



Newsletter

Issue No. 7

Date: February 2010

Principle Sponsor



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Facilities

Course Hire
Lounge Hire
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Souvenir Sales



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The first three Regattas for the season on Lake Ruataniwha have been successfully completed. This was of course an opportunity for all to compare themselves with one another to see just where their training had advanced them.

It was also an opportunity for SIR to test out their systems, procedures and personnel to see at what stage they are at. While it is clear that there is still a lot of work to do before we can be satisfied with the results, we have made a reasonable start.

It was most noticeable that the good weather contributed to the success of these early Regattas. Hot calm weather persisted and there was cases of heat issues and the need to hats and sun block. We look in expectation that the weather will continue for another couple of months so that we can get through the season with minimal disruption.



The picture above shows the lake conditions for the recent regattas.

Didymo

Yes, it is still with us and we have found a rather disturbing find. We have found some of the water filters blocked with this organism. This in turn has caused some malfunctions and the moral is that we need to be aware that this organism not only spreads but can have a serious effect on mechanical equipment. Please minimise the risk and Wash, clean and dry after using any equipment in the water.

E CAN Bylaw

The recent South Island Championships were a real test of the by-law. SIR could not close the lake because of Waitangi Weekend. This meant that the interim bylaw applied. It was noted that both passive and powered craft managed to co-exist. While there were some wake issues they were very few and far between. In that sense, the interim bylaw does work.

It is a pity there are a very few people who have little disregard for passive water sports. Outside of the regatta there are still some rowers and their coaches who persist in using the areas reserved for power boats. They should not be surprised or upset if they find the wakes rather difficult to manage.

We understand there are some who want Lake Ruataniwha to be entirely passive and there are others who want it restricted to power craft only. The current bylaw seems to be a good compromise and it is a pity the radicals from both sides of the debate appear unable to move into this era of cooperation.

Lane Wires

The course has now seen three regattas. It has performed very well and is a credit to Trevor Wilson and his team of helpers who have worked so hard to keep the course in fully operational condition.

Medical Condition

We have found a few rowers with a medical condition. We know that Asthma is common but the more serious ones such as a heart condition need special treatment. Those with such a condition must report to the Chief Safety Officer and to the St Johns Team. Through this means we are able to ensure their safety. But it has been reported that there are some who try and hide their condition. Please tell us if you may need specialised assistance.



Knowledge Gap

The most recent regatta highlighted some serious knowledge gaps in relation to the rules of racing and the associated regulations and safety standards. In most of the regattas on Lake Ruataniwha insistence of being familiar with the rules is stated in the conditions and it is assumed and indeed expected. But the recent regattas tended to suggest they are not well known at all. It is recommended that coaches in particular become familiar with the rules of racing and the associated documentation.

South Island Championships

This regatta was held over Waitangi weekend (6th and 7th February). The weather was good and the full programme was completed on both days.

The picture on the left Shows one of the eights being held at the start. The stillness of the water is quite evident. Sun hats were essential and a number even resorted to wearing sun glasses. Again an essential item in these conditions.

This year we also issued Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. Although an addition that increases the cost of the regatta, it seems to have been most welcome by the participants.

And who said it wasn't hot. I guess one small advantage of having a snow fed lake is that the water is cold. This means that just paddling in the water is enough to have quite a cooling effect.



Complex

Again even for this regatta there are a number of small improvements that have been made. At this stage we need to focus on making the environment such that the Officials can deliver all that is expected of them. This means getting everything working properly the first time. It also means making sure that the participants know where everything is located.





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There are a few areas where we have received some comment and one of these is the utilization of the road past the tent sites to the 500m fence line. This is a road and not a footpath and this means that there are rules that apply and they are the same as those that apply on any road. This is a shared resource and both Pedetarians and cyclists need to understand that they both have obligations to ensure the safety of each other.

Litter is another issue. Those staying in accommodation should familiarise themselves with the local rubbish collection system and please do not bring your rubbish to the course. In fact, any rubbish you generate at the course should be taken away. Current costs work out at around \$200 per Regatta day and are scheduled to increase later in the year...more details later in the year.

The PA system has always been a problem with many saying it is too loud and others too soft. We have experienced a number of deliberate acts of sabotage to the equipment but still the system works although not as well as it could. But, Radio Ruataniwha is alive and well and those with portable radios can pick up the commentary on 88.1 FM. We are hopeful this will continue for the rest of the season.

This year the entrance was used to display the meridian flags. This made the entrance quite attractive as can be seen in the photo on the right.



St Johns are around when needed. This year they have been very busy. We have recently given internet access in the St Johns Room and a number of Patients have already benefitted from this installation.

MAADI CUP

Preparation for this regatta is now well advanced. There are a number of activities that must be completed in anticipation for this regatta. We are grateful to those who give us assistance.

Accommodation is always a vexing question and we understand that most will have their accommodation sorted out. I have received the following information in case there is someone who has missed out. "I run an accommodation business in the Waitaki Valley, based in Otematata" and "I will have houses available for Maadi Cup (see www.waitakiholidayhomes.co.nz). I am also able to arrange people to prepare and cook meals if required. Call Jane Mullins, Waitaki Holiday Homes, P O Box 3, Otematata 9412 on 03 438 7771 or 021 146 6220

Behaviour is important. We understand there will be a significant Police presence in Twizel for the week. While "blamestorming" is a popular New Zealand pastime, it is the behaviours of the parents and supporters that will also be tested.

Many are having tents on site. Please remember that the exit must be labelled so that it can be seen from the inside. If there is any heating going on inside, you need to have a fire extinguisher as everywhere is tinder dry. Please remember to take your rubbish away for disposal.



Tent Site Allocation

Site	SCHOOL/CLUB	Site	SCHOOL/CLUB
0	Twizel Area School / Twizel RC		
1	Villa Maria College		
2	Nelson College for Boys	2a	Westlake Boys
3	Nelson College for Girls	3a	Westlake Boys
4	Rangi Ruru Girls School	4a	Westlake Girls
5	Rangi Ruru Girls School		
6	Marlborough Boys / Blenheim C	6a	ST Peters College (AK)
7	St Bedes College		
8	Marlborough Girls College/Wairau RC		
9	Waikato Diocesan School	9a	St Hildas Collegiate
10	Craighead Diocesan School/Timaru RC	10a	Macleans College
11	Timaru Boys High School		
12	Christchurch Girls High School	12a	Hamilton Girls
13	Otago Boys High School	13a	Baradene College
14	Columba College	14a	Epsom Girls Grammar
15	Waitaki Girls/Boys/St Kevins/Oamaru RC	15a	
16	Otago Girls High School	16a	Aquinas College
17	Wakatipu Rowing Club	17a	
18	Burnside High School	18a	
19	Roncalli College	19a	
20	Christchurch Boys High School	20a	Hamilton Boys High School
21	Avonside Girls	21a	Cambridge High School
22	Marian College	22a	
23	St Margarets College	23a	
24	Christs College	24a	Kings College
25	Timaru Girls High School	25a	
26	Ashburton College W A L K W A Y	26a	
27	St Andrews College	27a	Buller High School
28	Wanganui Collegiate School	28a	
29	Sacred Heart Girls College	29a	
30	Kings High School	30a	
31	Bethlehem College	31a	Otumoetai College
32	Wellington College	32a	Wellington Girls College
33	Auckland Grammar	33a	
34	Tauranga Girls	34a	
35	Wanganui High School		
36	Samuel Marsden College		
37	Auckland Diocesan		
38	St Thomas of Canterbury		
39	ST Peters School		
40	Cromwell College		
41	St Kentigern College		
42	Wanaka Rowing		
43	St Pauls Collegiate School		
44	Takapuna Grammar School		
45	Southland Girls High School		

Next Regattas

The next two Regattas are the South Island Secondary Schools Regatta on the 6th & 7th March and the Maadi Cup regatta on the week of 22nd to 28th March. Please note that for the MAADI Cup regatta there will be preliminary meetings and in particular the safety meeting for which attendance is mandatory. Any school not represented will not be allowed to race.

We are always looking for volunteers and if you are able to assist, please contact the Secretary who will forward the details on to those officiating at the regatta.

Should you require any further information, please contact the Secretary.

