



Regionals Lake Pupuke

Environment Waikato once again competed at the Lake Pupuke NI Regionals. Ahhh, Lake Pupuke; that body of water somewhat North of the capital; where one gets to meet the big guns of northern racing for the first time. Regionals are an important event as they set the scene for "The Big One" - the Nationals - and gives a good indication of who will get the nomination as arch rival of the year... though everyone expected that once again Airforce would take the nod. The course was (approximately, somewhat close to, near enough or roundabout) 500 metres. This was the first time this season that EW had raced at competition length. The previous festivals having been over a bit shorter course lengths

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"I found these pills"



I've got these amazing new motivational tapes - the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Paddlers" by Jimmy Heta.

Many purchased java prior to racing (at the one and only vendor) and it was amusing to watch the 3 staff make one cup of coffee (2 seemed to take on supervisory roles) at what must have set some record for slowness... still to their credit (sic) they were refusing Eftpos in order to speed up transactions. Anyways; the racing. That's what's important... focus on the racing...

EW raced five races during the course of the day. The first race of the day delivered a **very** good time but was just a warm up round so we were storing it in the tank for the next race - aggregate times over the next 3 races determined the final grade we would race in.

Coach Jimmy gave us some words of encouragement and discussed race plans with us before our races (he was racing himself in open division). Even when the coach wasn't present to give us our pep talk we received plenty of encouragement from other team members. We were reminded to keep ourselves in check and stay focused as there is a lot of banter from other boats that can easily draw attention from the task ahead of us - to cross that finish line in a good time.



Diligent EW supporter and future paddler stares down the Airforce

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...And the races?

Round 1: EW was beaten into second by Tu Meke Dragons (one of the top teams of 2010, but always the bridesmaids, taking 2nds at both the North and South Island Regionals as well as 2nd at the Nationals). Given the class of the opposition EW did exceptionally well to finish just 2.24 seconds behind Tu Meke in a time of 2:08.67. In doing so, EW thrashed the third place getter (Lion) by over 4 seconds!

Round 2: Only 3 boats in this race, and an odd combination at that; White Tigers (an Open class team, trained by KPC), US, the Corporate warriors, and A Breast of Life from the BC division. No surprises in the result - but EW went close again 2.16 seconds behind the White Tigers in a time of 2:15.37.

Round 3: Time for an easier race? No way; this time EW had the mighty KPC to deal with as well as strong contenders NSC Dragons and Sky Dragons. KPC were in a class of their own putting in sub-2-minute times so the real race was for second. And EW said "get out of the way, this is our day!" Storming home in 2:07.65 annihilating NSC and Sky who came home in 2:11.64 and 1:12.66 respectively.





You shall not pass!

Ahhh, but the nominees for Arch rival of the year – EW had not yet raced against the Airforce who had put in times of 2:06.53, 2:08.49, and 2:06.99. Now, for those interested in one-upmanship it is worth noting that in the Warm-up round EW set a time of 2:05.8 and the Airforce set a time of 2:09.91; So EW had the fastest overall 500m time! Yes we are better than the Airforce and will rule the world [Insert maniacal laugh].

There was a bit of waiting around between races towards the end (mostly due to the strange Super-12 races that were being run concurrently), but our first three races were fairly close together. Even so, we kept ourselves hydrated and fuelled and entertained watching the other races that were taking place.

Our aggregate times resulted in EW being the second seed in the Corporate Final – anyone paying attention will know that the numero uno seed was...

It would certainly be an interesting and challenging race. The Contenders were 'Them' with a best time of 2:06.53, 'Us' (2:05.8), Lion (2:12.47), NSC (2:11.64), and Sky (2:12.66). Airforce were hot favorites to win but certainly looked to be beatable, (Airforce had been around 5 seconds faster in previous years). The team was focused before the final race and kept our nerves and adrenaline (what was left anyway) under control until we were off those starting blocks. EW was up against some very good teams.

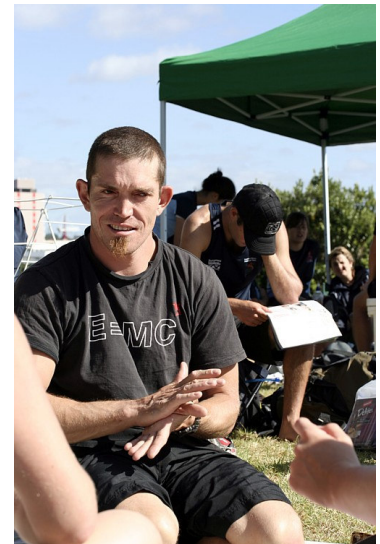
Well, we gave it death in the final race and left it all on the course and it is fair to say the team emptied the tank. We placed second to Airforce but it was a close race and they only just deserved their first place glory. The Finals result; 1st Airforce (2:06.15), 2nd EW (2:08.61), 3rd NSC (2:09.49), 4th Lion, 5th Sky. However, EW can still claim

accolades in having set the fastest corporate time of the day some 0.35 seconds faster than the Airforce!

All in all it was a good day – the weather was kind to us but it got a little bit cooler towards the end of the day. After the final race it was off to R'totos bar just a skip hop and a jump away from the racing venue to warm up with a beer or two and refuel the tank. Environment Waikato was awarded with silver medals which were well earned and we walked away happy with our result.



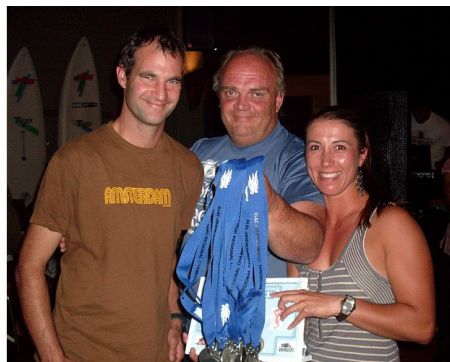
EW Dance troupe in training



Evil genius boot camp

Sarah O

– With 'silly bits', 'interjections' and 'stats' by Dr.T



Silver Medal Winners

Best of the best of the best race times at Lake Pupuke 'greyed' times are Open Class		
1 st	KPC	Sub 2min
2 nd	KPC	Sub 2min
3 rd	KPC	Sub 2min
4 th	KPC	Sub 2min
5 th	HCWS	2:00.22
6 th	KPC	2:01.52
7 th	Tu Meke	2:01.97
8 th	HCWS	2:03.12
9 th	Tu Meke	2:03.47
10 th	HCWS	2:03.86
11 th	HCWS	2:04.14
12 th	Tu Meke	2:04.80
13 th	HCWS	2:04.93
14th	Environment Waikato	2:05.80
15 th	White Tigers	2:06.02
16th	Airforce	2:06.15
17 th	Tu Meke	2:06.43
18 th	White Tigers	2:06.49
19th	Airforce	2:06.99
20 th	Fresh on da Boat	2:06.69

..and then the team said;

Auckland Regionals were:

- Sullied by the appearance of the Airforce (DB)
- Medal-worthy (SO)
- super! (BAT)
- sadly lacking in my presence!! (EP)
- long (MH)
- A serious test of faith (RG)
- where we got a medal (JC)
- All right, in their own peculiarly jaffa'ish sort of way (MM)



EW at the finish, a ½ boat length behind the Airforce and a ½ boat length ahead of NSC



Lake Pupuke 2010

Johnny Horton, Sink the Airforce 2011

The cold Nationals are forgotten next it's Blue Lakes' mornin' sun
 500 metres away from home the Airforce 'll make its' run
 The captain of the EW-boat team will say "dig those paddles deep"
 We've found that Airforce Dboat and we're gonna cut her down

We've found that Airforce Dboat that's makin' such a fuss
 We gotta sink the Airforce 'cause E-dub depends on us
 Jimmy calls "hit the decks a running team and spin those paddles round"
 When we race the Airforce, we gotta cut her down.