



Planning for the Annual Algal Bloom in Lake Pegasus

Guidelines for PRSC Members

21 December 2019

Background

PRSC has a clear responsibility to promote healthy and safe 'best practice' for its members. Also, the Club takes seriously its relationship with...

- the people and the environment of Pegasus Town, and
- the environment of other lakes on which PRSC members might sail, and
- visitors who might sail on Lake Pegasus.

On an annual basis, Lake Pegasus suffers a bloom of the algal species *Dolichospermum circinalis*. The alga blooms in response to the summer warming of the lake's water, light levels and other environmental factors. At a certain level of bloom, Waimakariri District Council puts a public swimming ban on the lake.

Once the factors return to normal levels, the bloom dies away, and the swimming ban is lifted.

Radio Sailing can continue during a bloom, with heightened attention to the Health and Safety of club members.

- The alga is microscopic and does not interfere with the performance of our yachts on the water.
- The algae release toxins which may cause reactions in animals if ingested. Anecdotal evidence suggests ingestion of lake water can cause upset stomachs and vomiting for some people.
- Lake Pegasus also contains a 'low level' of e-coli bacteria. These increase during summer months, or after heavy rain which washes the bacteria off the swan, duck or dog poo on grassed areas around the lake.
- Recent tests in the Avon River have shown antibiotic resistant e-coli.

Care needs to be taken with the lake water for multiple reasons.

Guidelines for PRSC Members

The Club has consulted with Waimakariri District Council, the Pegasus Residents' Group Incorporated, Te Kohaka o Tuahaitara Trust, Todd Property, ECAN, Canterbury J Class Owners Association and Christchurch Model Yacht Club. PRSC presents the following guidelines for all members:

Members shall...

1. think about their handling of their yachts into and out of the lake and be prepared to wash, clean and dry any body part that comes into contact with lake water, **at any time of the year**.
2. think about the handling of our dinghy 'Rata' into and out of the lake, and while laying buoys or rescuing disabled yachts. Again, members shall be prepared to wash, clean and dry body parts that contact lake water.
3. know about the Club's permission to sail when public notices announcing a ban on swimming in the lake.
4. respect and follow the policy or guidelines in force for any lake other than Pegasus, before launching a yacht that has been used on Lake Pegasus.
5. encourage visitors to Lake Pegasus to observe the above guidelines

The Club shall...

1. make the club's Bloom Guidelines available for members of other clubs visiting Lake Pegasus for activities hosted by PRSC
2. make the policy or guidelines of other clubs and lakes available to members of PRSC.