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**Jim Little
Upholstery**



While we can develop plans and seek funding for their implementation is good to reflect on just how well the issues are circulated and indeed understood.

Miscommunication is a serious issue and incurs significant rework and a whole raft of needless activities. As a volunteer organization we cannot afford this to happen. While this newsletter is one vehicle for communication there are others and we encourage you to use them.

It is with this in mind that the Management Committee has been fully involved with the activities and the facilities development. If you require anything further contact either a member of the Committee or your Local Association Delegates or Secretary. It is most disappointing to hear of groups discussing perceptions or notions to the detriment of SIR from a position of ignorance. If in doubt, please ask!

The most recent working bee was held after the Concept2 R2K Regatta. While the weather was not as good as it could have been further progress has been made with the Course. There is expected to be another working bee during October.

Course

One key element to getting the course operational and keeping it that way is having the barge in good safe working condition. While it has been a very long task things are really looking up. As can be seen in the photo to the right, there is now a hand rail, better fittings and motor locations. It should be operational in the next few weeks.



Environmental Protection

Didymo (aptly called rock snot) is still a major problem in the area. We know that it is prevalent in much of the Waitaki and some of the feeder streams. The mantra "wash, Clean, Dry" is the best way to protect the environment. It was most encouraging to see how readily so many rowers washed their boats automatically. SIR hopes to get an improved washing system in place to make it even easier to complete this task.

For details on Didymo, see

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

Concept 2 "R2K" Singles Regatta

This regatta is now one of the most important Regattas in the Country for aspiring young scullers which was again held on September 22nd. With over 100 entries it was well supported and the comparatively benign weather all contributed to another successful regatta.

The picture on the right shows the winners of the sculls in front of the dais. The U 14 winners received clothing from the Row Shoppe.



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The finals results can be seen on the web page below.

<http://www.rowingnz.com/Events/Results/tabid/44/Default.aspx>

The winners picture is available in the page below.

<http://www.rowingnz.com/Portals/0/R2K%20Winners%20.jpg>

Women U 14	Women U 15	Men U15	Women U 16	Men U16
B Lovett	B Heaphy-Hall	S Meaclem	K Ketterer	M O'Connor
Men U 14	Women U 17	Men U 17	Women U 18	Men U 18
B Moore	E Stocker	F Scott	L Strack	B Jones

South Island Rowing acknowledges the assistance and support from the New Zealand Community Trust and Concept 2 for this regatta.

This time of the year has similar weather to early April when the NZSSRA Championship Regatta is to be held so the conditions would be similar. The temperature at the start was a chilly 4° but by 1130 hrs it has warmed to 20° but cooled down in the afternoon. This gave quite a good insight of what we can expect next year.

Contrary to popular opinion we have been told that the temperature of the body of the lake does not vary very much during the year. It is only the 150mm that has a significant temperature increase due to the sun. So, the water below that is cold almost regardless of the air temperature and time of the year.

Many of our participants experience this, first hand throughout the year. The R2K regatta was no exception as shown with the picture on the right. Fortunately this aspect tends to only injure pride!

The opportunity was also taken to show the expertise of our R2K Chief Umpire (Allan Bain) with keeping the boats fully operational. Here with able assistance from Marcus Molly they endeavour to clear the oil from the carburettors so that they will run on all cylinders!



It seems a pity that all the boats seem to suffer from this ailment at this time of the season. Maybe a different pre-winter storage program such as draining the tanks and running the motors dry before hand would prove beneficial.

Either way TLC is the treatment needed here. However, all the boats required were operational for this regatta.



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Condition Changes

Following a review of the conditions associated with the regattas consideration is being given to two local amendments to assist with running the regattas.

Substitutes: For the "two-day" regattas it is proposed that substitutions of up to 50% of the crew may be made without penalty provided the regatta secretary is advised an hour before the start of the race.

Protests: Protests will only be received if they are signed by a Licensed Official.

We understand the intentions here are to make the regattas more "rower friendly" and assist Coaches with developing their crews for the Major regattas. It is also intended to ensure that protests are made with knowledge of the "Rules of Racing". Feedback on these proposals is welcome.

Calendar

Every year SIR produces a pocket calendar of rowing events in the South Island. This years calendar has been distributed to the four South Island Associations and you should see their Secretary if you have missed out on their distribution.

A quantity has also been distributed to the Twizel Community and special thanks to those who assisted with this. Also thanks to the Twizel Community Board for their advice on this matter.

MacRae Lounge

Many of you will recall the old "Lounge" in which many functions were hosted successfully. The Management Committee are very aware that the "new" Lounge has not been fulfilling the same purpose and in spite of its increased capacity, it is under utilised.

From the analysis of the situation two very clear aspects have been identified by the various participants and the Committee has resolved to go some way towards remedying them. The first relates to the environment which is comparatively Spartan, cold and uninviting. The old Lounge had carpet on the floor and the furniture was in quite reasonable condition. As can be seen from the pictures on the right, the current situation with wooden floor and "mixture" furniture does not capture the same feel.

Some actions have been taken that will improve the situation including carpet from a local manufacturer has been purchased and arrangements have been made for its installation before Christmas and a quantity of replacement furniture (Tables & Chairs) has been arranged for early November.



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One other aspect of concern is the utilization during Regattas. We understand there is a perception that the Lounge is only for Officials and that is not the case.

Arrangements are being made for the Lounge to be used for relaxing in especially during inclement weather. The new furniture should facilitate this and the carpet on the floor should increase the temperature and reduce the noise. It is planned to use a marquee outside the kitchen for Officials.

Raffle

The details of the raffle are now well advanced with the tickets being printed and the promotion activities being formulated. Ticket Sales cannot start until January but there is much planning to do.

We expect the Committee to provide a volume sales incentive for Clubs and Schools. This will be a very good fundraising opportunity and we expect to release more details on that in the next newsletter.



General

Labour weekend is when the Meridian Kayakers Challenge is being held and there will be Kayakers on the Lake. They intend to use the facilities for their crews who will be in the area as part of another event. A number of SIR personnel will also be there as the opportunity to progress some improvements is too good to miss.

We understand the Lake Dunstan long Distance Race (17Km) will be held on the Sunday with an 11:00AM start (to suit the Rugby World Cup Final). This has been quite popular in the past and this year will again be an interesting race.

The next Rowing Regatta on the lake is the Aoraki 1000 which is scheduled for the last weekend in October. Hopefully the equinox gales will have abated by then and we look forward to another exciting weekends racing.

We read that the Marlborough contingent to the Interprovincial Championships at Wairoa managed a great deal of success. We congratulate them on their efforts and look forward to seeing them compete on Lake Ruataniwha after Christmas.