

Lake Brunner Waka Ama Regatta 2005

Hosted by **Canterbury Paddling Club**

"When the weather co-operates it makes all the difference to a regatta" which was the case with our event this year. The sun was out allowing for an unusual sight in the South Island with paddlers in surf shorts and short sleeve tops on the first day of racing. You had to see it to believe. Lake Brunner located on the West Coast of the South Island, a gem of a place mostly known for the fantastic fishing and bush walks, a breath taking location, a virtual 'tea cup' tucked away on the back of the Alps. In previous years we've had a few windy encounters but this weekend, the trout was out to watch the races while the wind took a smoko break.

A fabulous turnout of paddlers from the top of Te Wai Pounamu - Motueka, Picton and Nelson to those of us who are based in Christchurch. The OC1 men and women marathon opened the weekend races on Friday 14th and fully dominating the races were the guys and girls from Motueka Waka Ama Club. Boy did they take off like a shot at the start line. In the very first race, the single open womens 10km, Claire Sykes and Roni Forsyth were away in like the first 5minutes until I could barely see them. It was a pretty lonely race for the rest of us, apart from the odd trout who'd come out to watch. The lush vegetation and odd curve of the lake kept things interesting though while we paddled the kinked course up to the big orange bouy. Following the womens race the single open and master men made off just as the wind decided to come out and have a bit of fun. It was a full on 45 minutes to the top of the 5km bouy battling each other as well as the wind which funnily enough only lasted the duration of the mens race, and the big reward was a sweet 20minute ride home with swell and surf. A smiling Bob Maclachlan looked pretty chuffed as he made his way in first place ahead of his fellow team mates Todd Jago and Tony Baldwin but even more stoked was Shaun Hardcastle, a novice with less than a years experience in a single as he surfed home in his 'banana' coloured Hurricane in 3rd place just ahead of Tony. I swear he had the biggest grin on his face all weekend. A fantastic race to watch.

Saturday was another brilliant day of racing. The OC6's took off in the morning to race 15km with the open women's division first up. Kotahitanga from Motueka Waka Ama Club looking strong

and completely in their element breezed home in first placed with a time of 1hour 27minutes. Hot on their heels were the mixed crew from Te Waka Pounamu followed by the Maitahi Mana ladies from Nelson and in third place, our very own Kaha Tahī of CPC steered by novice steerer Jane Hardcastle. The open mens six followed a similar pattern once the women returned. Tony and his boys from Motueka made it look far too easy with a lead of almost 4 minutes ahead of their neighbors, team Too Much of Nelson. They looked comfortable and at ease, impressive.



15km OC6 Open Women Marathon – Lake Brunner

After an hour of watching the Pacific Cup Vaka Eiva 2004 during lunch, the mood was pretty much set for the 500metre sprint in the arvo. It started to drizzle but no-one really noticed, the short spectator races were far too much fun especially when husband and wife team the 'Hardcastles' of Christchurch are present. In the mens single 500metre sprint Bob from Motueka who did so well not having ever paddled a single without a rudder (and as we all know your boat virtually has a mind of its own in this situation) Bob got a little too close to Shaun for wife Jane's liking. I swear the entire West Coast could hear her telling Shaun to 'get away from him', that was so funny. But again, I guess you had to be there. The argy bargy racing continued with the OC6 men 1000metres. Team Mot Lot from Motueka were doing so well until having to make a turn at the 500m mark. Doing race turns for the first time they were just a few inches shy of a safe turn and had a wee run in with the mixed club crew from Christchurch, Nga Maáta Waka and Storm but only came out in 2nd place conceding to the guys from Nelson by 13seconds. At the end of the day, everyone had fun,

Lake Brunner Waka Ama Regatta 2005

Hosted by **Canterbury Paddling Club**

there were no injuries and no damages to report.

So, to top off the weekends races West Coast style, we enjoyed a beautiful meal of barbequed venison and prime beef with an array of salads wonderfully prepared by our venue owners the Lake Brunner Yacht Club and Volunteer Coast guard. Everyone seemed pretty happy and pleased with the days races and most of all the goodies they got to go home with!



Of course we wouldn't have been able to have fantastic prizes without the help of our sponsors and supporters. To Kev from Canoe and Outdoor World, our biggest and most avid event supporter from Christchurch, a huge thanks for your continued support and supply of the OC1 open men and women prizes (Life jackets custom made for Outriggers) and the OC6 open men and womens prizes. To Thermadry, thank you for supplying Thermadry polypro tops for the OC6 mix Complimentary Category and OC2 Open men Division. To Craig from Scientific Sales (www.scientificsales.co.nz) in Blenheim a huge thank you for taking the opportunity to support our event this year and for the supply of a Garmin Forerunner 201 which we auctioned following the presentation. Congratulations to Michelle Austin of Christchurch for successfully bidding for this. Thanks to David and Julie Larkin from the Lake Brunner Service and the Station House Café for your cash sponsorship of the OC6 overall Open mens and womens trophies. To Gayle from the Moana Hotel and Motel thank you for your donation, Rainbow print the laminating and certificate prints, DTR for the supply of the TV and DVD player and last but not least many thanks to Gary Hopkinson, Peter Jellyman, Viv and your volunteers from the Lake Brunner Yacht Club and Volunteer Coast Guard for your

help with the rescue boats, venue and catering. Without you all, our event wouldn't have been as successful as it was. A special thank you as well to Rodney and Shellie Finnie, Peter Johnston, Shaun and Jane Hardcastle for your assistance with the rescue boats and course. We hope to see you all at Lake Brunner in 2006!

Lake Brunner Official Sponsors 2005



CANOE & OUTDOOR WORLD



STATION HOUSE CAFE

FULLY LICENSED

Koe Street, Moana

OPEN 7 DAYS

FROM 10.30am TILL LATE

PHONE 738-0158 FAX 738-0327

Email: stationhouse@xtra.co.nz

LAKE BRUNNER SERVICE CENTRE

7 Day Dairy, Fuel Supplies
Mechanical & Engineering Repairs

David Larkin



Moana
Westland

tel/fax 03 738 0029



RAINBOW PRINT



LBYCVCI



www.scientificsales.co.nz