

March 2008 Newsletter

New Zealand Long Distance Surf Ski Champs Results

New Zealand Long Distance Surf Ski Championships

10 March 2008

The New Zealand Long Distance Surf Ski Championships were held off Takapuna Beach on Sunday 10 March 2008. While everyone prayed for the howling northerly that cancelled the World Championship Tornado racing the previous weekend, that would have sent paddlers on a 15km straight downwind run from Torbay, it was not to be. The afternoon turned into a scorcher, with a light puffy westerly – ideal for sunbathing not downwind paddling!

But, over 30 paddlers lined up for the 16.3km race. The course took paddlers 2km off shore, completing three laps of a 4km circuit – a course that meant paddlers could keep an eye on each other and monitor any breaks.

The race started with Tim Grammer leading the bunch at a blinding pace. A break away group of four paddlers including Paul Wilford, Tamas Pinter and Simon McLarin hung on to Tim's wash for the first 4km. Paul Wilford and Tamas Pinter took turns dragging Simon and Tim through the course. Eventually Tim dropped behind, leaving three paddlers. Simon, who paddled strategically throughout the race, dropped Paul and Tamas in a sprint to the finish. Special mention goes to Brunt Summers from Tauranga who showed good form paddling strongly to finish fifth overall.

Katie Pocock, currently ranked first in the World Cup circuit, lead the women's field from the start. In her typical race fashion, she started strong and throughout the race increased her lead, finishing 11th overall, behind her brother Jason Pocock.

Katie and Paul Wilford are currently preparing to race the 32 mile Molokai World Championship. They'll be lining up with some of the world's greatest paddlers on the island of Molokai on Sunday 18th May to race back to Oahu. Auckland's King of the Harbour, a 28km paddle around Auckland's Rangitoto Island is the next race in their build up to Molokai, followed by the 30km race which is part of Waka Fest in Tauranga on 4 April and then finishing with the 45km Trans Taupo crossing on 12 April. Information for all these races can be found on www.surfski.co.nz.



Katie Pocock



Simon McLarin



Paul Wilford and Simon McLarin

Results

Name	Time	Overall Place	Category Winners
Simon McLarin	1:18.20	1	1st Open Men
Paul Wilford	1:18.22	2	2 nd Open Men
Tamas Pinter	1:18.36	3	3 rd Open Men
Grant Heim	1:19.24	4	1 st Over 40
Brunt Summers	1:19.32	5	
Garren Cooper	1:19.48	6	2 nd Over 40
Simon Greenwood	1:20.16	7	3 rd Over 40
Robbie Ford	1:20.51	8	
Brendon Davey	1:23.27	9	
Jason Pocock	1:24.12	10	
Katie Pocock	1:24.42	11	1 st Open Female
Jeremy	1:26.03	12	
Tim Grammer	1:26.36	13	
Paul Gillard	1:26.59	14	1 st Over 50
Gavin Elmiger	1:27.24	15	
John Sokolich	1:27.27	16	
Tracy Wilson	1:28.23	17	2 nd Open Female
Dave Chambers	1:29.54	18	2 nd Over 50
Mark Van den Anker	1:30.11	19	3 rd Over 50
David Gunn	1:31.35	20	
Peter Dallimore	1:31.53	21	
Warrick Smith	1:33.37	22	
Andrew Czar	1:34.42	23	
John Sullivan	1:37.40	24	
Duncan Buchanan	1:39.05	25	
OC1 Paddler	1:39.33	26	
Kingi – OC1	1:39.38	27	
	1:41.03	28	
Chris Poggot	1:42.57	29	

Upcoming Local NZ Races

29th March KOH see www.kingoftheharbour.co.nz for more details

Friday 4th April 2008 Mt Manganui The Tauranga Harbour Challenge. This is a week long international event, now known as 'The Waka Fest'. There will be three days of racing. Contact Jimmy jimmy@ocnz.net. Details; Friday 4th April – 30km Ocean Race for W1 and Surf Ski, Saturday 5th April – 28km Harbour Challenge for W6, 16km W1 & W2 Sunday 6th April – 12km Team Ocean Relay (W1 & W6).

Sat 12th April 11 am Trans Taupo 45km race. A 45km paddle race across the pure crystal mountain feed waters of New Zealand's (and Australia's) largest freshwater lake. For Long Distance/Surf Ski's, Outriggers (Waka ama) and Sea Kayaks. Solo, Double, W1, W2, W6 and team relay Categories. Contact - Neil Gellatly (027)648-7546; info@dare2sweatevents.co.nz www.dare2sweatevents.co.nz

26th & 27th April 2008 National Kayak Marathon Championships

The race will be held on the Henderson River TeAtatu Peninsula Henderson. The race will consist of a number of circuits being approx 8kms in length with portages. Race Director: Phillip Exeter (09)4209343, 0275442570, pelex@xtra.co.nz

What The ...

Does anyone know what happens when surfski meets single outrigger or as I call them “out-wreckers”? Yours truly (garren cooper) found out 3 weeks back on a Tuesday night race at Taka. How? Just after leaving the beach from the start I hit a small wave which slowed me down, then from behind there was a ‘crunch’ and the next second the noise is pointing skywards. Five seconds later I am sitting on my ski but up to my chest in water.

I managed to drag the ski back to shore (I could just stand up) and empty the ski to survey the damage. The ski had been hit hard enough to buckle and the big hold you see is where the piece was taken completely out and has not been seen again.

The really disappointing thing about the episode is that the outrigger paddler did not offer any condolences after the race and I never saw him again (I assume he noticed the incident)?

