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Newsletter

The changes continue at the home of South Island Rowing at Lake Ruataniwha. More clearing and the planting of grass has continued. The first regatta, the R2K has been completed successfully. A number of changes implemented last year have shown their worth at this years regatta.

One thing that has come from the R2k Regatta is the need to continuously improve our systems and processes. This time the accounts have been delayed and clearly this needs improvement.

The next regatta will be the Aoraki 1000 regatta in early November. We hope for better weather this time round. Between now and then, there is quite a bit of work to do including repairs to the barge. Another working bee is planned for Labour Weekend. If you can help, please contact Trevor Wilson.

CONCEPT 2, R2K Singles Regatta 2008, Saturday 4 October 2008

Another very successful R2K regatta was held again this year and of course we are indebted to Concept 2 for their sponsorship of this regatta. This was the first opportunity to try out the new safety JetSki and for the first time we had St Johns here. For the first time the weather was not so good and the second day had to be used for the finals. We also had the greatest number of entries yet as well.

One particularly encouraging aspect was the way the rowers handled the rough conditions and getting themselves to shore under very trying conditions. The fact that most knew what to do and that they were able to help each other was great to see. For those who had not been involved with a non-held start this was a new experience. Again there were few problems getting the boats aligned in readiness for the start.



WINNERS

The picture right shows the winners with their sculls (Prizes).

On the far left is Mr. Fred Strachan the initiator of this regatta. On the front right kneeling is Mr John O'Connor, the RNZ Youth Commissioner.



We congratulate all the winners. I am unsure of the significance here but the results clearly show that half the winners come from Southland. Congratulations to the Southland coaching team.

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Newsletter



Event 1 GIRLS U14 1X

Event 2 BOYS U14 1X

Event 3 GIRLS U15 1X

Event 4 BOYS U15 1X

Event 5 GIRLS U16 1X

Event 6 BOYS U16 1X

Event 7 GIRLS U17 1X

Event 8 BOYS U17 1X

Event 9 GIRLS U18 1X

Event 10 BOYS U18 1X

Event 11 WOMENS OPEN 1X

Event 12 MENS OPEN 1X

WAIHOPAI R C 1

TIMARU R C 1

WAIHOPAI R C 1

UNION R C 1

TIMARU R C 3

INVERCARGILL R C 1

WAIHOPAI R C 2

CURE B C 1

TIMARU R C 1

OAMARU R C 1

WAIHOPAI R C 1

WAIHOPAI R C 1

Lauren

Buckenridge

William Crawford

Bailey Lovett

Josh Tansey

Louise Livesey

Hayden Cohen

Lisa Owen

Julian Svoboda

Lydia Dockrill

Cameron Nimmo

Sarah Barnes

Matthew Malcolm

9:16:07

8:59:64

9:47:05

9:32:87

9:49:74

8:13:61

9:19:09

7:53:40

9:04:20

8:17:29

8:36:36

7:29:51

Although the wind did cause some delays, the opportunity enabled a little house work to be done. Here the stones lifted with the tree routes were gathered up and put in the trailer. Thanks to all those who helped.



Alex Woods

South Island Rowing has for more than the last decade had the services of local identity Alex Woods as their resident caretaker located at Lake Ruataniwha.

Unfortunately, Alex has had to relinquish this position recently, due to ill health. Alex over the years has done an excellent job for the sport of rowing at Twizel.

Not only has Alex maintained the grounds in and around the Meridian Rowing Complex turning barren land in to lush green lawns but he has also been the sports 'watchdog' when regattas are not being conducted at the venue.

His presence down at the lake has ensured that the complex and surrounds have been secure, and when regattas are held, the visiting personnel know that upon arrival all the facilities have been opened and are operational.

Alex has done a fine job and South Island Rowing is particularly grateful for the time, effort and general handy man role that Alex has fulfilled over the years.

In his true quite way Alex did not want any fuss or fanfare made of his retirement from the role. Instead a small group of South Island Officials took the opportunity at last weekends Concept 2, R2 K regatta to go around and present to Alex a laptop computer which they are sure will get well utilised by Alex during his recovery.

All at South Island Rowing wish Alex all the very best for the future and certainly look forward to seeing him at many of the up coming rowing events to be held at the Ruataniwha course this season. Culminating with the BankLink New Zealand Rowing Championships to be held from the 17-22nd February 2009 where many of New Zealand's successful internationals through the age groups will be participating.

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New Safety Craft

South Island Rowing (SIRI) launched a new state of the art 1300cc Safety / Rescue Jet Ski at the weekend. The dedicated craft is provided through the support of the Lion Foundation and Southern Victorian Charitable Trust. The craft is capable of carrying three people and will be utilised at all regattas conducted under the auspices of SIRI and the Wings Over Water event.



On Saturday 4th October Lake Ruataniwha was the venue for the Concept 2, R2 K regatta. The event was the brainchild of local Twizel rowing stalwart Fred Strachan and from small beginnings, its popularity seems to grow each year.

Fred saw the need for young athletes that have trained over the winter months to have a competitive race 'blow out' regatta to start the season and access where the athletes were at fitness wise after the cold winter months of training. 107 scullers participated with the chance to win a set of Concept Sculling blades up for winning in the various age group races.

The conditions certainly tested both the athletes and the new safety jet. Which when required proved an asset in pulling those that capsized from the cold waters of Lake Ruataniwha. The sport of rowing is extremely grateful to the trusts for their financial assistance in providing such an essential new craft especially for the youth.

Wharf

The wharf at the start is on poor condition. We have reports of a number of near misses with people tripping up on the uneven surface. We have known for some time that we need to do something but it seems the time is upon us. When the wing got up on the first day of racing, the waves were braking over the deck. We also noted that the deck was lifting and this seems to mean that the attachment to the top of the piles is not good either.



There are a number of possible solutions and one is to place concrete planks within the confines of the piles, fill the space with gravel and pour a concrete deck. Unfortunately, this is likely to result in a serious wave build up from the reflection of the incident waves. If some one has a easy and relatively cheap solution, please let us know.

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Stickers

We have received notification from Mr J Wylie (Meridian Sponsorship Liaison) that a condition of their sponsorship for this season is for every boat that is racing in their sponsored regattas must have the Meridian Logo on both sides of the boats at the front.

SIR is grateful for the Meridian Energy Sponsorship and it is important that this request is followed. Although not confirmed it is understood that Mr Wylie will provide the stickers.

Boatshed Opening

The official opening of the new boatshed will occur on the Saturday November 1st. This is the weekend of the Aoraki 1000 Regatta. This will be the culmination of the work undertaken by the Oamaru rowing club that will see then occupy one half of the new shed. The other half will be occupied by the Twizel Rowing Club.

Annual Report

I have received some inquiries about the annual report and statement of accounts for the last financial year. The accounts are still with the Auditors and the latest information is that they expect to complete the audit during mid November. The reports will be issued subsequently.

RNZ

Many of you will have seen the documentation issued by the Domestic Rowing Commissioner relating to rower classification, the event lists for Nationals and the likely timing for these regattas. Many of you will be involved and will exercise your voting rights. SIR does not have this right and in real terms is not too perturbed about the systems and processes you agree on.

But remember that it is the volunteer group that have to put on the regatta and that requires a lot of manpower and associated resources. Please be aware that involving people over consecutive weekends is often not sustainable and if the timings of the regattas reduce entry numbers then entry fees will have to increase. We understand that our colleagues at KRI are in a similar position so we suggest you consider the big picture during your deliberations.

Tent Sites

As in previous years, the invoices for tent sites for the 2008/2009 season for those who have a continuing booking have been sent out. Please remember that the condition of this booking is that you will pay the invoice by the 20th of the following month (November) or your booking becomes void.