

State of the Pond

After sailing last Sunday we threw the grapnel out into the pond to determine if there was weed growing in the centre. Fortunately there is not, just foul black silt.



The main problem is the weed that grew around the path, especially on the south west limb, that had died away when I could get the salt level high enough. This dead weed is decaying now that the pond is heating up with the end of winter. The decay causes it to break up and gassify which then brings clumps of it to the surface.

There is also a small amount of new growing weed. Some Horse Hair algae which is the long threads that has been such a problem in previous years, and a leaf like algae that seems to grow free floating.

The Horse Hair flowered last September and had a growth spurt. Again this was due to temperatures rising in spring while the SG was down following the rains.

Working Bee

There will be a working bee to drag out as much of the dead weed around the path as possible. This should reduce the problem of clumps of dead weed floating around.

Saturday 5 September 10am

Bring your rakes.

I will also bring the dingy so that the buoys can be cleaned and the mussels removed. The 'Duck Egg' buoy seems to have sunk and we may even try to recover this.

Some of the dead weed may be out of reach from the path so think up some mechanisms to extend your reach.

Flushing the Pond

Flushing does not remove the weed from the pond. The weed is, mostly, attached to the bed and stays when the water drops. The concrete work between the ponds impedes any floating weed from being flushed and there is a shield over the weir gate entrance to prevent rubbish from going into the estuary.

What flushing can do is raise the salt content by replacing some of the pond water with estuary water. The salt will kill the algae, or at least slow it down. With the heavy rains, though, the salt level will drop back to low levels within a short time.

Currently the flap valves are set to allow leakage each high tide. The pond is at 2.2 metres relative to tide reference and the high tide can go up to 3.6 metres, 1.4 above the pond.

The leakage brings the pond level up to just on the edge of the path, about 100mm over the weir gate. The fountains intake is at the weir gate so they pump this salty water into the sailing pond. If there is no rain then this mechanism can raise the salt level quickly. On the 16th the SG was 1.006, on the 23rd it was 1.012.

Ideally the SG should be up to 1.020, which is 2/3rds that of sea water.

A complication is that the flap valve chains have rusted and finally broken away. This was noticed and reported to council at the June 10th meeting (report and minutes on web site). A couple of follow up emails have obtained a positive response and they will be replacing them in the next week or two.

If the algae starts flowering and the SG is down then I will flush the pond until the SG is up to 1.020.

Club Schedule:

Saturday 5 September 10am:

Working Bee weed clearance

Bring your rake

Sunday: Fathers Day - Fun day

Spring Series starts 13 September

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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