

Auckland Regatta

How do I tell this story? There are two perspectives I could take . . .

Perspective 1: the kick ass results we had all day

Or

Perspective 2: that one slightly disappointing finals race

Let's concentrate on Perspective 1 shall we?

Most people carpooled their way through a dreary, foggy Hamilton morning only to arrive at a spectacular, sunny day at the Auckland Viaduct. We were well organized with clothes airers for our wet uniforms, plenty of water, loads of energy snacks, EW signage and we had the BBQ ready and the always eager BBQer (my boy Jason) on standby, to sizzle up sausages to feed the hungry troops.



The first race for the day was just a practice run for all of the teams and because we had an extra race, it was strategically decided to take it easy and use the leg as a warm up. It was this race which made us realize that we were going to be in great form for the day. Even without any "power!" calls the opposition struggled against us and only just managed to pass us at the finish line and we achieved one of our better times of the day. With the pressure of winning removed, everyone was calm, attitudes were positive, the timing was brilliant and the boat ran as smoothly as it ever has.

We had four other heats that day and we won them all convincingly – one by several boat lengths! Our extra race for the day was "The Money Race" which we qualified for through our victories at the Auckland Sprints. Again we won this race and earned the team \$400, which subsidized our team dinner and contributed towards our Aussie trip for 2006/2007. Not a bad effort!

With all of our successes we easily qualified for the finals. Despite our previous record for the day, negative attitudes started to creep into some people's hearts. Whispers of "we can't win" were heard in the team tent. On the last run of the day we gave it our all, even though heads went down and timing went out, the field was so close that there was only a second between 1st place and us in 4th. Some people, including myself, took this "loss" to heart. But on reflection I have decided to take the philosophical approach . . .this is something we can all learn from and is almost a classic case study of how a positive attitude can lead to success.

We are a strong team, filled with great people and skilled paddlers. When we have confidence in ourselves, and enjoy the races, we can achieve amazing times and glorious victories. So keep positive team, even if you're tired, even if the odds are against us, have faith in the paddler beside you, the friend in front of you and the team that surrounds you. Together we can achieve anything.

~ Cirina

Typical regatta Tent City

