

# Surf Ski Race Calendar - 2009

## February 21 2009 – Bo Herbert Race – Tutukaka

Distance will be between 30-40km. Meeting point is Kowharewa Bay, Tutukaka with registration at 9am and race start at 12 when the sea breeze (hopefully) comes up. Entry fee \$65 for solo paddlers or \$45 per person for relay that includes prize giving meal and race shirt. Entry Form and prize information is coming online to [www.taipaddles.co.nz](http://www.taipaddles.co.nz) and [www.wakaama.co.nz](http://www.wakaama.co.nz). Contact Conan at [taidesigns@xtra.co.nz](mailto:taidesigns@xtra.co.nz) for more details.

## February 22 2009 – Takapuna Boating Club Championships

TBC club champs. Distance will be around 20km, with two course options being down wind. Race start at 2pm, with registration and course confirmed at 12 noon from TBC. Entry fee free for TBC members, \$15 for all others. Contact Tracy Wilson [tracy.wilson@clear.net.nz](mailto:tracy.wilson@clear.net.nz), course details on [www.takapunaboating.org.nz](http://www.takapunaboating.org.nz)

## March 21 2009 – CRNZ Ocean Racing Championships - Auckland

The venue for the CRNZ Ocean Racing Champs is from Pine Harbour 21st March. The course will be down wind between 25km- 30km based wind, competitors will be transported to designated starting points based on the wind direction. Registration from 9am at Pine Harbour, depart Pine Harbour 11am, race start 1pm. All details and entry form is on [www.surfski.co.nz](http://www.surfski.co.nz) soon. For more details contact the race director Terry Newsome on [teran@ihug.co.nz](mailto:teran@ihug.co.nz).

## March 28 2009 – TransTaupo - Taupo

Neil Gellatly has confirmed that the Trans Taupo race is back on the racing calendar. If you haven't done this race, its worth making the trip. The race starts at Tokaanu and heads to Taupo, paddling a total of 44km. All details are online at [www.transtaupo.co.nz](http://www.transtaupo.co.nz).

## April 3 & 4 2009 - Waka Fest Ocean Challenge - Tauranga

The dates have been set for the 2009 Waka Fest Ocean Challenge. Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April will be the 28km Surf Ski Ocean Race, with the 16km Harbour race on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Website: [www.wakafest.com](http://www.wakafest.com)

## Purchasing a long distance Surf Ski & Coaching

Check out [www.surfski.co.nz](http://www.surfski.co.nz) for the long distance surf ski agents in New Zealand. They also sell a range of paddles and accessories.

Want to learn how to paddle a surf ski, need technique training or some tips on how to catch runners – then [www.surfski.co.nz](http://www.surfski.co.nz) also has a range of coaches.

## Want to promote your race or publish a race report?

Go to [www.surfski.co.nz](http://www.surfski.co.nz) and email us in the feedback section on the front page.





## CRNZ Ocean Racing Championships – 21 March 2009

The 2009 New Zealand Ocean Racing Championship race will be run from Auckland's Pine Harbour this year on 21 March. The race will be between 25-35km and is designed to challenge long distance ski paddlers, down wind surfing skills in the open ocean. It is open to Surf Ski's and OC1.

Several courses, all finishing at Pine Harbour Marina have been plotted based on the wind direction to give a long down wind paddle. The final course will be decided on race day. Competitors and ski's will taken to the designated starting point (no need to organise your own transport), unloaded, line up and race back to finish at Pine Harbour Marina. All the race information and entry form are on [www.surfski.co.nz](http://www.surfski.co.nz)

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with registration and loading ski's for the start. If anyone can help, please contact Race Director Terry Newsome on [teran@ihug.co.nz](mailto:teran@ihug.co.nz) or phone 021 074 8485 or 09 273 0173.



## TransTaupo Crossing - 28 March 2009

Race organiser Neil Gellatly has confirmed that the Trans Taupo race is back on the racing calendar. All details are online at [www.transtaupo.co.nz](http://www.transtaupo.co.nz) (and it's worth checking out – there's a brilliant photo of Roster on the front page!). With less than 50 days to go and 5 entries already received in the post, we encourage you to get your entry in early. Entries are initial limited to 100 craft. Whist we have some good sponsors onboard again, we actively continue to seek more to promote to all active and interested paddlers/kaihoe/rowers thru the Trans Taupo event. If you own, work for, or know of a company or business with a image, product or service which would like to align with the Trans Taupo event in 2009, we dearly would love to hear from you/them. Safe and enjoyable paddling/rowing - kind regards... Neil & Kat



## Beach series update

Only six races left. Steve Ferguson leads the men's series with Travis Mitchell only 9 points behind. Katie Pocock leads the womens series, Teneale Hatton is in second place, but Erin Taylor may challenge her for this position if she competes in the remaining races. Remaining Beach Series Races – 10 Feb, 17 Feb, 24 Feb, 3 Mar, 10 Mar and 17 Mar. All information can be found at [www.beachseries.co.nz](http://www.beachseries.co.nz)



## Update on the Perth World Cup Race – 17 & 18 Jan 09

By Katie Pocock



The (slightly shorter than usual) 23km race runs from Rottness Island back to Scarborough and marks the first World Cup race of 2009. I absolutely love this stretch of water so this race has always been one of my favourites!

This year we had strong group of four kiwis paddling, including my usual partners in crime - Tracy and Paul, which of course, made for entertaining times, particularly in the lead up to the race when we were trying to avoid the 38 – 40 degree heat!!!!

While there was a smaller international turn out for this race than usual I enjoyed a good battle with long time rival and friend Australian Kirsty Holmes who was in good form having recently place fourth at the Coolangatta Gold. The women's field also included recent Olympic bronze medallist, local Lisa Oldenholf (Lisa was part of the Australian K4 that was placed third in Beijing). The guys at Epic Australia organised me a super fast, super sexy black V10L elite, which made me the envy of many people in the field (including the boys!)– so big thanks to Jacqui and Wayne for organising all of that – you guys are awesome! The super light boat was very responsive allowing me to accelerate very quickly off the line and claim the \$500 hotspot which was just under 1km off the start – this was defiantly the positive start I had hoped for as I turned into the channel.

Visibility, however was just awful (mainly due to some big scrub fires in the city (gee that would have been a fun day at work in that heat!?) and that combined with the fact that the women's and single outrigger field started on our own and were not given a lead boat made it quite a tricky trip across the channel! Thankfully Dawid Mocke (who placed third in the men's race) had given me a short tutorial on using way points on my GPS so I was not paddling quite as blind as some of my rivals. Which brings me back to the race at hand, in which I had slotted into second place, sitting about 50 – 100m behind Kirsty for the bulk of the trip across the channel. It was not a position I had planned to be in, however I was paddling within myself and surfing well, I knew that I had better boat speed and that if it came down to it I should beat her up the beach



in the soft sand finish, so I just had to be patient and confident (neither of which I carry in abundance!) for the first 18kms before deciding to attack about 5km from the finish, which I did, giving me the win by about 30sec – not quite as comfortable as I would have liked, but after having two such close races in 2008 and finishing the wrong side of that 30 secs, the tight victory actually ended up giving me some confidence!

The Mens field was torn apart by paddling legend Clint Robinson, who look fit and strong and ended up taking the race by a comfortable three and a half minutes. People watching the race from boats described his paddling “like poetry” – which I thought was quite profound for a bunch of ocean paddlers! Like Kirsty I have known Clint for a long time so it was good to catch up with him (particularly as he is also part of Team Epic) and talk about the races ahead. The ultimate professional both on and off the water, it was very motivating chatting to him over the course of the weekend. I teamed up with Tracy for a relay race on Sunday that ran from Freemantle beach down to city beach. In the end we were placed third behind two Australian teams, but I picked up the \$100 hotspot for this race, so all in all it was a pretty positive weekend of racing.

Thanks for all the support team. Smiles. **Katie Pocock**

## Results - Herald Island Surf Ski Race, Mon 26 Jan

Kayak 19km				
Results				
Name	Boat	Finish	Time	Pl
Simon McLarin	Huki Ski	2:04:52	1:34:52	1
Simon Greenwood	Huki Ski	2:04:56	1:34:56	2
Bart Muylle	Epic Ski	2:08:52	1:44:52	3
Vaughn Reed	Epic Ski	2:10:19	1:46:19	4
Jim Davidson	Evolution Edge	2:10:49	1:50:49	7
Andrew Newick	Fenn Ski	2:14:25	1:46:25	5
David Loughlin	Fenn Ski	2:14:32	1:54:32	8
Mark Struthers/ Tim Cochrane	SA Double	2:15:28	1:47:28	6
Martin Knoche	Red 7 Ski	2:16:52	2:02:52	10
Phil Exeter	Sharp	2:17:14	1:57:14	9
John Sanderson	Epic Ski	2:18:26	2:08:26	11
John McLaren	Opus	2:24:29	2:14:29	12
Fiona Turner	Arrow	2:28:46	2:28:46	14
Terry Newsome	Red 7 Ski	2:31:09	2:17:09	13
Richard Couchman	Fenn Ski	2:51:20	2:31:20	15

Thanks to Richard and Terry and Waitemata Canoe and Kayak Club for putting on this race!!! We all appreciate your efforts.



## Results - Hoe Toa Surf Ski and OC1 race Maraetai, Sun 25 Jan



Over 35 paddlers competed in this event. Special thanks to Kingi for including surf ski's in this race and we're looking forward to growing this race next year.

Order	Name	Category	10km	15km	Race time
1	Paul Wilford	Surf Ski	41.13	1.03.04	1:26:00
2	Garren Cooper	Surf Ski	42.18	1.04.58	1:29:06
3	Gavin Elmiger	Surf Ski	44.5	1.07.56	1:31:44
4	Mark Van Den Anker	Surf Ski	44.56	1.08.16	1:32:45
5	Robert Askew	Surf Ski	46.12	1.10.21	1:35:06
6	Darryl Forsyyth	Surf Ski	46.13	1.10.22	1:35:12
7	Kingi Gilbert	OC1	46.35	1.10.58	1:36:47
8	Tonga White	OC1	46.38	1.11.32	1:36:56
9	Troy Dolman	OC1	47.29	1.12.04	1:37:17
10	Tracy Wilson	Surf Ski	47.31	1.14.04	1:38:59
11	Paora McGrath	OC1	48.23	1.14.08	1:41:05
12	Conan Herbert	Rudderless	48.29	1.15.39	1:41:54
13	Paul Roozendaal	OC1	49.56	1.15.58	1:42:53
14	Kisione Fonua	OC1	50.12	1.16.23	1:43:01
15	Fole Finau	OC1	50.15	1.16.39	1:44:37
16	Abraham Dyer	OC1	50.16	1.17.20	1:45:16
17	Shane Hohaia	OC1	50.25	1.17.56	1:45:45
18	John Papalii	Surf Ski	51.23	1.18.29	1:47:31
19	Taioau Tararo	Rudderless	52.12	1.19.17	1:48:09
20	Mario Mausio	OC1	52.17	1.19.55	1:48:13
21	Turanga Kereopa	OC1	53.16	1.21.04	1:50:00
22	Bevan Roozandaal	OC1	54.13	1.23.18	1:50:31
23	Brett Peterson/Ben Funaki	OC Relay	54.27	1.23.22	1:54:14
24	Aaron Kereopa	OC1	55.01	1.24.20	1:54:17
25	Leki Funaki/Joe Halapua	OC Relay	55.47	1.24.14	1:54:58
26	Mike Dolan	OC1	56.38	1.25.51	1:57:16
27	Tina & Michael Sala	OC Relay	57.09	1.27.02	1:58:40
28	Raanj Rapana/Mark Roozendaal	OC Relay	57.16	1.21.04	1:59:08
29	Pauline Benson/Lucy Funaki	OC Relay	57.18	1.27.04	2:01:34
	Joel Ngataere/Shannon Moon	Rudderless	59.42	1.28.46	DNF



## Czech takes Cash in the Think King of the Harbour – Sat 31 Jan

By Jamie Stewart

The 2009 Auckland King of the Harbour was TOUGH. Being an out-and-back course, we always knew that it wouldn't all be smooth sailing, but nobody (except perhaps the Czech marathon team) expected 25km of headwind!



And they're off . . . (Pic: [www.sportzhub.com](http://www.sportzhub.com))

### Flat Water Paddlers Dominate

The results speak for themselves: 4 of the top six were specialist flat water paddlers (2 marathon kayakers and a sprinter). Not one person crossed the finish line without having hit a wall at some stage of the race. As each paddler crossed the line, a slightly different type of pain was etched into their expression. This isn't to say that we didn't enjoy ourselves; the race was extremely well organised and absolutely beautiful. It truly is a unique event, with the feeling of paddling from a trendy beachside village, around a huge, deserted volcanic island that looks as if it's straight out of Jurassic Park, all set a stone's throw from a cosmopolitan city of over a million people. Pretty remarkable as well was the performance of the two Czech paddlers, armed with mean crew cuts and Epic V10s, they raised a number of eyebrows with a first and fifth place on only their 10th time in a ski.

### Great Start

The race started at 10:15am, the idea being that the tide would be high at the exact moment the pack of paddlers had to cross between Rangitoto and its neighbouring island. Half an hour too early or late, and we may have had to be running in mud for 200m. After all the drama with race starts in the previous few world series races (Dubai, 20 Beaches, even Perth), the King of the Harbour start was an absolute pleasure. I'm pretty sure that it was because the start line



was almost 500m wide and everyone had lots of space, but nobody crept, and the start line was generally fair. The first 2km or so was flat. Really flat. Two packs formed early on. The Czechs on the north side and the tri-nations pack on the south (2 Kiwis, one South African and an Aussie).



**Branislav Sramek – male winner (Pic [www.sportzhub.com](http://www.sportzhub.com))**

The clear race favourite was local boy Steve Ferguson. Steve is the son of 5-time Olympian Ian Ferguson, and Steve himself went to the Beijing Olympics as part of New Zealand's kayak team and performed admirably, making 2 finals. After a short stint at the front by Paul Wilford (what were you thinking, Paul??), Steve led the pack for the first part of the race. The two packs soon merged, and headed to the North side of Rangitoto Island. I followed Paul's lead and split south from the group to try to avoid the oncoming tide by hiding in the lee of the island. After 2km, the SW wind picked up behind us and a few runs formed. Despite the tide, we averaged just over 13kph for the first hour or so, until the turning marker past Rangitoto. During this time, it became clear that the group to beat was made up of Steve Ferguson, with Steve Woods glued to his wash, followed by the Czechs, and 7-time New Zealand Marathon kayak champion Simon McLaren. They were chased closely by Paul Wilford, with me, Rob Nichol and Leopold Tapa not far behind.

### **Disaster!**

At the turn, disaster struck. For most of us, this was because this is where the headwind started. For Paul, this is where his race effectively ended as he broke his rudder by cutting too close over a rock. The headwind to Rangitoto was brutal. We averaged only 10-11kph and couldn't find any respite no matter how close we went to the island. Luckily, the organisers had timed the tide perfectly and we were able to paddle under the bridge without portaging and, following a channel one ski's-width wide, we made it through to the other side and within view of Auckland city. It was here, with about 13km or so to go, that the race really started. If the headwind was brutal before, it was horrendous on this side of the island. Boat speed reduced to 9-10kph. Glucose shots were taken, and Gatorade was consumed. By this time, Steve Ferguson had opened a lead on the rest of the field and looked certain to win the race.

Unfortunately for Steve, Simon McLaren decided to put in a surge, pulling with him the first of the Czech paddlers, Branislav Sramek (aka Franz!). Simon subsequently hit a wall, but not before he had pulled Sramek up to Steve, from where he was able to snatch the lead. Even



more unfortunate for Steve was that, having spent his energy gaining a lead early on, he just wasn't able to regain it and get in front.

### And home to the finish

The last 8km was a bit of a relief. With the tide going out, and the wind turning slightly, we had genuine runs to catch. Unfortunately, the runs were going in slightly the wrong direction (lots of surfing to the left), and we were all too tired to take advantage of them anyway. With the finish at Takapuna beach in sight, everyone put their heads down and just hung in there, with the top six separated by about 5 minutes. As previously mentioned, the Czech paddlers managed a 1st and 5th, not bad for a country with no coastline!

Position	Name	Country	Division	Division Position	Time
1	Branislav Sramek	Czech Republic	Open Men	1	02:29:00
2	Steven Ferguson	New Zealand	Open Men	2	02:29:59
3	Simon McLaren	New Zealand	Masters Men	1	02:30:27
1	Katie Pocock	New Zealand	Open Women	1	02:47:19

For more race reports and photos go to [www.kingoftheharbour.co.nz](http://www.kingoftheharbour.co.nz) or [www.sportshub.co.nz](http://www.sportshub.co.nz)

## Bhuty Moore Memorial Race – Fri 9 Feb

Here are the results of the 2009 Bhuty Moore-morial race, held on Waitangi day February 2009. The full story and more photos are at <http://wakaama.co.nz/site/story/1001617/>



That's what I call a race! And all because of you my Brother! For those of you that weren't there, you missed out on a near perfect day. We had 80+ paddlers on the line, a good 1 to 1.5m NE ocean swell and a nice 10 to 15knot E wind. The conditions were quite technical, you had to really stay on your game to chase down the bumps, but there were rides to be had and that's racing. So all good! You guys all made the event what it was and for us it is a great way that we can honour our good mate and fellow paddler Bhuty. He is still deeply missed, but I believe that we are doing him proud, lets keep the bar raised. Cheers for the inspiration my Friend.

We had a good combination of top experienced paddlers, who just thrived in the rough ocean conditions, through to guys that had never really done this kind of race before and realised they



have a few new skills to master. Top Ski home was Paul Wilford at 2:17:53. Paul commented that he was loving it so much that he didn't want to turn in to Pilot bay for the win, but would have rather carried on down the coast. Katie Peacock was first female ski home in a time of 2:35:17.

Kingi Gilbert, with all of his time spent in the Hawaiian waters showed the rest of us NZ OC's just how much we have to learn. He blitzed the fleet in 2:33:23. Ripping it up! It was awesome to see so many canoes on the start line, everyone just knowing there was a whole coastline of fun to be had. Cheers to all the lads for fronting, it's the way forward boys, so no doubt we'll be seeing you all at Bo's Race in a couple of weeks. Bernie Murch took top honours in the womens OC division, finishing in a time of 2:56:05. Good to see four hard OC1 women paddlers on the water and stepping up to the mark. All had their own challenges out there, but all now have a technical ocean run under their belts and are all now wanting more of it. So, all you other ladies out there, do the yards and front at next year's event, you won't regret it, just ask those that did it this year. Thanks Bernie, Amy, Vesna and Raanj. Way to lead the way.

**A big thanks to all of our supporters** and all those that helped out on the day, with all those little things that needed doing in front and behind the scenes. A special mention to Scott Fitzgerald for his work out on the water keeping us all safe. Another special mention to Jacqui St Julian for all her hard work on the front line of rego and time keeping and prizes and everything else we threw your way. A mention and thanks to all the organizations that were in full support of the event: Hei Matau Paddlers, Hoe Aroha Whanau, Hoe Toa Series, King of the Harbour, Maketu Coast Guard, Summerhills Rec Farm, Surfski.co.nz, Tauranga Coast Guard, Te Waiariki Pura Trust, The Mount Hot Pools, Turkish Delight, Waihi Coast Guard, Wakaama.co.nz & Many Others. Thanks to all the support boat drivers out there. Crucial roll you guys played. Thanks to all the sponsors for all the prizes. Cancer Society, Day Two, Fosters, Good Water, Goodyear, Horleys, Hutchwilco, James Moore Photography, North Beach, Maui Kanu, OCNZ, Pumpkin Patch, Right Staff, Sommer Designs and Surfer Skins. Just Brilliant!

## Surf ski and Wakaama Wellington – Sun 8 Feb

Petone Matiu Island course 8 km

A good little Northerly greeted 37 paddlers for Race 7 of the Surf Ski and Wakaama Series out at Petone on Sunday morning. The field was made up of fairly even numbers of most craft today, and we had a course that started with a downwind leg out to Matiu Island. The Ocean racing skis lead out with Dave Hicks and Hulio McPike taking quite different lines but both getting to the Southern tip of the Island together with most skis leading the way closely followed by the OC.1's of Neil O'Brien and Joern Scherzer and Jack Wormald (Christchurch) and then Taranaki Whanui and Tu Nui clubs in their Waka Ama O.C.6's.



Once around the back of Matiu Island and in the shelter of the flat water a few dramas started to unfold. I think that the words that were uttered at the briefing of erring on the side of caution and staying wide of any rocks went out the window, temptation got the better of us all and we were tempted by a nice little shortcut between the main island and an offshoot rocky outcrop island. It is always nice to let someone else lead at these times and Hulio made the sacrifice in the lead group of two, and bullseye a rock got his rudder and stopped him in his tracks. The Wakaama's didn't go unscathed either with two singles losing their rudders altogether and a few others getting caught in weed.

Neil, Joern and Jack managed the squeeze through the gap eventually and came out unscathed in the lead group of O.C.1 men's, the Sea Kayaks were happy as they had flip rudders, but mostly at the end of the day sometimes a shortcut to save 15 secs is just really not worth it, listening to the race safety briefing (properly) is sometimes a really good idea. Most were happy with the shortcut especially those who discovered some sea life in abundance and also those that had a dip in the odd rough patch (just to cool off mind you). On the return Journey home it was all upwind with a bunch of lumpy roller coaster chop just out from the Island and a persistent but smaller chop and a tough shallow run back to the beach all part and parcel of that section of Foreshore.

Dave Hicks, fresh from King of the Harbour lead the Ocean Surf skis home, with Dave Ryde being the leading Surf Life Saving spec ski home, Joern Scherzer headed the O.C 1's which, as usual produced good numbers and close racing in that field. Mereana Mike lead the O.C.1 womans field in with the much improved Taranaki Whanui O.C. 6 crew claiming there first victory of the Season in O.C.6's. Great weather, great camaraderie and great team work with all paddlers looking after each other. Thanks to all paddlers for assisting the Race Organisers by paddling back out and keeping an eye out and checking those at the tail end of the field.

### Results

Waka Ama O.C.1 Men: Joern Scherzer 51:22,1; Neil O'Brien 51:48,2; Jack Wormald 51:59,3; Peki Emery 56:41,4; James Sadler 56:55,5; Royce Kokiri 70:45,6; Star Olsen 72:46,7; Dennis Ngatai 82:34,8.

Waka Ama O.C.1 Women: Mereana Mike 62:30,1; Kris Dahl 65:23,2; Katie Townsend 82:34,3.

Waka Ama O.C.6 Mixed: Taranaki Whanui 56:56,1; Tu Nui 62:58,2.

Waka Ama O.C.2 Womens: Hine & Amanda Kokiri 70:06,1.

Sea Kayaks Men: Dave Fisher 53:42,1; Sandy Winterton 56:43,2.

Sea Kayak Woman: Dianne Morgan 66:08,1.

Ocean Racing Surf ski: Dave Hicks 43:47,1; Chester Burt 44:20,2; Hulio McPike 44:45,3; Lyall

Reedy 49:34,4; Liam Drew 50:52,5; Kevin O'Connor 62:29,6.

Surf Life saving ski: Dave Ryde 51:08,1; Wil Van Breda 68:21,2.

For more results and photos of yesterdays racing go to [www.surfskiandwakaama.blogspot.com](http://www.surfskiandwakaama.blogspot.com) and don't forget you can download any photos you like. The results should be in the **Dompost** "scoreboard" section. The next race of the Series is: March 1, 2009 and will be out at Ngatitua Domain, Mana. The course will be 10km and will be around the Plimmerton reef and Bays, Pauatanui Estuary and Porirua Harbour areas. More information contact Chester or Sharlene 04 976-1795 or email on [chester.burt@gmail.com](mailto:chester.burt@gmail.com)

