

Hauraki Series - Cooks Beach/Pūrangi 10 April 2021

The fourth and final event in the 2021 Hauraki Summer Series was held in Cooks Beach on 10 April 2021 and hosted by Whitianga Waka Ama. It was a grey, windy and wet day, an epic day of challenges for some, and fun and excitement for others! Race 1 was a beach start for the W1, W2 and Novice W6 teams, and they found it extremely challenging with the strong winds, and choppy waves. The mixed W2 team “the Wabis” from Taupō Waka Ama Club took line honours being first to complete the two lap circuit, Paora McGrath, Turangawaewae Waka Sports, took the men’s honours in W1, Tui McCaul, Tarawera OCC, was the first wahine home in the W1. A mixed crew from TMOCC, ‘Waka Moley’, won the novice W6 race.

Race 2 of the day was for the women and mixed W6 crews, and it was great to see a large fleet of 20 waka lining up for the beach start. It was a close finish between Master mixed crew, ‘Tupara’ from Ruamata Waka Ama, and Open mixed crew ‘Watch Out Aunties’ from Whaingaroa, but ‘Tupara’ took the line honours. Senior Master Women’s crew, ‘Taniwha Wahinez’ from Taniwha Waka Ama Club were the overall women's division winners.

Race 3 had 3 men’s crews competing, and the weather deteriorated with strong wind gusts and heavy rain, and the waves picking up, but the men’s crews enjoyed the challenge and in the end, ‘Taniwha Grizzlies’ crossed the finish line first. A prizegiving was held after the event, and competitors who had placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and had competed in at least 3 of the events of the Hauraki Series, won medals. Each year, all of the medals across the series, have been designed and hand made by paddlers within each of the clubs. This year for the series, Te Aputa Tira Hoe Waka Ama Club was on medal duty. They came up with an awesome design, and the amazing and talented Andrea Hill and her girls made all of the medals. Turangawaewae Waka Sports was the series Overall Club points winner and were presented with the Jessie Te Huia Memorial Hoe

It was a fantastic day in the end, despite the wind, swell and rain, a great ocean paddling experience for all to add to their kite. The four Hauraki clubs came together again to help and support each other to put on an awesome series that is becoming very popular with glowing reviews from all participants. Bring on the Hauraki Summer Series 2022!