

Saturday 9 August was the Whanganui Leg of the Krazy Kayak 10km Series. The event was held at Lake Wiritoa just south of the city and was attended by 42 paddlers from Waitara, Mana, Horowhenua, Palmerston Nth and Whanganui. A great bunch and fantastic to see so many travellers!

So that the youngsters could get some smooth water two races were held. The u14's started the day with 2 laps of the 2km course and it was soon apparent that the youngsters from Waitara had come for a battle. The u14 girl's race was won by Tatum Radcliffe while Corban LeBretton held off a solid challenge from Liam Lace.

With a short break between the events the first of the "extra" distance paddling took place with young Corban lining up in the 6km event to test himself against the older boys. These additional distances were some of the highlights of the event however of those "extra" efforts it was hard to look past a standout effort by young Tom Cole. Although entered in the U16 6km his efforts saw him stay with the front group of Kurtis Imrie, Max Brown and Lachie Cromar to not only win the U16 race but carry on with the group to finish third overall in a respectable 48min 8 seconds, just pipping Lachie who took the U18 10km title.

But neither of the younger boys could match the power and speed of Kurtis and Max who upped the tempo when they needed to and quickly opened up a gap along the last straight. Replete with their recently acquired Danish borat (is that the right word boys) suits the boys gave the crowd another opportunity to cheer the athletes on as Max tried to claw back the boat length Kurtis had on him. This was Kurtis's day though as he crossed the line with Max hot on his tail.

The ladies event saw a return to Whanganui by Anne Cairns who stuck with Horowhenua paddler Mike Tate respectively claiming the open womens crown and the Masters Mens crown. Anne had the edge on young Whanganui paddler Erica Tanner who won the U18 title and in the process stayed ahead of other promising young athletes such as Cassie Wilson (who won the U16 title), Ariana Kereopa and Danielle Watson.

Along with Mike Tate in the masters K1 division Alison Cole braved the cold wind in her K1 taking out the masters women's title. Not to be outdone by the masters K1 paddlers the multisport division provided a few wise heads and experienced paddlers! It was great to once again see a mix of multisport and ocean ski battling it out despite the race being on a lake. This division was to be a Wanganui day with Aaron Cox taking the men's title in a pretty snappy time and Robyn Scott finally coming home under the 1 hour barrier. It was in this division that the hard luck story of the day was generated with Chester Burt snapping a paddle at the start. In a great display of never giving up he grabbed a spare from his van and then proceeded to paddle through much of the field to take second place in his division.

Like many events the volunteers once again proved they punch above their weight with hot food and drinks in abundance. This year the prize giving was held in the Wanganui Ski club so thanks to Ron Bakker and his crew but also to the IRB crew from Castlecliff Surf Club who set the course and provided a safety boat. And finally a thanks to Amie Simpson and Sport Wanganui for their insight in assisting the club in growing the sport in the Whanganui District.

10km Event		6km Event	
<b>Open Men</b>		<b>U16 Men</b>	
Kurtis Imrie	47.2	Tom Cole	28.25
Max Brown	47.23	Gregor Park	30.54
Aiden Nossiter	48.37	Cambell Tanner	32.01
<b>Open Women</b>		Corban LeBretton (u14)	35.22
Anne Cairns	51.24	Ben Mc Culham	35.33
Phoebe Cromar	57.36	Max McCullam	35.41
<b>U18 Men</b>		Ethan Ross	35.57
Lachie Cromar	48.09	<b>U16 Women</b>	
Tim Rowe	51.14	Cassie Wilson	32.16
<b>U18 Women</b>		Ariana Kereopa	33.13
Erica Tanner	54.19	Danielle Watson	33.19
<b>Masters Men</b>		Tess Allan	33.36
Mike Tate	51.2	Emma Conley	35.23
<b>Masters Women</b>		Jadzia Morris/Poppy Orchard K2	36.32
Alison Cole	59.38	<b>4km Event</b>	
<b>Multisport Men</b>		<b>U14 Men</b>	
Aaron Cox	49.58	Corban Le Bretton	21.37
Chester Burt	54.21	Liam Lace	21.39
Peter Brown	55.15	Ben Foster	24.16
Ray Mennie	55.25	Lucas Thompson	25.28
Phil Brown	58.51	Jack Brown	26.24
Rennie Houlahan	1.00.58	<b>U14 Girls</b>	
Matt Foster	1.01.07	Tatum Radcliffe	24.18
Reuben Hill	1.02.24	Sarah Warren	25.4
<b>Multisport Women</b>			
Robyn Scott	57.53		
Kylie Gibson	1.00.04		
Amie Simpson	1.02.42		
Sharon Henderson	DNF		