Christmas time is well past and the New Year started. At the Lake there were a couple of weeks where the waters were so well stirred up they resembled a washing machine. For the two weeks prior to the Meridian Canterbury Championship Regatta there was a working bee and it was really great to see the few who voluntarily gave their time. Their efforts are appreciated.

New Lane Buoys

The new lane buoys have arrived. They require inflating and just like inflating balloons it is quite a tedious task. However it is more complicated in that they have to be inflated to the correct pressure or they will not float uniformly.

The picture on the left shows Cliff Buchanan, Darryl Purton and Dan Stevens progressively working through the inflation of some 2000 buoys.

This month saw the Meridian Canterbury Champs and the Meridian South Island Champs occurring at the very end of the month. In between times progress was made on the many maintenance issues. There were also a number of training camps and it is really great to see the facilities being well utilized.

It is with much sadness we record the passing of a well-known colleague and dedicated supporter of South Island Rowing.

Known by some as “Mission Man”, Mike worked tirelessly over many years to develop and maintain the shore-based facilities for South Island Rowing at Lake Ruataniwha.

He was the Chairman for nine years and Vice-Chairman for a further two years.

During this time there were major changes to South Island Rowing including the purchase of the 26Ha of land we occupy, the setting up of the boat sheds for Twizel and Oamaru Clubs, and the re-organization and expansion of the boat racks in the boat park.

Outside of this time he worked on maintaining the buildings and repairing / replacing boat racks.

Many of the facilities seen at the complex today reflect the efforts of a very special person. We miss him greatly.
One new lane wire was completed and installed on the lake. While attaching the buoys the crew on the work barge was absolutely astounded when a coach drove his coaching boat deliberately along the line of the recently installed new buoys.

In view of the details in last month’s newsletter, we hope his coaching ability considerably exceeds his boat driving skills. Never-the-less, the coach concerned will be rewarded with an invoice for the replacement cost of the buoy.

New Year Working Bee

The working bee allowed a lot of work to be completed prior to the Canterbury Champs. One such task was completing the toilets on the MacRae Lounge. The picture on the right shows Colin Giddens attaching the flashing on the roof.

The grasses have been planted on the detention tank as shown in the picture below. Extra watering will certainly benefit the growth here.

The RNZ tent site has also been well advanced with grass seed being planted. The regular watering now sees a distinctly green tinge showing.

Car Show

During the working bee there was a car show on the premises. While this year the show had fewer older cars there were some interesting models on display. The weather was certainly very good as can be seen in the picture on the right.

One rather interesting exhibit was the Segway machinery. Rides were available and a number of people took up the offer. Some have commented they are quite different in how they respond to the driver. However the young lady in the picture on the right shows that this is not restricted to the older people.
Boat Racks

Although it has taken a long time, seven pair of boat racks have been manufactured and installed.

The picture on the right shows their location and is mainly aimed at singles, pairs and doubles. They are “temporary” boat racks but they need a flat base to sit and hence the concrete. There are high winds occasionally and consequently they are bolted down. However, they can be removed.

Thanks to Allan’s Sheet Metal in Dunedin for their work on this project.

Meridian Canterbury Championship Regatta

For the first time in some years this regatta was completed with all races being completed. The weather, although overcast was pleasant especially with little wind.

The picture on the right shows the situation at the start where the individual’s skills at backing their boat into the starting blocks was not really tested.

Camera Coverage

Recently some of our supporters have been experimenting with digital cameras with a view to have the start visible on a TV monitor in the MacRae Lounge. This capability is still in its infancy for us but the initial views are quite impressive.

The picture on the right was taken in the MacRae Lounge during the Canterbury Champs and clearly shows the start. We have been experimenting with two cameras; one on the hill opposite the finish and the other adjacent to the aligners hut. While the one from the hilltop is impressive, the one adjacent to the aligners hut seemed to find the most favour.

It is hoped that when this is perfected, we will be able to display this start action at several locations outside the Hall.
Tent Sites

There have been a number of enquiries about tent sites. The details of the allocation and cost etc. are on the SIR web site (www.ruataniwaha.co.nz).

The allocation is annually and since the NZSS Regatta extends for about half the number of rowing days there is no fee reduction for the regatta.

Meridian South Island Championships

This was a really great Regatta with all races being run and the medals and trophies presented. The weather continued to be kind and as can be seen in the picture on the right the whole atmosphere was very enjoyable.

Unfortunately morning fog presented a little over a two-hour delay on Sunday. However, the calmness of the water meant that by late afternoon, the whole programme was completed.

Through the work of the dedicated course team the eight lanes had all the buoys installed. The course really did look good. The next challenge is to get the next two lanes (9&10) fully operational.

SI Rowing Championship Trophies

There are eight trophies for certain events at the SICC Regatta. Here are five of the winners of these.
Pictures from the Meridian SI Champs Regatta
Looking to MAADI

The NZSS Regatta will be late this year and that means cooler temperatures and shorter days. It is recommended that rowers who have never used thermals have some practice, as they will be needed. It will also mean that timing will be important so crews need to be able to back quickly into the start.

Although we expect to have a fully operational 10-lane course, and this was intimated to the NZSSRA at the AGM in 2014, it appears to be premature for the NZSSRA. So it will be run over 8-lanes with the inevitable impact on the numbers and time it takes to run through the heats and repechages.

More information will be covered in the next newsletter in early March.

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

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