

## Newsletter

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PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



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# Ruataniwha Rowing

ROWING  
NEW ZEALAND

## South Island Rowing Incorporated

As we lead into the coming championship phase of the season it is timely to update you with a couple of news items and to bring to your attention a few 'housekeeping' items relating to racing and to a few relevant aspects of operating and managing the Meridian Rowing Complex at Lake Ruataniwha.

### *The New Season*

Since the last newsletter two regattas have been successfully held at Ruataniwha, the first of these being the Concept R2k and Inter-Provincials at the start of October and the Aoraki 1000 at the end of October. In conjunction with the Aoraki 1000 we also hosted a New Zealand series kayak regatta with the races interspersed between the rowing events. While we have done this once before it was a great experience, and a real learning curve, both for them and for us. They were impressed by what we are able to offer them at Ruataniwha, particularly in respect of our course and facilities, but believe me it is a real challenge visually judging an eight kayak, 250m sprint race for open grade men!! We look forward to being able to work with Kayak NZ again in the future.

Our next regatta, and the first of the championship regattas for the season, is the Meridian Otago Championships on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> of December.

### *The Course*

The remaining components for the new steel lane wires have been received and the balance of the 250m sections required to complete the course has been assembled. Half of the wires and buoys have been installed for some time now but persistent windy weather has hampered the operation and prevented Trevor and Darryl from installing the remaining lanes. Trevor is confident all the lanes will be installed before the commencement of the Meridian Otago Championships. Once completed the course will look 'a million dollars' and we thank the New Zealand Community Trust for their significant support in funding the bulk of this project

### *Labour Weekend Working Bee*



The working bee at Labour Weekend was well attended and a lot of tasks were undertaken and completed. One of the more noticeable tasks where significant progress was made was the top-soiling and grassing of a lot of the area adjacent to the new accommodation block.

This included shifting rocks, spreading and raking the topsoil and sowing the grass seed. The magnitude of these tasks is shown in the pictures on the next page.

By the time most of you see those areas they will probably be looking like well established lawn so please help us to look after them.



Have to add in here that Chairman James, while full of enthusiasm but not renowned for his mechanical expertise, was forced to draw on the expertise of some of his more mechanically minded friends after the ride-on mower (affectionately dubbed the rock cutter) developed problems while he was mowing the lawns and boat park during the working bee. We are not convinced that paying homage as shown in the picture below is absolutely necessary!



There is no date set for the next working bee but there is always work to be done and there are usually a few people around the complex over the Christmas break, keeping up with the day-to-day tasks and taking care of a few more 'projects'. Let Trevor or Catherine know if you may have a day or two to spare and wish to come and help.



## Celebrations

In recent times Max Smith Park and the Meridian Rowing centre have hosted a number of functions, including a few weddings.

On November 11<sup>th</sup> we hosted a wedding of particular note, that being the marriage of well know Southland rowers Sarah Barnes and Richard Hamilton. In a ceremony with a different twist some of the bridal party travelled down the lake in a borrowed 8, assisted by a group of Waihopai rowers, and returned to the 1000 metre mark to take their vows on the shore. Some of them then re-embarked and rowed back up the lake. It was interesting to note that Sarah arrived in the stroke seat but departed in the seven seat, with Richard in the stroke seat making the calls! Great couple, great wedding, best wishes to you both.



*Before*



*After*

## Tent and Stall Sites

While we have a number of permanent tent site bookings there are a number that are available each season that are allocated as enquiries are received.

Invoices are shortly to be sent out for those that are deemed to be booked and payment by the due date will confirm the booking.

Similarly we have received several enquiries regarding stall sites, particularly for the Maadi Cup, and there are other sites available.



Those wishing to enquire about tent or stall sites should contact Trevor Wilson by emailing 'caretaker@sir.org.nz'.

From time to time we receive comments to the effect that the tent area is untidy and not mown, and not as well presented as some other venues. This is a consequence of matters largely outside our control. Particularly during Maadi Cup week some tent site holders go to great lengths to decorate their sites. This, in itself, is fine but frequently they leave behind piles of rocks and other unwanted debris which our volunteers have neither the time nor the inclination to remove. Consequently the area remains un-mown.

There are also some sites where holders have put in permanent tent guy anchors that are so high they would damage the mowing equipment.

If it proves necessary for us to tidy sites after the tents have gone the holders are likely to be charged for the cost of the work.

The solution is simple; if you want tidy, grassed and mown sites then please leave them in a tidy state so they can be mown.

## ***Waste Management***

We do our best to adequately manage the waste from the Complex but unfortunately this comes at a cost. In recent years the cost of rubbish disposal has increased dramatically and it is now a large item in our annual budget. Like everything else 'nothing is for nothing' and the costs we incur managing and disposing of rubbish must be recovered somewhere and they inevitably turn up, perhaps not obviously, in fees or charges such as Complex hire charges or amenity fees. Please assist us in to keep this cost down by disposing of your domestic rubbish off the site, rather than in our bins, and don't leave unwanted items like old carpets and furniture behind after regattas.

## ***Care of Facilities***

With the recent development phase now almost completed we have a world class facility in the Meridian Rowing Centre and Max Smith Park. While most people do respect the property we are often disappointed by mis-use and abuse of the facilities which we, reasonably I believe, expect people to treat at least as well as they would treat their own property.

One area where we have on-going problems is the abuse of toilets where some individuals, and particularly young ladies, put foreign matter down the toilet bowls e.g. socks, towels etc. This is a serious matter because not only has it at times caused considerable damage to the wastewater pumps, with associated significant costs, but if such problems occurred during a regatta it may be necessary to cancel the regatta for public health reasons. The solution is simple; 'don't do it'. If anyone is found deliberately abusing the property the Executive will treat the matter seriously and take action accordingly.

## ***Fees and Charges***

While in the past there has usually been provision in the "Race Conditions" to allow penalties to be charged for late scratchings and non-progressions these have rarely actually been applied.

The Executive has determined that from now on these penalties will be applied for the regattas run by Ruataniwha Rowing so for this season that will include the Meridian South Island Championships, the Meridian South Island Secondary Schools Championships and the AON New Zealand Secondary Schools Championships (Maadi Cup). Coaches and managers should consider this when preparing their entries for these regattas.

## ***Rowing Calendars***

South Island regatta calendar cards have been widely circulated through the regional associations but extra copies are available from the Row Shoppe for any who may have missed out. The Row Shoppe will be open throughout all the regattas during the season; come on in and browse through the new and extensive range of stock.

The South Island calendar for the remainder of the season is listed below;

10 & 11 December 2011	Meridian Otago Championships	Lake Ruataniwha
17 December 2011	Legion Regatta	Oreti River
17 & 18 December 2011	Marlborough Championships	Marlborough
18 December 2011	Coxed Four Sprint Regatta	Kerr's Reach
14 & 15 January 2012	Meridian Canterbury Championships	Lake Ruataniwha
21 January 2012	ILT Southland Championships	Oreti River
28 & 29 January	2012 Meridian South Island Championships	Lake Ruataniwha
4 February 2012	NZ Masters Games	Otago Harbour
6 February 2012	NZ Masters Games Indoor Rowing	OUSA Aquatic Centre
11 February 2012	OSSRA Term 1 Regatta	Otago Harbour
14 to 19 February 2012	National Championships	Karapiro
25 February 2012	Otago Wilson Memorial Regatta	Taieri River
26 February 2012	Head of the Taieri Regatta	Taieri River
25 & 26 February 2012	Canterbury Mazda Schools Regatta	Lake Hood
4 March 2012	Masters & Juniors Regatta	Oreti River
10 & 11 March 2012	Meridian South Island Schools Championships	Lake Ruataniwha
17 March 2012	OSSRA Head of Harbour Regatta	Otago Harbour
25 March to 1 April 2012	AON NZ Secondary Schools Championships (Maadi Cup)	Lake Ruataniwha
15 April 2012	Lake Hayes Regatta	Lake Hayes

## Volunteers and Officials

We always require additional people to assist with regattas. If you are interested in any role, either on or off the water, please contact any listed official.

## Regatta Safety Briefings

Coaches should now be well aware that prior to the commencement of racing at each regatta we hold a safety briefing. Some of the information passed on at the meeting is a reiteration of standard safety matters but the meeting allows the senior officials to inform the coaches and managers of any specific or new matters which are relevant for the safety of rowers and others at the site.

It is compulsory that each club or school has a representative attend the safety meetings and a roll call is taken to ensure the attendance is recorded. **Clubs or schools which are not represented at the meeting will not be permitted to row at the regatta.** Please ensure your club or school is represented at the meeting by an appropriate, responsible person (usually a coach or manager) and that the information made available at the meeting is passed on to the appropriate people.

## Remembrance

In recent weeks two of our supporters have unfortunately passed away. Annette Officer, who has for some time helped in the kitchen and catering areas passed away a few weeks ago after a period of illness. A few days ago Alec Woods, who was our first 'resident caretaker', also passed away. While he was living on the site Alec helped with a lot of work on the site, particularly electrical work, and the promontory beside the umpire boat jetty was named Wood's Point in recognition of his involvement with South Island Rowing. We acknowledge and appreciate the contributions both Annette and Alec have made to South Island Rowing and offer our condolences to their respective families.

## Row Shoppe

The Row Shoppe has some great new stock for the coming season so please come on in and check it out. The Shoppe is run by rowing volunteers and all proceeds go to Ruataniwha Rowing to help run our complex and provide the ever-improving facilities. Christmas is just around the corner so it is a great time to convince Mum or Dad that an item or two of rowing gear would be a neat present. Jeanette will have a 'Sales' table running through the Otago Champs so come and pick up a bargain or two.



## And Finally...

No I hadn't forgotten!! Christmas is just about upon us and the Ruataniwha Rowing Management Committee take this opportunity to acknowledge the generous support of our numerous sponsors and supporters and to wish them, and all of our rowing fraternity, a safe and enjoyable festive season.

# Generating Champions



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