NKOA 2006 - Waka Ama Club Sprint Champs
17th - 21st January 2006

Debrief Report

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1. Summary

There were some major changes to the nationals this year with
- renaming of the event to emphasis the club nature of the entries
- New W1 quota system
- New ID Cards with barcodes, and barcode scanners at registration
- New server computer used for running the software.

2006 is the 3rd year I have attended Nationals, and was by far the easiest for me. There were no major issues throughout the event and I was able to put my time towards improvements for the worlds.

There were very few incorrect results and progressions published, that had to be re-published. Registration ran smooth most of the time and didn't have to resort to paper as in previous years. Due to the increased efficiency of using barcode scanners, we will be able to reduce the number of registration computers required from 3 down to 2 in 2007, for the World Sprints we will keep the 3rd registration computer as a backup..

This is also the first time we have a admin person who was able to enter changes directly into the system. Jan was able to pickup the job quickly and reduced my workload by half. I only had to do the more difficult changes.

The number of canoes available proved to be an issue for WT12 races, requiring last minute changes to the race shcedule, this will need to be addressed in the future.

Overall I feel we have come along in leaps and bounds since 2003 and it is now just a matter of refining and documenting our processes and procedures so that the Waka Ama Sprint Nationals will always be an awesome event to be part of.

2. Race Day Notes

Day 1

- For the first time in 3 years, day 1 ran smoothly in terms of computer issues.

- This was the first time we have used barcode scanners in the registration area.

- Late start by about 45 min due to hold ups getting the canoes in the water (this happens every year, how do we solve this problem)

- Late finish due to extended race programme (79 races, target is 55-60 per day)
  this needs to be addressed, either introduce quota or extend junior race days

- Shortage of canoes, slowed down turn around times
  Suggest we run the 1000/1500 races on the first day so less canoes are required on day 1.

Day 2

- Last minute change of race schedule due to lack of W12 canoes (only 7 available)

- Progressions for W12 races were effected as only 7 teams could progress, progressions needed to be edited manually and this step was missed a couple of times, causing confusion at registration when 8 teams showed up.

- Late finish due to extended race programme (67 races, target is 55-60 per day)
  this needs to be addressed, either introduce quota or extend junior race days

- Boat loading used new handheld to monitor lane draw, was very successful for progressions as paperwork didn't always get through on time

Day 3

- W1 only, works as a good rest day for volunteers as the workload is much lighter

- A couple of paddlers showed as scratched, however there was no record of them requesting to be scratched, this was most likely a software fault, which have been fixed. Need to record an audit trail for changes.

Day 4

- Senior racing starts

- No major issues, a few teams didn't think we would run to time and missed their races

- We reviewed our Timing and DQ procedures and came up with a new proceduces and checks to test on Day 5

Day 5

- Last day of racing, delayed start due to last minute change of race schedule (due to lack of W12 canoes)

- Implemented new Timing and DQ procedures and they worked extremely well. We will continue to monitor and enhance these procedures at the worlds.

3. Race Schedule

We stuck to the same basic race schedule we used for 2006. Having juniors for the first half of the event, followed by seniors for the second half of the event works well.
Day 1 – Juniors W6
Day 2 – Juniors W6/WT12
Day 3 – All divisions W1
Day 4 – Seniors W6/WT12
Day 5 – Seniors W6

Comparision of the number of races 2004 to 2006

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*Difference*
Day 1	58	64	79	+15
Day 2	56	50	68	+18
Day 3	56	84	87	+3
Day 4	54	59	50	-9
Day 5	30	34	40	+6
Total	**258**	**295**	**324**	**+29**

Analysis

There are too many races on day 1 and day 2, the optimal number of races is between 55-60 per day, and this showed with the 7.30pm finishes on both day 1 and day 2. They are very long days and it is hard for both the competitors and volunteers to cope with this. If we did not run at full capacity (as we did on both those days), we would have been unable to finish all the races scheduled.

There are a few years of data stored in the race system now, and it is possible to calculate an accurate race schedule. For 2007 I will look at extending the junior W6 and WT12 racing over 2.5 days and shortening the seniors down to 1.5 days. The next step after that will be to implement a W6/WT12 quota system

4. W1 Quota System

A new W1 quota system was trialled this year giving regions a quota based on a base number of paddlers plus 1 place for every paddler that came in the 1st, 2nd or 3rd at the previous nationals.

This way quota is allocated to the strongest region, not necessarily the biggest region, and it also allows smaller regions to grow, because they will always have a base quota allocated.

I will refine the base numbers for the quota for 2007 but will basically follow the same format.

5. Facts and Figures

Here is a selection of facts and figures taken from the data collected at sprint nationals. Being the biggest regatta in New Zealand, it is assumed that the majority of paddlers attend sprint nationals. This gives a good basis for general trends in Waka Ama.

It is important to note that without the NKOA ID card system, we would not be able to collect any of this data.
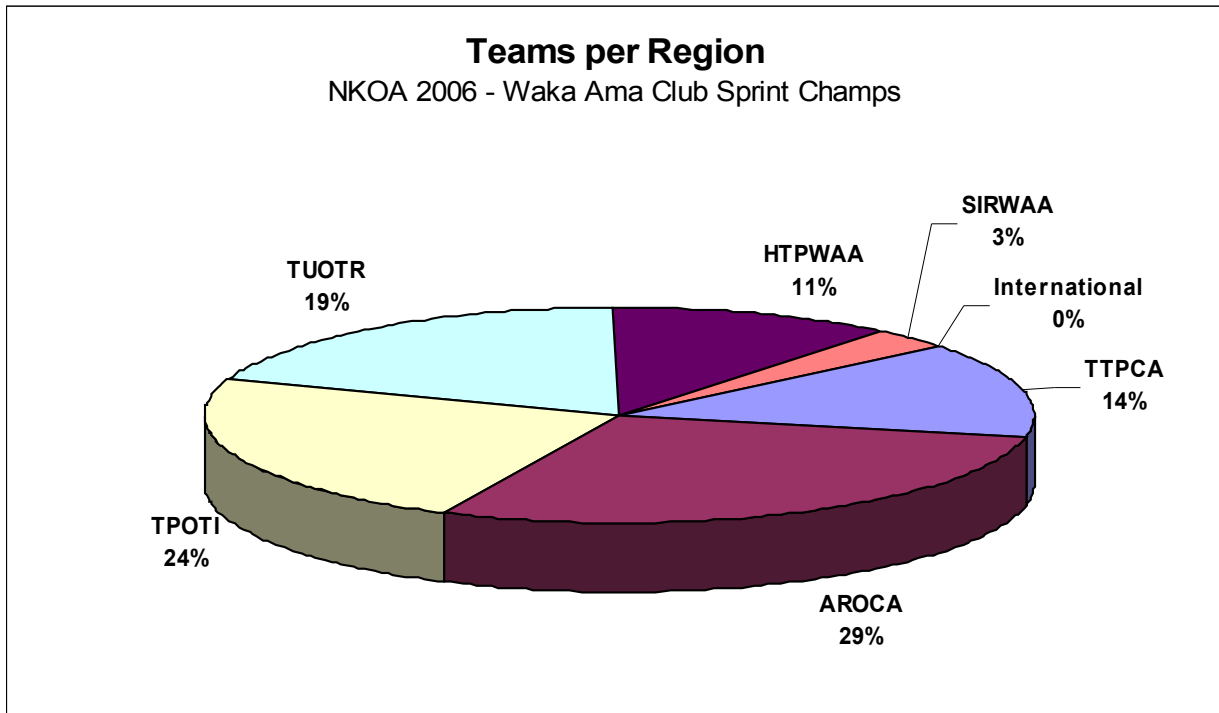
Number of Races:	324	
Number of Paddlers:	2076	
Number of Teams:	4001[*]	
Fastest Time 250m:	1:45.80	(Only Midgets race 250m)
Fastest Time 500m:	1:45.66	
Fastest Time 1000m:	4:50.93	
Fastest Time 1500m:	7:12.35	

Fastest Lanes[**]	Lane No	Num Wins
	2	29
	1	26
	3	24
	4	23
	5	22
	6	12
	7	11
	8	4

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[*]   W1's are counted as teams

[**]   Fastest lanes are calculated using unseeded heats only, not semis, finals or W1 seeded heats

Teams per Region
NKOA 2006 - Waka Ama Club Sprint Champs

SIRWAA
3%

HTPWAA
11%

International
0%

TUOTR
19%

TTPCA
14%

TPOTI
24%

AROCA
29%

This graph shows which regions had the most teams at sprint nationals. AROCA has taken the lead this year with 29% and SIRWAA being the smallest remaining on just 3%.

Teams per Region 2005 vs 2006
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■ 2006 ■ 2005

600
500
400
300
200
100
0

TTPCA | AROCA | TPOTI | TUOTR | HTPWAA | SIRWAA | International
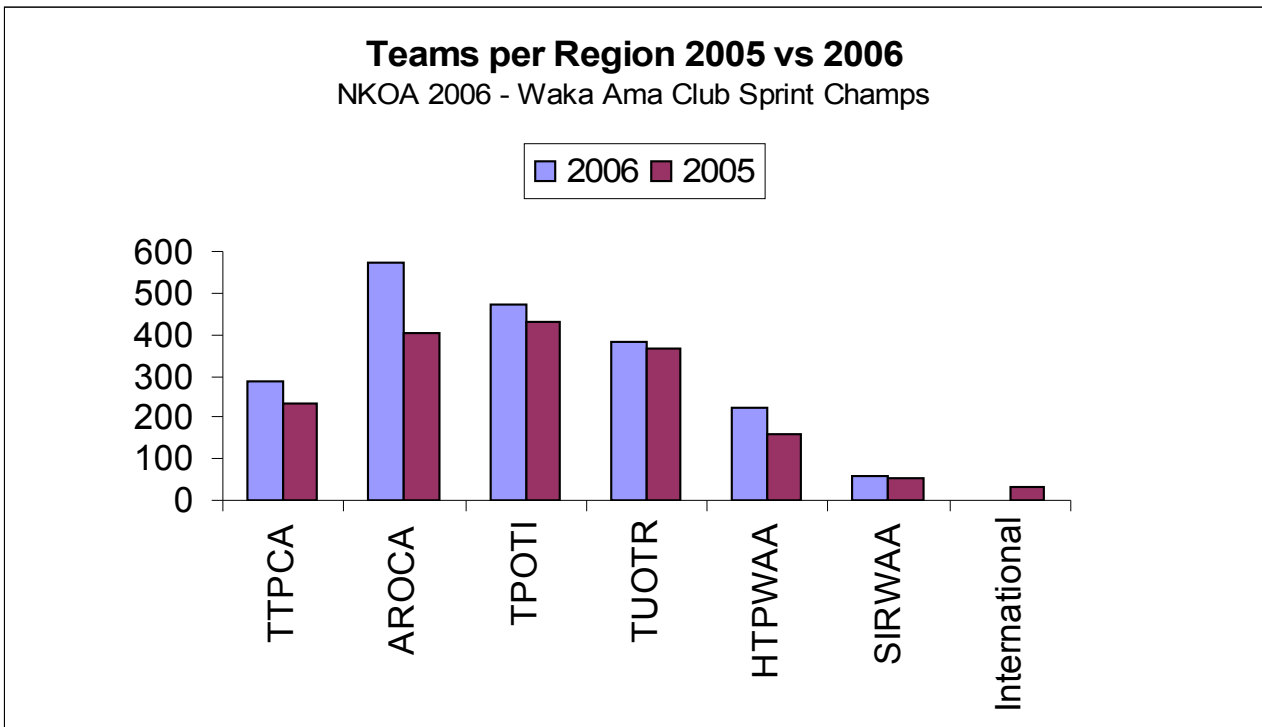
This graph shows the number of teams per region compared to 2005. All regions had more teams this year, with AROCA leading the way with a 41% increase.

Number of Male vs Female Paddlers by Age
NKOA 2006 - Waka Ama Club Sprint Champs
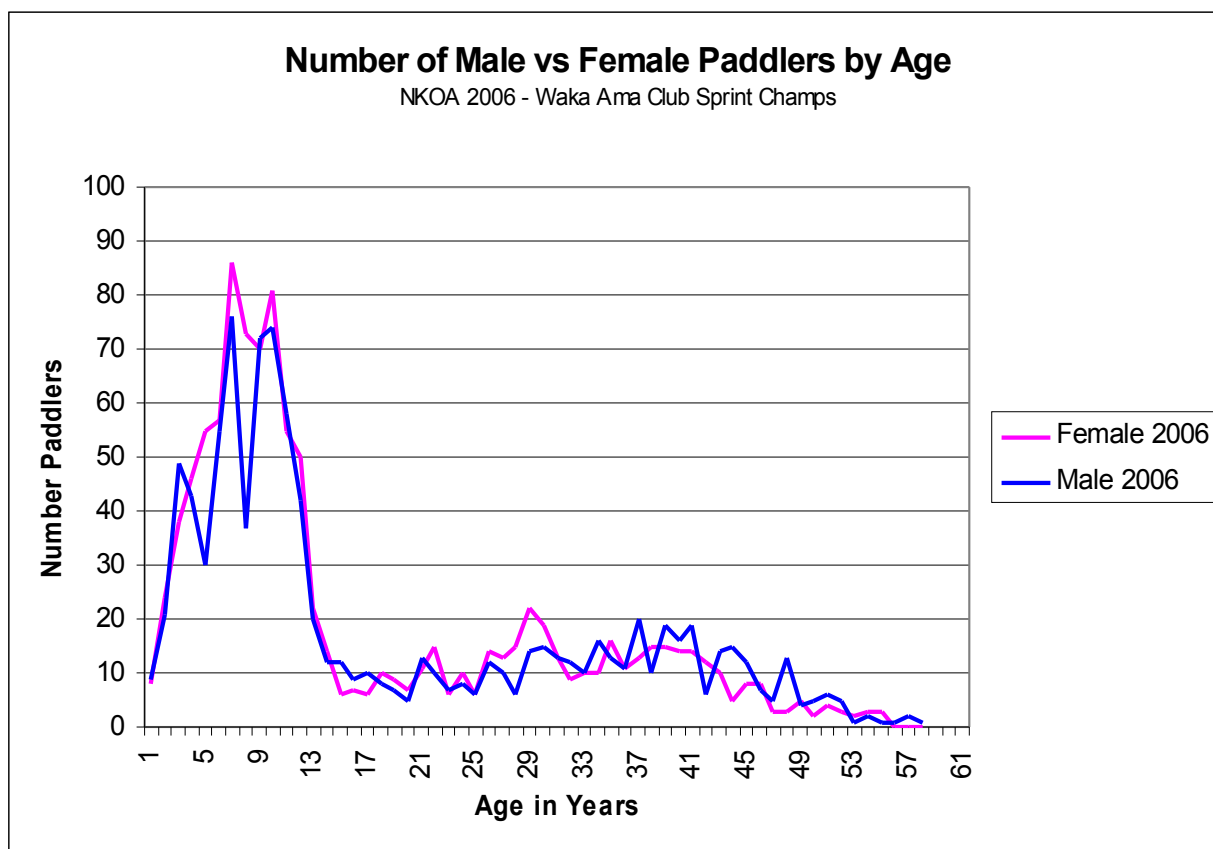
This graph shows a breakdown of the ages of all paddlers that attended nationals.

The trend shows that they are a lot of junior paddlers from the ages 7 to 13 years old.
Infact you would be more likely to bump into a 12 year old female, then any other age/gender at nationals this year.

It is also interesting to note that gender is roughly equal right though all the ages.

Number of Paddlers by Age 2005 vs 2006
NKOA 2006 - Waka Ama Club Sprint Champs
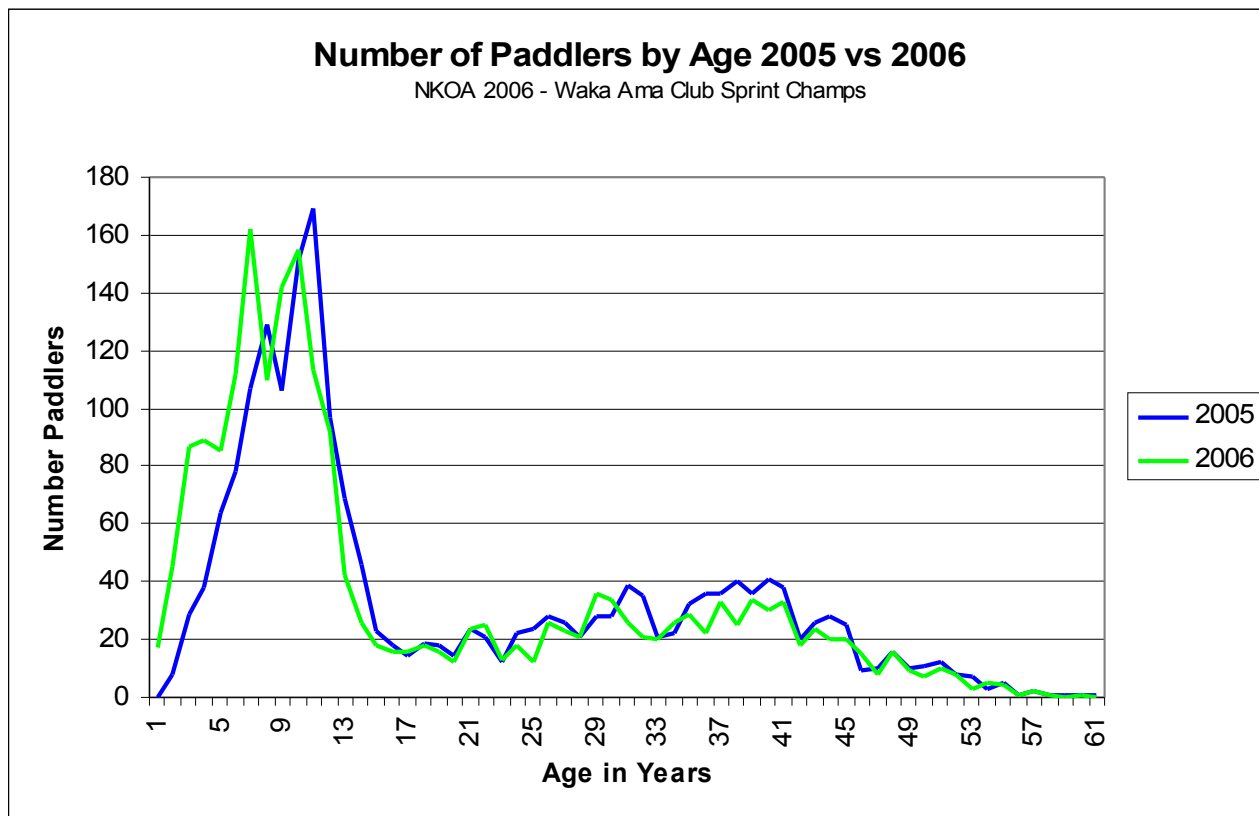
This graph compares the age of paddlers in 2005 (blue) vs 2006 (green). This year there was an increase in the number of midget paddlers. It is also interesting to note the big drop off in paddlers after age 14-15