

Herald Island race

The final race in the Waitemata Canoe and Multisport Clubs summer series for 2009 was the 16km Herald Island to Devonport Race on Auckland's Harbour.

In the days leading up to the race weather in Auckland had been a little on the bad side with heavy rain and high winds but by Sunday it had blown itself out with a still morning. The closer we got to the 11:00am start the wind had started slowly building up to around 12 knots from the northwest which would produce an almost downwind paddle with an outgoing tide - perfect!

After the warm up all the paddlers lined up for the start and at the sound of the horn they were off to the headland at the end of Herald Island. This is where they would turn and have the wind at their backs. As they came past the wharf a small group led by Paul Wilford had opened up a small lead of about 25m. By the time they reached Hobsonville Simon McLarin had the lead and took an inside line under the wharf. There are only a few spans which paddlers could fit under and as the lead pack followed Simon who got under a high span and the ones who did not took evasive action which resulted in Brett Clode taking a dip and ending his race.

Once under the Harbour bridge conditions became a little more challenging as the boat and ferry wash on Auckland Harbour really makes the last 5km the hardest part of the race. Just over an hour Paul Wilford and Simon McLarin came into view side by side as they made their way to the turning pole off Duder's Beach. As they turned Paul had pulled away from Simon to finish first, Simon second and Garren Cooper third.

Dene Simpson was first woman and it was good to see Bruce Start & Marty Taylor in an Adventure double also race.

Thanks to Pip and Ann for their help on the day.

1	Paul Wilford	1.17:00
2	Simon McLarin	1.17:21
3	Garren Cooper	1.17:32
4	Darryl Forsyth	1.18:13
5	Grant Heim	1.20:19
6	Ian Mercer	1.20:40
7	Robert Askew	1.21:43
8	Rob Nicol	1.22:24
9	Jeremy Kuggeleijn	1.22:54
10	Dave Chambers	1.23:30
11	Dene Simpson	1.24:15
12	Bruce Start & Marty Taylor	1.27:25
13	Anton Reiman	1.27:42
14	Sean Murphy	1.28:26
15	Jason Ferreira	1.31.03
16	Chris Piggott	1.38:38
17	Elliott Scott	1.39:12
18	Cameron Scott	1.40:21
19	Brett Clode	DNF

Next race will be the [2010 King of the Harbour](#) on 22-23 January followed by the Round Herald Island Race from the Waitemata Canoe and Multisport Clubrooms on Auckland Anniversary day which is 1 February 2010.