



## Newsletter

Issue No. 5

Date: December 2009

### Principle Sponsor



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### Course Manager

Trevor Wilson  
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## Facilities

Course Hire  
Lounge Hire  
Clothing Sales  
Souvenir Sales



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The picture the right was taken at the last working bee. The gravel in the front belies the serious work that has been done to improve the access to the boat launch area.

The lawn growth has been quite good too and the regular watering helps.



It is quite amazing to realise that here it is, December is again with us...where has the year gone? While we have had a successful year in terms of rowing events, we have spent the last few months preparing for the Regattas next year. It seems hard to understand just how much effort it actually takes to keep the facilities in operational condition. SIR is a volunteer organization and this means that we struggle to achieve the goals we set for ourselves.

Maintenance seems to be a never ending battle and we have noted a change in the attitudes of the users of the facilities. The expectation is increasing all the time and facilities that were adequate in days gone by now require upgrading. Further, the standards imposed accelerate the need for this upgrading. When coupled with the compliance requirements, the costs of maintaining the facilities in full operational condition continue to increase. Much of the work now has to be undertaken by contract because we do not have the expertise or the numbers. But within these constraints it is quite amazing just what we are able to do.

It is Christmas time again when many will undertake the usual Christmas things. It is the time of the family and a time when the families all get together to enjoy the season and the common bonds. The rowers in our midst will also be training for the regattas coming up immediately after Christmas. On behalf of South Island Rowing may I wish you and your families, a happy christmas and prosperous new year.

## Didymo

Yes, it is still with us. please be aware of the potential for contamination and operate to minimise the risk. Wash, clean and dry after using any equipment in the water.

## ECAN Bylaw

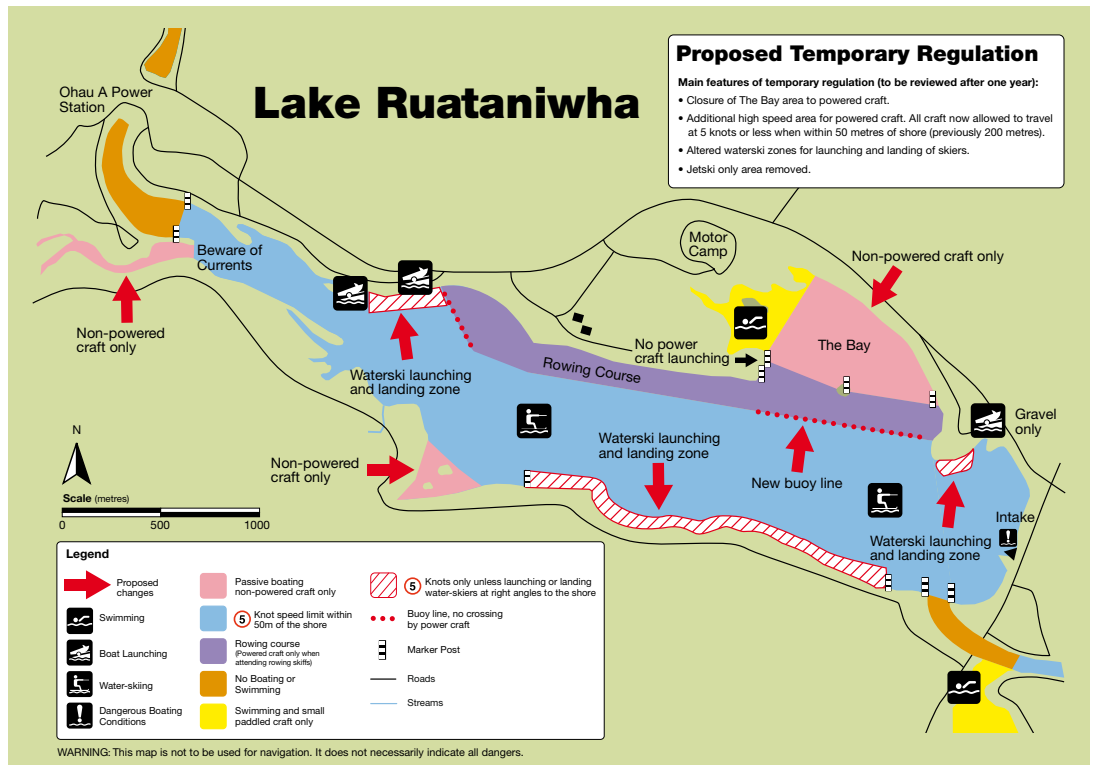
In the last letter I mentioned that ECAN proposed a temporary change to the bylaw that regulates the use of lake Ruataniwha. The proposed change has been out for public consultation and we have been notified of the results.

The submissions were considered by ECAN representatives and most were found to be in favour of the general thrust of the changes which were to improve the safety for users of the Lake and to make the bylaw requirements enforceable. The decision is that the Bylaw change will come into effect on Saturday 12 December 2009.

We all need to appreciate the purpose of this "temporary" bylaw and that its impact will be reviewed. This review will be done in conjunction with the overall review of the Canterbury Navigational Safety Bylaws, commencing in 2010. We have been invited to make comment on the effect of the changes and provide feedback on how this "trial run" went over this coming summer period. We welcome any comments here.



The map below depicts the new bylaw. The changes to the previous plan are very clear and we all look forward to a safer operation on the lake.



## Lane Wires

The replacement Lane wires were made up during the working bee last Saturday. The picture on the right shows the wire layed out and the team undertaking the time consuming task of attaching the dropper system and the correct spacing. It is a pity those who were responsible for this deliberate damage did not put the effort into building up the replacement.

The more difficult part was found later while trying to install the new lane wire. It was at that time we found that another wire had been cut. If anyone sees such and act of sabotage, please report it to the Police. The cost of these actions end up getting reflected in the entry fees.

As many will know, we leave the course down most of the year and the intention is to provide a training venue for anyone who wants to train. This destructive action could mean that we need to revisit this situation.

## Mussel Buoys

The other casualty from this action has been the implementation of the line of mussel buoys. This has been delayed until we get the course fully working. However, we have received an initial supply of mussel buoys some of which are ready for





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painting. The rest require some work before they can be painted and this is also under way. But the mussel buoys are made to float and keeping them appropriately located and half submerged will be no mean feat.

We have accumulated enough concrete anchors (courtesy of Humes Industries) and getting them into position will be difficult. We have had the bed of the lake plotted and the way it changes means there will be a need for some precision in dropping the anchors. But this will be one at a time from the barge so you can just imagine the task. Fortunately, we have the rope that we can use for linking the mussel buoys together as well as linking them to the anchors. Christmas will be busy won't it?

## Signage

Advertising the Regattas for this season is a very important issue as there is limited time and space available for this activity. But since the lake will generally be closed during these times, the other Lake users need to know. We do know that many users do not read the papers or look on the internet so the signage becomes very important. The picture above is this years effort. We have also been involved with getting the other signs sorted out as many need replacement.



## Parking

As many will know from the facilities at Lake Karapiro, there is a charge for parking cars at regattas. SIR have the same issues. The costs for administration, management of the car parks, rubbish collection and disposal etc are a major cost and to offset some of the costs here we intend to charge for parking at the MAADI Cup regatta. A season pass will be available at a cost of \$20 per vehicle and the daily charge will be \$5 per day per vehicle. The passes will be available mid January.

## Complex

The complex itself undergoes regular maintenance to ensure it remains in a suitable condition for hiring out for training camps, meetings, seminars etc and we have noted an increased demand for this.



The picture above shows the facilities available as well as the general ground area. You will notice a number of rocks on the tent sites. They were left over from the last season and their removal is yet another task that needs doing so that they will be ready for the coming season.

You can also notice that there are some trees missing courtesy of the storm last month. There has been quite a bit of trimming done as well to there is less accumulated rubbish held under the trees. While this can be a little draughty it does make things easier to keep tidy.

One thing I want to draw to the tent site users attention is the cost of cleaning up the sites after use. This is yet another cost and it seems unfair to load the entry fees with such costs. If there is an issue with the way sites are left this year we will have to load the site rental with a refundable deposit if the site is left clean.

The tent site allocation for this season is shown on the next page. Thanks for the prompt payment as only two sites from the initial allocation have not been paid. If this remains the case, they will be withdrawn and offered to others.



<b>Site</b>	<b>SCHOOL/CLUB</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>SCHOOL/CLUB</b>
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0	Twizel Area School / Twizel RC		
1	Villa Maria College	1a	
2	Nelson College for Boys	2a	Westlake Boys
3	Nelson College for Girls	3a	Westlake Boys
4	Rangi Ruru Girls School	4a	Westlake Girls
5	Rangi Ruru Girls School	5a	
6	Marlborough Boys / Blenheim C	6a	
7	St Bedes College	7a	
8	Marlborough Girls College/Wairau RC	8a	
9	Waikato Diocesan School	9a	St Hildas Collegiate
10	Craighead Diocesan School/Timaru RC	10a	
11	Timaru Boys High School	11a	
12	Christchurch Girls High School	12a	Hamilton Girls
13	Otago Boys High School	13a	
14	Columba College	14a	
15	Waitaki Girls/Boys/St Kevins/Oamaru RC	15a	
16	Otago Girls High School	16a	
17	Wakatipu Rowing Club	17a	
18	Burnside High School	18a	
19	Roncalli College	19a	
20	Christchurch Boys High School	20a	
21	Avonside Girls	21a	
22	Marian College	22a	
23	St Margarets College	23a	
24	Christs College	24a	
25	Timaru Girls High School	25a	
26	Ashburton College	26a	
	<b>W A L K W A Y</b>		
27	St Andrews College	27a	
28	Wanganui Collegiate School	28a	
29	Sacred Heart Girls College	29a	
30	Kings High School	30a	
31	Bethlehem College	31a	
32	Wellington College	32a	
33	Auckland Grammar	33a	
34	Tauranga Girls	34a	
35	Wanganui High School	35a	
36	Samuel Marsden College	36a	
37	Auckland Diocesan	37a	
38	St Thomas of Canterbury	38a	
39	ST Peters School	39a	
40	Cromwell College	40a	
41	St Kentigern College	41a	
42		42a	
43		43a	
44	Takapuna Grammar School	44a	
45		45a	

There will be a working bee over Christmas and given the amount of work to do we would appreciate help from anyone on the area. Please let Trevor Wilson know if and when you can assist.

