

## **Marlborough Rowing Association**

### **Volunteer of the Year 2022**

#### **Nomination of Kaye Surgenor**

Kaye commenced her lifelong rowing career in 1979 for Queen Charlotte College and the Picton Rowing Club. In those early years success came at NZSS Champs and winning the Dawn Cup, U18 Four and U18 Eight, both in 1980

She continued on to Lincoln University and rowed at Canterbury Rowing Club winning, amongst other things the Women's Premier Pair and Eight in 1984

Returning to Blenheim Kaye sculled at Wairau RC where she won the Women's Premier Quad in 1985 and then spent 1986 overseas in Italy and rowing in Europe.

Life as a mother took Kaye away from rowing until 2005, when she offered to assist with coaching her sons at Blenheim Rowing Club, and soon was investing a great deal of her time volunteering, and coaching. Moving to Wairau Rowing Club, Kaye became a key part of the their coaching team, influencing the Marlborough Girls College programme and accumulating valuable experience as well as a number of medals for her crews.

Eventually Kaye spent three years coaching at St Margaret's in Christchurch followed by three years at Nelson Rowing Club; both programmes attribute the considerable success of her crews to her coaching knowledge and holistic approach. During this time not only was Kaye a successful South Island U18s coach a number of times but also ran the winter programme for Southern RPC and then Canterbury Rowing Association.

Returning to Blenheim Kaye once again volunteered for roles within Wairau Rowing Club and continued a strong coaching career at Club athlete level. Kaye is a well-respected, effective and successful coach in the club group. Additionally she has coached RNZ crews at U21 level twice and was an U19/Juniors coach in 2021. The majority of the coaching roles Kaye has undertaken have been as a volunteer, often paying her own expenses to attend regattas with her athletes. She is also very supportive of younger coaches and happy to give her time to assist and encourage them.

To this day Kaye continues to volunteer her time in many ways, and continues to achieve medal successes and development of many young people in the Club group.

In addition to the Wairau Club committee, and the role of Women's Club Captain, Kaye is on the executive of the Marlborough Rowing Association and is a valuable contributor to our organisation, especially in her role as our Secretary which she has held since 2018.

It is with pleasure that we nominate Kaye Surgenor as Volunteer of the Year.