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Complex

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Facilities

Accommodation
Course Hire
Ground Hire
Kitchen Hire
Lounge Hire
Souvenirs

Sponsors



Level 1, 104
Victoria Street
PO Box 12299
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Zealand



91 Queen St
Waimate



The major activities for SIR over the next few months are the Annual General Meeting and the various working bees that we need to maintain our facilities. The AGM is to be held in Christchurch on June 30th and information about this has already been circulated to stakeholders.

While we appreciate any feedback on any issues that relate to our overall operation there has been very little forthcoming. However, we do thank the few who have taken the time to assist in this way. Many of the improvements have originated from this feedback and a draft report is in general circulation details some ideas of where to next.

Course

The course has its own unique problems and more yellow buoys have arrived. Unfortunately, our supplier has advised that the bright pink ones are no longer in production in the size we use. There is no doubt that the rust-red coloured buoys are very difficult to see under certain light conditions so we are working through the alternatives to see what we can find.

The task for the next few working bees will be to make up the buoys and the new lane wires. The most recent working bee has seen a start made and this will continue on subsequent buoys. The Course Manager will be advising of these days and anyone available to assist should contact him for details.

Safety

In developing the facilities development report one thing has become quite apparent: everything we are doing to develop the facilities features some aspect of safety. It was recently observed that the major expenditure we have to make relates to safety improvements. The introduction of adaptive rowing will make this even more important.

Further observations on the impact of hydro-generation on the shoreline clearly shows that the lake is quite different to what it was a decade or more ago. There is greater flow down the course and this continues to impact on the safety activities SIR must implement to ensure the venue operations are "safe".

One particular concern relates to visitors to the property who are travelling by cycle or motor bike. The potential for injury is very high especially in the boat park and we need to minimise this likelihood. We note with concern the recent death of a person who ran into and unmarked fence while walking her dog in some Showground's. While not wishing to enter into any debate on the issue, the fact that there was a death should indicate the need to make sure the SIR property is safe and that anyone on the property is their at their own risk. Similarly we cannot have any hidden traps so we need to be vigilant in the regard.

Environmental Protection

Didymo (aptly called rock snot) is a major problem in the area. We know that it is prevalent in the lower reaches of the Waitaki and it has been found in the Twizel River. So, the risk is very real and we expect all users to act responsibly by cleaning and drying their equipment before and after using the lake.

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For details on Didymo, see

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

Wilding Pines continue to be a problem in the area and the SIR land is no different and there has been some considerable growth during the past year or two. This particular 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.

The other environmental effect that is of concern to SIR is the shoreline erosion which has a twofold effect. First is the shallowing of the boat lane to the start and secondly it causes a bank at the shore that reflects the wave energy rather than absorb much of the energy causing difficulties for rowers. We continue to work with Meridian Energy to solve this problem.

Volunteers & Working Bee

There was a very successful working bee during Queens Birthday and Trevor Wilson has expressed his thanks to all who were able to attend. There is still a lot to do and the Course Manager will advise of when he/she will be arranging the next one...possibly in late July or early August.

Fencing

A tender has been let for erecting a perimeter fence around the SIR land. A number have queried the need for this although all when questioned seem to have a fence around their own home. The fence is essential to minimise any legal battles emerging from injuries to trespassers.

The picture on the right shows the track that has been cut through the vegetation in preparation for the fence. Mike McClelland has been arranging this activity and so far, all in on track for a completion before the start of the next season.



End of Year

Since the end of our financial year a lot of work has to be done on the accounts in readiness for Annual General Meeting on 30th June. It has been noted that there has been a significant reduction in entry fees and sponsorship monies that are outstanding. All outstanding amounts have been invoiced and the associated statements will continue to be issued.

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There have been a number of surprises for the last year especially with the costs of operating the Rowing Course and meeting the statutory requirements. It does seem that regulatory authorities are becoming increasingly diligent with their responsibilities here.

It has been noted that all regattas are dependant on sponsorship moneys to remain viable. The accounts reflect the amount of subsidy needed to run the regattas. While it is unpalatable, the entry fees for the coming season will have to rise and they will be set at the AGM. We rather suspect that all courses will be beset by the same issues especially when large events are to be run and the result is inevitable.

Raffle

The current situation is that SIR has applied to the department of Internal Affairs to hold a raffle where the prize is a section in Stage One of "The Drive" subdivision, Twizel. This has been kindly donated by Ruataniwha Farms and we understand a number of sections have already been sold and inquiries on the sections should be made to:

Name Matthew Loose
Phone 03 379 6596
Mobile 0274 523 116
Email matthew.loose@harcourts.co.nz



The process set by the Department of Internal Affairs that has to be followed. If approved, this will see the tickets on sale early January 2008.

Works

There is a heavy work requirement for the coming season. Most of these works are driven by Safety and are often related to statutory requirements. Funding will again be an issue and we hope that the many benefactors will continue to support Rowing. The facilities report details many of the issues that need addressing and this has been circulated to all stakeholder Associations. The AGM will need to consider the priority of these works relative to the available funding.

The AGM is also the time when our stakeholders, the Local Rowing Associations elect their Management team for the coming year. I guess this means that none of us are guaranteed a return to our position and we could end up with a complete new team. This does nothing for continuity and leaves to future of SIR subject to vagaries' of stakeholder decisions.

This will be the last monthly newsletter for this season and depending on the view of our stakeholders, my last such publication. I trust they have been found helpful and useful to all.

Please share this with your colleagues.