



The Regatta that ~~was~~ ~~wasn't~~ ~~was~~ wasn't

When is a Regatta not a Regatta?

It all started with an email from the powers that be in ~~Dorland~~ Auckland two weeks before the original Viaduct regatta: "*We have moved the location of the event on the 31st January from the Maritime Museum to Maraetai Beach... Be warned, there could be turns...*"

Turns... in a dragonboat? ~~Disbelief Amusement~~ Annoyance reigned. Apparently also included in their great plan was having callers and sweeps running up and down the beach. Ross was ~~****ed-off~~ unimpressed.

After a few emails back and forth between the team on that fateful Wednesday (with an especially memorable one from Dr T) we remembered that we are ~~drunkards~~ Environment Waikato and can handle anything and everything thrown at us by those nice ~~stupid~~ nice people up in Auckland.

Then, the week before the beach races at Maraetai, the event was changed. Again. Virginia updated us with another email. "*The good news is that the Viaduct 280 metre sprints are back on and the beach races are cancelled. The bad news is that we no longer have a regatta on next weekend (31 Jan), the Viaduct date has been moved to the 28 February.*"

Confused? Let's timeline:

Beginning of the season, 2008

Auckland regatta at the Viaduct is scheduled for the 31st of January

Two weeks before the regatta

Due to budget constraints the Viaduct was changed to Maraetai beach, still for the 31st of January.

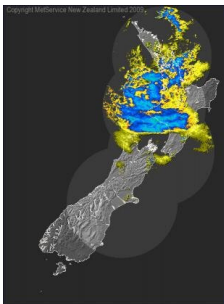
The week of the regatta

Due to criticism of the late change from almost all the teams, the regatta on the 31st of January is cancelled altogether and a new regatta at the Viaduct is scheduled for the 28th of February.

Alrighty. So no regatta at a beach in the middle of nowhere Maraetai for E-Dubbers on the 31st of Jan, but a brand new regatta in February at the Viaduct instead. That actually sounds pretty good, doesn't it?

Unfortunately, this is not the end of the story.

Our heroes, the Environment Waikato crew, receive a magical surprise from ~~the Dragonboat-fairies~~ the EW Dragonboat committee the week of the regatta. The surprise makes us zoom like we are on ~~steroids~~ fairy dust and the team was looking forward to ~~throttling beating into submission~~ gracefully winning at the upcoming Viaduct regatta.



Two days later and the day before the new and improved Viaduct regatta, an email is sent by Al: "*I hope everyone is excited about tomorrow's regatta but prepared for it to be called off. See Marine Forecast attached.*"

The marine forecast was actually quite pretty. It showed great big blue yellow, blue and red patterns all over the Auckland region. That sort of pattern is frowned upon by Dragonboaters in general though, and on Friday afternoon we received the bad news (very elegantly put by Sarah O): "*You're probably all aware the weather forecast for Saturday is pretty much shite so it's official that the Regatta on Saturday at the Viaduct has been cancelled.*"

The story isn't over though. On Saturday night, the night of the regatta that wasn't, the majority of the Dragonboaters ~~drowned~~ ~~their sorrows~~ had a great night celebrating Steve and Karyn's engagement party.



The Regatta we virtually won

The non-regatta that wasn't in Auckland was notable for many achievements;

- No overpriced food tents, No Dragon boats capsizing, No false starts, No collisions, No protests, No cardboard certificates, No bad race calls, No inaccurate timing.

Ed Prince summed the event up nicely as "the most complicated, rollercoaster, exciting, depressing, talked about non-event of the season so far!" and indeed it was. The only matter left up in the air was determining who had won the regatta (and specifically, how well EW did). This couldn't be left to mere speculation; an in-depth logical analysis was called for:

- 1) $R \supset W$ (if it is a regatta then it will have a winner)
- 2) $CR \supset R$ (something cancelled must first be real)
- 3) $CR \supset W$

By Hypothetical Syllogism, if it is a cancelled regatta it must have a winner.

- 4) $\sim A$ (As a matter of fact the AIRFORCE did not win)
- 5) $\sim L$ (As a matter of fact LION did not win)
- 6) $\therefore \sim A \bullet \sim L$
- 7) $\therefore \sim (A \vee L)$

By Conjunction and De Morgan's Theorems;
...neither Airforce or Lion won the regatta

- 8) $\sim EW \supset (A \vee L)$

This one is conjecture, but seems reasonable. The only teams scheduled to race at the cancelled regatta, capable of beating EW, were Lion and Airforce. Therefore, if EW lost then Lion or Airforce must have won. Additional Logic could have proved that other teams also didn't win.

Tama's claim that "no one turns up so therefore we win (which didn't seem to allow for the fact that we didn't turn up either)" is to miss the point; we are involved in the very inquiry of EW's placing at the regatta and to include a premise regarding EW not having won would be to beg the question, and I'm not begging for anything!

- 9) $\therefore EW$

A simple Modus Tollens. If neither the Airforce nor Lion won then EW must have done so and any other claims are simply irrelevant, question begging, rhetoric.

Deb thought the cancelled regatta was "forgettable" but how could anyone forget such an achievement? To the best of my knowledge this is the first time the EW team has won a cancelled regatta. Sez noted that it was "a good outcome for me because I couldn't make either regatta anyway!" as I'm sure it was for all the teams who didn't attend. If fact, and correct me if I'm wrong, but non-attendance at this non-regatta was 100% - the first 100% turnout for the EW team this season.

It was a pity about the weather; as Virginia noted it was "sucky, but after seeing the news on Saturday, [cancelling the event] was the best decision ADBA made." Indeed, and for those with an eye for the weather the forecast was:

"GALE WARNING: Easterly 40 knots gusting 55 knots, easing to northeast 25 knots gusting 35 knots this afternoon. Issued: 02:46am Saturday, 28-Feb-2009"



"The rain caused power outages to about 8000 Vector customers around the north of Auckland and forced the postponement of the Auckland Derby Day race meeting at Ellerslie by 24 hours." *Weatherwatch.co.nz*

Floodwaters surround a church in Kaeo. Photo /Herald On Sunday.



Auckland harbour as viewed from Shoals Bay; 10am on the day of the non-regatta.