



# Newsletter

## South Island Rowing Inc.



## February 2018

The beginning of 2018 has so far brought to **Lake Ruataniwha** some stunning and well timed weather as many schools and clubs utilise the lake and facilities over the holiday period. Ruataniwha offered outstanding conditions for club rowers at the South Island Champs and made for some great racing. Long may it continue as we gear up for the final regattas of the season with the **South Island Secondary Schools Championship** on 2-3 March and the **Maadi Cup** from 19-24 March.

### HELP! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS...

Find yourself napping on race day or twiddling your thumbs? We can help you!

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)

## Regatta News:

### Otago Championships

Looking back to the end of 2017, the Otago Championship Regatta saw some typical Mackenzie Country weather with four seasons in one day and consequently some mixed and challenging water conditions!

The first morning of racing dawned damp but calm and the spectators were treated to some good racing. A retreat to the 1000m start made the finals possible for approximately half of the programme before the regatta was called to be abandoned.

Credit to the rowers for rising to the challenge – particularly the large number of novice rowers at their first Twizel outing, and of course all of the volunteers who donned the wet-weathers and got amongst it.

### Canterbury Championships

The first South Island Regatta of the year truly started on a high, with incredible conditions contributing to a successful and full programme of

Photo credit: Sharon Bennett







## Around the complex

A number of facilities upgrades are now fully functioning and being tested around the race course and complex at Lake Ruataniwha. This includes this Lane 9 and 10 trolleys and associated works (some work still to be completed), the numbers hut, and some new hardware in the aligners hut. Pictured above is trainee race official Liam Smith utilising both older and new equipment to align a 10 lane race at the Canterbury Champs.



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racing which finished right on time.

A true highlight of the regatta was the successful implementation of 10 lane finals. Those that managed to get down to the start zone to watch 10 lanes of eights leaving the starting blocks will have a new appreciation for the amount of equipment and athletes involved in our competitions. Race officials also did a great job at umpiring these races and being ready for absolutely anything to happen!

## South Island Championships

The heat was turned up in Twizel for another cracker weekend, and the culminate South Island regatta for club rowers. Rowers battled the hot, yet calm conditions looking to test themselves ahead of the National Championship Regatta at Lake Karapiro.

Congratulations to all competitors for your efforts and contribution to a very successful South Island Club season.



Above: Christchurch Boy's High School rowers make their way to the start of the Mens Open Octuple final at the Canterbury Champs.

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: COACH/SAFETY BOAT

- StabiCraft 4.3 m hull approx 20 y/o, only been used in fresh water
- Johnson 35hp 2 stroke outboard, 177 hours



**As part of the upgrade and future-proofing of the Ruataniwha course and supporting equipment we are progressively replacing the hulls of the StabiCraft umpire boats. The first of these will be available at the end of January and will be offered first to Clubs and Schools.**

This hull has been operated in fresh water all it's life and is in sound condition. There is currently no road trailer or launching trolley with this hull

Should your Club or school be interested in this boat please contact John Wylie in the first instance.

**e-mail** [jwylie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jwylie@xtra.co.nz)

**cell** 0274-406933



# Health and Safety:

SIR has conducted a recent full Health and Safety audit which has highlighted responsibilities in various areas along with the need to enact some control measures to lessen the risk elements around major regattas.

Areas of prime concern are associated with water safety, dogs and the cycle way. Recently it has been brought to our attention by Ecan of the continued ignorance of the rules by a few coaches regarding water safety on the lake, this even following stern words by our manager. Numerous comments and concerns have been expressed over the latter years about the free range of dogs and the speed of cyclists on the road.

## HOUSEKEEPING.

In line with SIR's health and safety responsibilities, please take note of the following reminders for rowers, coaches and supporters attending regattas at Ruataniwha:

- Licence regulations prohibit evening gatherings involving liquor in marquees post regatta
- Sales of food, drink, souvenir's and raffles from tent sites and around the complex is prohibited. SIR is bound by Mackenzie District Council licence regulations and memorandums of agreements with RNZ associated with regattas
- Tents and major shelters are not to be erected between the lakeside road and lake. These block views for many including the judges in the finishing tower
- Vehicles are not to be parked between the lakeside road and lake between the 1000 and 1500m to allow better viewing of races for all
- In accordance with a traffic management plan for Maadi there will be no parking on the Max Smith Drive, 100 metres either side of the complex entrance at Freda Du Faur Ave. This is to aide easy and safer entrance/exiting from the Meridian Ruataniwha Rowing complex

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

## Maritime Safety:

The recent summer training that has taken place at the lake by various clubs and schools has involved three separate schools failing to have the necessary water safety equipment in their coaching boats. Ecan were in attendance and banned these boats from going on the lake until they had the necessary equipment. This is extremely disappointing as the ramifications of this negligence could result in Ecan applying more stringent rules and checks for everyone. **Please abide by the RNZ and SIR water safety rules as they are there for the safety of everyone.** Checks on compliance can easily be made by referencing the SIR website under the sub headings of News and Services.

## Dogs:

There have been many incidents over the years with dogs and clearly people have not adhered to the requirement of all dogs being on a leash. A recent incident at the South Island Championships has left SIR with no alternative but to ensure that **the Ruataniwha complex is a dog free zone during regattas.** Signs will be erected at the entrance to the complex.

## Cycling:

Under obligations and responsibilities associated with running large events SIR has decided that **for the SISS and Maadi regattas there will be no cycling allowed through the spectator viewing area** which will include from the entrance by the café through to the double gates near the 1500 metre mark. The SIC regatta which had great spectator attendance highlighted some issues around tents/coffee carts/spectator viewing, and there are two substantially larger regattas on the horizon. The SIR Board is aware of the uniqueness of the Ruataniwha course where cycling is possible over the last 1000m and long term will explore the possibilities on how an alternative accessway could be accommodated over the last 500 metres. The decision has not been taken lightly and we ask everyone to understand the reasons why and for finals days at these two major regattas, to respect we will be constrained within the actual spectator viewing area.



Thanks for reading ... see you in Twizel!