



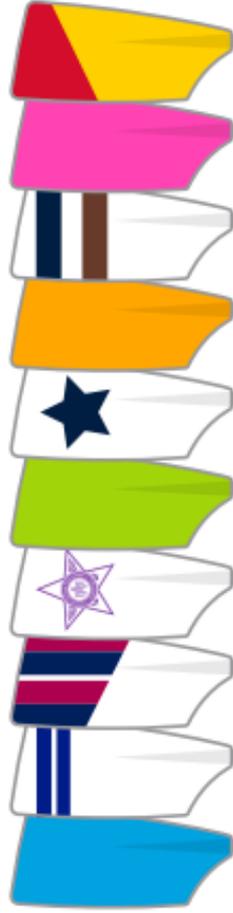
HEAD OF THE RIVER

2020



BSRA
BRISBANE SCHOOLGIRLS'
ROWING ASSOCIATION





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A SEASON LIKE NO OTHER

All Hallows' School – Captains of Boats - Annabelle Sambrook & Claire Ryan



To think that our time as schoolgirl rowers is coming to an end brings about a lot of emotions for us as the All Hallows' School 2020 Rowing Captains. Since we started rowing in 2016 as grade 8 girls, we have rowed thousands of kilometres, learnt countless life and leadership skills, and made lifelong friends.

To the credit of the BSRA, Mr Brown, the AHS coaches and of course our fellow AHSisters, our journey as rowers has given us 5 years' worth of memories that we will carry with us for many years to come. There is truly no other sport like rowing. Whether you are a member of the year 8 6ths, or the Open First VIII, the commitment each and every rower makes to this sport is unmatched.

To someone who has never rowed, it can be difficult to understand how we can possibly show up morning after morning, race after race, season after season. But to an All Hallows' rower, its simple. The love each of us has for the sport comes from the shed's comradery, the feeling of pushing yourself further than you believed was possible and the growing courage and determination each rower acquires on their rowing journey.

Just last week, Mr Brown enlightened us with one of his

eye-opening quotes. This was, "Be the best player for the team, not the best player on the team." To us, this quote perfectly encapsulates All Hallows' Rowing. As a shed, we are encouraged in many different ways to work as a team. This is what makes the 4am wakeups just that little bit easier. Knowing that we are part of a team all striving towards a common goal is the motivation that we believe keeps rowers going. Just as one rower alone could not win a quad or eight race, and one crew alone could not win the Aggregate Cup, the All Hallows' shed could not be as hard-working, fun or supportive if not for the work of each and every member. After a year as unpredictable and challenging as 2020, it is this idea of a team that we will be holding onto as we give our Blue Crew Best to this year's Head of the River. Good luck to every crew on the course today, here's to good racing!



Brisbane Girls Grammar School - Captains of Boats – Eloise young & Chelsea Ashby

Eloise Young: The moment I signed up to be part in the BGGG rowing program in year 8, I have been part of a family and developed a strong passion for the sport. I have been fortunate to work and learn from special mentors who have included my crew, and my coaches who have been Australian representatives and Olympic rowers. They have each shared their experiences and the importance of rowing to them. Rowing is not a half-hearted sport. I strongly believe that attitude is everything, “Don’t be afraid to fail, be afraid not to try”. A rower needs to be a passionate and resilient individual who is dedicated and committed to their crew, celebrating achievements and learning through losses.



The BGGG rowing community has built a strong, caring and inclusive culture that generates a strong sense of unity as the girls come together as a squad to achieve excellence. Although I will be concluding my own schoolgirl rowing experience this year, I will continue to share my passion for rowing through coaching and outside of school club commitments. Be bold, be brave BGGG rowers. “Races are won by rowers who refuse to be beaten.”

Chelsea Ashby: I never thought I’d ever cox, I was actually very against it. However, the first time I sat in the cox seat I fell in love. It was the second session of the year 8 season and I knew I wanted to be a cox. Ever since that day rowing has allowed me to create lifelong friendships, not only within my school but even with my competition. Rowing is unlike any other sport, because once you join, you join a family. I am more than grateful for the opportunities and friendships rowing has allowed me to create.



Brisbane State High School - Captains of Boats - Victoria Petrie & Mia Norman



Victoria Petrie: I am lucky enough to be one of the Brisbane State High Rowing Captains this year, alongside one of my close friends Mia Norman. This year has been one of the craziest that I have ever experienced in my rowing career, but saying that, it has undoubtedly been one of the most special and rewarding ones.

Captaincy to me, is an opportunity to get to know all of the girls in the shed and encourage them to pursue their rowing endeavours. And as Head of the River is upon us, I will do my absolute best to ensure the girls row with everything they can and come off the water content with their performances. As a shed, we will come together and support each other at this exciting time and show pride for the blue red blue.

School rowing is something that cannot be replicated, and that is what I love about State High rowing.

The relationships you make with your crew, your friends, other grades even - are

unforgettable and long lasting. There is nothing that can mimic the friendships you have with rowers and who you befriend at 4 o'clock in the morning - you're the ones that make the early mornings worth it. This year has been a blast and thank you for making it one to remember. Good luck to all crews!

Mia Norman: Being a captain this year, has been a goal of mine since joining the State High rowing family back in 2016. I have always loved the idea of building greater connections with younger girls, being able to leave a memorable legacy and leading our school war cry at Wyaralong dam. Being a captain isn't all about the title, or the big speech you have to give at the end of each regatta, it's all about the way you lead, through your actions, how you care for each individual rower and portray key values and skills that are used for a lifetime. I would like to thank Cam Stephenson, our rowing coordinator and master in charge. He, along with all the help from our incredible VOLUNTEER coaches, have done such an amazing job with organising, coaching and being a great support to all our girls.





Lourdes Hill College - Captains of Boats – Isabella Gordon & Attica Paterson

It has been a great privilege to be the rowing captains of Lourdes Hill College in 2020. Being captains this year has provided us with the opportunity to create an atmosphere that embraces one another and provides the girls with a supportive community. We are incredibly proud of the effort each girl has put in this year and are very humbled to be leading a group of strong and passionate girls.

We are both in agreement when we say that the most defining moments in rowing for us have been a collection of small moments from harder training sessions, camps and regattas that have allowed us to overcome what we have thought was impossible. For us, these moments are the reason we love rowing, as pushing ourselves beyond our limits for each other has bonded us closer together. We believe that it is the girl's bonds with one another passion for the sport of rowing and the purple pride they possess that creates the undeniable energy at the Lourdes Hill College rowing club.

We would like to extend many thanks towards the BSRA and Rowing Queensland team for organising this year's competition and particularly providing this year's grade twelves a final BSRA season. We would also like to thank the LHC Head of Sport, Ms Sherelle Reid and Head of Rowing, Jack Armitage for showing continual support for the sport of rowing. Our gratitude must also be passed onto our coaches and



boatman, who all commit their time to ensuring that we are race ready. Lastly, we would like to thank the girls, both from Lourdes Hill and the other participating schools for the commitment and hard work that has been shown in this unusual season. It is with your resilience and sense of community which has driven this season to be an unforgettable one which will always stay close to our hearts.

Row with pride today girls and we cannot wait to see you all out on the water!

Somerville House - Captains of Boats - Hilary Barrett & Elly Ready

Our rowing journey has been a whirlwind of experience, memories and lessons that we have learnt together. We have been lucky enough to row together for the past five years, making a lifelong friendship between the two of us. In year 9, six girls trialled for a coxed quad for the Queensland Schools Championships.

Unfortunately, both of us just missed out on selection and we were pretty devastated. This is a very defining moment for the both of us, teaching us persistence and patience to continue working towards what we wanted as rowers. Look at us now... we are co-captains of our beloved sport, Rowing at Somerville House.

One of our funniest moments would be when both of us, within a week, broke two separate ergos in training! Elly, despite hearing a loose bolt fall to the ground, continued her 2km trial. The ergo then snapped in half causing her to fall to the ground! And, just a few days before, Hilary despite hearing a large crack in her handle continued to row and on the next stroke the handle cracked right down the middle and the chain went flying! A series of unfortunate events which we continue to laugh about to this day!

Rowing is essentially a lot of pain, commitment, sweat and sacrifice. Despite the early mornings and the pure hard work, nothing beats the feeling of getting your boat up and flying with 8 of your closest friends. When everything 'clicks' together, you instantly forget about the discomfort and you can't help but to smile! There's nothing quite like the spirit of the Somerville Rowing community, it's so special to us. Particularly, the people who make up our 'green team'. Our Head of Rowing, Samara Quinlan, is truly the glue of our shed and inspires us to put our best foot forward every day. As well as our rowing support group who continually encourages our rowers all season long.

Even though this season has been in a different format to what we have been used to, it's made our shed bond on a different level and we feel so privileged to be captains to such an amazing bunch of girls.



St Peters Lutheran College - Captain of Boats - Alara Slattery & Caitlin Lythall

Why we row is a question that is commonly asked at St Peters. It's the feeling mid race, when your lungs are burning and your legs feel like they can't go any further, but you continue to push, knowing that every other girl in the boat is doing the same for you. When all the effort and early mornings pays off you can't help but smile. The trust and faith we have in each other and the bonds we make as a crew and shed is why we row.



This captaincy means that we have the ability to influence and inspire the younger girls within the rowing program. This allows us to keep the SPLC rowing program alive and gives us the opportunity to create a sense of community and belonging within the shed. We love the community that rowing provides and the support system that can be found within the shed. We hope that the differences made this year will carry by next year's captains and into the future.

Our most defining moment in rowing was at Year 10 Rowing Camp, when the whole shed was sitting around a fire listening to our then, captain of boats, Jess Korganow singing with the whole shed singing along. That feeling of not only community, but family is something that has really driven me in my rowing, both in and out of the boat.

A big thank you to Peter Hicks, our rowing coordinator for the tireless effort he puts into the

rowing program, both in and out of the season, without him, the SPLC rowing program wouldn't be standing. Thank you to all the coaches at St Peters, namely Stephen Pozzi, for the tireless hours he puts into the eight and who is always pushing us to perform at our best. Thank you to the PSG for all of their efforts throughout such a tough season. Most importantly, to all of the girls who are a part of the program, it is incredible to have every single one of you in the shed, and we can't wait to see how you go in the years to come.

St Hilda's School - Captains of Boats - Sophie Young & Sophie Coleman

There truly is a unique sense of pride and connectivity that echoes throughout our Rowing Program at St Hilda's. The collective joy that binds our tight knit community can be observed through the girls' genuine enjoyment for the sport. The immense mutual dedication a crew requires, in turn fosters a trust and support network that is incomparable to any other. When you put 50 crews together in the same shed, no matter if they're the 1st VIII or Year 9 5th Quad, this same level of dedication is common to all.

The sport has made many students realise what it means to be physically and emotionally invested in a sport, including ourselves. This foreign concept only propelled us towards determination and complete commitment. It has also equipped us with memories, both good and bad. Still mildly traumatised from the week 2 weekend row of torrential rain and an encounter with a tinny trailer, I think we could all agree the sport 'builds character'. I also gravely underestimated the fun that a week in Grafton could provide. I can confidently recommend the Heart and Soul Wholefood café and the op shops but would struggle to provide any other town attractions. I'm not sure if the wildlife display of a meter-long python on the bow of an VIII one chilly morning qualifies as an attraction!

Rowing has also offered us a range of surprising skills. Who knew that putting socks on our wet feet on a pitch black, cold winter morning was a skill we needed? We have also seen rowing lingo litter our vocabulary. The Year 9 version of us was certainly confused to discover 'catching a crab' did not in fact mean returning to the shed with a fine crustacean. Overall, the seasons spent within the St Hilda's Rowing Program were some of the greatest times during our time at school and we want to thank the girls, the coaches and parents for the extraordinary comradery, endless support and unforgettable memories.



St Margaret's Anglican Girls School - Captains of Boats - Shanelle Flute & Lucy Scott



2020 was certainly not the year we expected as rowing captains, and by no means have our initial season plans been fulfilled, however, to round out 5 years of rowing, we could not think of a better way to do so then at a 2020 Head of the River.

For us, the most defining moment in rowing is when the entire Maggie's shed links arms on the competitor headland and absolutely bellows the school war cry on Head of the River day. There is genuinely nothing more incredible then hearing the echo of 160 girls standing their ground and making our intentions loud and clear.

After an entire season of training tirelessly for a single race, the energy within that circle is electrifying. It illuminates how Maggie's is about being a part of something bigger than yourself, a community. All the transferrable, life-long skills and experiences we have been exposed to by doing rowing at St Margaret's is all thanks to the incredible extended coaching team and our Head of Rowing, Jared Bidwell.

Rowing runs historically deep in the veins of the St Margaret's boathouse and as captains we feel privileged to lead such an enthusiastic and determined shed of girls backed by a strong historical standing in the sport. It is truly amazing to be a part of something so much bigger than ourselves and as most seniors do, we will find it very hard walking out of our shed for the last time as seniors this year.



Stuartholme School - Captain of Boats - Erin Lafferty



I would love to start by expressing my gratitude and thanks. Emma McCarthy our Rowing Director, thank you for your continuous hard work and dedication you put into this sport and each of us girls. Especially through this very unique season I don't know what we would have done without your constant encouragement and efforts to make it all work as best it can. To the parents who help support and feed all of us hungry rowers, thank you for the time you give up for us. Thank you to all the BSRA officials and organisers, the countless effort you have put in to make this season as 'normal' as possible is incredible. And lastly, a massive thank you to the Stu girls and all other competitors this year for always making the seasons more enjoyable. The resilience and motivation throughout this odd season is amazing to see and you should all be very proud.

This season has been like no other, but the perseverance and optimism seen not only around the sheds but at competition is a reminder why I row.

What I love about Stuartholme rowing is the feeling of a home away from home that has allowed me to find lifelong friends and make unforgettable memories. It has given me the opportunity to meet girls from other schools, which I know I can now call my friends.

The Stuartholme Rowing community is characterised by its passion for the sport, camaraderie and unbreakable sense of spirit. Not only does the program enhance individual rowers in a physical fitness sense, but rather builds and strengthens self-confidence, resilience and self-belief. For me, the essence of rowing cannot be captured in a single funny or exciting memory. It is the little moments that make you laugh even after the worst session like falling in at the pontoon (didn't think that was possible), being called funny names by your coach, or even taking your pick of houses along the river.

To me, this captaincy has been more than just leading by example but rather has allowed me to work alongside some of the most down-to-earth and generous people in the rowing community. While most of the captaincy opportunities haven't been the same, I have loved every opportunity to do what I can to make this an enjoyable and successful season.

Thank you everyone for making this a season to remember!



Thank you to the Rowing Queensland team: the organisers and the Boat Race Officials (BRO's). It has been a season that has tested all of us and the tenacity from everyone to overcome all obstacles while adhering to health protocols was the reason this competition commenced at all.

The BSRA are very grateful.

Thank you to all the volunteers that have assisted in the regattas:

- The boat drivers
- The bow number team
- The heavy lifters
- Those that have trained as BRO's

Thank you to the people who have volunteered their friendship, time and skill to the BSRA:

- Andrew McNicol – IT
- Phil Mac – Scoring software
- Nick Marden – Website
- Ian Newell – Graphic design
- Nick Bamber - Photography

Thank you to Soutar Productions for initiating the livestream





*“Believe me, my young friend, there is
NOTHING — absolutely nothing —
half so much worth doing as simply
messaging about in boats.”*

Wind in the Willows