



Canterbury Rowing Association
2022 Volunteer of the Year

Peter Midgley

The Canterbury Rowing Association is proud to put forward Peter Midgley as our volunteer of the year for 2022. However, our association would also like to recognise all volunteers who have contributed their time this season. It has been a particularly challenging year that saw two extra regattas go ahead at Lake Ruataniwha and without the tremendous support offered by our volunteer base, this would not have been possible.

However, when assessing this award, the Canterbury Rowing Association was unable to put a value on the contribution and volunteering hours that Peter Midgley has personally given this year.

Throughout the season Peter held the unenviable position of South Island Rowing Regatta Committee lead and was the Regatta Committee liaison on the Covid Team responsible for ensuring that rowing, and more importantly racing, could continue throughout a year of constant change. From the start of the season our structure required each regatta to have what was essentially two Chief Umpires, one being the typical regatta orientated role, responsible for racing, fairness, safety, and volunteer management, and a second role responsible for implementing the Covid plan regarding officials, volunteers, and athletes during all of our regattas this season. Peter's role required him to be an integral conduit between South Island Rowing, the various regatta committees, government mandated Covid rules, and our Covid Team.

As the Covid liaison, Peter had to be flexible enough in his leadership to cope with protocols that often changed with only a few days' notice. He also had the

unenviable task of taking any crazy idea (and there were many) thrown at him by the Covid Team and first assessing whether it could be implemented, then finding the personnel, then convincing them to make it work. His skill set was such that no-one questioned any request, and then never complained while actioning it. For regattas, this meant that Peter typically arrived two days early to help erect signage and run some 19km of rope and ended up working late to do the boat numbers run whilst dinner was on. He also oversaw and managed the staffing of various gates from 6am to 7.30pm. It is a credit to Peter's management style that everyone cooperated without issue.

Peter also turned his mind to learning the live streaming protocols enabling the wider rowing community to follow regattas.

Whilst this award is to Peter personally, it is in part representative and a thank you to the entire rowing community's contribution to this strange season and the community's unwavering faith in the leadership to keep them safe and competing.

Thank you Peter.