod Keable, John James, Chris Pollett and Tamsin Brew. Tamsin was the stroke of the State crew that won a gold medal in the women's interstate D quad event.

Gold MI coxless four - John and Rod; MI pair - Rod; MI quad - John and Rod; WA single - Tamsin

Silver MH eight - John and Rod; MH coxed four - Rod; MI eight - John; WA single and WB quad- Tamsin.

Corporate Regatta 2010

Yes, it's that time again. After a year's absence in 2009 because of the World Masters Games, we will resume the Corporate Regatta this year. And we need your help.

This is the club's major fund raising activity and we need help from every member. We can raise \$20,000 (that's equivalent to over 30 members' annual fees!) if we get everyone's help and recruit the number of crews we need to make it as successful as it has been in past years.

The first major task is recruiting crews of eight. Now is the time to do something nice for your company/client/sponsor to thank them for their support over the past couple of years. Our corporate regatta offers fun, fitness, food and of course coaching from our qualified club coaches.

Crews train twice a week for four weeks in eights starting 16 August. The Regatta dinner is on Friday 10 September and the regatta is Sunday, 12 September.

If you believe you can organise a crew from your company or spouse/partner/client's company contact Mab Gross at mab@lincolnpartners.com.au or 9241-7100 for further details.

Overheard at Grafton... Andrew Williams "I never look around" (shows great concentration and focus within the boat!) And Dave Dickison, "When Robert called for 10 on the legs I thought, 'Whose legs?'"

A big thank you to all those who worked so hard during the season so we could all compete. Bob Smith for keeping boats in good repair so we had something to row in and managing all the regatta entries; Sue & Geoff Wannan, Bob Hearn and John Pyle for towing boats to & from many regattas; Justin Peters for organising the Taliban squad; Sue Walter for managing the women's squad; John Childs for managing the men's squad. And of course to our club coaches, John James and Kim Rudder, who give so generously of their time.

"He'd got a pilots licence in 1971 and as kids we'd go flying at Bankstown at the weekends.

"He was a soccer player and we spent lots of weekends camping with his soccer club. He'd take Peter and me out to BMX racing when we got into that.

"He always came up with lots of ideas, lots of different things. We'd go to Forster to Tons of Fun, or to Jamberoo to go grass skiing. We'd go fishing or go-karting. And Scouts was huge for us. Dad got involved in that too. I think he was more excited about these things than we were.

"But we thought it was pretty cool that he got involved in what we did. He'd always have a go. That was something he instilled in us - keep fit and keep your options open. That stays with me especially now I've got a son. Keep fit so I can do things with him."

Mike's first marriage broke up when the boys were quite young and he spent many years as a single father. Fortunately his parents had come to Sydney and the three generations lived together. Mike's mother, now 88, lives at Parramatta, still looking after herself.

In the early '90s Mike was an engineer for a company in charge of a new building into which the law firm Mallesons were moving. There were some major issues with the airconditioning "and they had to send in the big guns - well, the little gun perhaps - it was Mike," says Madeleine, then communications supervisor for Mallesons. "We had some meetings to work through the issues - then he asked me out to dinner. That was November, 17 years ago.

"The years we spent together were the best years of our lives - 17 years of joy. We never had a serious disagreement." Madeleine and Mike were married on December 14, 1997, on a boat in the harbour. They lived for a while at Mt Druitt and soon after moved to their current house at Pennant Hills.

Madeleine also speaks fondly of Mike's passion for doing things. "He sailed with Len Walter for many years, he'd go to the gym a couple of nights a week, and there was his Yamaha 600. He'd go for Sunday morning rides, and rode down to Philip Island for the Grand Prix.

"Mike was like the Duracell bunny - he hopped around all over the place."

She also mentions his lack of kitchen skills. "He had to take a plate to the rowing club once, and I was going away. I had to make it before I left." But she denies any lack of feminist will here. "I looked after him, and he looked after me," she says calmly.

Mike and Madeleine had been about to set off for an overseas trip on the Monday after Mike died. The trip had been postponed from the year before because then, just before they were to leave, Madeleine had been hit by a car on a pedestrian crossing, breaking her leg. "Watch out for cars," one of her neighbours joked to her just the week before the second trip.

A high priority of the holiday had been visits to David, Melinda and 22-month-old grandson Frederick in Singapore, and to Peter and Nicky in the UK.

Madeleine now plans a shorter trip to Singapore in July for Frederick's second birthday. She's also going to play tennis - "we were both going to take tennis lessons."

"I'm going to carry on as Mike would have liked."

One thing that she believes Mike would have liked is that his beloved single scull, *Madeleine*, remains at North Shore. She and the boys have donated it to the club and it will be renamed *Madeleine & Mike Newington*.

Sue Wannan, President

Memory Book of Mike's Club Friends and Crews

I am putting together a memory book of Mike's years as a club member. The book will include photographs of Mike and club members he rowed with along with messages, stories and memories from his friends at the club. We will give a copy of the book to his wife Madeleine and to his sons David and Peter.

If you have any photographs of Mike and/or would like to include a story, memory or message about him please send it to me at linda@corporatelearning.com.au. If you have a print photo let me know and I'll arrange to get it and transfer it to digital format.

Linda McDonald

Here is Jim Hole's story that will be in the book.

This is a story that Mike told me one day sitting out on the pontoon. It is the story of how Mike came to Australia.

When he finished his degree, he thought he did not want to immediately fit into the professional scene in the UK. He had heard about the £10 Pom scheme. So he went down and visited Australia House in London and they explained that for £10,

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he would get a trip to Australia and there was plenty of work there and they would be very eager to see him.

SO

Six weeks later, having paid his £10 he is on the ship heading for Australia with a lot of like minded Poms.

AND

they had several lectures on Australia. One lecture was on the danger of sharks, spiders, snakes and how to handle snakebite. Another lecture was on the danger of getting caught in a rip and the importance of swimming between the flags, and of course the constant danger of sharks.

Mike arrived in Australia and was sent out to a barracks with all his mates from the ship and he started looking for a job.

THEN

after about two weeks a letter arrived with the Australian Crest on the top of it, and Mike thought "*Gee, this is nice, I'm getting a letter from the Australian Government welcoming me to Australia*".

WHEN

he opened the letter he read "*You are required to enrol for National Service*".

I'm afraid I used to regularly thank him for coming to defend us in the Antipodes.

Jim Hole

Safe footwear

Look after your ankles and feet – wear safe footwear around the club

1. Wear shoes with backs - no thongs or slippers (too easy to trip out of them while carrying a boat)
2. Walk - don't run, especially on the sloping ramp or in the ballroom.
3. Take care on the black rubber (which is there for the tinnies) – it's slippery under some conditions.
4. Report any protruding nails, loose bits of planking, or splinters to a committee member (or fix them yourself).
5. Look carefully when stepping down to the water.

We want to have a safe boathouse – let's help each other to make it safe.

Jacqui Wilkinson, Vice Captain

Recent Committee Meeting

Topics

Club fees An increase of \$20 to \$620 per annum was recommended for active members with a 5% discount for payment by the end of August and a further 5% for participation in working bees. No change to the fees for Associate members or cox and coach members of \$100.

Rowing NSW fees The Affiliation fees charged to clubs have not been increased this year but the annual competing memberships have increased by \$10 to \$100 for Metropolitan competitors and by \$5 for Juniors and schools members to \$55. Regatta entry fees are unchanged at \$9 per seat.

AGM A preliminary date of Sunday 22nd August has been set for the AGM which will be held at the clubhouse. Formal notices will be emailed at a later date by the Secretary.

Our next Corporate Regatta is scheduled to start training on Monday August 16th and continue through to the actual regatta on Sunday, September 12th. All club members are asked to be conscious of this event even if they are not participating as coach/cox/breakfast organiser/ marshal/ etc, etc and make our guests welcome during that period. All offers of assistance should be channeled through Linda McDonald and recruiting of crews to Mab Gross (see page 2).

Sue Wannan, President