

Proudly hosted by the Waitakere Outrigger Canoe Club

Papa
Alf

Memorial
Race 2019

"Pūao mai te atatu ki runga i ngā wai pukepuke o te Waitemata, He whakaawenga mā te hunga rangatahi, hei tohu maumahara ki a koe". The day dawns on the rough seas of Waitemata, The young are inspired as we remember you".



Beautiful conditions greeted us on Sunday the 22 of September for the Waitakere OCC Papa Alf Memorial race. Papa Alf's passing last year left a gap in the hearts of those who knew him, his mischievous character around the waka ama traps was notorious. He mocked everyone and no- one was immune to his oneliners.

Despite his cheekiness he had a genuine heart for the rangatahi. So this race was to honour that, and follow his philosophy of waka which was, to have fun, whakawhanaunga and to eat.

There was only one rule for the day which was no protests and not take anything seriously (we had 2 protests). The only serious thing on the water was the safety boats, which were supplied kindly by Te Pouherenga, Manukau and Waitakere clubs.

The race was for midgets to j16s with a mixed race and whānau race attached to the end. There were over 200 paddlers, and about 46 teams from Tāmaki Makaurau and Tainui, although Ngā Hoe Horo couldn't make it, but we knew they had Gubbi Gubbi as well. There was racing and prizes from our sponsors Toi Tangata, Findfex koha for our safety boats, Tribal Roots, Haven Falls, Iwear with Whaea Lynora, MTF Finance with Simon, Pacific Rhythm and of course our V1 sponsor Fai with Papa Joe Bunton.



Pukepuke Whānau

The day was an amazing event for everyone, there was face painting, a lolly scramble and food for the paddlers, Papa Alf never paid for a lunch!

The highlight of the day was to have Papa Alf's wife, children and mokopuna with us, while Allen and Eric (papa's brothers) reminded us of Papa Alfs dashing good looks.

Tu te kiha J16 from Waitakere was the lucky winner of a brand new waka fresh out of the container, and her waka along with the families waka were blessed, this culminated with the whānau going out for their first paddle as well.

The Papa Alf Memorial trophy "Pūao Te Atatu" was awarded to Te Pou Herenga, for their support of the event and the whānaungatana they demonstrated on the day. What an awesome day and thanks to everyone who helped Papa Alf would have been smiling. Rātou ki a rātou, tātou ki a tātou kia ora.



Tu Te kiha draw winner of the V1 with Papa Joe Bunton of Fai

Photo's: https://www.facebook.com/piri.wicks/media_set?set=a.10217580485197023&type=3

Waitakere O.C.C



I ❤️ Waka Ama