Here it is August again. The next regattas are rapidly approaching (mid September) and the seemingly quiet period during winter is almost over. However, those of us who have gone through the winter in Twizel and observed the large amount of work that has been done really appreciate the work of the volunteers.

While there has not been a newsletter over winter there has been a lot of work done. The Board has been very active in undertaking various activities that will secure us a significant improvement in some of our facilities. Unfortunately it is quite premature to make any further comment while some important negotiations are still in progress.

Further on in this newsletter there will be some of the work that by necessity has had to be done. Other work has been required to meet the changing demands of our clients. We are very fortunate that in these rather tough economic times we can still attract helpers to assist with getting the facilities fully operational. I would like to specifically mention Neil Burrow and Colin Giddens for their work on the frost damage and the toilet block respectively.

**Training Camp**

During April there was a training camp held at the lake. The pictures on the right show the crews training during the afternoon.

The really interesting thing about this date (11 April) is that next year the MAADI will finish on the day before this (10 April).

The sunny weather and calm water masks the cool temperatures. Some comments from the participants suggested that as long as you dress to suit the environment the flat water makes it worthwhile. So, for MAADI remember to **bring your thermals!!!**

**Planting**

Before winter, there was some planting work undertaken. The picture on the right shows the Cypress trees along the path between the Row Shoppe and the Car Park Toilets. These trees are said to be most suited to our environment and are a more suitable replacement to the wilding pines that have given so much trouble over the years.

It is intended that more planting will be made during the spring when the weather is more appropriate. So far, we have acquired some cherry trees and some poplar trees.
Lounge Toilets

Many will recall there was a small toilet block that was located in the boat park adjacent to the existing toilets. It was not a suitable location and shifting it was a good suggestion.

You may also remember just how difficult and unpleasant it was to use the toilet facilities under the Control building while attending a function in the MacRae Lounge. It was planned to relocate the toilet block on the end of the Lounge. This is an ongoing project requiring a significant amount of work. There was a major stoppage with the winter weather but things are under way again.

The picture on the right shows the toilet block in place, the roofing between the Lounge and the toilet is complete and half of the replacement colour steel is in place. However there is a lot of work still to be completed. Thanks to those who have assisted...especially Colin Giddens.

Frost Damage

Many will have seen the very low temperatures experienced in the area. Some days this was as low as -21 degrees. While all the facilities were drained where possible, those sort of temperatures mean that damage was almost inevitable. This time, it was the Control Building where a lot of damage occurred and the only solution was to completely replace the pipes. This meant removing the upstairs cladding as well as the wall coverings in the toilets. We are really indebted to Neil Burrow for bringing his expertise into play and repairing the water system completely.

Tent Sites

This time if the year it is time to set up the tent sites. A number have already installed anchors for their tents and naturally they are expected to pay for their sites on an ongoing basis. Invoices have already been sent out and payment is expected before 20 October. If not paid by then, the site will be reallocated to the next applicant. There have been some difficulties with the allocation due to some miscommunication but this has now been corrected. All the details of the tent sites are shown on the web site www.ruataniwha.co.nz and the cost is $300 + GST per site.

Amenity Fee

There have been a number of instances where the facilities are being used extensively. While this is what they are designed for, there are some costs that we need to recover. SIR has to buy potable water, operate the toilet facilities and dispose of the rubbish. Following positive feedback from a number of Clubs, the Board decided that SIR need to recover some cost and to apply group amenity charges as follows:

Up to 20 people; $20 per weekend, $40 for a week
Over 20 people; $40 per weekend, $60 for a week.

There is a safety requirement to sign in at the entrance to the Boat Park and failure to do so could lead to potential legal action from ECAN. Charges will be invoiced from this information.
One thing about this winter was the heavy cover of snow we received.

The pictures here were taken by Trevor Wilson and show the level of snow cover we received. The pic on the right is of the boat harbour with the work barge and the lake and hills in the distance. The top pic is of camera barge out for maintenance, the lower right picture shows the end of the Row Shoppe where the “Meridian” tent usually resides and finally, the lower left picture shows the ice overhang in the Lindstrom Lodge.

This was the biggest snow for many years taking five weeks to fully clear as well as the lowest temperature (-20 degrees).
Working Bees

There were two highly successful working bees held during August. It was fortunate the snow was well cleared and the main task of dealing with the trees that were felled could be accomplished.

It was clear that for the coming MAADI Regatta there would not be enough room in the boat park for all the trailers. Obviously this needed to be addressed.

The removal of trees east of the toilet block will give improved parking and access. The picture right upper was taken from the western end of the boat park showing the toilet block with the light standards now clearly visible.

The picture middle is taken east of the toilet block and shows the back access road and the extensive tree removal accomplished in this area.

The picture (lower) is of the car park toilet area where trees have been removed in anticipation of wastewater works.

An aerial view of the complex can be seen on the MDC website www.maps.mackenzie.govt.nz

Trevor is developing a parking plan and this should see a great improvement in the boat park space utilization and access.

Rowing NZ Tent Site

Many will recall the Rowing NZ Tent site where they have their supporters and members gather. It was not a good site as amongst other things, it restricted views of the lake and it was sloping, which made things uncomfortable. A new site has been agreed upon and is in the process of being established.

The picture on the right shows the location of the new site on the west end of the Control Building. The posts that will hold a small retaining wall show the outline of the front wall location that will allow for a level site.
2015 Annual General Meeting

May saw the first AGM under the new governance structure. On this occasion the Board reported the results of the past years activities and the issues that need to be faced in the future. From the beginning the Board decided to minimise any radical change but to carefully make changes as the need arose. While many of the changes were small they were significant and their full impact will be seen in the coming years.

The dates of the regattas on Lake Ruataniwha were agreed to and the timetable set. There was also reference made to the state of the accounts and the Treasurer was making changes to ensure a more operable and useful reporting system was being put in place. Unfortunately the accounts as presented had not been audited but were approved in that state. Subsequently they were audited and passed with no changes.

This was a time of open and frank discussion and it appeared that those present were satisfied with the results of the year’s activities. Favourable comments were received about the direction the Board was taking SI Rowing and protecting its interests.

Next Regattas

The next regatta is the NZ Masters Regatta on 19-20 September followed by the Interprovincial Regatta/R2K Regatta on 3-4 October.

The Chiefs for the regattas are:

Chief Umpire: Christine Moffat (036881212)
Chief Judge: Gerard Mulvey (021750060) - NZ Masters Only
Chief Starter: Justin Wall

We are looking for Officials so if you can assist, please contact one of the above or Pat McQuinn (0272814096)

Similarly, we need volunteers to assist with work around the complex with related activities including the kitchen. If you can assist, please contact Catherine Wilson (0211721588) or Trevor Wilson (0211341073).

South Island Pocket Calendars

These are being printed and will be available at the Secretary’s Office at the NZ Masters Regatta.
Any contributions, comments or correspondence for this newsletter or website should be forwarded to the Secretary. (secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz)

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