

Newsletter

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At this time we have almost completed the main part of the rowing season. The recently completed South Island Schools Championship Regatta highlighted a number of issues and these will be mentioned through this newsletter.

The main focus is the MAADI Cup and that has been occupying the attention of many people within the SIR Team trying to bring all the various aspect together so that we have a very enjoyable event for all.

As part of this process a number of items have been included to assist with planning for attendees. Should you require any further information please contact us.

Course

A lot of work has been put into the course. Few seem to realise just how harsh the environment is on the course equipment. We are continually replacing aged or damaged items of plant. The effect of power boats on the buoys means that the hold ropes are often cut and the buoys float off. At \$10 each there is a significant cost here. However, having the buoys does assist with making the course quite a picture and enjoyable to row on.

We have recently had to replace the chain that is used to tension the lane wires. This proved to be another costly exercise due to the rarity of the type of chain.

While there are a few tasks yet to complete it is intended that they will be actioned over Easter and that will mean the course is in excellent condition for the regatta.

Environmental Protection

The invasive algae Didymo has been found in Lake Ruataniwha. This is very serious and everyone visiting the area needs to understand they have a responsibility to stop the spread of this organism. This is covered under the Bio-Security Act and there are penalties for people who deliberately spread such organisms. Failing to make use of the available washing facilities could be deemed a breaking the law here.

'Check, Clean, and Dry'

Has been proven to prevent the spread of Didymo to other rivers and areas.

If any boots, socks or other gear are put in the water then these should be cleaned afterwards using

'Check, Clean and Dry'

procedures before being put in any other waterway.

Note: All boats must be washed before leaving the lake area. Facilities for washing are available. Biosecurity NZ will be in attendance at the "MAADI CUP Regatta.

For more information see:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests-diseases/plants/didymo/index.htm>

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Safety

We cannot compromise on safety and this begins with **you!**

At the recent SIS regatta a single sculler was observed to fall out of the boat. As shown in the adjacent picture, the weather was calm so more "swimmers" are likely if it was rough! Fortunately this person was sufficiently skilled to know what to do. But it took just over 2.5 minutes for a rescue vessel to attend. The message is clear. If you cannot survive three minutes in the cold waters of Lake Ruataniwha you should not be there.



For those who wonder where the costs come in, you may be interested to learn that SIR has committed over \$10,000 towards safety measures for the MAADI CUP REGATTA. This is a very serious and expensive business but it still requires everyone to do their part.

Grounds

There has been a continual improvement to the grounds over recent months. Visually the changes have been gradual but overall the changes have been significant.

The picture on the right shows the track around the point to the boat launch area. This track is wide enough for the ambulance to use effectively should that be necessary. This photo was taken at the Fulton Hogan regatta and even then it was cold in the morning!



Some water and fertilizer on the ground has increased the amount of green. The picture on the left depicts the Lake side of the road looking towards the 1500 meter hut. This is normally quite brown so the impact of the watering etc does really have an effect here.

However, seeing the speakers in the background reminds us that there is still quite a bit of work to do there. There are cables still on top of the ground and while every effort will be made to bury them we seem to be running out of capacity to complete this work on time. So anyone seeing the cables please be careful they are live.

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Adjacent to that area are the tent sites. For those unfamiliar with the terrain, it is advisable to make sure you have very strong tent pegs. Many who use the area regularly have permanent mountings. Even D25mm reinforcing bar has been observed as tent pegs. D Steven has marked out the boundaries of the sites and this should go some way to assist here.

It has been observed that some with 4wd vehicles have been taking their vehicles to the site. In so doing there has been damage to other sites as well as danger being created by driving these vehicles. Work is in hand to minimise vehicle access to this area during the MAADI Cup and it is expected that all will use the car park for this purpose. Mike McClelland has been preparing for an extended car park in the back under the trees and good parking habits will help everyone here.



While talking tents, care needs to be exercised. It will be cold and heating will likely be present in many tents. Make sure you have an appropriate fire extinguisher available. Also make sure the exit is marked

There will be a barrier arm installed on the complex side of the car park entrance. Generally, no car will be allowed past this point with Officials cars being parked under the northern group of trees. Similarly boat park access for private cars will not be allowed. There is plenty of parking at the back of the boat park.

While on the subject of the Boat Park, the Boat Marshall has advised that the arrangements for the Boat park have changed significantly to previous years. There will be no vehicles on the south side of the road. On the north side, there are places for trailers that are used to house the boats during the regatta. Unused trailers and other rowing vehicles will be parked further north than this.

Row Shoppe

The previous Newsletter mentioned the work being done to upgrade the Row Shoppe and the MacRae Lounge. This work has made the Rowe Shoppe a more agreeable environment. We encourage all requiring souvenirs, clothing etc to make use of this facility. Remember this activity supports rowing and all profits help develop the facilities at the lake.

Raffle

Ticket sales for the raffle are now well under way with sales being made up until the end of MAADI. The Raffle Committee has set up a volume sales incentive for Clubs and Schools which offer a significant good fundraising opportunity. It has been reported that some schools have used this to reduce the impact of getting to the MAADI. This is your opportunity to support Rowing at "water level".

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However the Police have advised that we cannot draw the raffle until all tickets are accounted for so... **Please make sure you return the butts to the person from whom you received them or post them to PO Box 3261, Christchurch.**

Anyone requiring further information, Contact W Blazey (3-388 5630), J Sheehan (021 315480) or K Strachan (3-435 3289).

Regattas

There have been two regattas recently. First was the Fulton Hogan Canterbury Mazda regatta. While the weather was not that cooperative, it did allow many to understand what is required when it comes to backing into the start, what happens if there is a cross wind and the impact of some rough water. It also highlighted the need for rowers to understand that to keep warm you need to have warm clothing on. Turning up to the start in just a row suit is not really very wise if you have to wait!



Also at the SI School Championships we experienced a totally different set of weather conditions. Cool temperatures and a heavy dew welcomed us in the morning but the temperature did rise to nearly 30 degrees during the afternoon. This coupled with a few close finishes meant there was good racing and another great regatta. It is a pity the lesson about warm clothing is so hard to learn!

Miscellaneous

There are a number of activities that have been observed in recent times that are worth mentioning.

- The path from the Control building to the MacRae lounge has been concreted. Hopefully this will improve what has become quite a mud hole when it rains.
- The new "freeze frame system used at Karapiro is being adapted for use at Lake Ruataniwha. So far we have had some success but further work is required before it can become operational.
- We have had another failure of the PA system so this weekend will see a major focus on getting it operational
- We are always looking for volunteers to assist with running the regatta. If you are present and available please contact the regatta secretary.
- It was great to see many of the younger people getting involved with assisting officials. When you see a parent being corrected by a child about littering we appreciate how environmentally sensitive the younger generation has become.

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2008 AON MAADI CUP

There has been a lot of work put in by many people just to stage this regatta. Every year this seems to get more and more demanding with the continual interfering from those who think they know better. But where are they when it becomes time to act?



The road sign is now in place. It should be very visible to those travelling to Wanaka over Easter for the Air Show. I have received a number of comments about this picture in relation to the cloud formation and Mt Cook. Yes, Aoraki Mt Cook is just visible on the left of the sign.

I mentioned earlier that we are having some trouble with the PA system. Much of this has been due to vandalism. It is quite interesting how everyone has

their own level of acceptability and when this is exceeded, they act. We have never been able to get the volume correct and this has resulted in cut wires. So one way to get around this is to launch Radio Ruataniwha from which the Commentary will be broadcast. Work is under way and should be complete and operational before the MAADI Cup. This will be a low power FM broadcast on 88.1MHz.

We are also trying to arrange for a link that will enable this to have some excerpts broadcast on Radio Twizel. This could well be in the form of a daily bulletin immediately after the 7:00 AM news and this should allow better communication between Regatta Control and the rowers.

If this all comes to fruition, we expect to get representatives from the schools present to become involved and tell everyone about their school and their rowing involvement etc.

There have been a number of suggestions about competitions for the MAADI Cup week. While I do not have all the information available at the moment, there will be opportunities for all rowers to participate in other competitions for which there may well be significant prizes.

The question of a gate fee has been raised and while this has never been charged by SIR before, it would be nice if everyone coming in supported SIR by purchasing a raffle ticket.

There are always questions about what to do while you are here. For many this is a rare opportunity to learn about a different part of the country and the activities that are here. We have been fortunate to have the Lake Pukaki Visitors Centre prepare the following information. Many of the activities are likely to offer a significant reduction for groups attending the MAADI cup.

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WELCOME TO THE MACKENZIE FOR THE MAADI CUP 2008

From The Lake Pukaki Visitors Centre

PH 03-4353280

EMAIL lake.pukaki@xtra.co.nz

Web www.mtcooknz.com

The following information is to assist visitors to the area. Many of the establishments mentioned here are providing special rates for groups associated with the MAADI Cup.

TWIZEL

Guided Kaki – Black stilt Breeding Hyde (The rarest Wading Bird in the World)
Tours 9.30am & 4.30pm Bookings Essential.

Flights NZ Helicopter Line – Flights upto Mt Cook and landing on a Glacier.
Air Safari.....from Pukaki Airport, fly over Lake Pukaki upto and around
Mount Cook, viewing Tasman, Fox, Franz Glaciers.

Other "Discovery Tours"....."Lord of the Rings" – Gonder & The Pelenour
Battlefield also a good variety of other trips.

Visit "High Country Salmon Farm" just south of the Rowing START on the
Main Highway.

Walks Glen Lyon Road along to the Twizel River (View of Mt Cook) on thru the
North West Arch back to town.

Opposite side of Lake Ruataniwha (turn in opposite the Salmon Farm (great
views of Mount Cook, Mountains and Lake.

Wetlands out by the canals

LAKE PUKAKI (10 Min North from Twizel)

Visit Lake Pukaki Visitors Centre and enjoy the fabulous views

Walk Go around the "Kettleholes" which were formed by the Glaciers 1 million or
so years ago. Great views 1 HR

MOUNT COOK (45 min North from Twizel)

Visits The "Sir Edmund Hillary" Museum, view a 15min 3D Film about Mount
Cook and see the Planetarium (showing 11.30, 1.30, 3.30. & from 7pm)
All at "THE HERMITAGE"

DOC Visitors Centre & Learn more about the National Park, Mountains
and Tramps/Climbs

Glacier Explorer".....Boat trip around the ICEBERGS on the Tasman
Lake 10am & 2pm (3hrs).....Bookings Essentials

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"Glacier Sea-Kayaking"Tramp/Kayaking around the Hooker Lake around other Icebergs

***Flights** "Mt Cook Ski Plane" around the Mountains and landing on the Tasman Glacier (also view the West Coast)

Other "Discovery Tours" offer a wide variety of trips and tramps thru this fabulous area.

CAFÉ at The Hermitage
Café The Old Mountaineer

POPULAR

Walks HookerValley (from Camping ground) 1 hour round trip to 2nd Swing Bridge; 3hrs round trip to Hooker Lake.

Kea Point (approx 2 hours)
Red Tarns (Climb approx 2hrs up and Back)
Sealy Tarn approx 4 hours

Drive Go up the Tasman Valley & walk over to the Tasman Lake to view the ICEBERGS. (NOTE Most Rental Vehicles ARE NOT ALLOWED on this Gravel Road)

"Cook Connection".offers Transport to the Mt Cook Village from Twizel 8.45am 12.30pm; Departs the Mt Cook Village 10am & 4pm

GLENTANNER STATION 30 mins North from Twizel
NZ Helicopter Line.....Flights up to Mt Cook , Mountains & landing on a Glacier
Café/Restaurant
"Discovery Tours"...Alps2Ride (Helicopter up & Bike down)

LAKE TEKAPO 40 Mins north from Twizel
Drive the canal Route to Tekapo, stopping at the "Mt Cook Salmon Farm Visit Mt John Observatory.....Day tours: Café; enjoy the view
"Earth & Sky"Night Tours to view the STARS thru the Huge Telescopes
Hot Spa Pools
Visit the "Church of the Good Shepherd" & the "Sheep Dog" Statue

Flights...Air Safari ...flights across High Country Farm land & around Mount Cook, viewing the West Coast. 1hr but does not land.

Drive back to Twizel on Main Highway enjoying the views at Lake Pukaki

OMARAMA 20 mins south from Twizel
Clay Cliffs (Look for signs on route to Omarama, approx 15 mins drive off main road & going onto Private Land.) Well worth the visit to these special cliffs.

OTEMATATA 45 mins south from Twizel

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*Visit the Benmore Hydro Power Station) being the Largest Earth built Dam in Southern Hemisphere

OAMARU 1.45 hrs from south Twizel

Visit the Blue Penguin Colony especially at dusk when they return from the sea
Look into the Historic part of town with its many old buildings and associated history.

TIMARU 1.45 hrs north from Twizel

QUEENSTOWN 2.45 hrs south from Twizel

WANAKA 1.45 hrs south from Twizel

LAKE OHAU 40 mins west from Twizel

This is just a taste of the variety of activities in the Mackenzie Basin. Support your crews but take in some of the highlights which are unique to this part of New Zealand.

Bookings are ESSENTIAL for many of the above

SIRI has a Raffle for a Block of Land above Lake Ruataniwha approx 5960m2 great views of the Southern Alps Ben Ohau, Benmore Range.

\$20.00 ticket or \$100.00 a book

Contact Kate Strachan 44 Jollie Road Twizel

Phone 03-4353289

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Tent Site allocation - 2008

Site	ST SCHOOL/CLUB	Site	ST SCHOOL/CLUB
1	Villa Maria College	1a	.
2	Westlake Boys/Girls	2a	Westlake Boys/Girls
3	Marsden School	3a	.
4	Rangi Ruru Girls School	4a	.
5	Rangi Ruru Girls School	5a	.
6	Marlborough Boys / Blenheim RC	6a	Unslow College
7	St Bedes College	7a	.
8	Marlborough Girls College / Wairau RC	8a	.
9	Waikato Diocesan School/ Timaru RC	9a	St Hildas Collegiate
10	Craighead Diocesan School	10a	Buller High School
11	Timaru Boys High School	11a	.
12	Christchurch Girls High School	12a	Mt Aspiring High School
13	Utago Boys High School	13a	Paraparaumu College
14	Columba College	14a	St Marys College
15	Waitaki Girls/Boys/St Kevins/ Oamaru RC	15a	Oamaru RC
16	Utago Girls High School	16a	Wanganui High Sc
17	Wakatipu Rowing Club	17a	Aquinas College
18	Burnside High School	18a	Baradene College
19	Koncalli College	19a	Auckland Grammar
20	Christchurch Boys High School	20a	Hamilton Boys
21	Avonside Girls HS	21a	Cambridge HS
22	Tauranga Girls College Rowing	22a	Sacred Heart College (AKLD)
23	St Margarets College	23a	Auckland Diocesan School
24	Christs College	24a	Kings College
25	Timaru Girls High School	25a	Edgewater College
26	Asburton College	26a	.
W A L K W A Y			
27	Nelson College for Boys	27a	.
28	Nelson College for Girls	28a	.
29	St Peters School	29a	.
30	Westlake Girls	30a	.
31	Marian College	31a	.
32	St Andrews College	32a	St Kentigern Col
33	St Pauls Collegiate	33a	.
34	Otumoetai College	34a	.
35	Wellington College	35a	.
36	Epsom Girls Grammar	36a	.
37	Bethlehem College	37a	.
38	Wellington Girls College	38a	.
39	St Thomas of Canterbury	39a	.
40	Wanganui Collegiate School	40a	.
41	Sacred Heart Girls College	41a	.
42	Te Awamutu College	42a	.
43	MacLeans College	43a	.
44	Queen Margaret College	44a	.
45	Takapuna Grammar School	45a	.