



Newsletter

Issue No. 6

Date: January 2010

Principle Sponsor



Contacts

Postal

PO Box 3261
Christchurch 8140

Telephone

+64 3 435 0628

Email

Secretary@sir.org.nz

Management

Chairman

Cliff Buchanan
H 3 249 8404

Vice Chairman

James Sheehan
M 21 315 480

Secretary

Philip Bell
H 3 358 9929
M 27 432 5001

Course Manager

Trevor Wilson
M 21 134 1073

Facilities

Course Hire
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It is now late January and from all accounts the regatta season is now well under way. As so often happens, there are issues that arise with the new year and it is the ingenuity and stamina displayed by those involved that overcomes them.

The never ending battle with maintenance issues continues. It is interesting how that over the Christmas break we all get involved with "family" things and little or no thought is given to maintenance. However, it is amongst this time of fun that the greatest amount of maintenance work is generated.

It seems that many have had an enjoyable Christmas and we have heard of a number of successful training camps being run. We hope of course that all this effort translates into success further on in the season.

Didymo

Yes, it is still with us and from reports received, it appears to be spreading.

Please be aware of the potential for contamination and operate to minimise the risk. Wash, clean and dry after using any equipment in the water.

ECAN Bylaw

The "temporary" bylaw has been in place over the summer months. This will be reviewed in conjunction with the overall review of the Canterbury Navigational Safety Bylaws, commencing in 2010.

Those in the area have commented of a significant improvement from a safety perspective. It was particularly good to see "The Bay" filled with passive craft as well as rowers using the course. It is a pity the jet skiers have so little disregard for passive water sports. However, some of the rowers and their coaches are not immune from criticism either. If they persist in using the areas reserved for power boats they should not be surprised or indeed upset if they get swamped or find the wakes rather difficult to manage.

Lane Wires

The replacement Lane wires were made up during a recent working bee.

Unfortunately there was rather limited support available over the Christmas period and when coupled with the weather, the completion of the course was not achieved until 14 January. We would like to thank all those who assisted here and in particular Darryl Purdon who has helped tirelessly throughout the period to make the course such a great asset.

Once the course is down we then have the task of trying to keep it in good working order. There have been a number of reports of buoys being severed from the lane wire. It was reported that one particular coach managed to cut four of them. Maybe he is the one that needs the coxswain!

We leave the course down most of the year and the intention is to provide a training venue for anyone who wants to train. Therefore, we do ask that any issues be reported to Trevor Wilson so that repairs can be implemented in a timely manner. The picture below shows the lane dividing the finish and start.





Mussel Buoys

Another casualty from this lack of resources has been the implementation of the line of mussel buoys. The start of this work has been delayed until we get the course fully working. Thirty from the initial supply of mussel buoys have been painted and assembled into lengths of 10 buoys. Each group of 10 will be separated by some 100 meters of the standard buoys at 10 meter spacing.

We have accumulated enough concrete anchors and we have developed a methodology of just how to locate them in the lake. We have had the bed of the lake plotted and the way it changes means there will be a need for some precision in dropping the anchors.

We are hopeful for a start on this next month.

Hi Jinx

The Christmas/New Year period has seen a number of issues that will impact on rowers and you need to be aware of the impact your actions can have on yourself and others. We had a visit from the Police relating to the behaviour of some "rowers" in Twizel. It is unclear what SIR members were expected to do here but we expect people to be responsible for their actions or face the consequences. The implication here is that the link between action and reaction has not been developed. Pity really as there could be a rude awakening.

It appears that some of the female rowers think it smart to turn off the valves in the boat park toilets. Unfortunately this does create a bit of a stink. The main issue here is that SIR have to engage contractors to clear drains which in turn increases the regatta entry fees.

Similarly, we found some of the male rowers think it smart to leave the hot tap running thus draining the hot water cylinder. This then means cold showers. No doubt they are the ones who don't need hot water to keep clean.

There there are the ones who interfere with the signage. On two occasions (at least) the "Lake Closed" sign was lowered and this led to complaints to ECAN which in turn come back to SIR. If those concerned understood the delicacy of the situation and that they face prosecution they would desist. The days the lake is closed is displayed on the ECAN Website and any variation to this creates serious complaints.

Otago Championships

This regatta was held over the weekend of the 16/17 January. The weather was good and the full programme was completed on both days. Being a week later this year meant that there was a very good attendance.





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The photo above shows the crowd and the photo right shows the racing. The weather was clearly conducive to a very good regatta. Reports from participants clearly show a triumph for the organizers in providing what they required.



Boat Park

Traditionally, we have had the boat racks on the lake side of the through and the trailer parking on the other side. This has lead to a bit of a shambles with trailers being parked at very peculiar angles. This year we have tried something a bit different. So for this has been quite successful. The picture below shows the changes and a much more orderly and safer parking arrangement.



While on the subject of boat racks, you will recall the sad state where many of the cross arms were broken. We have been slowly working on replacing them with steel arms. Mike McClelland is doing a really great job with this and we are sure that many appreciate the results. But please be careful. These crossarms are quite unforgiving if you have the misfortune of walking into them.

Complex

As changes are made to the complex it becomes difficult for people to see their impact. The Secretarys Office has had a make over and the drug testing room is now nearing completion. The medal presentation for the SIC and SIS Regattas will be made from this location.

Upstairs, the bare section of floor where the stairs were removed some time ago has finally been carpetted. Further, the trunking installation we started in 2004 has not been complete. This finally tidies up the cables around the walls. This should improve the reliability.

We are still working to improve the commentary situation as well. Some of the speakers and the associated cabling requires more more to improve the reliability. However, Radio Ruataniwha broadcasting of 88.1FM seems to be working well. Through this vehicle we are broadcasting the commentary to this with portable radios.

One of the new additions has been the new weather vane. The fabricator(s) have been rather shy at indicating who the pair are but there are a number of possible candidates who have been involved with rowing on Lake Ruataniwha. There have been a number of great comments about this masterpiece which is located in the lawn outside the MacRae Lounge where an Oak tree died during the winter.





There have been continuing changes to the Caretakers Cottage and associated facilities including the gravel extension and the car port. The wooden structure on the left is a pole that can be used for sitting.



One aspect of the launch area has been the potential for collisions. This coupled with the need to have some overall restrictions gave rise to the installation of separate in and out lanes. The line of buoys depict this on the photo on the left.

The tent site development is always watched with interest. The photo right show the sites looking west. The greenness relates to both the weather and the work of Trevor and the team keeping the water up.



The picture on the left shows the recent addition to the MacRae Lounge. It is understood this may have some other use in the future but for now, it is attached to the rafters for all to see. Thanks to Allan Bain for the picture.

The start is another area where we are working on some serious alternatives. The funding for the replacement wharf has not been forthcoming so we are working on some other options. It is essential that access to safety boats and Umpires boats from the start. For the Otago we used the work barge but we are hopeful of obtaining a more permanent solution.

Next Regattas

The next two regattas are on consecutive weekends; 30/31 January and 6/7 February. The reason for the consecutive weekends is the early nature of the National Championships. Unless the Local Associations can agree to time them one week later, the same situation will occur next year.

Finally

There have been a number of comments that attending regattas is not much fun. The picture right shows some of the attendees at the Saturday night Barbie following day 1 of the Otago Championships. That does look like fun!

