

Didn't follow the numbers to the same extent this year... but these seem worthy of a mention:

**Wellygate:**

1<sup>st</sup> in the International rankings

2<sup>nd</sup> on Finish Position (**2<sup>nd</sup> in the Grand Final** behind NZ Army)

2<sup>nd</sup> on Aggregate times (just over a second behind NZ Army)

3<sup>rd</sup> on best times over the 320m (behind NZ Army & Open team 'Fresh on da Boat' – and setting 3 of the top ten fastest times)

**Regionals (Lake Pupuke):**

1<sup>st</sup> fastest Corporate time over the 500m (nyeh nyeh Airforce, We (eW) are #1 you are #2 or lesser)

2<sup>nd</sup> ranked Corporate team on Aggregate times (behind Airforce)

2<sup>nd</sup> on Finish position (**2<sup>nd</sup> in the Corporate Grand Final** behind Airforce)

4<sup>th</sup> fastest team over the 500m (behind KPC, HCWS and Tu Meke – beating both White Tigers [by 0.22] and Airforce [by 0.35])

**Nationals (Lake Hood) ...not so hot:**

2<sup>nd</sup> in a heat, toasting the Army

**4<sup>th</sup> in the Lower Grand Final**

5<sup>th</sup> ranked Corporate team

5<sup>th</sup> fastest Corporate team

9<sup>th</sup> on Aggregate times

9<sup>th</sup> fastest 500m time

10<sup>th</sup> ranked overall

**On the Arch-rivals ... Who should be 'the team' to beat in 2011?**

**Tu Meke Dragons:** Without a doubt the most consistent team in the country at the moment. The 'bridesmaids' at every major event; 2<sup>nd</sup> South Island Regionals (bit of a shock they didn't win, they were way out in front on paper and had the fastest times all day), 2<sup>nd</sup> North Island Regionals (beating HCWS), 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Nationals behind HCWS. Will be the team to watch over the next couple of years as they plan to beat KPC within 3 years!

**Airforce:** Naff, not the team of the last couple of years. Looked very beatable at the NI Regionals (and posted a slower 'best-time' than EW. Off the pace at Nationals; *just* held on to take 4<sup>th</sup> overall)

**NZ Army:** Bit of an up and comer (up and gunner?). Wasn't even in contention at the 2009 Nationals but surprised everyone by making the Grand Final this year. Possibly benefited from being seeded into fast heats (i.e. against HCWS). Will almost certainly win any event based on push-ups.

**NSC Dragons:** Probably don't even exist in these days of super-councils. Anyway, consistently beaten at Auckland and in the Finals at Nationals so not worthy of Arch Rival status (even if they do have the block of wood)

**Arc Angels:** Bring back the Angels. They had the best name...

A worthy goal? Beat Tu Meke, Airforce and NZ Army at the 2011 Nationals. Easy ☺. To quote BEP "I've got a feeling 2011 gonna be a good year, 2011 gonna be a good good year..." and as Bono crooned "EW still hasn't won what it's racing for.." which has to be glory in the Nationals top final.

While we are (sort of) on statistics... remember 2009 (who doesn't) and the surprise of finding out that Maelene was net-uber-famous and solely responsible for quite a lot of traffic ending up at paddlewaikato.com?

Still, odd anomalies often crop up in the strange virtual world where Google rules supreme. Anyways, I decided to review the paddlewaikato stats for the 2009/10 season, feeling certain that the pundits would now be searching for things like Dragons or boats... perhaps even paddles. But no, it's still a talent hunt, and while it looked for a bit as if Jimmy Heta might be the new Miss EWniverse (with 3.2% of the Google site traffic) it was still Maelene who took the title (with just under 5%). What it must be like to be so popular ☺. Sure as I was that the pundits would have a new obsession I asked the team where Maelene-salkers would have moved on to...

I think Sarah O summed it up best with [www.EWDragonboatClubhasgottalent.com](http://www.EWDragonboatClubhasgottalent.com) that seems to cover all the bases ☺. Have to keep the drawcards local lets hope they are not "tracking her down through the Club Te Toki waka website" (JC)