

Summer Fun On The Water

Summer fun on the water started with the New Lynn Sea Scout picking up the Winter Sailing Series Trophy last year and then go on to win the Canoe Carnival Trophy to kick start the summer boating programme.

The Winter Sailing was run off Farm Cove hosted by the Pakuranga Boating Club over a series of weekends. As something different, the final four races were run as Mark Foy races starting from the beach. Typically with a sailing race everyone starts at the same time. In a Mark Foy race, the crews previous results are taken into account and the slowest boat starts first, with the previous race winners starting last giving up their winning margin to the slowest boats as a head start. The aim is that all boats should finish at a similar time. This meant that New Lynn's boats were last off the beach. However in challenging shifty wind conditions New Lynn still crossed the finish line first in 3 of the final four races and in second place in the other. There were a total of 12 races across the series.

It was then on to the Canoe Carnival which has been competed for since 1972 amongst Scouts from across the Auckland Region. The day started with a last minute change of venue due to a stingray having taken up residence in the Onehunga Lagoon; so it was a trek across the city to the Panmure Basin for a day of fun on the water. With around 350 Scouts on the water, racing was split up over four age groups with New Lynn achieving the most consistent results across the events to take out the overall title for a record thirteenth time. In between the two events the group undertook its annual pilgrimage down the Waikato River over Labour Weekend. This three day event saw the group row down the river, and camp on the river banks overnight. Two of the group also took two paddleboards recently donated by Hutchwilco on the river.

2015 was rounded off with a win in the Waitemata Challenge. This event saw their crews undertake a Top Team / Amazing Race style challenge in their boats as they tiki toured across the harbour. 2016 started with a win in the Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta. Now it is off to the Northland and Auckland Regattas where they will compete against 4-500 other Scouts in an attempt to defend their titles from last year.

The New Lynn Sea Scout Group caters for boys and girls aged 5 - 19 years. So if you want a slice of the summer action on the water, or to go camping and explore the awesome adventure playground that we are blest with out West, then give Andrew a ring on 027 6939 756 or email andrew@newlynn.seascouts.org.nz
