
Trio hunt funds after breezing into world champs

■ **YACHTING**
KENT GRAY

QUALIFYING for the world OK dinghy championships proved plain sailing for Steve McDowell, but getting to the Denmark regatta will be anything but easy.

The 23-year-old Wellington sales manager led a Worser Bay Boating Club trifecta at last week's national championships in Napier, with Karl Purdie second and 2002 world champion Greg Wilcox third.

Now the trio are on the hunt for \$6000 apiece to fund a competitive campaign ahead of the world championships in July.

McDowell is confident he can better his ninth place at last year's worlds in England providing he can attract a sponsor.

"We all have a few design things we want to work on to try and make us go that little bit faster and hopefully we can have another world championship at the end of it," McDowell said.

"We expect conditions in Denmark to be quite similar to Napier so we'll go there with confidence we'll be on the pace."

With four wins from eight starts, McDowell wrapped up his first national title without having to start the final two races of the national championship.

The regatta, at the same venue where Wilcox was crowned world champion three years ago, also doubled as a selection trial and the annual interdominion (New Zealand v Australia) championship.

New Zealand won convincingly with the first Australia finishing seventh.



More than OK at the Dinghy Worlds

By Steve McDowell

The 2005 OK Dinghy Worlds were recently held in Skælskør, Denmark, approximately 150km south west of Copenhagen.

RPNYC's Greg Wilcox (2002 World Champion, 5 x National Champion) and Steve McDowell (current NZ national and Inter-dominion Champion) participated, along with nine other kiwis.

After leaving a cold winter in Wellington we were hoping to enjoy 20+deg temperatures, clear skies and nice 12 to 18 knot conditions. Unfortunately we were wrong! Rain, cloud and 2-5knts of wind mixed in with the occasional lightning storm were the conditions that seemed to prevail for most of the event!

The event got off to a good start with Steve narrowly missing out on winning the first race of the series. Unluckily in the second race he suffered a 40deg wind shift while coming second half way through the race, and dropped back to seventeenth.

Greg started his series a little slower but stormed back into the tricky conditions of the second race to take the bullet.

Conditions were much the same for the rest of the regatta, generally light with large shifts and even larger tides. In these tough conditions Greg really showed his experience, winning three races and only finishing outside the top 10 three times.

Unfortunately Steve's results were not quite as good but no doubt there were a lot of lessons learnt in the extremely tough conditions!

The 2005 Worlds were won by Nick Graig from England. Nick sailed a superbly consistent series, with his worst race being a fifth, and definitely deserved his win.

Of the New Zealand sailors Greg finished up 3rd and Steve 8th.

The 2006 Worlds are being held in Newcastle Australia during February. Both Greg and Steve will be attending, together with a few more RPNYC members, so hopes are high for some more top placings. ⚓



Volvo count down

By Rebecca Sellwood

The Volvo Ocean Race will start in Spain in less than two months.

Originally the Whitbread Round the World Race, the Volvo starts in Vigo, Spain on 12 November 2005 and finishes in Gothenburg in July 2006. It has taken place every four years since its inception in 1973.

The fleet will cover four continents, stopping in the ports of Cape Town, Melbourne, Wellington, Rio, Baltimore, New York, Portsmouth, Rotterdam and Gothenburg.

Seven boats have entered and we continue here our regular updates of the progress of two of them, *ABN AMRO* and *Movistar*.

Movistar makes final preparations

by Stu Bannatyne, Movistar

The *Movistar* campaign is now moving into the final stages of preparation. At the end of August we completed the final refit and relaunched the boat with a new mast and new keel bulb. Heavier bulb of course than the previous one for even more righting moment!

Fine tuning of deck layout and interior systems was also completed including installation of new hydraulic rams for the canting keel system. We have made a significant weight saving with these (almost half of previous version) and other systems so all in all we are very happy with the improvements made.

The beginning of August saw us compete in our first race. We sailed the boat to England and raced the Rolex Fastnet Race from Cowes, around the rock and back to Plymouth. Normally a race that takes just over two days, we were plagued with very light winds and took almost four days to finish! My only Fastnet slower was in a Mumm 36 10 years ago!

It was however a great opportunity for us to test our light air sails and sailing modes as well as put the crew through some racing situations such as the crowded start, mark roundings and countless sail changes trying to stay in phase with the breeze.

We crossed the finish line early in the morning and stopped in Plymouth only long enough to change a few sails and have a couple of burgers before setting off for the sail back to Spain. We had plenty of wind

Not wind nor hail shall stop the sail

SAILING

By KATIE FARMAN

SO the wind blew and created a few interesting moments for sailors.

But it was hardly enough to dent the spirits and humours of sailors competing in the annual Rotorua Icebreaker Regatta.

The two-day event, hosted by the Bay of Plenty Trailer Yacht Squadron, attracted 40 yachts from as far away as Kerikeri and Christchurch. However showers and strong south westerlies on Saturday made for challenging conditions.

"There was certainly some exciting spinnaker sailing with many boats flying down wind," said event spokesperson Tony Poolman.

"Also a couple of boats suffered with ripped sails and broken spinnaker poles — but it was excellent — there was some very exciting sailing."

Skippering Voodoo, former world A-Class Catamaran champion Simon Manning won the Elliot 5.9 class and the Pig and Whistle Trophy from Picton's Sam Edwards on Erotic. Auckland's Cameron Horne on Siam Dunk finished third while Rotorua's Poolman on Tight Fit claimed 11th place out of 14 starters.

Manning's win also earned him valuable points towards the Elliot 5.9 Travelers Series, where he is now tied with Horne for first place. This means the series title will come down to next month's final race in the five regatta series.

Tony Thompson on The Tease made the most of his local knowledge winning the Noelx 25 class from John Foote on Gasparcho.

Meanwhile 2005 national champion and Inter-Dominion Champion Steve McDowell finished second in the OK Dinghy class. It follows an eventful season for Wellington based McDowell who also finished eighth overall during July's OK Dinghy World Championships in Denmark.

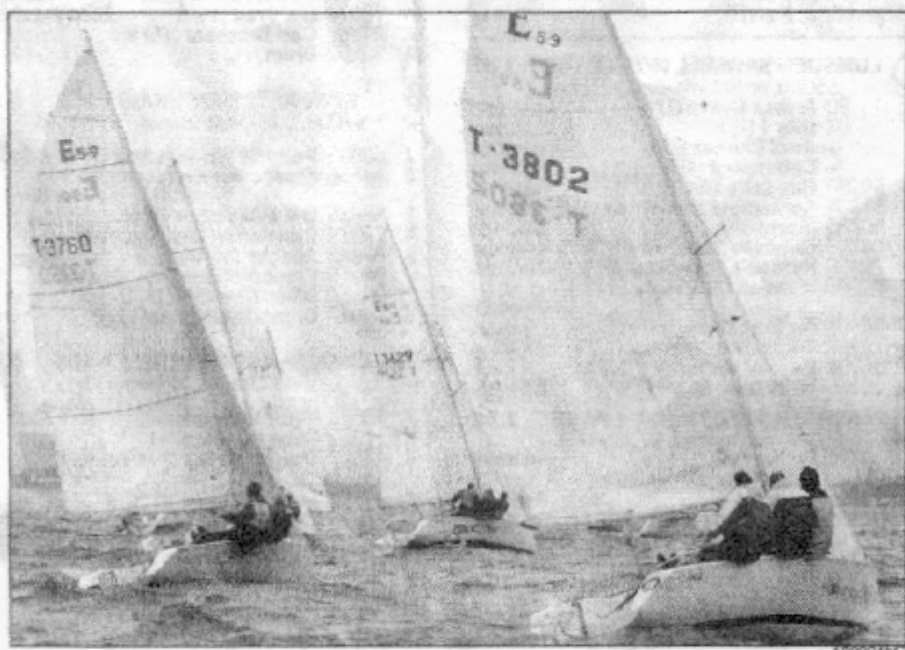
Mark Perrow and Grant Pederson finished first and third respectively.



WELLINGTON sailor Steve McDowell enjoys a some quiet air during the annual Rotorua Icebreaker Regatta at the weekend.

PICTURE: ANDREW WARNER

Wind's fine for us!



WINDY conditions are expected during the Ice Breaker Regatta on Lake Rotorua.

PICTURE: BEN FRASER

SAILING

By KATIE FARMAN

INCLEMENT weather is expected to make for exciting racing during this weekend's annual Rotorua Ice Breaker Regatta.

The two-day event has attracted 40 yachts as far away as Kerikeri and Christchurch, but predicted showers and strong westerlies turning south west tomorrow morning may interfere with the opening five races to be held on Lake Rotorua.

The event, hosted by the Bay of Plenty Trailer Yacht Squadron, incorporates the three classes of Elliot 5.9, OK Dinghy's and Noelex 25's. The Elliot 5.9 race doubles as race four of the five regatta Travellers Series, which is currently led by Cameron Horne on Slam Dunk. However, all sailors will compete for the Pig and Whistle Trophy. Top performances are expected to come from former world A-Class Cata-

maran champion Simon Manning who will take to the water on Voodoo and previous national champions in the form of Picton's Sam Edwards on Proformance, Whangarei's Dave Cochrane on Zoot Allures and Robin Ward on Hobs the Butcher. Two local yachts will take part — Sub 60 skippered by Chris McIndoe and Tight Fit skippered by Tony Poolman.

Ten entries are expected to contest the OK Dinghy class including 2004 national champion Russell Wood and 2005 champion and Inter-Dominion Champion Steve McDowell.

A large contingent of local entries make up the Noelex 25 class including skippers Tony Thompson, John Foote, Garth Wilson and Adrian McHardy.

The Appletons Rum sponsored regatta begins at 10.30am tomorrow morning with five races and concludes on Sunday at 10am with three races.

Lake Rotorua Regatta 8/9 Oct 2005

Given the forecast, it was surprising that anybody turned up at all. Friday evening saw dogs being blown off chains and road signs being blown into road trailers, and the thought of getting into an OK and going sailing was the last thing on most peoples' minds. Even so, six hardy OK Dinghy sailors turned up to battle the elements (along with fleets of Nolex 25s and Elliot 5.9s). Two more OK sailors arrived at the venue and didn't sail. One didn't even bring a boat! A third actually tried to cut off his leg with a grinder so that he had a good excuse not to go sailing.

There will be retribution. You know who you are!!

The organizing committee from the Bay of Plenty Trailer Sailor Association managed to get 4 races in on the Saturday. Extremely large shifts and sudden 30 knot squalls and cold driving rain were the order of the day. Black clouds would appear over the hill behind the town and descend on the fleet with amazing haste, laying waste to all before them. The secret to the racing was to ignore the 20 degree shifts and wait for the 40 degree plus shifts. It was this strategy that caused Grant Pedersen from Wakatere to win the first race. A thirty five knot squall in the second race took out Steve McDowell from Worser Bay and sent him to the beach for repairs where he stayed while Mark Perrow from Wakatere won the next two races. Steve appeared for the last race of the day and became the only finisher as the wind increased to over 40 knots, the rest of the fleet seeking safety on the beach.

More moderate winds of 15 – 20 knots on the Sunday saw the two races shared between Steve and Mark. Steve's DNS took him out of contention for the overall honours and so Mark Perrow becomes the first InterGalactic Rotovegas Champion. Hopefully next year we will have more sailors and better weather.

Results.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mark Perrow | Wakatere Boating Club |
| 2. Steve MacDowell | Worser Bay Boating Club |
| 3. Grant Pedersen | Wakatere |
| 4. Alistair Deaves | Wakatere |
| 5. Darren Hunt | Napier sailing Club |
| 6. Matt McDowell | Wakatere |

Takapuna, 22 -24 October

Labour weekend saw the second regatta of the OK Dinghy summer series with a fleet of 13 turning up to race in the Takapuna Labour weekend regatta. No doubt this number will be bettered at the Turangi International Open in two weeks, and then at the official home of the OK, Worsers Bay's Hurricane classic!

Saturday saw 3 races with winds of 12-18knots for the first two and 5-10knots for the last race of the day, the shifts were large and he who could sail to the right hand corner the quickest won! Phill Rzepecky showed some early form winning for most of the first race before Mark Perrow and Ben Morrison came through to finish 1st and 2nd respectively for races one and two.

The third race of the day started in lighter conditions and after the first beat really turned into a one way track, Steve McDowell got a small jump up the first beat and extended this out to win the race from Ben Morrison and Greg Wilcox.

Sunday saw more sun and lighter winds, the pressure really went on the boys to perform when NZ's Olympic gold medallist hopeful, Dan Slater turned out at the start! Conditions were good over the day with Greg Wilcox winning race 4, Dan Slater winning races 5 and 6 and Steve McDowell winning the last race of the day (race 7).

Monday was always going to be tough with the points very close at the top of the leader board between Morrison, Perrow, Wilcox and McDowell, someone was likely to crack, and it seemed to all fall apart for team Wakatere when they couldn't make the start.

This left Team Worsers bay sailors Wilcox and McDowell to fight it out for overall honours, McDowell lead for all of race 8 but was piped on the line by Wilcox , race 9 saw another intense battle between Wilcox and McDowell, Dan Slater won the race but it was another close finish between Wilcox and McDowell with Wilcox again edging out McDowell for second and wrapping up the series.

Overall a very good weekends racing, made even better by having a sailor the calibre of Dan Slater to race against, in two weeks time the battle for overall honours in the OK Dinghy summer series will continue at the Turangi International Open.

Results:

1 st Greg Wilcox	Worsers Bay
2 nd Steve McDowell	Worsers Bay
3 rd Ben Morrison	Wakatere
4 th Mark Perrow	Wakatere
5 th Dan Slater	
6 th Alistair Deaves	Wakatere

Hopes are high for New Zealand success at the 2005 OK Dinghy World Championship to be held in Denmark later in the year. The class recently held their National and Inter-dominion Championships in the waters of Hawke Bay, superbly hosted by the Napier Sailing Club, and their dominance of the visiting Australians was clear to be seen. The event also doubled as the selection event for the Worlds and so competition within the NZ fleet was intense. At last years Worlds, held at Parkstone, England, the NZ team finished with 9 competitors in the top 20, a feat recognized by the class in general and not seen since the domination of the Swedes in the mid 80s.

Six Australians made the trip to Napier, and were joined by 27 New Zealanders and a German. The list of competitors was quite impressive. On the Kiwi team were three former National Champions, two Inter-dominion Champions and the 2002 World Champion Greg Wilcox. Andre Blasse from Black Rock YC, Melbourne, three times Inter-dominion Champion and multiple winner of the Australian Nationals headed the Aussie team.

The conditions were generally light to moderate and fairly steady. Ten races were sailed over 4 days, each one about 70 minutes in length.

Fortunately, I can report that, of the ten races sailed, New Zealanders won every race. The closest to winning a race that an Australian got was a second place. As expected that was Andre Blasse. Mark Perrow, from Wakatere Boating Club, Auckland won the first race. Fellow Wakatere member Alistair Deaves won race 3. Generally though the racing was dominated by sailors from the Worser Bay Boating Club in Wellington. Joe Porebski won race 2. Karl Purdie race 7, Greg Wilcox race 9 and Steve McDowell, the man of the hour, won races 4,5,6 and 8. The Napier local hero, Adrian Mannering won the last race.

Overall it was McDowell who won the regatta with a 14-point lead over the second placed Karl Purdie. Greg Wilcox in third place completed the Worser Bay domination. The highest place Australian was Blasse in fifth.

And so now thoughts turn to the Worlds in July. With the top five from the Nationals all attending, along with six others, the team intends to improve on last years performance.

They now need to organize a container to take the boats to Denmark and are currently looking for sponsorship to assist with the finances.

Napier Sailing Club

OK Dinghy National & Interdominion Championships

Final results

Sailed: 10 Discards: 2

Rank	Fleet	Nat	Sail No	Helm	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	Nett
1	open	NZL	519	Steve McDowell	2	6	3	1	1	1	4	1	3	DNC	16
2	open	NZL	502	Karl Purdie	11	10	5	5	2	4	1	3	7	3	30
3	vets	NZL	522	Greg Wilcox	8	2	11	2	10	6	5	5	1	6	35
4	open	NZL	521	Mark Perrow	1	4	6	7	5	7	6	4	8	9	40
5	vets	AUS	719	Andre Blasse	4	3	4	11	6	5	17	12	4	2	40
6	open	NZL	472	Alistair Deaves	7	12	1	9	3	12	3	2	9	10	44
7	open	NZL	511	Ben Morrison	5	15	9	3	11	2	9	16	2	4	45
8	vets	NZL	517	Paul Rhodes	6	11	2	4	16	3	21	10	11	5	52
9	vets	NZL	509	Joe Porebski	11	1	12	13	4	10	7	9	6	7	56
10	open	NZL	520	Russel Wood	13	7	8	11	9	22	23	7	5	8	68
11	vets	NZL	481	David Hoogenboom	17	13	7	6	7	13	8	11	12	DNF	77
12	vets	NZL	504	Adrian Mannering	16	5	20	10	19	15	24	26	10	1	96
13	open	NZL	52	Owen Anderson	9	22	OCS	17	8	8	16	6	21	14	99
14	open	NZL	490	Trent Pryce	10	9	10	15	15	18	13	13	20	15	100
15	vets	NZL	475	Nigel Mannering	3	18	13	18	13	14	18	24	16	11	106
16	vets	NZL	515	Mike Wilde	20	16	14	12	23	19	2	25	13	12	108

17	open	NZL	498	Darren Hunt	18	8	18	25	17	17	11	23	14	13	116
18	vets	AUS	711	Nick Gray	15	19	OCS	16	22	9	20	18	15	17	129
19	open	NZL	51	Grant Pedersen	12	17	15	19	14	24	22	14	19	24	132
20	vets	NZL	474	Tony Clifford	DNC	DNC	OCS	8	12	21	12	8	18	19	133
21	vets	NZL	500	Philip Rzepecky	23	14	23	21	33	16	28	17	17	18	149
22	open	GER	5	Peter Scheuerl	21	21	17	20	24	27	14	20	23	16	152
23	open	NZL	466	Matt Hibbard	27	25	16	26	29	11	25	15	27	25	170
24	open	NZL	494	Rob Hengst	32	27	24	39	26	20	10	19	26	21	173
25	vets	NZL	360	John Hoogerbrug	28	24	OCS	23	32	23	31	21	22	22	194
26	vets	NZL	518	Selwyn Pedersen	19	29	21	34	34	25	19	28	28	26	195
27	vets	AUS	694	Richard Furneaux	26	34	28	24	27	30	27	22	24	20	198
28	vets	AUS	715	Tom Pearce	25	28	OCS	28	25	34	15	27	29	28	205
29	open	AUS	713	Peter Lynch	30	26	27	22	30	28	30	29	25	23	210
30	open	NZL	510	Graeme Bates	22	20	19	27	18	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	211
31	open	AUS	684	Chris Hall	31	33	25	29	28	26	26	30	30	DNF	225
32	open	NZL	467	Nigel Stilwell	33	32	29	33	20	29	29	31	32	27	229
33	vets	NZL	485	Campbell Scott	29	23	22	32	21	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	232
34	vets	NZL	516	Graham Lambert	24	30	26	DNS	DNS	DNC	DNC	DNC	31	DNF	251

Turangi International Open, 19,20 November 2005

Sixteen sailors made the trip to Turangi this past weekend to compete in one of the longest running regattas of recent times. This was the fourth event of the OK Dinghy Summer Series, run by the Turangi Yacht Club.

Saturday saw the competitors on the beach for the first hour while the breeze built to 5-8 knots. The sun was out and in the 22+ deg temperatures, memories of the snow and what seemed like -20deg temperatures of last year quickly faded.

The regatta got off to a great start with five races been held in the first day. The racing was extremely close with almost every boat in the fleet having lead at some stage during the racing. Finishes were even closer with several positions being scored as ties, The race management team did a superb job separating the finishers which was no doubt a challenge when you have the entire fleet finishing within 15 seconds of each other!

The top performance of the day was Alistair Deaves who managed to sail consistently in the tricky conditions winning three of the races while the rest of fleet was up and down like yo-yo's. Other good performances were shown by David Hoogenboom who won race two and Matt McDowell who won race five.

Too much rum during the evening resulted in most of the sailors sleeping through their 3.30 alarms, and so missing another All Black win over the English.

Sunday saw an increasing breeze which peaked at about 18 knots, 3 races were sailed with Greg Wilcox wining the first and last race and Steve McDowell wining the second race of the day. Deaves again sailed consistently with a third, second, and seventh to take out the International Turangi Open for 2005 by a comfortable margin. Second, third and fourth overall went to Greg Wilcox, Steve McDowell and Karl Purdie respectively all from Wellington.

The results over the weekend have seen a tightening in the 2005 New Zealand ranking list after four regattas, Steve McDowell now has a two point lead over Mark Perrow but are being chased hard by Alistair Deaves and Greg Wilcox.

While the top five spots are held by Wellington and Auckland sailors, they will be no doubt be keeping their eyes on team Napier who have a mix of youth in Darren Hunt, and experience in Trent Pryce and Adrian Mannering. The Napier boys will be looking at a strong finish to the end of the series, and, with any one of them capable of an upset victory, the series is still alive.

While the top five have a jump over the rest of the top ten the upcoming nationals count for double points, add a further two more regattas as well as a drop into the equation and no doubt a few sailors will have their calculators out!

The next regatta is the New Plymouth Big Wave Classic in two weeks time. Hopefully we will see more of the enormous waves that we experienced last year and that the west coast is famous for!

Turangi Results:

1 st Alistair Deaves	Wakatere
2 nd Greg Wilcox	Worser Bay
3 rd Steve McDowell	Worser Bay
4 th Karl Purdie	Worser Bay
5 th Oscar Wilde	Wakatere
6 th Mark Perrow	Wakatere

Top 10 NZ Ranking list 2005 (after 4 regattas)

1 st Steve McDowell	Worser Bay	84pts
2 nd Mark Perrow	Wakatere	82pts
3 rd Alistair Deaves	Wakatere	76pts
4 th Greg Wilcox	Worser Bay	70pts
5 th Grant Pedersen	Wakatere	67pts
6 th Darren Hunt	Napier	59pts
7 th Adrian Mannering	Napier	47pts
8 th Trent Pryce	Napier	47pts
9 th Karl Purdie	Worser Bay	46pts
10 th Ben Morrison	Wakatere	38pts

Worser Bay Hurricane Classic. 5/6 November 2005

The Worser Bay Hurricane Classic was the third regatta in the OK Dinghy Summer series and it would be fair to say that the wind lived up to its reputation! Or as one of the competitors put it; "it just blew steaming monkey nuts".

Saturday saw the wind come from the north and Sunday from the south. Competitors were assured by the locals that this was an "easing breeze" however in Wellington double-speak the phrase "easing breeze" really means that the wind will eventually ease off, but not until it has increased to such a level that the aero-dynamics of the OK rig completely break down, several boats are broken and the whole fleet is battered and worn and sitting in the clubhouse having a few beers. Only then will the wind "ease" having itself a well earned rest to prepare itself for more "easing" on the next day!

Three hardy sailors from Wakatere in Auckland joined four sailors from Napier and a seven locals on the start line for the first race in an "easing" 35 knot northerly. Karl Purdie showed good skill leading around the whole course, steadfastly refusing to capsize on the high speed down wind legs, with Adrian Mannering from Napier some way back in second place.

Only 7 boats ventured out for the second race of the day in a still "easing" 35 knot breeze. Greg Wilcox launched just 4 minutes before the start after a late decision to hit the water, and after possibly playing some head games with the other sailors watching the carnage from the safety of the club. The race itself was a battle between local Steve McDowell and Wakatere sailor Mark Perrow. Places kept changing until Perrow capsized at the last gybe, handing the race to McDowell. Worser Bay veteran Joe Porebski came home in second.

After an evening of fireworks and beer, Sunday morning actually looked quite good. But sure enough the wind was doing some more "easing" by the time the fleet got to the start line. Karl Purdie again showed a clean pair of heels in the first race, chased by McDowell. By race two the wind was over 30 knots again. The off wind sailing in the flatter water of the southerly was just fantastic. Unfortunately, 30 knot self tacking wind shifts at the top of the beat caused a few headaches. McDowell won this race after passing the leaders down the run and holding on to the finish with Purdie second.

With Purdie and McDowell counting a DNS and DNF respectively, the race for overall honours was between Perrow and Wilcox. Wilcox and Porebski swam at the wing mark and pulled out of the race. Perrow then only had to finish to win overall, achieving his best result of the regatta as he did so; a second place behind triple race winner Purdie, who could only wonder if he should had sailed race two.

So Perrow won after consistently finishing every race, being only one of three sailors to do so; the others being Grant Pedersen and Darren Hunt.

The next regatta is the Turangi International open to be held in two weeks time.

Results:

1 st M Perrow	Wakatere
2 nd K Purdie	Worser Bay
3 rd S McDowell	Worser Bay
4 th G Wilcox	Worser bay
5 th G Pedesen	Wakatere
6 th D Hunt	Napier

By Alistair Deaves