



A History of Rowing at Penrhos College



1985-2017

In the Beginning - Our First Years as Competitive Rowers

**by Wendy Zuideveld,
Penrhos' First Rowing Co-ordinator**



*Wendy Zuideveld
Head of the River
Champion School
Trophy*

In 1989, at the beginning of Penrhos Rowing's competitive history, 16 girls from Years 11 and 12 rowed for the school using two borrowed boats from one of the rowing clubs under the Amateur Rowing Association of Western Australian (ARAWA) Club House at Canning Bridge.

- The team was originally organised by a Penrhos sports teacher Penny McGlynn.
- The team was made up of Years 11 and 12 girls because there was concern that girls in Years 8-10 were not strong enough and would get injured.
- Penrhos had no equipment of its own, all boats were borrowed and they were very old.
- One of the crews never finished a race during the whole season because the equipment always failed.
- The Schoolgirls' Rowing Championships originally started with a few schoolgirls' crews rowing as part of the Amateur Rowing Association Regattas.

At the end of 1989 the Penrhos College Rowing Support Group was formed, based on the Wesley Rugby Support Group. It was started by a small band of parents who met at our home for coffee and cake. It was formed to raise funds for rowing equipment and assist the Coordinator of Rowing. We were concerned that the girls were putting in so much effort and it was not fair that they should lose a race due to failed equipment. It was our hope that by the year 2000 we would be an equal partner with Wesley College in all rowing equipment.

The Support Group and rowers worked extremely hard from then on, to help raise funds for much needed equipment. Our main fundraiser was the annual "Manure Drive". The girls and their families would travel to nearby sheep farms and bag the manure from under the shearing sheds and then take it back to sell to local gardeners. This is how we paid for our first boat – a 4+ called the Penny McGlynn.

With the assistance and experience of Wesley Coach Mark James, who had been one of the coaches that had coached the 1989 crew of which our daughter was a member, we put together a Rowing Programme and Plan for the future of Penrhos Rowing.



Penrhos Rowing Support Group 2012

I took this plan to then Headmaster Graham

Rixon and he was very enthusiastic. He said that we would have his support if I agreed to become the Coordinator of Rowing!! We were also very lucky to have the support of Llew Woodford, who was the Penrhos Administrator during this time.

Our first hurdle was to get a home. After chatting to Wesley College Rowing Master Peter Samuel, he kindly offered us the use of the Wesley Boat Shed over the winter. He also allowed us the use of many of their boats.

In addition to Mark James as the 1st VIII+ Coach, we were able to attract 5 experienced coaches from the Schoolboys' Rowing Programme to coach for us: Vanessa Grant (Wesley College); Don O'Brien, Steve Fisher and Bob Brearley (all Aquinas College) and; Phil Jurevich (Trinity College).



From 1990, under the new rowing program all girls in Years 9-12 were eligible for selection. Girls who wished to try out for the rowing team were given three sessions in a boat with a coach and from those

sessions 50 girls were selected (about 200 girls tried out). The following year, the Penrhos rowing team was capped at 76 members so that other school sporting activities were not greatly affected.

At the 1990 Head of the River Regatta, Penrhos College won every event we were entered in including the "Schoolgirls' Head of the River First Eight" (the first time we won the first 1st VIII+ race) as well as the trophy for the Season's Champion School (Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers), which is a great indication of the strength of the rowing programme within a school and it shows the effort made by every rower. We were fortunate to retain this trophy for many years to come.



A History of Rowing at Penrhos College

- 1985 A meeting is called of Penrhos students interested in learning to row. From this meeting a small and enthusiastic group of girls commit to the sport.
- 1985 Penrhos Rowing begins as an after-school activity, with a small group of students from Years 9-12 coached at Wesley College by Wesley's Master-In-Charge of Rowing Peter Samuel.
- 1988 Year 12 Boarder Lisa Woods is selected as the first Penrhos College Captain of Boats.
- 1989 The first Schoolgirls' Regatta is held at Canning Bridge with Perth College taking out the Head of the River 1st VIII+ Trophy. Penrhos wins the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers (cumulative points for the season) under the coaching of Mark James.
- 1989 The Penrhos College Rowing Support Group is formed as a parent support group to fundraise for Penrhos Rowing.
- 1989 The first Manure Drive Fundraiser is held with girls collecting sheep manure from under farm shearing sheds. The proceeds are used to purchase the first boat – a 4+ named the Penny McGlynn after the PE Teacher who oversaw that year's rowing program.
- 1990 Parent Wendy Zuideveld is appointed the first Rowing Co-ordinator.
- 1990 Wendy Zuideveld is instrumental in founding the Schoolgirls' Rowing Association to oversee the ISGGA regatta program.

- 1990 Penrhos wins the Head of the River 1st VIII+ Trophy (coached by Mark James) and the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers.
- 1990 The first Head of the River Dinner is held.
- 1991 Penrhos wins the Head of the River 1st VIII+ Trophy and the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers
- 1992 Penrhos win the Head of the River 1st VIII+ Trophy and the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers.
- 1992 Penrhos moves from Wesley to the newly built Penrhos/Swan River Rowing Club building at 2 the Esplanade Canning Bridge, which was designed by architect Fred Zuideveld, husband of Wendy Zuideveld.
- 1992 Former Senior Rower Sarah Perkins (1989) is a founding member and first Women's Captain of Boats at the newly formed Murdoch University Rowing Club.
- 1993 Penrhos wins the Head of the River 1st VIII+ Trophy and the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers.



1991 Schoolgirl Premiers & 1st VIII+ Winners

(L-R) Rebecca Mitchell, Lana Stevenson (stroke), Yolande Barrett, Emma Cottrell, Melissa Drew, Cassie Banks, Kate Taylor, Vanessa Grant (Coach), Shelda Cail (Cox) and Anna Perkins.

The First Head of the River Dinner (1990)

We decided to have a Dinner after the 1990 Head of the River Regatta because we were concerned that the senior girls had had a difficult season and we did not want them to finish their last rowing experience on a low. We could not believe it when our girls won the first eight by several boat lengths on the day! What a *celebratory* dinner we had as all of the crews won on the day!

Another reason for the dinner was that we were having trouble with quite a few “Dads” who were not keen for their daughters to row, because they were concerned the girls would become muscle bound! The dinner was a fabulous occasion to present our beautiful athletic young women back to their Dads. We never had any complaints from Dads again!

- 1994 Penrhos wins the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers.
- 1995 Penrhos wins the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers.
- 1996 The Wendy Zuideveld Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Head of the River Regatta Champion School is presented for the first time. The trophy is named in honour of Penrhos Co-ordinator Wendy Zuideveld who was instrumental in forming the Schoolgirls Rowing Association.
- 1997 Penrhos wins the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers.
- 1997 Year 12 Student Amber Bradley wins the Junior World Champion title in a 1x.
- 1997 The Penrhos Boat Club is formed as a community support group to Penrhos Rowing.
- 1997 Coach and 1996 Captain of Boats Amanda Young tragically dies after contracting meningococcal disease at a National Intervarsity Regatta. Her parents Barry and Lorraine form the Amanda Young Foundation with the dual aims of promoting Youth Leadership and Meningococcal awareness.
- 1998 Coach Keith Reynolds is appointed as Penrhos College Rowing Co-ordinator after joining Penrhos Rowing as coach in 1997.
- 1998 Penrhos wins the Head of the River 1st VIII+ Trophy and the Wendy Zuideveld Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Head of the River Regatta Champion School. The 1st VIII+ is stroked by future Olympian, Year 12 student Rebecca Sattin.
- 1999 Penrhos wins the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers.

- 2001 Penrhos wins the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers .
- 2005 Penrhos wins the Head of the River 1st VIII+ Trophy; the Wendy Zuideveld Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Head of the River Regatta Champion School and; the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers.
- 2006 Penrhos shares the Wendy Zuideveld Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Head of the River Regatta Champion School with Perth College and wins the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers.
- 2007 Penrhos wins the Wendy Zuideveld Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Head of the River Regatta Champion School and the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers.
- 2009 Penrhos wins the Wendy Zuideveld Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Head of the River Regatta Champion School and the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers.
- 2010 Penrhos wins the Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers.
- 2015 Penrhos changes its racing Zoot Suit to featured an emblazoned red dragon.
- 2017 Penrhos leaves the Canning Bridge Boat Shed after 25 years, to relocate to the Wesley College Boat Shed on the South Perth Foreshore.



Training on the Canning River 2012. Each year Senior Squad members design their own piece of training clothing (zoot suit at left)

The Penrhos Boat Shed

2 The Esplanade, Canning Bridge

1992-2017



Head of the River Day 2003

In 1992 at the wedding of a Penrhos Coach, Penrhos Rowing Co-ordinator Wendy Zuideveld was approached by a member of the Swan River Rowing Club about that Club's plans for a new boat shed at Canning Bridge. SRRC had approved plans for a 3 bay boat shed but had insufficient funds to build it. At the time Penrhos was sharing the Wesley College Boat Shed, but the question was asked, was Penrhos interested in investing in the new shed?

Wendy spoke to then Penrhos College Headmaster Graham Rixon, who approached the Penrhos College Council and they agreed to purchase a 1/3 share of the building, giving Penrhos the exclusive use of one bay. This arrangement enabled the Swan River Rowing Club to borrow the remaining funds they needed to build the shed. Michael Boud who was a member of the Penrhos College Council and a lawyer, drew up the agreement between Penrhos and the Swan River Rowing Club with Wendy's husband, architect Fred Zuideveld designing the building.

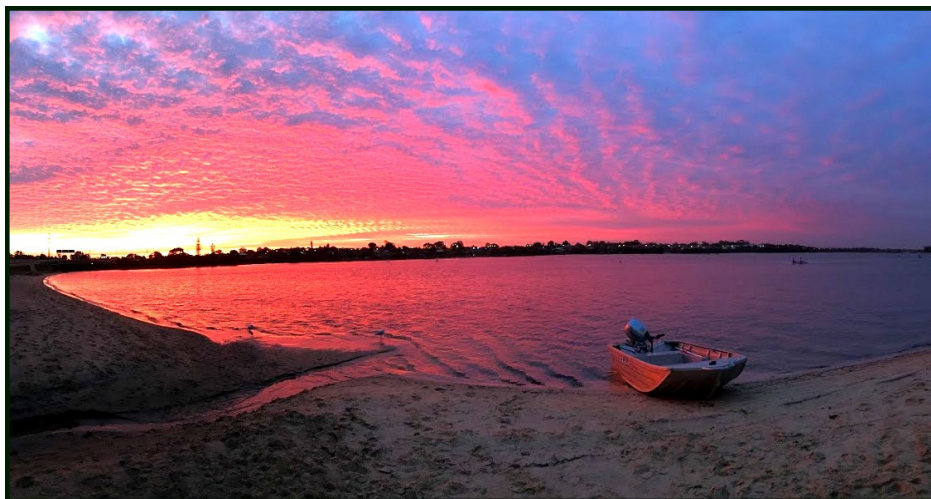
In 1992 the Canning Bridge Shed was completed and for the next 25 years became home to Penrhos Rowing.



A crew huddle in front of the Shed 2003

In 2016, the City of Melville, which controls the Foreshore Reserve upon which the Boat Shed sits, formally notified Penrhos College of its decision to only allow the site to be used for local community purposes, and as such the College would have to relocate.

In June 2017, Penrhos Rowing will load its boats from Canning Bridge for the last time and return to its original home to once again be co-located at the Wesley College Boat Shed, on the South Perth Foreshore, with a major redevelopment of that building planned for 2018.



The view from the Canning Bridge Shed at dawn training 2014

Olympic Penrhosians



Penrhos Rowing has produced a number of State and National Representative Rowers, including three Olympians: Amber Bradley (1997), Rebecca Sattin (1998) and Natalie Bale (2003), all of whom attained outstanding international success during their rowing careers.

Amber Bradley

1997	Gold	JW1x	Junior World Championship
2001	Gold	U23W4x	World Rowing Championships (Linz Ottensheim)
2002	Silver	W4x	World Rowing Cup III (Munich)
2003	Gold	W4x	World Rowing Championships (Milan)
2004	Bronze	W4x	Athens Olympics
2005	Bronze	W2x	World Rowing Championships (Gifu)
2005	Bronze	W2x	World Rowing Cup I (Eton)
2005	Silver	W2x	World Rowing Cup II (Munich)
2006	Gold	W4-	World Rowing Championships (Eton)
2006	Bronze	W8+	World Rowing Championships (Eton)
2006	Bronze	W8+	World Rowing Cup (Munich)
2006		W4x	Beijing Olympics

Rebecca Sattin

1999	Silver	U23W4-	Nations Cup (Hamburg)
1999	Bronze	W4-	World Rowing Cup III (Lucerne)
2000	Bronze	W4-	World Rowing Cup III (Lucerne)
2001	Gold	W8+	World Rowing Championships (Lucerne)
2001	Silver	W8+	World Rowing Cup IV (Munich)
2001	Silver	W8+	World Rowing Cup III (Munich)
2002	Silver	W8+	World Rowing Championships; (Seville)
2002	Bronze	W8+	World Rowing Cup II (Lucerne)
2002	Bronze	W4-	World Rowing Cup III (Munich)
2004	Bronze	W4x	Athens Olympics

Natalie Bale

2003	Silver	JW2-	World Junior Rowing Championships (Athens)
2004	Gold	JW2-	World Junior Rowing Championships (Banyoles)
2005	Silver	W2-	World Rowing Championships (Gifu)
2005	Gold	W2-	World Rowing Cup I (Eton)
2008	Gold	W8+	World Rowing Cup I (Munich)
2008	Silver	W8+	World Rowing Cup Championships (Lucerne)
2008		W8+	Beijing Olympics



Amber Bradley (Stroke) and Rebecca Sattin (2 Seat) represent Australia in the W4x at the World Rowing Cup (Lucerne) in June 2004. They went on to win Bronze at the 2004 Athens Olympics in the event. Photo: Getty Images



Head of the River Trophies

First Eight Trophy

1990 1991 1992 1993 1998 2005

Wendy Zuideveld Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Head of the River Regatta Champion School (Introduced 1996)

1998 2005 2007 2009

Perpetual Trophy for Schoolgirl Premiers

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1997
1999 2001 2005 2006 2007 2009 2010



Crew huddle 2015