

Race Report: Cambridge to Hamilton Paddle Race, 18th September 2022

Wow, what an amazing day! Everything came together for this year's race with a very fast flowing river making for some impressive race times. It was great to see paddlers from so many different paddle sports lining up to race on our local awa, the Waikato River.

Max Brown was the fastest male paddler with a time of 1hr 27min 15sec, with James Munro and Jake Koekemoer just behind. Max's time is a record for the event!!

Poppy Barnes was the fastest woman, paddling an ocean ski, in 1hr 35min 21sec. This was a very impressive time from a junior paddler.

The largest division was multi-sport with 35 paddlers. Aaron Bennett was the first male in 1hr 34min 29sec, with Rachel Gamble-Flint the first female in 1hr 39min 17sec. Stephen Reece was first in the 60+ year division and 8th overall in 1hr 40min 42sec.

Another very competitive division was the ocean surf ski, with Jayden Murphy first with a time of 1hr 27min 19 sec, and Paul Mareno just behind. Double surf ski was won by Simon McLaren and Sean Murphy in a great time of 1hr 27min 41sec.

Another big division was the SUP paddlers with 31 competitors. Fergus Dunlop in the 12'6" and over category did an amazing time in 1hr 46min 11sec to win the division. Rosara Davis was fastest female SUP in 1hr 57min 41sec, she is also a junior and is off to the world champs soon.

Team 'DreamTime' took out the adventure race double race in 1hr 52min 48sec. The Jenkins team took out the sea kayaks double race in 1hr 46min 25sec.

The single sea kayaks race was won by Jon Down in a time of 1hr 52min 48sec. Female veteran Angela Young was 2nd overall in the single sea kayak category in 1hr 52min 54sec.

Our single waka field was reduced this year due to the world champs being on at the same time, but we still saw some great racing- Carl Barnes winning men's in 1hr 35min 27sec and Anne Cairnes winning women's in 1hr 45min 04sec.

This year we had six waka 6's racing which was a great turnout. Team Heretaunga came in first a 1hr 35min 17sec, a great effort having travelled so far. Portage Crossing took out the next three places, which was impressive.

Surf lifesaving brought a big field of club ski paddlers, with Hayden Lloyd taking out fastest in male 1hr 33min 55sec and Katrina Madill first female in 1hr 36min 28sec.

In the 11 km race club ski was taken out by Grace Richardson in 37min 42sec, and first male Caleb Stephens in 39min 15sec. First waka was Quartez Neho in 40min 29sec with Okeroa Urwin close behind. In the SUP 11 km race, Karl Gaensicke was the first male in 42min 30sec and Pip Gaensicke was the first female in 45min 56sec.

The 11 km Youth Kayak Challenge was won by Jackson Donderwinkel and Poppy Richardson, and the age group placing are on Facebook. Karapiro Kayak Racing Club took out the inaugural Club Cup.

The Major spot prizes were awarded

The Barracuda Beachcomber kayak went to Jane Rattanachai

The Red Paddle Board package went to Owen Macdonald

The Viking kids kayak went to Fergus McHardy

The Sonic Waka prize of \$2000 went to Johnno Smith

The Dickie Family awarded \$100 to Oldest Paddler PeterSommerhaulder

\$100 to Women Paddler Carol Andrews