



October 2017

Dear Head of Rowing

I am writing to introduce myself and West End Rowing Club of Auckland, one of New Zealand's top rowing clubs. Home club of Mahe Drysdale and a number of other Olympians and current New Zealand international squad athletes.

I am the Club Captain and as part of our ongoing work to maintain the Club's profile in New Zealand and to promote relationships with rowing clubs in the United Kingdom particularly but around the world, we are offering young people the opportunity to come to Auckland and row with us. Although this message is targeted at school leaver rowers looking for something different to do on a Gap Year, we are open to coaches and any young rower who can see themselves spending an extended period with us to train and compete during our regatta season, with the culmination of that rowing training, a seat in at least one boat at New Zealand's National Rowing Championships, to be held on Lake Karapiro on our North Island in 2018 and at Lake Ruataniwha at Twizel on our South Island in 2019.

There are rowing and other sport activity schemes available in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, but these are essentially business ventures that charge for their service. We on the other hand are simply an amateur sports club, but no less serious in our objective to assist any athlete that comes to us to find accommodation, employment if that is what they wish and to experience what we can offer in the "land of the long white cloud".

We are a friendly bunch and just last year from November to March this year we hosted a young rower from the UK; Daniel, whose short story can be read on our website www.werc.co.nz/gap. He came to us as part of his Gap Year and competed at the Championships at Twizel on the South Island in February before setting off on his travels back to the UK. We have two young rowers coming to us from the UK this October and we expect them to stay with us until March at least and then to go off to see and experience what our beautiful country has to offer.

I enclose a couple of our flyers and wristbands that you may wish to pass on to any rowers that have expressed an interest in taking a Gap Year from the end of their school career in 2018. It may not be too late if any of this year's leavers have an interest but as we are close to the start of the summer season anyone pursuing a Gap Year would have to get in touch without delay.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Go well.

David Vallance

Club Captain
West End Rowing Club

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