It is now the end of October and the first three regattas have been completed. Apart from some relatively minor glitches, most of the systems seemed to work satisfactorily. The R2K and the Inter-provincial Regattas were both completed and seemed to be enjoyed by all. Similarly, the Aoraki 1000 regatta also went off well although an early finish on Sunday was caused by the wind.

The picture above shows the lake on 21st October. This was just after the southerly went through and left a dusting of snow on the hills. For those not so familiar with the area, the picture is looking in a westerly direction. The bins with the green lids are the new style of rubbish containers. These are bigger and much heavier than those previously used and hopefully will not be blown over by the wind. The gravel pad on the left is for a coffee vendor and the concrete pads on the right are the permanent pads for tent sites.

Regatta Setup

Getting ready for the first regatta of the season is quite a task and it does take some hours to make sure everything is working in readiness for the regatta. Over the winter period there has been some additions to the operational equipment all intended to make for a smooth-running regatta.

Trevor Wilson spent some time getting the course ready for the event. The partly completed work in the boat park meant that the rowers had to work around the piles of soil. Karl Morgan worked on the computer system and ensured it was working to his satisfaction prior to the regatta.
The picture on the right shows the Control layout where the screen is set up to give visibility of the 2000m start and 1000m position. The picture below is in the MacRae lounge where the same screen view is available. This is one action that is being tested before making it a permanent feature. The screen is split into four quadrants that gives views in real time of the Start from the start tower, the actual start from the side of the course, the view of the boats heading towards the 1000 metre mark and the view across the last at the 1000 metre mark. The trial so far seems to be working very well.

Concept 2 R2K Regatta

This is a singles regatta that is aimed at encouraging school age people sculling and is an opportunity for those involved with winter training to see where they are at. As can be seen in the picture below, this year was one of the better day’s weather-wise and the whole event went off smoothly.

It was encouraging to see more than 120 scullers with the results shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Prize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 19</td>
<td>Riley Bruce</td>
<td>Juliette Alm-Lequeux</td>
<td>Set of Sculls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 17</td>
<td>Harrison Davies</td>
<td>Veronica Wall</td>
<td>Clothing Voucher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 16</td>
<td>Alex Cartwright</td>
<td>Phoebe Trolove</td>
<td>Clothing Voucher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>Mitch Thompson</td>
<td>Shakira Mirfin</td>
<td>Clothing Voucher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Class</td>
<td>Thomas Elder</td>
<td>Haruna Sakakibara</td>
<td>Tankard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We wish to thank Concept 2 for their continued sponsorship of this Regatta.
Mainland Interprovincial Regatta

This regatta continued on from the R2K Regatta and made the most of the weather. The regatta consisted of 18 races with provincial representation available for all. The picture on the right shows the calm conditions experienced on the Saturday and even the ducks seemed to be part of the spectacle.

This was one of the closest races. Points were allocated and the winner being the Province with the most accumulated points. In this instance, the Otago Association accumulated the most and were the clear winners.

The Ruataniwha Winemakers trophy was previously awarded for a similar event but that was last competed for in 1991. It was decided that this trophy should be awarded for this Regatta as it meets the original intended criteria. It is currently being updated to reflect this change.

Retirement – Neil Burrow

Neil is a Life Member and more recently a Board Member of South Island Rowing. He is one of the very few left of those volunteers involved with the original setup of the lake and its facilities. Since that time, he has had an active role in the development of the facilities as well as assisting with regattas. He has been the Boat Marshall for most regattas for the last ten years.

He has decided that it is time to retire and we are very grateful for his services to the sport and to South Island Rowing. We thank Neil and wife Jeanette most sincerely for their volunteer work over the years.

Neil’s last regatta will be the Otago Championships in early December therefore it is time to pass the Boat Marshal activities onto another volunteer. For someone wanting to step into this role, this would be an opportune time for some training. Please contact Neil before the regatta if you are interested.
Daramalan College

Daramalan College is based in Canberra and two years ago a rowing squad visited Lake Ruataniwha where they stayed for a few days and experienced some of the best rowing facilities in New Zealand.

Recently, another squad came back for a visit. This included training sessions on the lake as well as taking part in the recent regattas. The picture on the right shows one of their training sessions on the lake.

The other two pictures show snack time in the MacRae Lounge. We thank them for their visit and trust they enjoyed their time here. Hopefully this will encourage another return trip and instigate other Australian Schools to take up the opportunity.

Course Upgrade Project

This project started over 12 months ago and it should have been completed by now. Unfortunately, things just have not gone the way we expected. The main delay is getting the pontoons into the lake correctly and this requires the lake level to be lowered. While Meridian have assisted with some lowering of the level within their operating limits, we actually require it to be much lower than that. So, a resource consent is required and the associated timing must meet the operating conditions prevailing at the time. This inevitably takes time and could mean that lanes 9 and 10 will not have a “held” start this season.

SIR Wastewater Project

This project is nearing completion and the deadline for this is the end of November. At the time of writing this appears to be achievable providing there are no further holdups.

The picture right shows the trench along Ostler Road where the gravity pipe was being installed. The correct alignment was achieved using a laser along the middle of the pipe from the first manhole.

The second picture on the next page is the manhole at the corner of Max Smith Drive and Ostler Road. It is at this location that the pressure main discharges into the gravity line.
Although there is only a month before the needed completion, everything looks to be on target for the present.

Launch Area Development

As previously mentioned, SIR has been the recipient of a lot of soil and we are very grateful for this. However, spreading the soil and planting it out requires more manpower than we have available. The last newsletter showed a picture of the piles of soil. Since then it was found that even more was needed.

The top picture shows Gerry Bradley starting to spread the soil using the grader. This initial work translated into a first spread. The picture on the right shows the position at the time of the R2K regatta. The magnitude of this work can be understood from this picture, taken from outside the Twizel shed.

However, the rain during that time has meant some delays. But there was a few days before Labour Weekend when the next run of spreading was completed and the soil was compacted into place by running over it with a “tracked” machine (20 tonne digger).
The picture right, taken from the lookout adjacent to the accommodation buildings shows the effect of having this completed for the initial spread.

Aaron McNoe, loves driving the grader and he seems to be very good at it. He decided to help us out by continuing the spreading and levelling of the soil over Labour weekend.

The picture on the right shows his efforts during the Saturday of Labour weekend. It clearly shows how the surface transitions easily from being flat under the boat racks to become a gentle smooth slope.

The lower picture shows the grading finished. It is expected that the whole area will have grass coming through before the next regatta in December.

Boat Park Entrance

Although there has been the kiosk at the entry to the boat park for attendees to record their presence and there has been some notices on the toilets about etiquette it seems that many have not read or understood what was required here. After the previous attempt, a sign has been erected at the entrance to the boat park to try and alleviate this problem.

The sign above has been erected next to the record kiosk and both are adjacent to the gate. It is hoped that everyone entering here from training will be able to complete their registration and read the standard etiquette required in this area. Please note that since this is on private land this is a necessary compliance requirement.
Volunteers

We take the opportunity to thank all those who indicated their availability to assist at regattas. While it is very encouraging to observe some new faces coming on board, we would still like to hear from Licensed Officials on their availability for the forthcoming regatta season. It would be appreciated if you could let the Secretary know which will greatly help with our forward planning.

Navigation Safety Bylaw 2016

ECAN has just released its latest iteration of the Navigation Safety Bylaw document. It is recommended that everyone using a boat on a Canterbury lake and Lake Ruataniwha in particular read and note the changes to the Bylaw. While rowing tends to follow the Rowing NZ Safety Code (just released) and MSA 91, the new bylaw does impact on motor boats and Coaches in particular should check this out.
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