

Post-race Report

James Bhutty Moore-morial Race

Saturday 6 February 2021

The wind was unpredictable leading up to race day but it didn't deter the 102 participants that registered online. South East light winds were set for the day with a swing to North East so we brought forward the race start to 10am at Maketu and finishing at Pilot bay which was also James Moore last paddle.

There are many options on which line to take to get to pilot bay. With the light winds it was probably best to take the shortest line possible. The surf skis started 15min later with Tupu King starting in the ski for a change of craft. With Tupu not there to defend his canoe title and previous podium Steve Roulston and Ashley Roozendaal not attending there was a great opportunity for someone to win the champions cup for the very first time. Ben Keys was back to defend his title but this wasn't an easy run to the finish with Tupu keen to get his name on the Cup in two different crafts. Local Nicky Kingi was back and had high hopes to go back to back to back. The women's division was the smallest it has ever been with only 3 starting and guaranteed prize money for them. The women's Ski division had no previous champs entered and looked to have a new champion. But a last minute on the day entry from previous champion and record holder Dene Simpson the pressure was now on. With Danika Mowlem recovering from a rolled ankle while training for the coast to coast last week. With Anne Cairns and Carly Keys back, it was going to be some tight racing.

Wellingtons Joern Sherzer almost lead from start to finish, but first time competing Julius Petersen wanted to have the last say with only passing Joern in the last 200m from the finish winning by 6 seconds while Luke Wanui took 3rd not far behind.

Toby Brooke lead the way in the ski but Ben and Tupu soon pulled away to make it a two way battle for the win. This then came down to line choice with Tupu taking the shortest line and Ben choosing to try and take advantage of the incoming tide. Unfortunately for Ben this only gave Tupu the advantage and a strong push from Ben was not enough, leaving tupu the champion and the only person to win the event in two different crafts.

Danika Mowlem won the womens ski just ahead of Anne Cairns while Carly Keys was a bit further back. Nicky Kingi took control of the womens canoe division straight away as she was comfortable paddling as if it was just another one of her training sessions. Gisbournes Emma van Berkel took 2nd and Maddie Dawe from Christchurch took 3rd.

Special thanks to all the supporters and volunteers that make this memorial event possible. Maketu coast guard and the surf life saving club are always there to help where needed.

We had some amazing sponsors on board which made the event memorable for the competitors.

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