

Ruataniwha Update August 2023

With the worst of winter has past the second work weekend for the off season took place on the 26 and 27 of August with a band of 18 hardy volunteers looking to carry on some of the work started earlier in the year.



Since the May work weekend Solar Panels have been installed on a number of the buildings. This project was jointly funded with Meridian Energy and will mean that we will generate about the same amount of electricity that we use during a year. We will still require energy from the grid during peak usage but we will sell to the grid when the facility is not being used.

The process of removing wilding pines from the precinct is on-going and the continued to remove undergrowth from under and round the more established trees to provide shade and parking at the back of the trailer park.

The area shown on the left is unrecognisable from the dense wall of young saplings that were previously growing on the back side of the road behind the toilet block.



In the near future this will be levelled along with the bund along the back. Once covered with top soil and grass sown, this will provide more room for trailers and better access to the parking area behind



The shot to the left similarly is the area further east towards the compound. It is hoped this will be as well utilised as the areas further west were last season, once the undergrowth was removed.

Over the winter local contractors have been dumping fill in the low area in the trailer park.





Thanks to the generosity of a number of individuals, clubs and schools the first of 30 trees were planted in the boat park. Twelve upright English Oaks were planted last weekend and between each oak a Chinese Elm will be planted along with more oaks at the next work weekend in November.

The picture shows the line of trees along the road side with the trees placed at the end of every second line of racks. The same will be planted on the lake side of the boat park and in time will provide good shade for rowers and coaches alike.

The small excavator was a welcome aid, the holes would have been an impossible task by hand.

During the tree removal some racks were removed or damaged and during the weekend refurbished racks were erected.

These are the cross members of the old racks with some modifications, there are now 4 tiers on the small boat racks, 1x's and 2x's, to increase the capacity of the boat park. While the small boat cross arms can be a little closer



allowing a 4 tier racks, this will not be possible for the big boats. In addition each cross arm has a cleat welded on the end to stop boats and ties slipping off in the wind.

Eventually most of the racks will be re-sited with each type of rack distributed evenly across the boat park to allow clubs and schools to rack their boats in one area. We are awaiting the outcome of a funding application that, if successful will see and additional 40 racks erected. After the tree removal areas of the boat park look as though racks have been removed, but in fact the current capacity is only just below what it was, the gaps are where the trees were.

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Help Wanted

Volunteers to assist in the Lakeside Shop

If you would be interested in serving in the shop, let us know.

Anything considered from running the shop to just helping out for a few hours

Contact the John if you can help