



## 2009 Trans Taupo competitor/ supporter written feedback

Hi Neil

CONGRATULATIONS on a superbly organised event.

Pre race info - easy to follow and comprehensive -

Pre race briefing - thorough and competitor friendly

The race - an achievable challenge for all competitors

The prize giving - once again great organisation and transparent in its fairness

Thanks for all your hard work (and your wife too)

Good on you for having the vision to make this event a reality - it can only grow and get even better

Regards Steve Horne - A tired, satisfied and happy competitor

*Email from Steve Horne, Hamilton [2009 race no# 4]*

Neil

Just a brief 'thank you' for the race at the weekend. Great job with the organisation (and the weather).

Hopefully we will be back next year with another cunning plan to relieve you of a few prizes, and hopefully we will be able to encourage a few more from Wellington to come up. They need to know that it is a fun event AND that you get the rest of the weekend to mtb and run around Taupo.

Thanks again to you, the team and to the sponsors

Regards

Dave Rudge

*Email from Dave Rudge, Wellington [2009 race no# 25 & 2008 participant]*

Kia ora Neil and Katrine,

Firstly to you and your team, thank you very much for a well organised, memorable event.

Audrey and I will return next year to compete in what we considered to be a challenging yet rewarding race. Who knows we may even attempt to do the full race course individually next time??

It was a great opportunity to meet other competitors outside our waka ama arena and found everyone welcoming and very hospitable.

Once again thank you and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Joss and Audrey (race #98)

:-) :-)

*Email from Jocelyn Scott & Audrey Wikiriwhi, Auckland [2009 race no# 98]*

Thanks for running a great event Neil. I'm still getting over it!

Next year I will be attempting to enter x 3, 6 person waka ama crews...

Cheers, Craig Smith

*Email from Craig Smith, Wellington [2009 race no# 41 & 2008 participant]*

Hi Neil

A huge thanks to you and your lovely wife for a superbly and smoothly run day on Saturday last. I can imagine you both were tearing around like wound up springs but on the surface you were the cool calm and chilled. You 2 are a great team.

The day was run so well and the competitors were so well informed.

There was no panic in the day either and this helped to make for a smoothly run day. I can't believe it is only a new event.

Also thanks to your lovely wife for baking the famous 'Mama's bickies. That was such a lovely giving thing to do.

And finally to your Mum. Thanks for praying for the perfect day for the event. We know that it works.

Regards

*Val Horne (my husband Steve [race no# 4] was a competitor and I was the support person).*

Thanks again for the report and we are pleased to be associated with such a well run and professionally organised (and growing) event.

*Tim Curran*

*General Manager - Aquanaut NZ / Adventure Extreme: Sponsors of SharkSkin paddling clothing.*

Maximum respect for running the best event!

*Lorraine Wagg*

*[www.photochick.co.nz](http://www.photochick.co.nz) – Event photographer.*

Hi Neil

My daughter did the Taupo Tandem Skydive on a perfect day at Easter (pic attached). It was the coolest thing. The whole family are still buzzing from the experience. Thanks for organising that one (spot prize)! I was very impressed with their business and I know they will get some more mileage yet from their sponsorship. Both my daughters want to do one for their next birthday and will probably drag along some friends I am sure.

Cheers

*Brad Hayes*

What a race. Just looked at the video... who's the dude, Brad making his own hand crafted surfski from wood, 11 out of 10 for that effort.

Wonder what he would make one for? The woodie makes a change from the mandatory ski white.

How's that battle between Rooster and Simon all the way...and the Queen of kayaking in NZ - Katie.

What an effort Kat & Neil running the race for the second year. A pro effort and it shows in the end product.

*Posting on [www.portzhub.com](http://www.portzhub.com) discussion group page by Tad*

P.S. I really appreciate Sportzhub turn up and all the coverage before and after. Makes for a better value event - with not just the experience of the day itself, but also all the anticipation of re-living it afterwards being possible due to your photographs and Neil's race reports.

Many thanks

Brad

*Email C/o- Steve Knowles of Sportzhub from Brad Hayes, Hamilton [2009 race no#2 & 2008 participant]*

Hi Neil

After Canoe and Kayak published an article in their latest Yakkity Yak Magazine a bunch of us decided to enter the 2010 race. As we are all recreational sea kayakers we have started training already and have just completed our third Sunday training paddle. We have even set up our own blog site. We are currently covering about 12-18kms each time we hit the water. In July our paddles will be up to about 20kms. We even have a programme between now and October. In November we are planning on following the programme you prepared for the 2009 race.

Currently about 15 of us are in training.

Cheers... Jimmy Disney

