

Funniest moment?

My warm fuzzy has to be having my daughter in our waka paddling for us and doing calling for us. Moments to treasure for a lifetime *JD*.



Plenty of those! My husband deciding to join us in Christchurch - driving from Hamilton to Christchurch. Dunno if it's funny really, probably more Mad than anything!!! *SO*

J: Watching Nick run to the bathroom in the hotel to clean the salsa off his head after the last big night in Christchurch, and not realising one of his eyebrows was missing. Then, when he figured it out. Oh my god. What a tantrum, haha. Love your style Nick, lesson to be learnt. Don't fall asleep in a public area especially when there's a room full of well-liquored dragon boaters in the room.

Got to be getting chucked in the lake at Christchurch. Someone did mention that it's tradition to throw the caller in after the final race but I somehow thought I'd managed to escape - obviously not. A very refreshing end to an amazing day. *CR*

Nick getting told off by Jenny for being too noisy, seeing ARC try and dance at the local, Catherine being lifted up to the roof. *MB*

Coaches / Steerers and Foot Warmers?

Rosco deserves a special award for the most succinct effective team talk ever. Willy always calm, encouraging, offering a quiet word of support. Tama loud, encouraging and always good for a laugh to relieve any pre-race tensions *JD* Jimmy is an awesome coach - he is pretty straight up and tells you what is needed to win. And he believes in us which is cool. Steerers did a wonderful job. *SO*

J: Top bunch of guys, without you we would be lost, in training and in races.

Yes, to elaborate on the above - Jimmy thought he was better able to steer the boat if he had a foot wedged under Erin's and my butt - a rather different tactic from Ross's but I'm sure there was some logic to it somewhere, and it wasn't that his one foot was just cold. *MB*



What did you think of the old hands?

J: They're awesome, and always had plenty of advice. Which I tried to take in as I was gasping for air

What would we do without them?? Encouragement when and where needed, and a well deserved (verbal) kick up the ass in Christchurch that got our heads in the right space. *CR*

What were trainings like?

Where to start – exhausting, nauseating! But awesome team bonding too... looking around and realising that your team mates are in just as much pain as you definitely helps keep you going! The whole concept of 'top hand pressure' remained something of a mystery for longer than I'd like to admit but I did have a bit of a 'eureka' moment when I finally got it! *CR*

Trainings were hard and often I felt the back of the boat copped it more – with less recovery time during sets, and Erin and I having to put up with the odd foot under our butts but in the end I think we were thankful (foot aside) when it came to Nationals! *MB*

Did you need new undies after Takapuna?

No, but Allan told me he was so excited about winning a medal at Chch he had to change his after that final race! I guess waiting four years does that to ya. *MH*

Pep talk at the beginning, "if we capsize look out for your buddy, stay with the boat, it WILL float". Whoow oovveerr we go! Pandemonium follows. Did the boat float? Well it might have, if some cheerful lump wasn't standing in it ceremoniously saluting all previously sunken vessels At least the water was clean and relatively warm and it meant we didn't have to practice capsizing in Hamilton Lake! *JD*



What were regattas like?

The atmosphere at every Regatta I went to was great – really positive, friendly competition. Awesome memories - from the moving Rose Ceremony at Tauranga to supporting Hamilton City Watersports in Auckland with a rousing rendition of Moo Loo – just goes to show its not all about winning (although that gold medal does look rather good hanging by my desk!) *CR*

What's up with dragon boating and shaving?

First Tama shaved his legs and chest for a quiz nite and then Nick chose to shave himself in Chch, very strange indeed! Helps the streamlining of the boat. *SO*

Yes, very strange when it involved males more than females. *MB*