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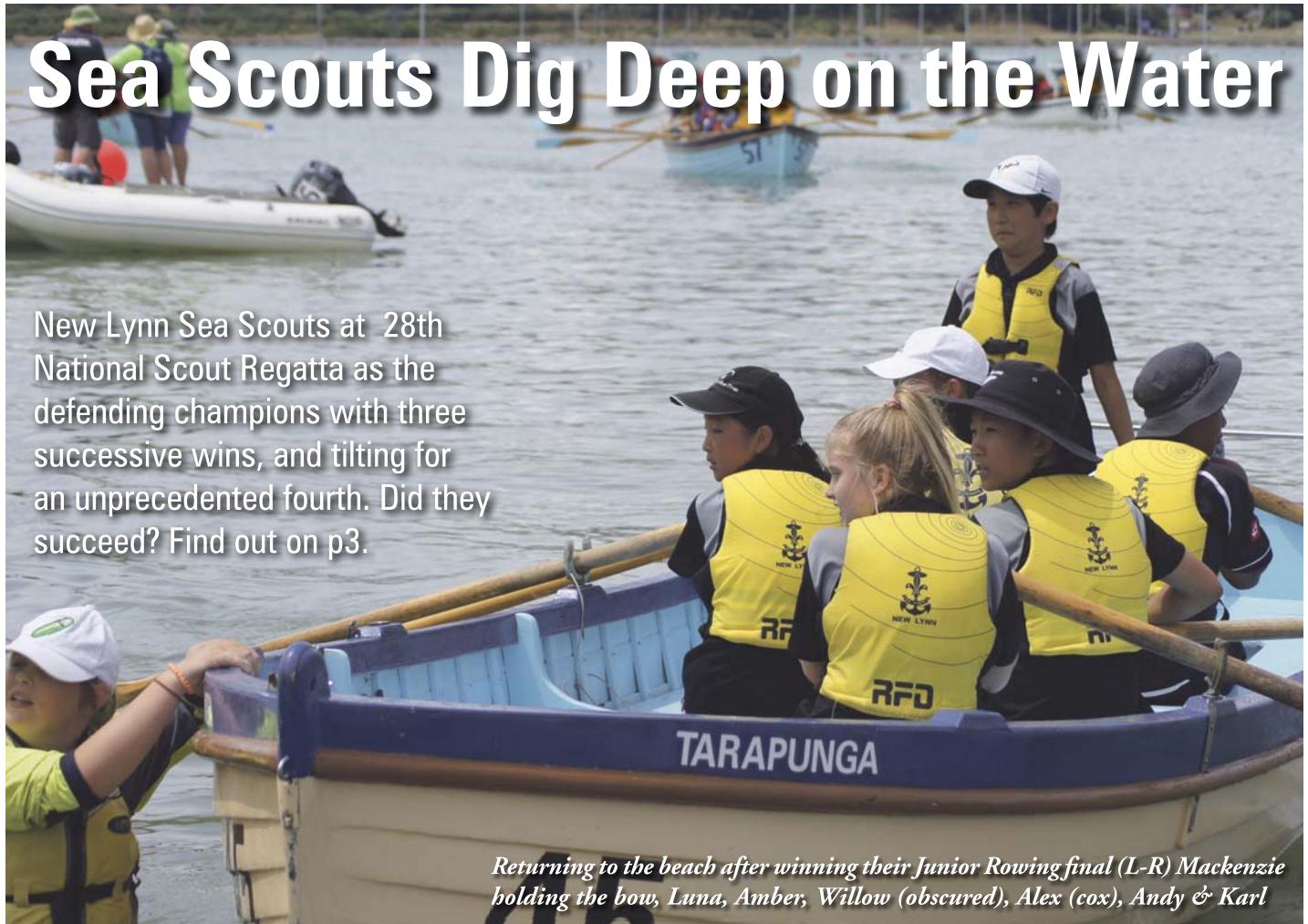
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FEBRUARY 2018

Sea Scouts Dig Deep on the Water

New Lynn Sea Scouts at 28th National Scout Regatta as the defending champions with three successive wins, and tilting for an unprecedented fourth. Did they succeed? Find out on p3.



Returning to the beach after winning their Junior Rowing final (L-R) Mackenzie holding the bow, Luna, Amber, Willow (obscured), Alex (cox), Andy & Karl

Sea Scouts Dig Deep on the Water

Luna is all concentration as she rigs her Sunburst ready for the Junior Sailing

The 28th National Scout Regatta was held on the Porirua Harbour over the Christmas / New Year period. The events run included seamanship and lifesaving, sailing, rowing, camping, ironman, canoeing and swimming. The New Lynn Sea Scout Group attended as the defending champions with three successive wins, tilting for an unprecedented fourth.

New Lynn's junior team showcased what a well-rounded team can achieve by winning their age group outright across all disciplines. Winning the rowing final was particularly satisfying - not only were they one of the smallest teams on the water, but four of their six rowers were girls rowing against male-dominated teams.

The pool of boats for the regatta made some events a bit of a lottery due to the standards of boats not being uniform. However New Lynn's junior Sunburst sailing crew of Jasper and Alex simply dug deeper on the days they drew lousy boats. They stayed positive, drawing on their year of training together, and by the final race took

the lead in the series – an even sweeter win, as only days before the regatta Alex was hospitalised with a burst appendix that put his participation in doubt.

The intermediates and seniors also had to dig deep for their rowing finals. The boats they drew suffered breakages, preventing the crews' immediate passage into the finals. After energy-sapping repechages they eventually achieved third and sixth places respectively in the major finals.

At the end of the regatta, the elusive fourth win in a row eluded the defenders and they had to settle for second place, but it was particularly satisfying to win the Seamanship and Camping titles, a discipline area the Group prides itself on.

The final act of the Regatta was the award of Naval Recognition by the Royal NZ Navy, which New Lynn again attained with top marks. This award is given in recognition of all-round excellence displayed by the Group in training, leadership, stewardship, achievement and community involvement.

Get Your Kids Involved

I am really grateful that someone recommended Scouts for our active twin boys when they were 10. It's an incredibly good way to experience teamwork, active participation, outdoors and values.

For the older kids, camping is a powerful component to develop resilience. I went on the first camp/regatta with my boys in Western Bays Sea Scouts. 250 scouts and volunteers camped in a grass field at Lake Rotoma. They brought in the toilets, water and kitchen to provide a fully catered camp in a grass paddock. The sailing and rowing was really competitive.

It was the sort of fantastic weekend that can only be accessed by joining up. You and your children have lots of options to fill your valuable time. At least try scouts or cadets for a term and really give it a go. No regrets!

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