This time during late October until mid December, there are no Regattas on the lake. While there is obviously a lot of training being undertaken there is time for work to be completed on the core regatta facilities. All our facilities require maintenance and there is a hive of industry around the facilities. Some of the activities are shown in this newsletter.

It is also a time when many of our Capital works come to fruition. These works are necessary to ensure we can continue to be a fully operational rowing facility. Safety is the main focus here and there are a number of obligations SIR must meet. This includes our shore facilities that must be kept in a fully operational and safe way as well as the “on water” facilities.

**Training Opportunity**

In general rowing, as a sport is dependant on volunteers who are willing to become licensed Officials to the regattas. It appears that we have virtually missed a generation and find ourselves with only a few Licensed Officials who are able to fulfil all the requirements.

Clearly we need more Licensed Officials and SIR has decided to put on a training course in the theatrette at Lake Ruataniwha at 3:00PM on Saturday 12th December (during the Otago Championships). If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a licensed Official please take up this opportunity as we have Lesley Milne available to go through the details of the pathway etc.

Should you require any further information please contact Gerard Mulvey (email gerardcopm@xtra.co.nz and cell phone 021 750060).

**Shoreline Protective Matting**

While there have been some serious attempts to try and prevent damage to rowing skiffs at the boat launch area and the area behind the dais none have proven to be very successful. This latest attempt is to use plastic matting over the concrete edge and so far, this has proven to be very successful.

The picture on the right was taken during the installation. The matting was sponsored by Mulford Holdings and subsequently installed by them.

One aspect that is a concern is the habit of some coaches who launch and park their coaching boats over the matting. We know this causes damage and so we ask for your cooperation to ensure this does not happen.
The development of this site is progressing slowly. The retaining walls have been constructed and stained. The concrete pads for the tent poles have been completed.

We now await the infilling of the area with gravel excavated for an adjacent site. Eventually the whole site will be grassed.

The picture on the left shows Darrel revitalizing the old flagpoles in readiness for their new location.

The three pairs of white painted channel irons in the front are for the flagpoles.

The picture on the right was taken a few days later from another direction. Here the flag poles can be clearly seen installed and the area behind the wall is now partly filled.

This will continue over the following weeks with fines, soil and grass seed.

One particular aspect of this site that is not immediately obvious from the picture is the view of the course. Following the removal of a few trees, it will be possible to follow a race from start to finish. This makes the site a vast improvement over the one previously used.

Replacement Oven

Several years ago a new oven was purchased for the kitchen. It was a domestic oven and was considered suitable for the purposes envisaged at that time.

However, over the last few years, we have seen the kitchen graduate from a “domestic” to a “commercial” kitchen. The attendant increase in the cooking demands shortened this ones life.

The picture on the left shows Trevor Wilson and Neil Burrow manhandling the new oven into the kitchen.
Building Maintenance

Earlier in the year, the SIR Board entered into a contract with Mulford Holding to undertake maintenance work on the SIR buildings.

The first buildings to have the work were the Lindstrom Lodge and the Accommodation block.

The picture on the right shows the revitalised Lindstrom Lodge. Additional work was completed inside the lodge as well.

The picture on the left shows work on the roof of the accommodation block.

As the surface deterioration was greater than anticipated, a water-blaster was used to remove the flaky paint before re-painting.

The results have been very good and we are indebted to Mulford Holdings for their expertise in finding solutions to this and other building maintenance problems.

SIR Wastewater Project

In a previous newsletter we described the problems SIR was experiencing with its wastewater system. Since that time Consulting Engineers BECA were employed to undertaken an “option” study followed by a preliminary design. These reports were carefully considered by the Board who then agreed to have BECA complete a full design for an upgraded system.

Cost estimates placed the overall project around $1,000,000. The design is all encompassing and meets all the current requirements as well as conforming to the technical requirements of the Local Authority and current best practice. The project has been subsequently staged to meet the operational restrictions and the available funding. The SIR Funding sub-committee has received a grant from NZCT and that has allowed stage one to begin.
The key components here are a 90 cubic metre detention tank for storage, a new pump station and manhole. The first picture on the right shows the arrival of the detention tank. At 13.5 meters long and 3 meters high it is a very large tank physically.

The picture left shows the smaller pump station on the right. The two “pipes” on the left of the picture are the risers that are fitted to the top of the detention tank.

The above items were manufactured by Maskell’s who also arranged their transportation from Auckland to the site. These items exceed all the technical and environmental requirements set by the various authorities and their products are used widely throughout New Zealand. We are grateful for their assistance with this phase of the project. The next phase of the work was to excavate the hole to house these pieces of equipment.

Above is the excavated hole with pea gravel bed.

Concreting in the base of the pump station above.

Above is the pump station being lowered into position

The detention tank above being lowered into position. This was quite a delicate manoeuvre as the alignment is critical for the successful operation.

The picture left shows the backfilling of the excavation. This involved ensuring the tanks etc. were covered with a layer of fine gravel before the bulk backfill was added.
Once installed and commissioned hopefully by mid December, services to the existing pump station will be diverted into the new pump station. The emaciating pump in the new pump-station will pump the wastewater into the existing discharge network. This will complete the work associated with Stage one.

Finally we wish to acknowledge and thank the Whitestone Contracting team who undertook the civil works. Their experience and dedication to the job has allowed timely progress through stage one of the project.

Course Upgrade

While the rate of completion of the work has slowed, progress is continuing. While the major civil works are complete it is now the smaller but more critical tasks that need to be completed.

The new lane wires are being manufactured and only those who do the work understand what a time consuming job this really is. Associated with this is the requirement for additional anchors at various locations along the course to ensure the lane wires are correctly located. They need to be installed.

We also have to make provision for the trolleys at the start. Until they are completed anyone needing to use lanes 9 or 10 will not have a held start. Similarly the anchors for the new lane wires, the lights and speakers, the new sighting boards and the power work at the start all need to be completed before it becomes fully operational.

Some Legislative Changes

There are a couple of significant changes coming up as a result of Government changing the rules. While we are not sure of their implications at this stage, we are assessing them and suggest that you may find it appropriate to do the same.

Health & Safety

There are changes to this Act that comes fully operational this April. We have heard from some businesses there are major costs associated with these changes. While SIR is still investigating the impact of these changes it seems likely they will some impact on how we do things. We suggest you check this out as it may have implications for your Rowers, Coaches and Club as a whole.

Incorporated Societies Act

We recently received notification from the Registrar of Incorporated Societies that there are changes to the Act coming up. MBIE is is at the stage of calling for Public Submissions of the draft Act with all the necessary information available on the MBIE website.
Details can be found at:

You may find it useful to review your constitution and see just how well it aligns with the current Act and consider its implication should the draft Act be enacted.

**New Radios**

As many will know, there have been issues with the hand held radios for a number of years, mainly due to coverage. The last upgrade saw SIR install its own transmitter and although this helped the coverage it did not solve all the problems. The latter regattas clearly showed that we couldn’t effectively meet all our safety obligations with the then current system in place. We always wanted to have a radio repeater on the hill on the other side of the Lake but cost-wise that was really out of reach for SIR. Further it was not really our core business.

In more recent times a local Contractor (G&H Comms) established a radio site on that hilltop to service its customers. From the lake, it is quite visible for all to see. Following some negotiations with G&H Comms and a grant from the Southern Victorian Trust, we have been able to have equipment installed on that radio site to secure us a more effective coverage.

SIR has also purchased some new “digital” hand held radios and so far, we have found them to operate very well during testing. The first live test of this new equipment will be at the Otago Champs.

**Feedback**

We welcome feedback and thank all those who have assisted in this regard. If you have any queries, suggestions or clarification please contact the Secretary.
Any contributions, comments or correspondence for this newsletter or website should be forwarded to the Secretary. (secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz)

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