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The Annual General Meeting of South Island Rowing Inc was held in Christchurch on June 30th. The venue was one of the better venues and the hosts clearly have arranged a number of these sorts of occasions before. Since I remain as the Secretary, I can continue to try and provide information about our activities and the events that shape rowing at lake Ruataniwha.

The meeting itself covered a wide range of topics and one thing this edition of the newsletter will do is share some of the outcomes. Being a General Meeting there was no restriction on attendance and it was good to see so many from various parts of the South Island making the effort to be involved.

It is an unfortunate consequence of Annual General Meetings that we do not cover all the details due to a lack of time and this was quite evident at this last meeting. In some ways we are at the crossroads in terms of the future development of the Lake Ruataniwha Rowing Facilities and some of the strategic planning activities have been held over until a subsequent meeting.

We do thank the few who have taken the time to provide input into our various activities and who assist in many and varied ways. Many of the improvements have originated from this feedback and this will continue to be a source of development information

Course

The course has its own unique problems and Trevor advised that he did want the course to be better for the main regattas. However, after seeing the courses used for some of the International Regattas overseas, he concluded that even in its developmental state ours did compare very favourably.

The most recent working bee saw a start made on setting up the new buoys. This involves a revised methodology for the buoy attachment and is expected to result in an easy install and change process for the course.

A sample "orange" buoy was provided for the AGM and it was decided that this will be the colour of the next purchase once numbers have been quantified. The Course Manager has advised that there will be four more working bees this year. He will be advising of the dates with the first proposed for 28th & 29th July. Anyone available to assist should contact Trevor.

Safety

Safety continues to be the main reason for undertaking many of the works. It was petrol handling that featured to some extent at the AGM and it was very interesting to hear of the practices employed by other organizations. While many "get away" with practices that are contrary to the legal requirements it is possible that SIR could do so to and there is an element who are prepared to take this risk.

But, if there is an incident we are liable for prosecution and any insurance becomes void. No one volunteered to take this risk in an area such as Twizel where the conditions are extreme and an incident more likely than other areas. It is for this reason that we resolved to err on the conservative side of safety and progressively implement the safety requirements.

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Environmental Protection

Didymo (aptly called rock snot) is a major problem in the area. We know that it is prevalent in much of the Waitaki and some of the feeder streams. So, the risk is very real and we expect all users to act responsibly by cleaning and drying their equipment before and after using the lake.

We understand there has been a development in the type of detergent that we must use to wash the boats. While this is reported as being more effective and environmentally friendly it is more expensive and inevitably costs more. Please note that the practice of washing boats before and after use will remain in place for the coming season.

For details on Didymo, see

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests-diseases/plants/didymo/index.htm>

Wilding Pines continue to be a problem in the area and the SIR land is no different. This particular pest grows quite prolifically and often to the detriment of the environment. We need to keep a close watch on this pest and remove the seedlings while they are young and before they have opportunity to seed.

This is just another of the working bee activities that need to be addressed.

Fencing

Mike McClelland advised the AGM that the fencing is progressing well. The completion of this project will add a level of security to the boat park in particular. It also allows us to denote the boundary of the SIR property, provide signage advising of the potential hazards and minimise the likelihood of injury accidents.

Given the information previously distributed information on the need for the fence, it was interesting to hear questions at the AGM about the need for this fence. Strangely, no one seemed to be prepared to face the prosecution that could arise from having no warning and protection from hazardous plant items. Health and safety remain one of our main concerns

Raffle

The current situation is that the Department of Internal Affairs has granted SIR a licence to hold the raffle. The prize is a section in Stage One of "The Drive" subdivision, Twizel. This has been kindly donated by Ruataniwha Farms and the proceeds from the raffle are to be used to develop the infrastructure at the Lake Ruataniwha rowing complex. Any inquiries on the sections should be in this subdivision

should be made to:

Name Matthew Loose

Phone 03 379 6596

Mobile 0274 523 116

Email matthew.loose@harcourts.co.nz



A sub-committee has been set up to develop a marketing plan for this raffle. Tickets will be on sale from mid January 2008 until 5th April 2008 with the draw being done on 11th April.

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Regatta Timetable

The regatta timetable for events on Lake Ruataniwha is:

Date	Event
22-Sep	Concept 2 "R2K" Singles Regatta
27-28 Oct	Aoraki 1000 Regatta
12-13 Jan	Otago Championship Regatta
26-27 Jan	Canterbury Championship Regatta
9-10 Feb	SI Championship Regatta
1-2 Mar	Fulton Hogan Canterbury Mazda Schools Regatta
15-16 Mar	SI Schools Championship Regatta
31 Mar - 6 Apr	Aon Maadi Cup Regatta

These dates were approved by the AGM with the following comments:

The 23rd September is the reserve day for the R2K Regatta.

The event list for the SIC regatta will be similar to last year but is under review.

Concept 2 "R2K" Singles Regatta

This regatta will again be held this year during the weekend before the Interprovincial Regatta in the North Island. This regatta will again have a set of sculls for each of the winners of each class. This regatta is becoming one of the most important Regattas in the Country for aspiring young scullers.

It is an excellent opportunity for young scullers to see at what stage they are at and be rewarded for their efforts through their winter training programmes.

This regatta has been supported by Concept 2 and we thank them for their assistance for such an important initiative for youth rowing.

Who's who

The South Island AGM is a time when the owners, the four South Island Local Rowing Associations represented by the Delegates elect the Officers of the Society. On top of that, the volunteers who are going to assist in key areas of our operation are recorded.

Officers

Patron

D Borgfeldt

Chairman

P McQuinn

Vice Chairman

N Burrow

Secretary/Treasurer

P Bell

Course Manager

T Wilson

Key Volunteers

Accommodation & Catering

C Wilson

Safety

J Sheehan

Souvenirs

K Strachan

Sponsorship

F Strachan

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Local Association Delegates

Marlborough	I Sutherland	K Strickland
Canterbury	J Sheehan	J Wylie
Otago	M Petherick	R Wilson
Southland	J O'Connor	G Kempton

At the AGM there were two additional Life members added to our number; Mr Neil Burrow and Mr Mike McClelland. For many of you who have been associated with rowing for many years, these names will be familiar.

Each had their citation read by their Local Association Delegate and many heard how they both have very impressive lists of achievements starting from the very inception of SIR and the Development of the facility at Lake Ruataniwha.

One further presentation at the AGM was the Rowing New Zealand Volunteer of the Year Award. The recipient of the award was Mrs Julia McLachlan with the citation being read by Mr John Wylie and the award presented by Mr Kevin Strickland.

One particular aspect of this award was that the citation was written by one of New Zealand's elite rowers who told of her tireless efforts in the boat park throughout Nationals. Not only was this appreciated but in so doing she missed the opportunity to see most of the finals. That is true dedication to the task.



Ms McLachlan replied in a characteristically humble way. It has been noted just how unusual it is for the young sportspeople to recognise these qualities in the older volunteers. Perhaps this is indicative of the nature of the Rowing "Family" in action.

The Stakeholders have left the Management Committee to implement a number of specific tasks including decisions on

- The selection of an Auditing Company and an Audit of the accounts
- The hire charges for the facilities at Lake Ruataniwha
- The SI Championship Programme
- The budgetary controls in both the Capital and operational areas
- The sponsorship activities,
- The Raffle progress, implementation and result
- The deployment of land use
- Boat shed changes
- Access to the launch area improvements
- Improved rower and spectator facilities
- Improvements for the Officials on the water

Please share this information with your colleagues. Let me know if you want to be added to the email list.