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### Complex

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Planning for the improvements and getting funding are major activities and one which we at South Island Rowing are acutely aware of. We have been advised that there are serious concerns about the quality of the facilities especially when there is a major regatta in progress. We understand that many organizations actually flout the law and usually get away with it but SIR cannot afford that luxury especially when we are dealing with the youth of today. After all, they are the future of both the sport and our nation.

It is with this in mind that the Management Committee have been carefully looking at our activities and our facilities to see how they can be brought up to an acceptable standard within the funding limitations that currently exist. This will be reflected in the activities we become engaged in during the coming months.

The most recent working bee was held over last weekend in August. As you can see from the picture on the right the weather was quite amazing. With the temperatures rising and frosts clearing we expect to see more of the grass growing and colour changing from brown to green!



## Course

The course has been left down and will probably remain that way until after the R2K Regatta. Work continues with making up the drop ropes for the buoys and just over half of the 1500 required have been made up. The lane wires have also been worked on in readiness for installation later in the new rowing season. Trevor has advised that the next working bee will be on the weekend of the R2K regatta so anyone who can assist should contact him.

## Environmental Protection

**Didymo** (apty called rock snot) is a major problem in the area. We know that it is prevalent in much of the Waitaki and some of the feeder streams. The mantra "wash, Clean, Dry" is the best way to protect the environment. Please note that the practice of washing boats before and after use will remain in place for the coming season.

For details on Didymo, see

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

Wilding Pines is a pest grows quite prolifically and often to the detriment of the environment. We need to keep a close watch on this pest and remove the seedlings while they are young and before they have opportunity to seed.

## Regatta Timetable

Our thanks to ECAN for listing details of the lake closure dates on their website

<http://www.ecan.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/1D451514-07B1-413F-A2A1-378626C53C6C/0/LakeRuataniwhaRegattaSepMarch08.pdf>

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## Concept 2 "R2K" Singles Regatta

This regatta is now one of the most important Regattas in the Country for aspiring young scullers. Preparations are well advanced for this regatta which will again be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>; the weekend before the Interprovincial Regatta in the North Island. This regatta will again have a set of sculls for each of the winners of each class.

This is an excellent opportunity for young scullers to see at what stage they are at and be rewarded for their efforts through their winter training programmes. The details and entry can be done 'on line' from the RNZ web site link below.

<http://www.rowingnz.com/Events/RegattaCalendarEntry/tabid/92/ctl/details/mid/592/ite/mid/390/RegattaType/-1/Entity/-1/From/0/To/3/Default.aspx>

Please note that this year we intend to run the U15 class in two divisions for both men and women (U15 and U14) to encourage the younger rowers to participate.

## Licensed Umpires

The article on licensed Umpires last month suggested a shortage of people and gave rise to a number of responses and two of them are printed below:

*Kevin Strickland outlined the intention of RNZ to put forward FISA candidates to the SIR AGM in 2006, He asked for nominations to come forward & the Canterbury Assn put forward Michaela Rush who is at Strathclyde now. Waikato also nominated Lee Spears who went to Eton last year & is again sitting in Munich. A process of NZ candidate recruitment has been followed by Canterbury for a considerable time. Last season Justin Wall, Ashburton, Kevin Strickland Marlborough, Elwyn Thomas & Murray Butler Marlborough all underwent assessment & subsequent nomination by Canterbury & are now part of the Race Official group supporting SIR. Markus' FISA qualification is his own but his ratification as a NZ umpire has also been undertaken. Other candidates are in the system which has always been a Canterbury initiative, their own associations either being unwilling or unable to initiate recruitment. IMPORTANT MEETINGS have been regularly held but little if any outcome is obvious. ... John Wylie*

*However my reason for this email is to support your push for FISA umpiring qualifications I am one of those ex FISA people "over the hill" ...but I reiterate again & again, that the experiences of attending & participating at International Regattas, being involved with Elite Rowers, Masters, Coaches, FISA "Brass", meeting such a diverse range of Nationalities from Countries all over the World, friendly people (mostly), having a beer or wine after regattas, going site seeing often to strange places outside Tourist Trails, making friends with people who invite you to their Homes, send you Christmas Cards, etc. etc. are experiences that are only enjoyed & surpassed by the Athletes...And the language used is English! I only wish that I had been able to start my FISA involvement at an earlier age.*

*Leslie Milne, the RNZ President, in conjunction with RNZ Chair, Bill Falconer, (and a good number of support people from across the Country) have successfully launched the Association of Rowing Officials, so that we have a pathway to this exalted station of becoming a FISA Official. It is not difficult. I understand that FISA now requires the Local Federation (RNZ in our case) to fund the expenses of appointees to International Regattas. This huge hurdle (one that stopped so many of past NZ FISA people attending regattas) has thus been removed. There is little to stop anyone putting their name forward, I encourage all Officials to consider the matter 2010 is not far away*

...Brian Parr

If you believe the young are the future of the sport, take the list of licensed Umpires from the RNZ Annual Report, remove those over say 50 and those who no longer participate and see how many are left.

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Maybe we all need to do better and support the initiatives already under way to increase the numbers of licensed officials so they can progress to become FISA Umpires in due course!

## Facility Changes

The recent working bee gave rise to a number of changes at the lake. A couple of years ago we transplanted three oak trees which we call our memorial Oaks.

It was quite amazing that we managed to get them transplanted but now we have had to develop them further with careful pruning, the removal of adjacent trees and the preparing of the ground around them.

The pictures show Murray Petherick and Gerard

Mulvey removing one of the offending trees.



We also thank Shirley and Graeme Bond for their work on the bed and the support from the Twizel Community Board for their assistance with the mulch. As you can see this makes for a very attractive entrance to the complex.



For those who have visited the Secretary's Office you will notice a significant change. For some years we have wanted to improve the Office because it can be very cold and unpleasant for those working there.

Angus MacRae has been one of our long standing volunteers who has worked tirelessly here. Many of us can remember him wrapped in a blanket to try and keep warm while manning the office during inclement weather.

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As can be seen in the picture (above left), the old garage tilt-a-door has been replaced and hopefully this will make the whole experience a lot more pleasant for all. Thank you Rod and Trace for your work with the installation.

One or two have asked about the satellite dish attached to the building and yes it does actually work and works very well. We use it to provide internet services through the RD1 internet service provider. Although this service is mainly aimed at the farming community it was the only way we could get reliable high speed internet service to allow for video clips to be sent to the TV media.

At Nationals last year, there was a very high demand on the internet access for the various media people. This meant that the speed required for TV clips was simply not available. At times we found our Telecom link too slow and quite unreliable when we really needed the link. We have found this satellite link to be quite satisfactory so far and seems to have withstood the harsh winter very well.

## **Calendar**

Every year we produce a pocket calendar of rowing events in the South Island. The details are provided by each Local Rowing Association and they are combined into an A5 sheet that is folded in three to give a pocket calendar. The Local Associations have advised the numbers of calendars they require for their club and school rowers. These quantities will be sent to the Secretary's for distribution during the first week of September.

In Twizel a more extensive distribution has been arranged for the following week and we thank those involved with their effort at making this possible. We are hopeful that through this medium, the details of the lake Ruataniwha usage will be widely known.

## **Success**

You will have all noted the success of our athletes at the World Championships in Munich. This really is an excellent effort and we congratulate all of them and wish everyone well for the future events.

## **General**

Our favourite announcer, Kay Gregory has left the breakfast programme on TV 1 to pursue her other activities. We wish her well with her career change. Fortunately, she has affirmed her wish to continue her involvement with South Island Rowing.

Work continues with preparations for the raffle, for which tickets will go on sale in January, 2008. We are grateful for the assistance of Harcourts Real Estate and Ruataniwha farms Ltd with this activity.



More information will be released on how you can assist as we near that time. We have noted that the subdivision is developing really well as can be seen from the picture right. The section is the one on the corner behind the sign.