

# Newsletter

## Contacts

PO Box 3261  
Christchurch

### Email

[Secretary@sir.org.nz](mailto:Secretary@sir.org.nz)

### Chairman

C Buchanan  
H 3 249 8404

### Secretary

P Bell  
H 3 358 9929  
M 27 432 5001

### Course Manager

T Wilson  
M 21 134 1073

### Complex

T 3 435 0628  
F 3 435 0627

## Facilities

Course Hire  
Kitchen /Lounge Hire  
Souvenir Sales

## Sponsors



Level 1, 104  
Victoria Street  
PO Box 11229  
Christchurch, New  
Zealand



Jim Little  
Upholstery



Now the Regattas, the University Tournament and the Annual General Meeting are over, we can now reflect on the season and see what should be retained, what could be improved and what needs to stop. There are a number of questions that still remain even with a successful years rowing. While there are aspects about the quality of the facilities and the quality of the racing, there are also questions about the quality of whole operation.

We are very dependant on Volunteers and they really do a splendid job. However, they do seem to be a diminishing breed and those that remain end up being over worked. Further, the average is increasing and while the experience is valuable the agility and ability to complete the tasks diminishes. However, it has been very encouraging to observe some younger ones getting involved with the working bees. Perhaps this could continue into other areas where we need to have more volunteers.

## Didymo

One thing that did come from the season's activities was the need to create a better boat washing location that provided more safety to those washing the boats.

A gravel slip road has been created in the trees adjacent to the location of the boat wash. This will allow the boat trailers to move off the seal for washing the boats and then rejoin the sealed road nearer the entrance to the car park.



## Nationals

The National Championship Regatta again was another successful event and we appreciated all the assistance from the sponsors and the volunteers.



While the weather could have been better for finals days, it was encouraging to observe just how well everyone responded to the changes this prompted.



Texting out of the changes to the daysheet for finals day seemed to work very well.

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## AGM Outcomes

The AGM again had a number of outcomes that will focus the committee for the coming year. One of the first is in the area of costs. These have been slowly escalating to the point where cost saving measures need to be implemented. The management Committee have been empowered to find ways to minimise expenditure in various areas. It seems that few appreciate the costs associated with the Lake Ruataniwha operation and even such seeming little things like turning the tap off are not considered but when we are paying of \$3000 a year for water it does become important.

An expanded R2K regatta is envisaged and there will be details in a subsequent newsletter.

The hiring arrangements for the MacRae and the Lindstrom have been revised and streamlined. Details are available from C Wilson.

A gate fee will be introduced for the next NZ Secondary Schools Regatta. Details have yet to be finalised but this is seen as the next logical step to towards recovering some of the costs associated with the facilities.

SIR has been approached by a number of organizations wanting to fund raise at regattas. It was decided that any such activity that compromises the revenues for SIR will be declined.

Some suggestions were made for the village concept for the NZ Secondary Schools regatta. There are a large number of issues to be resolved here including the sponsorships and what is actually allowable. There are a number of agreements that could be compromised and clearly some clarity is needed here.

## Regatta Dates

The regatta dates were agreed at the AGM but subject to agreement with ECAN. There has been a lot of activity here as the Navigation and Safety Bylaws cannot be compromised. There were some very fruitful discussions held with ECAN representatives (not helped by the negative and ill-informed correspondence sent to ECAN) that has resulted in the following dates. We are grateful to ECAN for their assistance here.

Event Name	Regatta Days
Concept 2 "R2K" Singles Regatta	3-4 October 2009
Aoraki 1000 Regatta	31 Oct to 1 Nov 2009
Otago Championship Regatta	16 to 17 January 2010
Canterbury Championship Regatta	30 to 31 January 2010
SI Championship Regatta	6 to 7 February 2010 **
Canterbury Schools Regatta *	27 to 28 February 2010

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<b>SI Schools Championship Regatta</b>	<b>6 to 7 March 2010</b>
<b>NZ Secondary Schools Championship Regatta (MAADI CUP)</b>	<b>22 to 28 March 2010</b>
<b><i>Tentative date at this stage. To be confirmed by the CRA.</i></b>	<b>** Lake overall is not closed but "The Bay" will be closed for Safety reasons.</b>
<b>Note: Rowers will be practicing on the lake the day before the regatta.</b>	

## Equipment Loan

We have had numerous requests to borrow or rent equipment. There is little doubt this is done with the best of intentions. But the decision has been made that SIR will not loan out its equipment.

We have found that upon return there has been some damage that requires repair. While the costs high and often the doers pay the time it takes makes this impractical. This is to some extent, the impact of being a voluntary organization and with fewer volunteers available we cannot afford to have any of our equipment go off site.

## New Toilet Block

Construction with this toilet block is now well advanced. The contractor has been hampered by the weather and this has delayed completion. However we expect it to be finished and ready for the start of the new season.



## Working Bees

We have had two working since the end of the season and there will be another two on the last weekend of August and the last weekend of September.

During the first working bee, we had to lift the course. As can be seen from the pictures on the left, the barge has been equipped with all the needed equipment to raise the lane wires and detach the buoys themselves. The snow on the hills depicts the time of the year rather well...with the temperature to match.



This sounds a very easy task but it is only when we saw the amount of Didymo on the lane wires and the buoys that reality of just how difficult the task was became apparent. The picture on the left shows the buoys and attaching cords being cleaned by the water blaster. This was found to be the most effective method available to remove the Didymo from the buoys.

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**Clark Boyce**  
incorporating  
bensenan murfit

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Zealand



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Upholstery**



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The picture on the left shows the lines of the dropper cords that attach the buoys to the lane wires. They were dunked in an approved detergent solution and then cleaned off with the water blaster. They were then strung out to dry. The amount of Didymo on the cords was quite amazing and the way it worked its way into the cord made it very difficult to remove. This may necessitate a change from cord to stainless steel wire.

Not all the time at working bees is spent physically working. As can be seen from the pictures on the right, every year someone has a birthday when we are at the Lake and relaxing after the toils of the day means the television can get a fair hammering as well.



During the last working bee, a lot of clearing was completed. The picture on the right shows the entrance to the complex from just inside the gates. The area behind the boat wash has been trimmed and is now ready for car parking.



"The Village Green" area has been cleaned out so that it is more accessible especially for pedestrian traffic. The picture above shows the car park entrance on the left and the exit from the new car park on the right. The entrance to the new car park is just beyond the bins. The building on the left is the new toilet block and with this level of clearing better access to the lake is assured. The orange fencing is where the sewerage system is under repair. Both pumps have stopped working and we are hoping for permanent repairs.