

NZRYS President's Report 2011

State of the Pond

It was two years ago now that we last needed to rake out and drag chains across the pond to clear out the algal weed that was covering around 40% of the pond surface at that time.



October 2009

This weed had become a regular problem as spring raised the water temperature and rain reduced the salt content closer to that of fresh water where the weed thrives.

Flushing the pond had to be done several times a year. During times of low rainfall this flushed out the old water, which had become deficit in oxygen, ensuring that it did not become stagnant. When there was rain this brought in salt water from the estuary to help keep the weed growth down.

Two factors have improved the pond condition markedly. First the new fountains pump water from the south end of the pond, near the weir gate, and bring it into the north end where the water is oxygenated. This causes a circulation within the pond and reduces the possibility of stagnation.

Second the flap valves were made to leak by fixing a chain to stop one of them closing fully. Each high tide this leak overflows the weir gate and brings in enough water to raise the pond level by up to 100mm. It flows out again during low tide. The fountains circulate this sea water to the north end ensuring that the salt content is distributed.

During the 14 tides a week this amount of leakage is roughly equivalent to the total to the total volume of the pond.

These two together keep the specific gravity up to 0.020 for much of the time which is about 2/3rds that of sea water, and the oxygen levels sufficient to keep the pond healthy.

Silt Levels

The silt remains a problem. Warming of the pond water still results in gasification of dead weed from previous growth that has been trapped in the bottom mud. It is now much less than in previous years, when there were thick mats rising to the surface, but is still unsightly and some does catch on keels.

Carol Bergquist has been lobbying the council for some years now to have the pond dredged. Initially there was an issue that the pond came under Parks and Reserves department, which doesn't do dredging, but it has now been transferred to Water Services, which does.

The change from the North Shore City to Auckland also caused delays and proposals had to be resubmitted and re-argued.

Currently the Kaipatiki Board is still reviewing its plans and budgets.

Also this year there was a breakout of Botulism which killed a few ducks



John Dowler recently provided a valuable service in determining the actual depth of the pond bed. While the water is just a few inches deep at that edge he soon discovered that the soft mud was knee-deep.

Sailing Reports:

This year I have sent out about four dozen weekly reports and one Upwind Newsletter.

I am grateful to those who have contributed articles for these, and would like to encourage more to send in items during the next year. Short reports on repairs needed, reviews of equipment, sailing rules and tactics, or questions would all be included in the club's communications.

Richard Plinston
NZRYS President 2011.