



Meridian South Island Rowing Inc. Newsletter



December 2016

With the end of year looming it is time to reflect on the last twelve months. For rowing it marks the end of another year with a mix of successes and failures. For South Island Rowing (SIR) it marks the end of a very active year. First, we have had a very successful year of regattas with most being completed successfully. The picture on the right was taken on 30th November at a time when the lake was quite low. Unfortunately, the recent weather was not always this cooperative.

However, behind the scenes a lot of work has happened to ensure that the course was fully available for every occasion and we thank Trevor Wilson for his untiring efforts here. There is also a lot of work done to ensure that the timing system and the video links are both in place and continue to operate during the regattas.



Another area that is often forgotten about are the ancillary services that support the regattas. This includes the Boat Park, Boat wash, First Aid, Food services, Accommodation, Safety services, Toilet facilities, rubbish collection and disposal etc. The workload with these aspects is ever increasing. We thank everyone who has given their time to assist with this work.

The coming end of year season will mean that for many it is a time to spend with their family. The Board of South Island Rowing want to thank everyone who been involved during the past year. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable time during the festive season and look forward to sharing the coming year with you.

Otago Championship Regatta

Being the last major regatta before Christmas this was billed as being one of the biggest. The entries were up and we all hoped for a good regatta. Unfortunately, the Regatta was effectively blown out. Being an outside sport, rowing is always subject to the elements. But this was an opportune time to check out some of the systems and identify any needed improvements

A function was held for Neil and Jeanette Burrow to recognise their contribution to SIR. The picture on the right shows some in attendance lining up for tea.

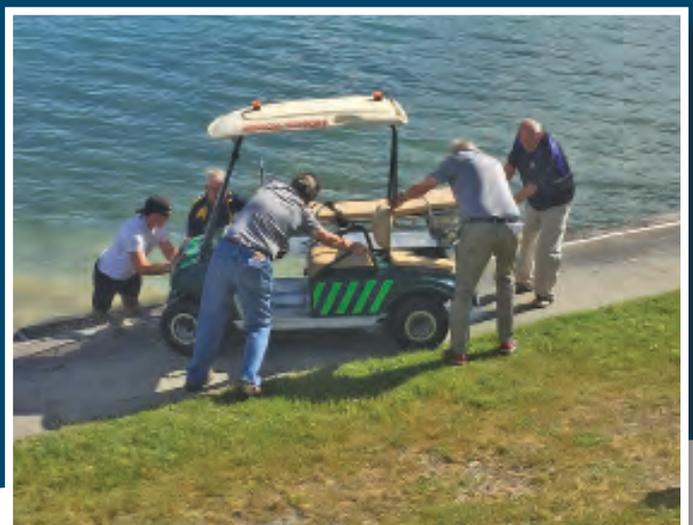


The picture below left shows Neil holding the gift presented – a picture of the area in winter time. The picture on the right shows Jeanette and Neil cutting the cake, and looking on the SIR Board Chairman, Ivan Sutherland and Trevor Wilson looking on.



Oops

Occasionally, there is an event that causes us to reflect on the implications should it happened at a different time. In this case, it was around 5:15PM when someone noticed the medical transporter was moving rapidly towards the lake with no driver. Although there are a few theories on how it happened no one knows. However, thanks to the efforts of a few it was rescued and then left for nature to complete the drying out.



Maintenance

There is one area that is always with us and this is maintenance. Deterioration is a fact of life and everything is subject to this to varying degrees. When coupled with damage as well as wear and tear, there requires an ever-increasing effort and cost to keep everything operational. It is now a reality that there are only limited areas where volunteers can work and that means an increasing use of contractors and hence an ever-increasing cost.

In recent times, it has been necessary to make sure that any work undertaken has a minimum of maintenance. More importantly, the new assets need to be maintainable with a minimum of specialist equipment or personnel. In this current climate, maintenance minimisation is not easily achievable.

However, we need to know if any of this equipment is not working properly. Please report any such issues promptly to the Secretary's Office.

Course Upgrade Project

It is two years since the inception of this project and the completion of this project is in delay at the moment while some means of installing the pontoons at the start is devised. Currently with the lake at the lowest allowable operating level there is still some 800mm of water covering the lake bed.

So, there are two options available; have Meridian close down three power stations for a day so we can complete the work or we devise some way of installing and levelling the pontoons under 800mm of water.

Of course, it goes without saying that either option will require consents and most likely considerable expense. If anyone has some ideas of how to make this happen, please contact the Secretary (secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz).

While the lake was low the opportunity was taken to examine the shoreline where there has been significant erosion. It is hard to believe that the shoreline could change so much as a result of weather events, high flows etc.

While the lake was at a lower than normal level, the picture on the right was taken. It clearly shows a large number of rocks which are not normally seen. These rocks lurk just under the surface when the lake is at its normal operating level thereby presenting a serious hazard to rowing skiffs going down to the start.

Many of the rocks have been put there by those occupying the tent sites and it seems to be easier to take them to the lake rather than put them back to where they were taken. It is clear that we will have to undertake more erosion control work in the near future. But it would be helpful if you did not move the rocks as this is an additional cost the we can do without.



Wastewater Project

The last couple of months have been rather frustrating. Although the bulk of the installation work was complete, the commissioning and correction of the odd issue took much longer than expected. By the end of November all the pipes were installed, tested and found to meet specification.

The picture (right) shows the pressure gauges being used to test the pressure main and with over 120 welded joints, they did need to have this level of testing. The tests were successful.

The picture (far right) shows the manhole at the corner of Ostler Rd and Max Smith Drive full of water. Being a gravity main from here means that the pipes did not require the same pressures. Again, this was successful.

The system is currently under trial and it is expected that the system will be fully commissioned before the Christmas break. The activities left to complete will have no direct impact on the overall operation. However, the complexity of the recent work regarding the pump operation and the associated SCADA network implementation should not be underestimated. We continue to test out the system to ensure it will meet all our ongoing requirements.



Boat Launch Area

This area has progressively become finished. The grass seed was “drilled” in and the recent wet weather and some irrigation has meant that there has been some grass growth. It appears that some areas have been missed and the trampling sustained during recent regattas and training camps has meant there will need to be a further sowing of seed. The picture on the right shows the general layout and the way the grass seed has taken. However, more seed and suitable weather conditions will improve the wear and tear on the feet!

While looking at the launch area in the picture above, it is possible to just make out the start of the new numbers hut. The picture on the right shows the new numbers hut under construction. It should provide a much easier and smoother operation for the issuing and receiving of numbers. Hopefully this will be available for the National Championships in February.



Health & Safety

There have been changes to the Health and Safety legislation and this has necessitated a number of changes within SIR. Many of these have been detailed in recent newsletters but it seems they are being ignored by a few. Some of these changes are included below and we ask you to consider their impact on the way you act.

SRMP

The SIR Safety and Risk Management Plan is being revised. It will include details of the land based hazards and also the extent of the required documentation. This will be a significant departure from what we have enjoyed before. But the reality is that we are now required to have a lot of documentation and all people visiting and using the facilities should understand they need to complete this.

Facility Use

Previous newsletters have shown the “Etiquette” board that details the responsibilities when entering the boat park. Further, a template was emailed to all clubs and schools asking them to complete this and email it back to the Manager, prior to coming to save time on site.

The requirement of knowing who is using the course and the shore-based facilities is essential and we ask again that everyone conform to this instruction.

Dogs

It appears we have some visually challenged dog owners in our midst as there is signage indicating that dogs on the premises must be on a leash. We have received complaints from angry parents whose children have been terrorised by wandering dogs. While we try to do our best for everyone, we will have to take some precipitate action if this continues.

Water

We have been told that no one should drink the lake water. SIR uses the lake water of irrigation and washing. Potable water is available from marked taps. Please make sure you fill your water bottle from the appropriately marked tap.

Hygiene

We have received complaints from visitors to our premises that they have found themselves standing on dog faeces. One complainant mentioned his toddler stepping in this on the grass area in from of the dais where many people sit on the ground. If you own a dog you are expected to be a responsible dog owner and pick up any mess your dog makes. If this is too difficult we suggest you leave your dog off site.

Building Maintenance

This year the garages and the control building are up for some maintenance. This includes repairs the installation of replacement spouting and a paint job. The top picture shows the garages and associated out building that have been completed.

The lower picture shows the Control building so far completed. For some parts of the building this is the first change for many years and there is still some building work to be completed.

The lower section of the building has yet to be painted. This will mark a significant change to the look of the building.

It is notable that the Contractor now has to use a “Cherry Picker” while undertaking this work. This added complication adds cost to the overall job. Our thanks go to Mulford holding for their work on these buildings.



Fencing

It appears that a number of people have a difficulty in avoiding the power cabinet and the associated transformer. All the power to the complex including the wastewater system comes through this cabinet and it is capable of delivering a lot of energy. In view of the potential hazard a surrounding fence is to be built.

The picture on the right shows the partly completed fence. In the background is the aerial that is used to transmit the operating data for the wastewater system.



Volunteers

Thanks to all those who have volunteered to assist with running the regattas. The Board of SIR has a sub-committee investigating training for those who want to be boat drivers and licensed officials. We are also investigating ways of using technology to further assist with some activities.



Wishing you all a safe and
Happy Holiday Season!





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

South Island Rowing Incorporated
 PO Box 291, Twizel 7944
 www.ruataniwha.co.nz