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Jim Little
Upholstery



Newsletter



The second working bee of the season has been completed and it was good to see the faithful few come along and get into the tasks that need to be completed. It was good that we had some young rowers come along to assist as well. The weather for this second working bee was much warmer and hopefully this will signal the return to better weather.

Didymo

Yes, we do still have it. It does make a mess of everything and it is essential that we continue to be vigilant here and make sure all items are suitably washed before leaving the lake.

Sponsorship

Following some extensive negotiations with Meridian, South Island Rowing has secured a three year sponsorship arrangement. As many of you will know, Lake Ruataniwha is one of the key lakes on the Upper Waitaki Hydro Scheme which is operated by Meridian. There is a significant amount of synergy between their operations and those of rowing.

It is important to realise just how much the rowing activities do require a close working relationship with the power generator. This deal recognises this relationship that has built up over many years and will benefit both organizations. We are very grateful to all involved with this as it will enable full utilization of the facilities for the coming seasons.

Regatta Dates

Below is the latest table of information about the regattas on Lake Ruataniwha. The dates have not changed but the Canterbury Schools Regatta has been conformed as not being run on Lake Ruataniwha and the sponsorship arrangements with Meridian Energy have been confirmed.

Event Name	Regatta Days
Concept 2 "R2K" Singles Regatta Mainland Interprovincial Regatta	3-4 October 2009
Aoraki 1000 Regatta/ Monster Row, Run Bike Challenge	31 Oct to 1 Nov 2009
Meridian Otago Championship Regatta	16 to 17 January 2010
Meridian Canterbury Championship Regatta	30 to 31 January 2010
Meridian South Island Championship Regatta	6 to 7 February 2010 **
Meridian South Island Schools Championship Regatta	6 to 7 March 2010
NZ Secondary Schools Championship Regatta (MAADI CUP)	22 to 28 March 2010
Note: Rowers will be practicing on the lake the day before the regatta.	** Lake overall is not closed but "The Bay" will be closed for Safety reasons.

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Dais Banner Location

We have noted a number of issues that impair our ability to provide the best conditions for users of the facilities. It is therefore a good idea to look at options and prepare for some improvement. One such situation occurs with the signage that is erected behind the dais. After a couple of seasons of having this very large backdrop, it is quite apparent that its presence at Lake Ruataniwha causes some serious problems that need addressing. In this case, it blocks the spectator view of the finish line and it impairs the Judges view of the finish. These are both very good reasons to address this problem.

There are a number of problems here as this is serious advertising when the crews are on the dais and this exposure is very good for sponsors. So, any change must recognise this exposure and not compromise the advertising.

While this has not been finalised as yet, the current path of consideration is to place this banner parallel to the finish line at Woods Point. This gives good visibility of the banner from both the dais and the actual finish. There is still some negotiation to complete here but we are in the process of accumulating the necessary poles for this.

The picture on the right shows Woods Point last weekend. The flag poles in the foreground give an idea of the scale. There is no doubt this will improve the visibility of the finish line.



Working Bee

Since the July working bee, there has been a number of decision made and for the August working bee, a number of these changes were implemented. In particular, a lot of the tree trimmings were converted into mulch thanks to the assistance from the Community Board and St Johns Ambulance. Many of the associated plantings have been made and we are hopeful that a warm spring will prove beneficial. Grass seed has also been spread and again it should take hold and provide major visual improvements. So, at this working bee, we continued with more of the cleanup activity, repairing damaged or faulty parts and completing some of the partly completed tasks.

In the Control Building we have been plagued with only partly completed cabling and temporary wiring. The need for the temporary wiring has now gone since the new cable work was completed earlier in the year. Most of the trunking was on hand so the opportunity was taken to advance this further. The difference is quite noticeable. Another three lengths of trunking will allow this to be completed at the next working bee.

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One particular difficulty has been heating the MacRae Lounge in the winter and cooling it in the summer. New air conditioning units have been installed that will help with this activity. However, more work is needed to reduce the volume to be heated. It was decided to extend the internal walls up to the ceiling to provide a more pleasant environment with fewer drafts.

We were fortunate to have the assistance of some rowers from Southland who assisted with this work. We are very grateful for this assistance and trust they enjoyed their time with us. The picture on the right shows them enjoying some relaxation at the end of a hard days work.



One other area of concern is the wharf at the start. While this is used for regattas it is frequently used by the public. Unfortunately, it has now deteriorated to the point of being dangerous. There is some concern that there could be a serious injury here and so some repairs are required. The picture on the left shows the wharf during a calm period and although the wharf seems a little buckled it may appear that this is tolerable.

But the wharf really is useful when the lake is rough and that is when the whole deck can be lifted up tipping anyone on it into the lake.

The picture on the right shows a little of the impact the waves can have. While some design work has been started, there is some distance to go before we have a working solution. We would appreciate any suggestions here and especially how the proposed improvements could be funded.



Poem

We received the following poem which we understand was penned by a young rower who is possibly the only pupil who rows from Darfield High School. The Management Committee was so impressed with the very colourful way the lake was described that it has been reproduced here.

We are sure you will appreciate this.

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Newsletter

Early morning mist lingers, smothering the sky with a thick blanket of white. The crystal clear water sits stiffly in it's surrounding shelter like a baby in it's mothers arms. A painful stillness. The once lush green grass is frosted with ice. Walking zombies are beginning to awaken from their deep sleep as racing is about to begin. Boats are slowly making their way to the start line. You can almost hear the whispers of the rowers, knowing the pain they are about to confront. Whispers of silence. The smell of coffee wafts through the clean, cool air that embraces many in their morning routines, a temptation only some can afford. As racing commences, a shimmer of life trickles slowly through the hushed boat park. A lone voice encourages animation amongst the awakening athletes. Energy begins to seep through the still morning air. The day has only just begun.

Hot, sticky air decorates the vicinity. The Immense heat burns, bare skin on a furnace. The water is no longer still. The dazzling sapphire lake sparkles in the eyes of sideline supporters, wakes gently lapping against the stony shore. Encouraging cheers overcome the background commentary, as rowers strive to cross the finish line. Every muscle in their body screaming, every inch of breath spent. Agony. Sweat drips off perfectly sculpted bodies. Skin golden-brown, eyes weary with fatigue. Elegant boats stretch long on their designated racks, waiting patiently for their moment of glory. The overpowering lemon in the sky lowers its searing rays closer towards the edge of the earth and a bowl of flavours are scattered across the lonesome sky. Strawberry red, banana yellow, grape purple, kiwifruit green. Sparrows manoeuvre swiftly through the remaining stragglers, as they glide away on their long journey home. The lone voice is no longer alone, surrounded by his rowing family, remembered forever.

Thanks to those who have contributed to this newsletter. Anyone who has some items that may be of interest, please send them on to the secretary for inclusion in the subsequent issues.