

EI President's Report (*Allan Halse*)



Race fixing?



Inaugural DB Opera



...brainsbrains

The 2006/2007 year was another successful season and I'd like to thank the Committee for the work they have carried out. In particular I would like to mention Jane Davidson who has filled the secretary's position for the past two years and Helen Leslie, our first-year treasurer. Both filled in for me regularly during the year and responded to my requests for help at short notice. Karyn Hopkins and Mark Williams were always willing to help and Cirina De Pierro, although not on the Committee (her choice) filled gaps whenever they appeared. Erin Petuha, for assistance with fundraising and for excellent effort editing the 2005/2006 yearbook. The strength of the Committee is reflected in results on the water and this last year was again evidence of that.

I'd like to acknowledge again the support and sponsorship given by Environment Waikato's Management. Harry Wilson (CEO) recognises the benefit to the organisation of having a successful corporate dragon boat with representation from across all Groups. Enduring friendships are made, work relationships fostered.

Highlights this year were our (Mark Williams and my) invitation to EMT after our success at the Auckland Regatta where we won the Council Race, our (Helen, Cirina, Tane, Maelene and Jay) invitation to the Council meeting after winning Gold at the Christchurch Nationals and Clare Cricket (Deputy CEO) presenting the awards at our Prize-Giving in May. Awards went to Cirina, Tama, Helen and Emma and inaugural glasses (thanks Helen for the idea, planning and purchase) to Jimmy Heta (coach), Mark Williams (assistant coach), Derek Phyn.

We had a new coaching combination in Jimmy Heta and Mark Williams with both being current or ex EW staff members/school teachers and both having had extensive paddling/coaching experience with both waka ama and dragon boating. We were extremely lucky to have coaching staff of this caliber and the team appreciated the relaxed/social approach they showed during the year.



I wonder where my cousin is?

Although a social team, EW is always competitive and is a highly respected Corporate team. Our results for the year were:

Hamilton Super 12's (Team RUA 3rd in A Division final, Team TAHI 3rd in B Division final), Tauranga Super 12 Regatta (3rd overall), Takapuna Beach Races (finished our race 2nd but were the 1st to capsize), Auckland Regatta (1st in Council Race, 3rd overall, Bronze in the Corporate Championship Final), Christchurch Nationals (6th overall, 1st **GOLD** in the Corporate B Final)

A special thanks to our paddlers, SG, sponsors, photographers and supporters.