

Maadi Cup is an annual rowing event for secondary school rowers held alternatively between Twizel in the South Island and Karapiro in the North Island. The regatta is the largest school sports event in the Southern Hemisphere and is held alternatively at Lake Karapiro in the Waikato region, and Lake Ruataniwha, near Twizel. In 2012, the regatta attracted 1600 competitors from 118 schools, which will make up the 1300 crews racing in 48 events in six days. The township of Twizel swells to nearly double the size on the last day of racing with an estimated additional 8,000 people wanting to watch the final day of races.

There is no entry criteria for the event which means that the event is open to all secondary school students in New Zealand. However, most schools set their own criteria. For example at our school novice rowers have to have medalled at a secondary school event and senior rowers have to have made an A final when the event is held in Twizel. For the North Island event in Karapiro there is no set criteria due to the reduced travel costs involved.

1

Of the 48 events included in the competition, the Springbok Shield for the boys' under 18 coxed fours; the Levin Jubilee Cup for girls' under 18 eight, the Star Trophy awarded to the top overall school at the Regatta are the major events to win, with the Maadi Cup - Boys under 18 eights being the Blue ribbon event.

There is potential for positive spin offs for New Zealand society because of the discipline and commitment that is needed to compete in this event. Rowers train for up to 12 months leading up to the event. There is potential for a huge number of teenagers to enter the work force or enter tertiary study with the knowledge that exercise and training require a tremendous amount of commitment but there are spin offs with the positive feelings associated with reaching a goal.

The influx of such a large number of people into a small town ship will have financial benefit as lots of people will be spending money in the town that normally would not have. Places like the local pub and dairy will experience a very high profit during the week. However, there are problems in trying to accommodate all these people. Local services like rubbish collection and sewerage will be stretched to capacity. The local district council will have to spend more money ensuring basic services are able to cope.

2

There is nothing but positives that can be drawn from participation in Maadi Cup. It has extremely high amount of participation – over 1600 secondary school students every year. This will mean that a large segment of senior students heading into the work force or tertiary study will be knowledgeable in training programmes and training and this will have health benefits to New Zealand as a whole.

2