



Meridian South Island Rowing Inc. Newsletter



May 2017

It is now the beginning of June – the Annual General Meeting is over and the weather has suddenly changed into winter.

As with last year the outside activity around the complex diminishes rapidly with the water being drained from most areas to minimise frost damage. So for the June, July, August period the complex is effectively closed.

Behind the scenes though, there is quite a lot of activity required to set up things for the next season.

The picture on the right shows the start and the changed colours and general environment depict the advance of winter.



Annual General Meeting

The meeting was held on 13th May in the MacRae Lounge. The traditional format was used and the number in attendance was about the same as in previous years. It was encouraging to see a real interest by those present and there were some good discussions. The picture on the right shows some of the attendees.



Elections

One of the key actions was the election of officers. This resulted in Mr D Borgfeldt being elected as Patron, Mr D Purton, Mr D Steven and Mr J Wylie being elected as Life Members and Mr D Morris-Bamber and Mrs M Palmer being elected as Associates. Their individual citations were read out and their election was received with acclamation.

MOU

Many did not realise that SIR has to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Rowing NZ regarding each of the major regattas it hosts. This gives the full financial responsibility for the regatta on the Host while directly limiting the revenue streams available to the host. This in turn directly influences the level of entry fees. The alternative is to not host these regattas. The meeting decided that SIR is not to run these regattas at a loss.

Regatta Duration

There was a discussion on the length of the South Island Regattas (SICC & SISS regattas). It was noted that although the NICC and NISS regattas are held over three days there would be some difficulties trying to do the same for the SICC and SISS regattas for the coming season. It was decided that for the coming season, they would remain two day regattas and that all 10 lanes would be used. There would be a limitation of three races for each athlete but, this could be increased to four if one of those races was a second or a composite eight. In the meantime, SIR will work towards enabling the three-day regatta duration.

Regatta Timetable

The regatta timetable for the coming season was discussed and agreed upon:

Date	Year	Host	Event
Sept 16-17	2017	SIR	NZ Masters Championships
Sep 30-Oct 1	2017	SIR	NZ Kayak Championships
Oct 7-8	2017	SIR	Interprovincial / R2K
Oct 28-29	2017	Timaru RC	Aoraki 1000
Dec 9-10	2017	Otago RA	Meridian Otago Championships
Jan 13-14	2018	Canterbury RA	Meridian Canterbury Championships
Jan 28-28	2018	SIR	Meridian SI Championships
Mar 3-4	2018	SIR	Meridian SI Secondary School Championships
Mar 19-25	2018	SIR	AON Maadi

There was also a request for some indication as to the regatta dates for the 2018/19 season. Unfortunately, the dates here can **only be tentative** as there are many factors that can influence the dates. However, **a tentative list** of dates would look like this:

Date	Year	Host	Event
Oct 6-7	2018	SIR	Interprovincial / R2K
Oct 27-28	2018	Timaru RC	Aoraki 1000
Dec 8-9	2018	Otago RA	Meridian Otago Championships
Jan 12-13	2019	Canterbury RA	Meridian Canterbury Championships
Jan 25-27	2018	SIR	Meridian SI Championships
Feb 19-23	2019	SIR	National Championships
Mar 8-10	2019	SIR	Meridian SI Secondary School Championships

Please note that most of these dates are tentative and not in any way binding.

Course Expansion

Following a suggestion from ECAN, a scheme evolved that would allow the installation of the base and rails for the start trolleys in lanes 9 and 10. This involved the use of a coffer dam to hold the water back while that inside the dam was pumped out. Fortunately, Meridian lowered the lake to its minimum operating level and that reduced the amount of water that needed to be pumped out. The picture on the right shows the divers assembling the coffer dam.



The picture on the right shows the effect of the dam. One of the pumps and the associated hoses can be clearly seen.

The picture below shows the dam slowly filling in once the rails were in place. The pontoons onto which the rails have been welded can be clearly seen. One important aspect was to get the rails level and this required a lot of hand work to achieve this. Once the pumps were turned off the area was allowed to fill with water and the dam materials recovered.



Obviously, the weather was not the best and it is a real tribute to the team who complete this work. The picture on the right shows one of the difficulties experienced.

The trolleys are or a similar design to the existing trolleys and are now under manufacture. They are expected to be ready for the next rowing season.

The picture below shows the existing trolleys out of the water being refurbished in readiness for the next season.



Cycle Lanes

The increased awareness of Health and Safety has made many conscious of cyclists. The road through the tent sites is no exception and it is quite amazing that people want to stand on the road to watch the racing. It is doubtful that they would do the same on SH8 to look at the view of say Aoraki Mt Cook. The cycle lanes will be marked on the road to remind everyone this is a road!

On the more positive side, the Mackenzie District Council have reinstated the waste water trench along Max Smith Drive from Freda Du Feu Drive to Ostler Rd. In so doing, a cycle lane has been created on both sides of the road, which SIR has financially contributed to. We know this will improve the safety of cyclists in the area and especially those who are attending the Lake Ruataniwha rowing venue. The pictures below show what has been implemented.



Fees & Charges

The SIR Board decided at a recent meeting, to hold the charges for tent sites, accommodation and catering at the last year's levels. It was also agreed to send out the invoices for the coming year during September.

Website

There has been some feedback about the current SIR website and everyone was in agreement it needed to be more informative and user friendly. The Board decided to have a new website established that would be easier to use, provide greater information and provide some interaction that would allow people to book, order or volunteer their services. This will take some time to implement but the Board is hopeful to have this operational by Christmas.

Containers

The Board has decided to place containers on site for storage. However, to achieve this requires a building consent and that required the design of a foundation. This has been completed and a consent is on hand. The next action is to get quotes and engage a contractor to build the foundations so that the containers can then be moved to site.

Special thanks to the Coda Group (Scott Brownlee) for the container supply and to Meyer Engineering (Carl Meyer) for the foundation design.

Volunteers

Again, the Board of SIR thank those who voluntarily gave up their time to support the activities at the Lake. We do hope to see you all again next season. If you have any suggestions on how we could improve your experience with SIR, please send a note to the Secretary.



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Principal Sponsor



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

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