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**Jim Little
Upholstery**



This time of the year is one where our focus tends towards winter training and the results our elite crews achieve in overseas regattas. However, for those charged with operating a rowing complex, it is time to reflect on the last season, its successes and the things we can do better. Planning for the improvements and getting funding are major activities and one which we at South Island Rowing are acutely aware of.

It is with this in mind that the Management Committee have been carefully looking at our activities and some decisions have been made to make the best use of the available funding. 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 July. For some, this may appear to be a strange time but for those of us who went there we did achieve a good mix of work and planning for the coming season.

Course

The course has been left down and there have been a few users of the facility. While the temperatures have been rather cold and the water wet we do not have to wait for the ice on the lake to thaw as in other parts of the world. The attached picture shows what it was like for training. We understand there are a few who take advantage of these conditions and enjoy it.



Work continues with making up the buoys for the course next year. Trevor will be advising the dates for the next working bee. Anyone available to assist should contact Trevor.

Safety

A quick audit of the safety equipment revealed we are short of two throw lines and also a couple of sets of PFD'S. The Jet ski is in need to servicing and some of the radios will require servicing. This work is under way.

Environmental Protection

Didymo (aply 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. 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 continue to be a problem in the area and the SIR land is no different. 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.

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Facilities

As a result of the experiences of last year, the Management Committee has decided that SIR will not provide accommodation for Clubs or Schools. The closest accommodation is only a few minutes away from the complex.

The following hire charges were set:

Tent Sites	\$256 + GST per site per year
Kitchen/Hall	\$160 + GST per day
Control building	\$240 + GST per day

Regatta Timetable

The regatta timetable for events on Lake Ruataniwha was shown on the last newsletter. Arrangements have been made with ECAN to close the lake and the details are shown on their web site below.

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

Concept 2 "R2K" Singles Regatta

This regatta will again be held this year during 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 regatta is becoming one of the most important Regattas in the Country for aspiring young scullers.

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/itemid/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.

Boat Launch

The boat launch area was regraded a couple of years ago but there are still issues with the vegetation. It is clear that we need to get more soil and grass planted to improve this area. One key issue here is the need to have an irrigation system that can be easily operated.



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This will ensure the vegetation can flourish. Installation of the irrigation system is almost complete and we are investigating the provision of additional soil, grass seed and a roller to finish the area off.

On the right is a photo looking in the other direction (into the setting sun) from the previous photograph that depicts the track down to a secondary boat launch area.



This is largely underused because the access is rather awkward to negotiate. It is planned to improve this during this part of the 'off-season'.

Weather

The weather is always an interesting topic of conversation and in this area it can be quite variable. Of course it is always interesting to be able to monitor the temperature and the wind levels each day but until recently we have been unable to access any suitable stations to do this. However, there are two stations that can be accessed over the internet and they can give a reasonably good picture of what is actually happening. The site is:

<http://www.observatory.org.nz/weather/omarama/index.html>

This site is at the Omarama Airport and also from this web site it is possible to access the Lake Ohau weather station but at the time of writing it seems to have developed a fault. But as you can see from the picture on the right, there was no wind on Saturday July 28th.



There is also a site at Twizel Airport but we understand that this is controlled by Meridian Energy and the information does not seem to be available for display on this web site.

SIR is investigating the viability of using their weather station to provide information from the rowing course. If we can get the correct software and access to this web site then we may be able to do this. The potential here is very large as it will certainly assist those who do not reside at the lake get a view of the weather before driving to the lake. There are obviously other opportunities here and SIR will be investigating any suggestions here. So, have a look and you will see when there are more developments on this site.

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Chief Umpire

Cliff Buchanan, the Chief Umpire from the recent National Championship Regatta leaves this month to officiate at the World Championships in Munich, Germany. According to recent media release, Cliff is the only qualified New Zealander to be a World Umpire. While we congratulate Cliff on this we need to remember that with a mandatory retirement age of 65 there is a distinct possibility that there is no one to fill his shoes.

Now we know that the World Championships are in New Zealand in due course and it seems there is a distinct possibility of having no one appropriately qualified to umpire! This should not happen so those in the younger age group, how about taking this on and learning to become a judge and for the older ones, how about providing more support and encouragement. Come on Rowing NZ and Rowing Associations, how about being more proactive too!

Accommodation

The regatta timetable has been released and clubs and schools should be negotiating for their accommodation. Every year we receive complaints of insufficient accommodation available in the area and every year we have had complaints of bookings not being honoured or substantially reduced. We also get reports of serious damage being inflicted on private property and accommodation being still available in spite of an apparent shortage.

We recommend that Clubs and Schools who want accommodation start negotiating at an early time. You may contact the Twizel promotion and Development Association for assistance: See www.twizel.com

General

In the last Newsletter, several tasks were left for the Management Committee to investigate and take some appropriate action. Only a few have been included in this newsletter but please be assured that progress has started on all the tasks. You can expect an update in the next newsletter but it would be premature to included details still being resolved.

May we offer a vote of thanks to those who have provided feedback and also to those who have contributed to this edition? If you have some information that needs to be shared, drop us a line.

If there is someone who wants to be included on the mailing list please send us your email address. While we try hard to keep this up to date there are issues and occasionally names do 'fall off the end'.