New Treasurer

The Treasurer, Terry McQuinn tendered his resignation due to serious health issues. This was a shock but given the circumstances, quite understandable. The Board thanked Terry for his work. Subsequently, Mr Pat Cooney has been appointed to the position as Treasurer. The hand over will take a couple of weeks and should be quite seamless.

Board Meeting

At the October Board meeting there was a number of decisions made regarding the way forward. Following discussions with the four Associations it was found there exists an unhelpful and uncooperative attitude towards the rowers, volunteers and supporters. It has been reported that some have refused to return unless there are changes. The Board agreed that South Island Rowing should be a place where there is friendly cooperation between all present.

A similar situation occurs with the way Sponsors are treated. It is clear the attitudes have developed over a period of time and do not show the true spirit of South Island Rowing. It is very important that all who are part of the South Island Rowing Community buy in and show the cooperative, friendly spirit to all.

Note from Meridian...Principal Sponsor

Thanks to the volunteers

Meridian is very proud of our long association with South Island Rowing, we’ve been supporting and nurturing rowers for the past 15 years. We’re looking forward to another successful year of rowing from all four associations.

As with most sports and community groups around New Zealand, there is a heavy reliance on the ‘volunteer economy’. We’d like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and recognise the hard work that goes on behind the scenes by the many volunteers involved. Their commitment ensures that all athletes can have every opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Best of luck for the season ahead, we can’t wait to see you on Lake Ruataniwha.
**Working Bee**

Prior to the R2K there was a working Bee. While there were some attendees, mainly from Canterbury it was good to see a lot was achieved. One interesting aspect was the weather. The picture on the right shows a view looking east down the lake and the one below is looking west up the lake from the MacRae lounge. On the previous night there was no snow on the hills and on the following day it was largely gone. In between time, there were a few short sharp storms that saw the hills covered with the snow.

**Board Walk**

On the Saturday of the R2K Regatta the board did a walk around and most of the areas that were investigated showed various deficiencies and the need for improvements. Some of these activities will require some serious investigation work before any action can be taken.

**Boat Park Improvement**

Some years ago, SIRI decided to allow boat sheds on its land and both the Twizel Rowing Club and the Oamaru Rowing Club took up this offer. There have been a number of complaints of poor lighting, the PA announcements’ cannot be heard and no drinking water at that end of the boat park. With a number of clubs/schools using this end of the boat park coupled with the prospect of other clubs/schools likely to want a boat shed at this end of the boat park, it was decided to install an additional pole some 90 meters west of the last one in the boat park. This will provide lights and speakers to this end of the boat park. The water supply is also being extended so that there will be drinking water available as well.

The pictures on the right shows the work under way with the excavation of the trench complete and the cables installed viewed from the existing pole. The second picture is looking back to the last existing pole. It shows the new pole installed and the trench still open. Further works to improve the facilities for the rowers are in the pipeline with more details in subsequent newsletters.
Training Camps

Prior to the R2K Regatta there were some training camps. Unfortunately not all the equipment in the catering area worked as well as it should. At one stage SIRI was facing the situation of having no dishwasher, no hot water on tap and no internal communications. This resulted in a new “commercial” dishwasher being installed, a new element in the hot water cylinder and starting the design work associated with improving the communications network.

During this time we had a number of schools running training camps. Overall the behaviour was very good and their willingness to assist the staff with the various aspects during the rather trying times was very much appreciated.

Lake Incident

On Monday October 6 there was an incident on the lake. Two eights and a quad from Daramalan School (Australia) accompanied by a safety boat went for a training row. While it started on a flat calm lake the weather turned while near the start. The picture on the right shows the lake after about an hour on the water.

In the space of 6 minutes, the lake went from flat calm to a raging torrent. The eights made it to shore but the quad filled with water and turned over. The next picture on the right shows the quad struggling with the water some 2 minutes after the first wind gust.

The third picture on the right shows the quad under tow and the final picture was taken seconds before the quad completely capsized. These are screen-captured shots taken from a video that was taken from the safety boat at the time.

All were rescued and only one was treated for mild hypothermia. The most significant injury occurred when the ambulance driver took off without checking everyone was ready and one person was thrown against the wall of the ambulance causing severe bruising to her back. As with all such incidents it was reported to RNZ, ECAN and MSA and full report was prepared by SIRI.

There are some important lessons coming from this incident and those

R2K/Interpro Regatta

The first weekend in October saw the R2K Regatta. At this time of the year, there is always a high degree of variability in the weather. True to form, this R2K was no exception and there was no rowing on the first day. The second day enable significantly more rowing and everyone got at least one race.
involved with coaching and the rowers themselves need to pay attention. In this case, the boat driver was highly experienced and knowledgeable in the safety requirements and the environment. It was by following the strict procedures that no lives were lost.

The key elements were: the ratio of 1 safety boat per three rowing skiffs, the safety boat was fully equipped with PFD’s, throw lines, safety kit etc. close communication with each of the skiffs was maintained, all in the safety boat wore life jacket’s, cellphone coverage was available and a continual watch on the weather was maintained.

We cannot emphasize enough the need to observe and abide by the safety measures South Island Rowing has in place for the Lake Ruataniwha rowing course.

**School Visit**

We also had the privilege of hosting pupils from Daramalan School in Canberra. It proved to be a very enjoyable for the Rowers, Coach and Staff. The picture on the right shows the school pupils having their evening meal. We understand they enjoyed their visit as much as the staff at Ruataniwha did having them and we look forward to further such visits.
Rowing Managers

We know that every Club/School has a person in charge be it a Manager, Teacher, Captain etc. There has been a lot of miscommunication between SIRI and the various attendees. SIRI needs to know who these people are and their contact details. Could all Clubs and Schools proposing to attend Regattas at Lake Ruataniwha please ensure their contact details are forwarded to the Secretary. Thank you to those who have already responded!

Any contributions, comments or correspondence for this newsletter or website should be forwarded to the Secretary.

(secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz)

South Island Rowing Incorporated
PO Box 291, Twizel 7944
www.ruataniwha.co.nz