



Annual Report: National Equestrian Centre – South Island

Presented by: Chris Shore

This season has seen considerable changes in personnel. Steve Irwin gave a month's notice in July, thus leaving the Ground Managers job vacant. The position was advertised and Steve McLennon was appointed. Archie Howland also came on board to share the role and his expertise with irrigation. Tricia Johnston stepped down from her position as part time administrator in December. The position was advertised and filled in January, however the successful applicant resigned after a few weeks. Sophie Simson has recently been appointed and attended her first NEC meeting three weeks ago.

It is with sadness that we learnt of Steve Irwin's passing since leaving the island. Our thoughts go to Fiona and family. He made a considerable impression on improving the NEC and will be greatly missed. In regard to the NEC committee, Kevin Bowden has stepped down as chair but remains on the committee. Don Robertson has taken over this position. Gaye Skeene has resigned as treasurer but also remains on the committee. Andrew Bruce has filled the treasurers spot. Both Kevin and Gaye have been an integral part of the NEC for many years, giving hours of their time voluntarily.

The new tenants of the NEC unfortunately caused big problems during the Young Rider camp. This was addressed by the NEC and there have been no issues since.

Just prior to the Labour Weekend show, the irrigation system had been upgraded and computerised with a variable speed pump. This system is pressurised all the time, making watering the grounds significantly easier. However, we have experienced a few teething problems while becoming familiarised with the system. Therefore, nominated users will be educated on how to correctly function the irrigators, as well as all other NEC equipment, prior to each event.

Work to improve surfaces is ongoing and funding is still proving difficult to obtain. Again, the NEC has been very well utilised by all disciplines and thanks goes to all those who have contributed in some way to keeping the NEC looking as well as it does.