



# Meridian South Island Rowing Inc. Newsletter

December 2014



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## Otago Championship Regatta

This regatta was held during the weekend of 13/14th December. The weather was fine and over 950 rowers attended what proved to be a very pleasant weekend of rowing.

The picture on the right shows the weather, the racing and the tents. All important parts of making the Regatta "fun".



## Christmas

At this time of the year many parts of New Zealand virtually shut down while others associated with holiday activities are extremely busy. For many, it is a time for the family and doing the family things together. Many of you will be doing this and we encourage everyone to take the opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed and prepare for the one ahead.

The Board of South Island Rowing Inc. wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

## Cake Raffle

In Twizel there is an appeal for funding for a new Medical Centre to be located adjacent to the Fire Station. As South Island Rowing Inc. does make use of the resources here, it was decided to raffle an iced fruitcake to assist with raising funds.

The picture on the right shows the cake and the winner of the raffle was Lynn McClintock from Dunedin. We understand this will be sampled at one of the rowing end of year functions. Congratulations Lynn!



## Tent Sites

The site allocation can be found on the web site ([www.Ruataniwha.co.nz](http://www.Ruataniwha.co.nz)) which is regularly updated. Any correspondence on the allocation should be directed to [secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz](mailto:secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz). Please do not bring stones to the tent sites as it becomes too difficult to cut the grass.

## Coffee Shop

Adjacent to the Row Shoppe is the Lakeside Coffee Shoppe. This is a recent innovation to the services offered. From the feedback received so far, we understand they make the best coffee in Twizel. Unfortunately they only open at regattas so anyone wanting to sample the coffee should take the opportunity at the next regatta (17/18 January 2015).

## Volunteer Night

It has been decided that there will be a volunteer night with a BBQ tea after the first day of racing at the South Island Championships (31st January 2015). All volunteers are invited and there will be opportunities to listen to the Board tell of the direction SIRI is taking and provide opportunities for questions from the floor in a benign atmosphere.

## Volunteers

Volunteers run SIRI and without them there would be no regattas. Have you noticed that many of the volunteers are in the retired or almost retired category? With the numbers of rowers increasing and the numbers of events increasing we need more volunteers to help at regattas. We are trying to build up a list of volunteers and their skill-sets. We will investigate training volunteers so they can undertake more critical duties. If you are able to assist or know of anyone who is able to assist, please leave the details for the secretary ([secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz](mailto:secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz)).

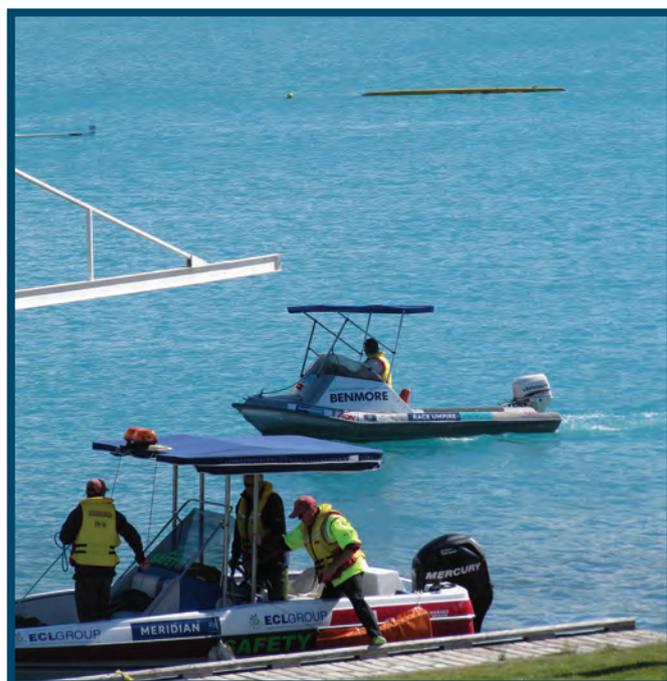
## Motor Replacement

Having recently received funding for four replacement outboard motors we are working with the supplier to get them installed. The first was available for this weekend's regatta where it was used for some 18 hours and was involved with a rescue. On a more significant note, it used half the volume of fuel its predecessor used and is now in for its first service. We are very grateful to the Southern Trust for their assistance with this purchase. As an aside, one of our elderly boat drivers complained that he almost flattened the battery trying to start his boat. It seems the "kill switch" was a new device!!!

## Safety

It was good to see the safety system working well. While there were one or two shore based incidents that required the input from our First Aid team, it was noticeable the number of boats that rolled over.

The picture on the right shows the safety team in action having just retrieved "swimmers" from an upturned skiff in the top of the picture and returned them to the wharf.



## Progression

For some years now the numbers of events in the South Island Club Championship regatta and the South Island Secondary Schools Championship regatta, make it quite impractical to run the regatta over two days. There are a number of ways to minimise this such as making them 3 or 4-day regattas, restricting entries etc. Unfortunately most of these options are no longer available to us. Last year a system of time trials was implemented and while there were various difficulties the overall effect was successful.

This year, now that the technical difficulties have been fixed, it is intended to implement a similar arrangement. This means that every crew will race against the clock to get a time. From this the draw will be completed and the finals raced. The Regatta Committee welcomes any comments or suggestions on this proposal before 17th January. However, any suggestion must fit within the mandate of the Regatta Owners.



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**Any contributions, comments or correspondence  
for this newsletter or website should be forwarded to the Secretary.  
([secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz](mailto:secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz))**

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