



Turangawaewae Corporate Challenge

An intrepid quintet inspired by the headline "Corporate Challenge" entered in the Turangawaewae Inaugural Corporate Challenge 300 metre Waka Ama (*Love those short catchy race names - Dr T*). The event was to be held at Turangawaewae on Saturday 6 December 2008 starting 8.00 am sharp with karakia. Wanting to secure a good spot we all arrived about 7.45 expecting there to be a bustle of activity. Only three vehicles - and they were ours! and five people - us! While mulling "what to do..." another vehicle



arrived with a friendly local dropping off Cody the Sunsmart Turtle's trailer. She informed us the regatta's start time had been moved to 12 noon as it was Christmas Parade day in Ngaruawahia. She invited us to check it out as there were lots of stalls in town. We all jumped into Ric and Dot's vehicle and visited town. An eclectic assortment of stalls displayed a range of food and new and used items. Our wandering took us to the local sports shop, which was very proudly displaying the Rugby League World Cup. We got to touch it and sit with it for photos - how cool was that!



Ngaruawahia Sprints

With lots of time still to fill, Ric and Dot were very keen to visit their favourite Hamilton café so off we headed to Grace's in the St Andrew's Shopping Centre. A lovely time was spent quaffing and chatting before heading back to the regatta.

This time there was much more activity and many more people. We chose the perfect spot. Ric, Dot, Libby and Jenny erected our gazebo and set up camp while Allan went to suss out the opposition - where is that man when there is work to be done?

Karakia spoken and team briefing delivered it was time for racing. Wow, they had the loading transfers down to a fine art. Steerers were supplied and some were very young but very skilled friendly and helpful. Well done to the steerers.

Our team of Ric and Dot Grocott, Allan Halse, Libby and Jenny Davis came 2nd in the first heat and won our second heat. In the semis we came 2nd but failed by 0.6 of a second to qualify for the championship final. The team "Tainui", which beat us in the semis, won the championship final. They had three women paddlers but had recently won at Regional level (hardly Corporate). Second was NZ Police (with only one woman paddler) and third was Waikato District Council (only two women paddlers).



This was the first time we'd ever raced sprint. Clint, a big huge thank you for sharing your skills and knowledge and torturing us so well. Your input was a vital component in our team.

We did well coming 4th out of 18 teams, being novices in sprint races.

Cheers

- Jenny Davis



Undercover Cody
The coolest SunSmart turtle

Cody spends his time going on undercover missions with his friends Duke (the starfish in this photo), Friday the fish and Lucy the shell. They remind kids to SLIP SLOP SLAP and WRAP and teach them that it's cool to be SunSmart!

Cody borrowed from - Cancer Society of NZ inc