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**A Brief History of the NNRC**

The New Norfolk Regatta Association held the first Boxing Day Regatta in 1854 on the River Derwent at New Norfolk, Tasmania. Rowing was a popular event on the program. In the 1860s, six steamboats were needed to ferry people from Hobart up to New Norfolk in the River Derwent for the Regatta spectacle. Numbers of spectators on the Esplanade were known to reach 20,000 in the early 1900s

The shelter provided by the hills surrounding the River Derwent at New Norfolk results in ideal flat water rowing conditions for much of the time. The community need for a rowing club was finally satisfied in 1928 when the New Norfolk Rowing Club was founded by Dr David I Fitzpatrick, captain and stroke of the first eight.

The original boat house on the northern side of the river was a wooden fruit shed set on Rocks Road. It was rented then eventually purchased in 1955 from the Port Huon Fruit Growers Co-operative. The shed served as the home of the NNRC through the early 20th Century. In 1960, New Norfolk endured a 1 in 100 year flood. The old wooden shed and rowing shells survived.

In 1965, the NNRC Champion Lightweight Junior Four was stroked by Noel Browning with Robbie Dixon, Geoff Nichols, Terry Philpott, coxed by Daryl Cashion and coached by G. Brooks. The crew won the Men’s Lightweight Four races at the NNRC, Franklin, Lindisfarne, Southern Tasmanian Rowing Assoc., Royal Hobart, Glenorchy, Tamar and Devonport Regattas as well as the State Championship over the season.

In 1967 NNRC Sculler John Moore won his fifth Tasmanian Men’s Single Sculling Championship in a time of 5.45 min on the River Tamar ahead of Ian Winter (Buckingham) and Paul Harvey (Lindisfarne). That year Moore was also winner of the Open Single Scull at the Derwent, Southern Tasmanian Rowing Association, NNRC, Shipwright’s Point Regattas. In 1964 and 65, John Moore won the Open Scull at the Tasmania Championships. He represented Tasmania in two President’s Cup Races at Interstate Regattas.

In 1968, NNRC’s Senior Eight, stroked by D. Ransley with K. Braslin, R. Bently, J. Windsor, D. Rainbird, Robin Nossiter, R. Oakley, and K. Williams in the bow were coxed by Woody Brown and coached by Terry Triffitt. This crew recorded a win at the Sandy Bay Regatta. This was the first win in NNRC history for a Senior Eight.

In 1978, a volunteer effort built a much needed clubhouse next to the old shed. In 1988, a steel frame was fabricated around the old fruit shed. When steel cladding was finally secured, the old structure was pulled down from within. This was a mammoth task for NNRC volunteers. The shed provided room for the expanding boat fleet.

In 1990, the Derwent Valley Railway line running behind the NNRC on Rocks Road was closed when floods and declining usage made the repairs uneconomical. Log trucks and other traffic to and from the News Print Mill at Boyer travelled on Rocks Road and passed between the NNRC shed and the River Derwent. Thoughts of moving the NNRC to a safer site on the Esplanade were first conceived. Increased traffic along Rocks Road in more recent years created serious safety issues for NNRC rowers and families.

In March of 2000, the NNRC/Ogilvie High School crew of Elisse McWhirter, Kathryn Webb, Colleen O’Brien, Jess Wade, Clare Harding, Rebecca Andrews, Alison Hornsey, Claire Plunkett, coxed by Luke Dancey, and coached by Cliff Hutton won the Under 16 Girls Eight at the Tasmanian Schools Championships at Lake Barrington. This was the very first time that a state school crew took the trophy home.

At the Tasmanian Rowing Championships in 2000, the NNRC’s Coach Roger Drummond saw his crew of Georgie Wells, Claire Shields, Alice Ayliffe, Kate Hornsey, Jacqui Drummond, Jo Burbury, Sara Lange, Liz Weldon win both the Women’s Under 23 and Women’s Senior Eight. This Senior Women’s Eight win was another first for NNRC and a significant milestone in NNRC history.

In 2003, NNRC won its first State Pennant in 75 years of competition, including 10 State Championship. Senior Oarswomen Kate Hornsey and Claire Shields won 17 Gold Medals between them.

In August of 2008, NNRC’s Kerry Hore, Kate Hornsey and Anthony Edwards represented Australia in rowing at the Beijing Summer Olympic Games.

At the summer Olympics in London in August of 2012, NNRC’s Kerry Hore, Kate Hornsey and Anthony Edwards represented Australia again. Kate brought home a Silver medal in the Women’s pair.

The Rocks Road traffic made up of local residents in the expanding New Norfolk community and log trucks bound for the near-by paper mill caused increased road hazards to NNRC. A funding campaign was launched in Dec 2014. Early in 2018, the Federal, State and Local Government funding was secured for the construction of the NNRC-Derwent Valley Boat House (DVBH). The Derwent Valley Council facilitated the building of the new home for the NNRC by providing a block of land on the Esplanade. This required demolition of the old caretaker residence, formerly known as the ‘Pidgeon’s Tea Gardens Café and Hobart Tourist Resort’, near the caravan park. Building approval was granted by the DVC in December 2018.

Site work on the NNRC-DVBH commenced in April 2019 and in July, the lower concrete slab was poured for the new facility. Many hours of NNRC volunteer effort in project and site management and related works facilitated this huge project. In November of 2019, the beloved home of the NNRC since 1928 at 44 Rocks Road was put on the market.

On the 23rd March 2020, because of the COVID-19 global pandemic, Rowing Australia called a halt to all rowing. The Tasmanian All Schools Regatta, the National Rowing Championships in Sydney, the NNRC Masters’ Regatta, the Tasmanian Masters’ and the Australian Masters’ Rowing Championships scheduled to take place at Lake Barrington, Tasmania were all cancelled along with many other important community events.

Despite the global pandemic, the building of the NNRC-DVBH was able to continue relatively smoothly. The NNRC moved its fleet and possessions to the new NNRC-DVBH at 5 Page Avenue on the Esplanade in August 2020. The NNRC-DVBH was officially opened by the Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania on 23 January 2021. The NNRC looks forward to enjoying its beautiful new and safer home on the Esplanade for at least the next 100 years.





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