

Winter Surf Ski Races

August 29 & 30 – Tour de Tasman

Venue: Tasman Bay
Course: Two day
Distance: 8 races covering 60km
Entry Fee: \$250 (limit to 100 paddlers)
To enter & details: www.tourdetasman.co.nz



Photos from 2008 Tour de Tasman Race

Fergs 10km Race Series

Venue: Fergs Kayaks, Okahu Bay
Course: Determined on the day (all races so far have been downwind)
Dates: 12 July, 26 July, 9 August, 23 August, 13 September, 27 September.
Distance: 10km
Entry Fee: \$10
Start Time: 11:15am

King of Rangitoto

Venue: Takapuna Beach, Auckland
Course: 5km paddle to Rangitoto, 7km run to the top and back, 5km paddle back to Takapuna
Dates: 31 October 2009
Time: Registration from 8am (The Strand), Race Starts at 9am (Takapuna Beach)
Information: www.surflifesaving.org.nz



Lack of communication . . .

Yes – we’ve been very quiet these last couple of months. Not because we’ve been paddling, but because the website decided not to work and it took ages to fix.

But now we’re back up and running . . . so sorry for the lack of information . . . and let me know of any upcoming events, race reports or photos you want published. Thanks for your patience.

The surfski volunteers

Congratulations to the Kiwi’s at Molokai

I know this happened ages ago, you’ve probably read Katie’s report, which is why it’s embarrassing mentioning this in July. BUT – didn’t they do well!!

In case you’ve been in that dark hole the surfski.co.nz website fell into, Katie Pocock won Molokai (first NZ female to do so), Travis Mitchell came 5th (in his first time across the channel – apparently all the Aussies are scared!), Paul Wilford was 12th overall and 2nd master (sorry Paul – had to mention the master thing), Tim “Rooster” Grammer was 17th overall (first time across the channel and 4th master) and Damian Munro was 52nd (did a faster time than last year!).

But what you would not have seen (anywhere) is the Kiwi’s best ever racking system.

From Katie Pocock . . . I have been busy rifling through my digital photos trying to find something interesting about Molokai. And I found this photo. I love this photo because not only does it remind me of warm sunny paddling weather, having all members of our high quality travelling team (team captain Paul, manager Wynn, me, Trav and Rooster) in it, but it also shows our very advanced portable racking system that we developed in the car park of a hardware store just out of Waikiki. We were all exceptionally proud of the four ski system we jimmied up on our “upgraded” rental car – this roof rack was rock solid, I thought all you guys would like it.





King of Rangitoto is back!

Thanks to Surf Life Saving Northern Region, King of Rangitoto has returned to our racing calendar. Scheduled for 31 October 2009, this will give us plenty of time to train, or more importantly, to come up with a suitable excuse for non-performance on the day!

This challenging paddle-run-paddle event, takes competitors across the channel from Takapuna beach to Rangitoto Island, where they run to the summit and back down on volcanic rock, and finish off with a paddle back to Takapuna. In total it's 10km of paddling and 7km of running.

Open to surf ski, canoe and rowing boats (with non-clubbies welcome to enter). All information can be found at www.lifesaving.org.nz. THANKS SLSNR.



New Ocean Racing Club Formed - EORC

A new ocean racing club has formed in Auckland, situated at Fergs Kayaks in Okahu Bay called Eastside Ocean Racing Club. With 35 member already, the club hopes to attract surf ski, OC1 and SUP paddlers.

While there is some storage for ski's, the priorities for the club are to reconnect the changing room facilities for hot showers and get some additional storage. But also on the cards are interclub racing with TBC and other ski paddlers at surf life saving clubs in Auckland, as well as run the Dip & Dash event (a 3km paddle and 3km run along the water front) planned for Thursday nights over summer.

Alan Ferguson is writing a training programme for all members and club training session are from Fergs on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

For all details go to www.fergskayaks.co.nz (under kayaks and then clubs).





Fenn Cup Series Launch - Sydney

This summer will see the launch of a new ocean racing series on Sydney's Northern Beaches. Set to take over where the last major ocean racing series finished a few years ago the **FENN CUP** will bring back the excitement to the beaches.

The series is to be held over 3 weekends:

- 1. Saturday 26th September, 2009**
- 2. Saturday 31st October, 2009**
- 3. Saturday 2nd January, 2010**

All races are downwind and will range between 16-20 kilometers. Each event will either start or finish at Long reef depending on the days conditions. With a 3pm start the events are certain to have good following seas making for exciting offshore racing.

Competitors will be informed of the direction and starting point the morning of the event. The series is open to every type of paddle craft including, ocean racing skis, SLSA skis, doubles, OC1s, OC2s and SUPs.

The series to date has over \$10000 in cash and prizes to give away at various events including a Fenn Ocean Racing Ski for the under 20 category courtesy of the Macintosh Foundation. The series has received huge interest local, interstate and international competitors. The three events will form part of the National Ocean Racing Series which will be run for the first time this coming summer.

Over 200 paddlers are expected at each event with categories for the various age groups and genders. Long Reef SLSC one of Australia's premier clubs will be looking after the paddlers on the water with a fleet of IRBs and Jet Skis along with some of the country's top IRB exponents. Long Reef Surf Clubs Doug Lucas (a former Australian Lifesaver of the Year) has got his club behind the event.

" This is great opportunity for a small club like ours to be involved in a major aquatic event" Said Lucas "We have the perfect infrastructure at the club for post race events and our on water safety and lifesaving activities is something we pride ourselves on" .

Information will be posted shortly at www.oceanpaddler.com



Surf Ski Sub-Committee for Canoe Racing New Zealand

Canoe Racing New Zealand is the national body for Long Distance Surf Ski paddling or Ocean paddling. To gain more a voice within CRNZ, recommend events, establish rules and guidelines for the sport and develop training requirements, CRNZ would like to establish an Ocean Surf Ski committee to represent all ocean paddlers.

It is envisaged that this will be a three to four person committee, representing paddlers from around New Zealand and will report through to the Board of CRNZ. They would meet between four to six times a year, with the first action item to draft some terms of reference.

If you are interested in being part of this committee, please email a brief resume to Otto Bats at otto.bats@canoeracing.org.nz by the end of July 2009.

Send us your races, articles, photos and feedback and we'll publish them on www.surfski.co.nz

Email tracy.wilson@clear.net.nz

