

Ruataniwha Update November 2024

The 2024-25 Season is well underway with the South Island Interprovincial Champs, the R2k Singles Regatta and the Aoraki 1000 already behind us and the Otago Championships on the horizon. Those of you who attended these regattas will have seen first-hand the improvements that have been carried out, but then again some are not so obvious.



Open trench looking east across the road leading to the Lake Front

In the August Update we reported on the replacement of the anchor points at the finish line and the imminent power upgrade work, all three of the projects are hidden underground or water but are key to ensuring infrastructure is maintained.

In early September a small group of volunteers led by our local electrician Scott Aronson, established a new sub-main in the rescue boat shed to address load issues. A cable was laid from the transformer to the shed and then new supply cables were then laid to the Lindstrom and McClelland Lodges. These buildings were previously fed from the workshop and the supply often neared capacity meaning that no additional load could be added.



Cable laid in the trench between the cottage and Umpire Boat Storage Shed

At the October Working B, volunteers, again led by Scott replaced the cable to the 1000m start hut, to increase supply. This will allow the starter to boil and jug and even run a heater on cold mornings such as the 2023 Interprovincial Regatta when it snowed.



Early Photo showing the old kitchen removed and new units ready for installation

Spot Saul Room Upgrade:

Work is well underway on the upgrade of the Spot Saul Room, a project that was enabled by the power upgrade. A new kitchen is being installed which includes new appliances. This area will be available to volunteers and small training groups which will free up the main kitchen for larger groups.

Heating will also be installed round a Smart TV and casual seating. The project was funded by the Aotearoa Gaming Trust and thanks to some volunteer labour, there will minimal financial input from SIR.

Native Plantings:

In recent weeks a large amount of native planting has occurred at the complex. This is the result of the Environment Canterbury Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee project not going ahead and our contact on the committee, Scott Aronson, proposing that the plants, that had already been purchased could be utilised by SI Rowing. The planting was carried out by the original contractor and the only stipulation by the council was that plantings should be mostly visible from the lake. While this will mean additional resources will be needed to ensure the plants are watered, the cost of maintaining the planting is far less than the cost of the plants and an offer too good to be passed up.



West End of Boat Park in front of Twizel and Oamaru Sheds



Main Entrance to the West of the Public Carpark

Thanks must go to Environment Canterbury Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee, Scott for his advocacy on our behalf and Sophie Strachan who has overseen the areas for planting and liaised with council.



Bank Adjacent to Wharf

New Sheds:

Work is almost complete on the new boat sheds at the Western End of the boat park. These sheds that will be occupied by Christ College, Otago University and Rangi Ruri Girl's School have been financed by a sponsor and an annual ground rental will be charged by SIRI.

The sheds are for boat and equipment storage only and may not be used for accommodation.



Volunteers Always Needed!!!

Organisations such as South Island Rowing cannot exist without a large volunteer work force, this can range from 60 at smaller events, to close to 100 at national events such as Maadi and NZ Champs.

If you can spare a few hours on a Friday afternoon from 3pm to 6 pm before the regatta or during the regatta, we would be very grateful.

Other Projects:

- **Weather Station:**

Thanks to funding from Orion and the assistance of a member of the Timaru Boy's High School Parent group, we have a weather station at the course. Once fully operational it will be accessible by Wi-Fi and will give real time weather data at the course. South Island Rowing are very grateful to Orion for their support.

- **Safety and Umpire Boat Replacement:**

We are currently investigating replacements for our safety and Umpire Boats. While is part of our normal equipment replacement cycle, due to concerns relating to wake generated by the current fleet, we are looking at alternatives. This work is being done in consultation with Karapiro Rowing who are also looking to upgrade their boats. It is hoped that a prototype will be ready for next season so we can assess performance.

- **Shower Upgrade in Lindstrom Lodge**

The wet floor has been replaced in the showers in the Lindstrom Lodge and at the same time a lighting upgrade was done.

- **Boat Park Lighting**

The large sodium lights in the boat park will soon be replaced with more energy efficient LED Floods, at the same time additional lighting will be installed at the western end now that the boat park has been expanded in that area.

- **Irrigation Upgrade Project**

The member associations have Okayed the expenditure for stage one of an upgrade of the irrigation system. This will improve coverage in existing areas and extend to the boat park, tent site and concert area. Work is scheduled to start after Easter 2025.

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