

The Turangawaewae Challenge (12.12.09)



Turangawaewae sprints was great - we had 3 teams and pretty much scooped the prize pool - which I have to say was amazing - the trophy is stunning but it was also stunning that they managed to get labels with photos of the recipient teams onto the bottles of wine which were presented as prizes at the end of racing. Each boat only needed 5 paddlers as Turangawaewae provided steerers, most of whom were quite young paddlers. They did an awesome job. The day was a mix of very wild weather from pelting sideways

torrential downpours to freaky wind gusts and sunny serene pleasantness. Christine's gazebos succumbed to the ravages of the day and will never be the same again. A well run, fun event - great place to start for newish paddlers - very friendly event. I think our teams will have to practice their winning kanikani (dances) for the next event though. The aftermatch hangi was very generous and delicious.



Jen D.

And the team said "The Turangawaewae Corp Challenge was: ..." The pinnacle of New Zealand's competitive paddling events (DB), EW's (SO), Fun! (MM), great fun followed by some serious kite flying (RG), in Ngaruawahia and I was thankful that I didnt paddle cos the weather was crap that day (JC), Wet and windy!! and an awesome fun event with the best prizes ever!! Teamalised (like personalised but for the team) bottles of wine with photos of the team winning the event on the label - super cool! (JD)



The Raglan Wipeouts (17.10.09)

The tips at Raglan was a fantastic opportunity for us all to practice falling out and getting back into the waka in a safe supportive environment. A big thumbs up to those from WDBA who made the day possible - I don't want to mention names in case I miss someone. The heavens were very kind to us and turned on a nice sunny day. Firstly, we learned about rigging the waka and putting skirts on - yes, even the boys put skirts on. There was plenty of land-based instruction and encouragement before we hit the water - so to speak! We had an adventurous paddle heading out to the Raglan bar thinking - "those waves look mighty big from our little waka" - but turned before we got right into it then



paddled back around under the bridge to the inlet before purposely tipping the waka. Some groups had more tips than others but by the end of it we'd all had as many or more dunks than we wanted. It was then time to derig the waka put them back on the trailer. Some stopped for a big feed of Raglan's finest fish 'n' chips before heading home.

Jen D.

NI Waka Regionals (TPOTI 2009 – W6 Sprints Trials)

A little south of Rotovegas, at the far end of a sandy inland beach, at the bottom (sic) of Lake Rotoma... stood a pinnacle of hope. It was actually more of a tent but “a pinnacle of tent” doesn’t really sound inspiring. The tent belonged to the WDBWAA and housed our local waka-bods who were about to race; primarily to gain seedings in the upcoming Waka Nationals.



The racing appeared somewhat casual (I guess that’s the nature of trials) – but that’s not to say there weren’t some very hard-fought races; we witnessed some exciting races (most of the excitement coming from the numerous turns the teams had to do... and as the teams were racing along Matahi Spit (rather, in the water next to the spit) we were very close to the action and you could see the pain on paddlers faces as they dragged the wakas through those tight turns.

Ahurangi in the Open Womens W6 1500m. Why? Well lots and lots of turns and the ‘face off’ between EW paddlers in the Waka Life boat and EW paddler Maelene in the Ahurangi boat. We, that’s the onshore camera folks, could pretend it was a desperately fought grudge match (regardless of any truth of the matter) and add a little extra edge to the (our) excitement ☺.



The highlight of the day for me was at the end when Waka Life faced off against Team

Waka Life Masters (Master Women) 1st in the W6 500 (2:03.70) and 1st in the W6 1000 (5:50.51), Waikato (Open Men) 2nd in the 500 (1:46.48) and 4th in the 1500 (4:50.90), Waikato SM (Senior Master Men) 2nd in the 500 (1:49.56) and 2nd in the 1000 (4:50.90), Waka Life SM (Senior Master Women) 1st in the 500 (2:07.45) and 1st in the 1000 5:37.82, and the result in the ‘grudge’ match alluded to in the previous papagraph?



There were lots of results and for the results minded: Waka Life Masters (Master Women) 1st in the W6 500 (2:03.70) and 1st in the W6 1000 (5:50.51), Waikato (Open Men) 2nd in the 500 (1:46.48) and 4th in the 1500 (4:50.90), Waikato SM (Senior Master Men) 2nd in the 500 (1:49.56) and 2nd in the 1000 (4:50.90), Waka Life SM (Senior Master Women) 1st in the 500 (2:07.45) and 1st in the 1000 5:37.82, and the result in the ‘grudge’ match alluded to in the previous papagraph?

Winners : Someone else

2nd Maelene’s Team; Team Ahurangi (8:33.56)

3rd Waka Life (Open Women) (9:25.57)

Team Ahurangi went on to race at the Nationals (Karapiro) and came away with a 7th in the (Women’s Open) 500m final and 5th in the (Women’s Open) double hull final. WTG Maelene... (and I guess the other 5 helped a little well...) [See page 15 for the Waka Life results]

Dr.T

