

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

**LAWRENCE JOHN COUNSELL**

The honour was accorded at the 115<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Wellington Rowing Association held at the Petone Rowing Club on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2015

**CITATION**

Lawrence John Counsell (known as Laurie) has served the sport of rowing with distinction in many capacities continuously since the early nineteen nineties.

He had earlier rowed as a student at St. Bedes College, Christchurch with his interest being re-kindled when his son started rowing with St. Patricks (Town) College, and the Wellington R.C. in 1991. Laurie rapidly became involved in the life of the club assisting with boat maintenance and club administration.

Moving on to coaching and completion of RNZ Level One requirements, he became a keen supporter of the clubs corporate programme and has regularly assisted with the clubs corporate regatta both as a coach and regatta official.

Has filled many positions within club including nine years as Club Captain from 1996-2004, Vice President 2005-2008 and was its President for 2008-2010.

During this period Laurie also found time to contribute to the life of the association which started in the 1992/93 season when he responded to a call to clubs to provide boat drivers at WRA regattas, moving on to umpiring he is still active on the water to this day.

He became the WRC Club delegate to the then WRA Executive Committee in the 1997/98 season which in December 2000 was revised to become the WRA Board of Directors. Since then a long and distinguished contribution, actively involved in many roles is signaled. These include:

1997 – 2002	WRC delegate to WRA Executive Committee and Board
2003 - 2006	WRA representative on NZRA Domestic Rowing Commission
2006 - 2008	Events Director, WRA Board
2001 - 2008	Association Vice President
2008 - 2010	Chairman, WRA Board
2010 - continuing	Director (elected) WRA Board
“ “	Treasurer, WRA Board

and numerous other ad hoc sub-committees as and when required.

Laurie has served WRA with distinction for over twenty years in numerous roles. He is recognized for his abilities on many fronts and his application to the tasks at hand. He inspires others to contribute. This recognition acknowledges Laurie's diligent contribution to the sport of rowing at both club and association level.