

Rowing NZ unveils Regional High Performance Plans

Rowing New Zealand is about to embark on one of the most important developments the sport has undertaken for many years.

The Rowing New Zealand Board today approved the establishment of four Regional Performance Centres (RPC's) to be based in Auckland, Waikato, Canterbury and a joint venture from the Central Region (Wanganui, Marlborough and Wellington) for the 2005 /2006 Rowing season.

"Rowing New Zealand has worked on introducing the Regional Performance Centre concept for several years now. The proposed RPC structure is all encompassing with a great geographical spread, offering a clear pathway for aspiring rowers, coaches and volunteers in a regional high performance environment" said Rowing New Zealand Chief Executive, Craig Ross.

"SPARC has invested a considerable sum of money into the Rowing New Zealand's High Performance plan in order support establishing the Regional Performance Centre structure. The RPC concept is not about club development but about Regional high performance. The object is to give our best school leavers a compelling reason to continue rowing and ultimately prepare and promote a much larger pool of athletes into the RNZ High Performance Programme." says Ross

The successful RPC applicants have been successful on the basis that they are supported by a critical rowing population mass and will embrace a high performance coaching structure. The Regional Performance Centres will strengthen links with their Regions Secondary Schools from which talent identified athletes will be supported into the RPC structure over time. Furthermore, the RPC's will develop strong relationships with their Regions University and tertiary institutions.

In addition to the approval of the three RPC's Rowing New Zealand has approved Otago as Rowing NZ Winter Training Center. The Otago Rowing Winter Training Center will provide a high performance environment for talent identified rowers attending Otago University during the winter months.

The Rowing NZ appointed Coach for the Otago Winter Training Center will provide services from March to October to athletes who may be engaged in any of the four RPC's throughout the summer months. During the domestic rowing season the RNZ appointed Coach will undertake a talent identification role for Rowing NZ on a National basis. The RPC and Talent ID coaching appointments will be made by the end of August.

For Further information, contact

Craig Ross

Chief Executive Rowing New Zealand, ph +64 7 823 4587, mob 0272535 520
craig@rowingnz.com