

Ruataniwha Update August 2024

The major regattas for the year may have finished but this winter has seen progress on a number of projects at the facility. Our volunteers have been busy undertaking two working B's, one in May and one in August. The August weekend attracted 30 individuals who achieved significant progress over the 3 days. The regions were well represented with groups travelling from as far north as Nelson and Blenheim plus others coming from Cromwell and Timaru.



Spectator Tent Bund: Following the end of the season local contractors Tri-Corp removed the line of trees that were growing through or close the bund that runs along behind the tent sites. Soon after GSL, a company owned by one the North Island Umpires, Bevan Jones, came in to reform the bund, extend the second tier tent sites



The Bund at the western end of the Spectator tent area



Looking from the east end back towards the finish, the extended 2nd tier of the tent sites can be seen

at eastern end of the property, form a road along the front of the bund and spread top soil and mulch ready for planting. In all this was accomplished over a week with labour costs provided free of charge. The photos above show the progress achieved by GSL in May.



During the most recent working B our volunteers planted 600 native plants and 16 trees which is stage 1 of the planting. We are grateful to Meridian Energy for a grant towards the purchase of the natives and to our supporters who have donated the larger trees. Those wishing to support the project can find further information of the South Island Rowing Website.

The pictures show our volunteers hard at work and a completed section.



1000m Start Hut: This project is almost complete thank you to Philip Bell who has worked through outstanding items. One major issue is the need to upgrade of power cable to increase capacity, at present supply doesn't allow the use of a heater to keep the starter warm on cold mornings or snow events such as we had for the Interprovincial Regatta last year.

McRae Lounge: Roger Norman continues to upgrade the memorabilia on display in this area. Roger would remind clubs and associations that he is still waiting for pictures and citations on a number of important individuals who have contributed to the development of the course over the years. A recently installed section with Ministry of Works Plans of the course infrastructure is proving a popular attraction.

Boat Park Project: The August working B saw the installation of the last of the 70 new uprights that have been purchased to increase the storage capacity of the boat park. In April the final trees at the east end of the park were removed and at the May working B the bund was removed and the last of the 40 shade trees that were donated by generous individuals, schools, clubs, and Associations were planted. Additionally the plaques that record the donor's details were installed last weekend.



Donated Shade Trees at the East End of the boat park



The last of the new 2x/1x Racks installed in the foreground

Container Storage: Since the establishment of the container storage at the west end of the boat park, South Island Rowing have seen a steady uptake of this option to the extent that all existing 40" containers are currently leased.



1 Container Footing and tree clearance completed

Recently requests for the siting of more containers have been received. SIRI have agreed to clear the site and establish the foundations for 20" containers backing onto the existing 40" containers. So far three groups have agreed to bring containers to site, secure and paint them in the prescribed Karaka green. Groups will have free use of the container for six seasons when ownership will transfer to SIRI and an annual lease will be paid.

Recently the site was cleared and a team lead by Terry Bourke laid the foundations. The picture below shows the completed foundation.



Donor Plaques in place



Old Anchor in place on the lake bead

Finish Line Lane Wire Anchors: SIR have been aware that the original anchor plates attached the concrete groyne beyond the finish line had reached the end of their life. These steel angle brackets were installed over 40 years ago prior to the lake being filled, so they have done well. In addition the steel wire tethers that are fixed at one end to the anchor and the other end to the lane wire had begun to fail, one just prior to Maadi and one about three weeks ago.

Owing to specialist nature of this work, drilling holes in the concrete under 3m of water and bolting the new plates down, we had to call in the professionals.

During the August Working B, New Zealand Dive and Salvage, who were undertaking working on the Tekapo Canal, were contracted to replace the eight original lane anchors. The new angle brackets are Marine Grade Stainless as are the bolts, nuts, shackles and swivels. The hope is that they shouldn't need replacement for another 60 years. In addition the remaining steel tethers that had not yet failed were replaced.



Initial concerns by the dive team that the concrete may have deteriorated over the years and therefore not provide a stable fixing point were answered early in the process when only 6 holes were drilled on the first morning due to the hardness of the concrete. The Ministry of Works built things to last.

There is still work to be done on the anchors of lane wires 9, 10 and 11. These anchors are large objects that were dropped from the bottom of the barge to allow lanes 9 and 10 to be established. Unfortunately, it appears that they have been dragged due to tension of the lane wires and may have to be replaced.

New Sheds: Work has begun on new storage sheds at the west end of the boat park. The sheds which will be occupied by Otago University, Rangi Ruri Girls' School and Christ College are fully funded by their supporters. The picture shows the foundation set out and with the structural steel on site it won't take long to take shape.



New Shed Foundations

SIRI has negotiated an annual lease fee plus an amenities fee. The board is of the opinion that developments of this type enhance the facility and provide income to offset costs which in turn will limit future increases in fees.



New Tandem Trailer: We have been fortunate to gain funding from Trust Aoraki for the purchase of a tandem trailer to support the facility. It has already come in handy during the latest Working B.

Other Projects:

- **Lindstrom Lodge:** The single beds in the lodge have been replaced with bunks to increase capacity for camps. It is not envisaged that our volunteers will share a room, the extra bed is for camps only. In turn the single beds will replace the double beds in the McClelland Lodge, this will also make the rooms in that accommodation more flexible.
- **Spot Saul Room Upgrade:** Design work has been undertaken to upgrade the Spot Saul kitchen and social area. New kitchen joinery, appliances plus a log burner and heat pump are to be installed. Currently funding for the project is being sourced. It is envisaged that once upgraded the room will provide facilities for smaller groups wishing to hold training camps. One group utilising the Lindstrom Lodge plus the Spot Saul room and the other using the McClelland Lodge and the main kitchen.
- **Power Upgrade:** Currently the power to all major buildings on site comes through the main power room in the Regatta Control building. Over time, as further buildings have been established, the ability to provide sufficient capacity has become limited. In September a new cable will be run from the transformer to a new sub-main in the safety boat shed and then supply to the accommodation blocks and Spot Saul room will be re-routed from there. This will provide better balance to the supply and increase capacity to the buildings which will enable the Spot Saul upgrade and possible improvements in the McClelland Lodge.

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