

Nominations for Elected Position

LAUREN FARNDEN – Letter from St Hilda’s Collegiate School Principal

I wish to nominate **Lauren Farden** for the RNZ Secondary Schools committee.

Lauren has been a tireless and selfless servant to rowing with a particular commitment to, and interest in, secondary school rowing.

She has coached school teams in Otago for at least 11 years, and in the time she worked with our school she was a passionate, organised and effective advocate for secondary school rowing. Lauren has been involved in rowing since the 1990's as a rower, coach, administrator and race official. She has coached multiple groups over the years including both school and club plus SI U18, Trans-Tasman and World University crews.

Lauren has been on the committee at North End Rowing Club and Otago Secondary Schools Rowing Association and is currently on the Otago Rowing Association and the Southern Rowing Performance Centre Board. She is a licenced race official and takes an active role at most local and major school and club regattas, including continuing to support our school. Outside of rowing she is a podiatrist and owns her own clinic in Dunedin.

Lauren has just finished her term on the RNZ Schools Committee and has indicated that she is keen to stand again. I believe her wide range of experience in all aspects of rowing gives her the necessary background to be an asset on the committee.

Please consider this email as a formal nomination for the position of committee member RNZ Secondary Schools.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Kind regards

Jackie Barron MNZM

Principal

St Hilda's Collegiate School

2 Cobden Street, Dunedin 9016



MARK COTHAM – Letter from Rangī Ruru Girls' School Principal



Year 7 – Year 13, Day and Boarding School

18 February 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mark Cotham has been employed as a teacher and Head of Rowing at Rangī Ruru Girls' School since October 2012. He is a highly accomplished teacher and well respected among the Rowing fraternity and our parents and students.

Mark is a team player who thoughtfully considers the opinions of others and is always willing to help. He is involved in many areas of our school life and is reliable in all that he undertakes always meeting deadlines and responsibilities that he has promised to undertake.

Mark has a friendly disposition and a genuine care towards others. Our students find him approachable, a person who will listen and give them sound mentoring advice whether that be to improve their rowing skills or achieving in their learning. He goes above and beyond in his commitment in all that he does. Our rowing results speak for themselves in his ability not only to coach but also to bring together a coaching team which is not only successful but where each member feels supported and valued. He places a strong emphasis on not just having success but also in having the right culture and values which says a lot about him as a person.

I have no hesitation in recommending him to apply to be part of the School Rowing Committee. I believe that he has much to offer and would be an asset to your committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this further.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S.K. Hastie'.

Dr Sandra K Hastie
Principal



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

After moving from the UK, I began my rowing career in 2003 as an enthusiastic coxswain for Burnside High School in Christchurch. After developing my skills and passion for the sport I moved into a junior coaching position and eventually the Head Coach role at Burnside High School. Through committing to 5 years in such a small co-ed club, I was able to develop my resourcefulness, organisational skills and understand the relationship between culture and performance. Between 2010-2014 I worked as manager and Assistant coach at the Avon rowing club, as well as Vice-President of the University of Canterbury rowing club where I was responsible for overseeing the recruitment, retention and logistics of both programmes. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in these positions as they contributed to furthering my knowledge and skills in administrative management. Furthermore, I was able to work with, and learn from, some fantastic senior coaches. Since 2013 I have been Director of rowing and Head Coach at Rangī Ruru Girls' School.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in English and Classics at the University of Canterbury, I began my teaching career in 2015 starting at a small decile 3 school, Hornby High School, and eventually to Rangī Ruru, where I am today. In 2019 I took a year away from teaching to complete a master's degree which focused on organisational leadership in the secondary educational sphere. I had a particular focus on decision making and examining pre-existing culture within established institutions. The transferable skills acquired through this process include communication, understanding the process behind decision making and the importance of being a team player in a collaborative environment.

My teaching and coaching philosophy embraces diversity and focuses on coaching the person as well as the athlete. My coaching experience can be defined by numerous podium finishes at national level across both sculling and sweep, in predominantly female events. I am especially proud of the increase of numbers at each of the organisations that I have been involved with and I use this as the key indicator that the rowers engage positively in a culture of hard work and enjoyment. If appointed to this committee I would look forward to working with the current group on issues around athlete retention and recruitment with a focus on what rowing looks like for the 21st century teenage learner and aiming to further strengthen the culture of secondary school rowing within New Zealand.

Kind Regards,

Mark Cotham