



# Newsletter

## South Island Rowing Inc.



Photo credit: S Strachan

## Spring 2018

Spring has arrived at Lake Ruataniwha! Like most clubs and organisations, SIRI has spent some time during the winter months reflecting on the season, taking stock and preparing for another exciting summer season. The 42nd Annual General Meeting was held at the Macrae Lounge on May 12th, giving us an opportunity to recognise the completion of some major capital projects as well as individuals and sponsors who have made significant contributions to the success of South Island Rowing.

### KEY DATES 2018/19:

- Oct 6**  
Concept 2 R2K Singles Regatta
- Oct 6-7**  
Mainland Interprovincial Champs
- Oct 27-28**  
Aoraki 1k Regatta
- Dec 8-9**  
Meridian Otago Champs
- Jan 19-20**  
Meridian Canterbury Champs
- Feb 2-3**  
Meridian South Island Champs
- Feb 19 - 23**  
Rocket Foods National Champs
- Mar 8 - 10**  
Meridian South Island Secondary School Champs

See the full calendar of SI Rowing events at  
[www.ruataniwha.co.nz](http://www.ruataniwha.co.nz)

### SIRI 42nd AGM:

The 2017 year saw the completion of three major capital projects around the SIR complex, made possible by assistance from grant monies and tireless efforts from volunteers in the SIR family. These projects included waste water upgrades, course extension and renewal along with improved lake access in the boat park. The container area base is another small capital project that is also ongoing with the aim to offer more secure storage options for clubs and schools who use the complex for regular training.

The course extension to ten lanes was completed and used at two major regattas this last season. While some minor work is needed on deepening the starting trolley in lane 10, overall the course extension was well received with valuable time saved on the programme. All lane wires, droppers and buoy renewal were also completed.

Improvements to the lake access for our rowers through a landscaped sloping grass embankment and new numbers hut was very well received and just made for greater efficiency in entry and exit from the lake. A new Camera System was installed at the Start, 500, 1000, 1500 metre marks and on the finish line, as well as viewing TV Screens in several locations. There are seven screens in total of which five have been made available for public viewing. A new safety boat was

## SIGN UP! Become a volunteer or Trainee Race Official

Volunteers and Race Officials are a critical part of running any regatta. There are a wide variety of tasks that you could help with to ensure our rowers and supporters enjoy safe and fair racing and a great day out.

Anyone interested in helping out or becoming a Trainee Race Official should get in touch with the SIR Secretary at:

[secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz](mailto:secretary@ruataniwha.co.nz)



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purchased during the financial year and more recently a new umpires boat was purchased as part of the replacement programme.

This last year the Board requested consultant advice on Health and Safety at the complex and an overview associated with the running of regattas. It certainly highlighted certain responsibilities associated with running major events involving the public and the strict adherence needed with water safety along with the requirement to abide by Ecan bylaws. To ensure added safety it was deemed necessary to bring in a no dogs policy to the complex and no cycling through the main spectator viewing area at our major regattas. The Board is very mindful that cycling from the 1000 metre mark is a unique part of Ruataniwha and is currently working on a solution which will allow this to continue.

The Board expresses its gratitude to the large number of volunteers who regularly turn up to assist. With increased entries yearly now, the efficient running of regattas simply would not be possible without this valued volunteer input. It was particularly pleasing to see a number of younger volunteers and an increase in trainee officials at our regattas. The Board has received some very complimentary comments this past season on the friendly and helpful environment at the regattas by officials, again testament to superb volunteer support.



The dogs enjoying a heavy frost (left) on July 4, with the temperature still in negatives at 11:30am

## Project update:

### South Island Rowing replaces aged tractor

After at least a half century of service the South Island Rowing Leyland tractor at the Meridian Rowing Centre, Lake Ruataniwha has been replaced. Originally gifted to South Island Rowing it wears traces of Electricorp Production, ECNZ and Meridian livery and has served well with grass slashing, grading, as a fork lift and in crane duties servicing the start trollies. The Leyland has had a checkered career, including being rescued from the depths of the lake after running down the lake shore. With ever increasing maintenance costs it now requires replacement.



The Leyland in action at the 2017 Otago Champs



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Its replacement is a 90 hp 4wd Case tractor complete with front end loader purchased with assistance from the New Zealand Racing Board/TAB. Supplied on favourable terms by W H Cochrane, Case agents, it was picked up from Leeston courtesy of Twizel Auto and Marine thus saving South Island Rowing a further \$1000 in cartage costs. In the words of the Course Manager Trevor Wilson “it will see out the next 100 years”.

Cochranes’ took the needs of SIR to task in sourcing a suitable tractor, it has come from a sheep and beef farm and has been used principally for feeding out. Indeed, the bucket of the front end loader showed minimal signs of use and the only reason for replacement was the farmer’s desire to have a fully enclosed cab. Clocking up a mere 200 hours annually since new there is no reason why Trevor Wilson’s comment will not come true.

Maintaining the grounds at the Meridian Rowing Centre is a priority for South Island Rowing. There has been steady improvement in the facilities and surrounds over the years. With events such as the Maadi Cup bringing 10,000 plus visitors to the Mackenzie, tools “fit for purpose” are required. South Island Rowing is grateful to all who contributed toward this latest acquisition; the New Zealand Racing Board/TAB, W H Cochrane and Twizel Auto and Marine - without their support this may not have happened.

### Upgrades to Boat Park area

A working bee was held at Lake Ruataniwha from August 10-12th in order to clear around 100 trees which had been previously felled in the boat park. The clearing work was undertaken by a bunch of keen volunteers and will result in the boat park being able to accommodate a greater number of boat trailers on regatta days.

Other upgrades in the boat park area include expansion and upgrade of the ‘west end’ boat launching ramp. This will provide some welcome relief for coach boat drivers, particularly during the summer holidays when many teams come to Ruataniwha for training camps.



The new coaches boat launch at the western end of the boat park



Earthworks undertaken to remove wilding pines and improve access at the new coaches boat launch area





## In memoriam:

South Island Rowing would like to acknowledge the recent passing of James Boyce and John 'Strawbs' Williams. Our thoughts are with James' and John's families at this sad time. Both James and John were well known in the rowing community and contributed much time and wisdom to our sport, in many capacities. John was from the Port Chalmers Club and has been a longstanding volunteer for South Island Rowing. James was a KRI Board member and delegate on behalf of the Bay of Plenty Rowing Association and regularly came down to Ruataniwha to Umpire at Nationals and Maadi.

## Regatta News:

### Entries now open!

The 2018/19 season will kick off on the first weekend of October with the **Concept 2 R2K Singles Regatta** and the **Mainland Interprovincial Championships**. The Otago team have taken the win on their last two outings at the Interprovincial Regatta, and we are excited to see some competitive racing again this year, with some competitors travelling from the North Island for the event.

On the last weekend of October is the **Aoraki 1000m Regatta**, an excellent opportunity for novices to get their first race under the belt over a shorter, slightly less daunting course. We look forward to welcoming all of those newcomers on the 27th/28th of October.

This season SIRI will host the **2019 Rocket Foods NZ Rowing Championships** from Tuesday, 19th to Saturday, 23rd of February. This regatta provides an opportunity to see the full spectrum of rowers from Novice through to Elite, competing with pride for their clubs from across the country. This year's National Champs will undoubtedly be one to watch as we see the high performance RPC rowers competing for their place in the RNZ team as we draw nearer to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

**Thanks for reading ... see you in Twizel!**

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