

2008 Trans Taupo competitor/supporter written feedback

This was my first event. Had a great time at a very well run event.
Email from Kenneth Franklin, Paraparaumu [2008 race no# 58]

A big thanks to Neil Gellatly in organising the inaugural Trans Taupo kayak race yesterday. I thoroughly enjoyed everything about it...

It was really good to see parts of Lake Taupo you never take any notice of when driving along SH 1. You don't normally see fish jumping in front of you when driving a car.

The weather was perfect: following wind for the first half and then a really interesting lumpy side on lake to deal with for the last 20km. I am amazed that the 4 hour mark was beaten so easily.

I will be back next year just to beat this year's time.

Thanks to Neil's Mum for the biscuits as well!

Marcus Diprose, Rotorua [2008 race no# 37]
Sportshub.com Discussion Group

God – I'm buggered today.

Email from Tracy Wilson, Auckland [2008 race no# 17]

Yep. Agreed. A good low key race. No pretences. An honest kiwi style race with a few checkpoints to ensure that all was ok but the onus being on the people participating. Thanks Neil. A really good weekend. Even the family enjoyed following us through all the checkpoints. With the extra entries that you are bound to get next year I hope you reserve a few places for those coming back.

Shane Ross, Wellington [2008 race no#48]
Sportshub.com Discussion Group

Hi Neil,

Thanks for a really fun day on Saturday, and for organising nice weather! I think it takes a brave man to organise that event! We really had a great time out there. Before the event I was somewhat concerned about finding the checkpoints (I know how hard it can be to find a particular spot on the shoreline) and had put way points into my GPS.....but those red pieces of plastic were AWESOME! You could see them from about 3km away....please keep them on. I found the light harder to spot, but maybe if it had been foggy that would have been more noticeable.

Nice to have a good number of safety boats too.

So thanks again, hopefully will be back next year....

Email from Christine Couldrey & Paul Dutton, Raglan [2008 race no# 24]

Thanks Neil, it was a great day!

Everything went smoothly and I can see it getting bigger as the years go by.

The only suggestion would be to honor (with spot prizes) those who had it rough on the day. Prizes for the best hand blisters?

Email from Joe Cornforth, Hamilton [2008 race no# 14]

Hi Neil & Kat,

An awesome event, a hard job but you have the first one off the ground now, well done!!

I hope to be back next year.

kind regards.

Brian Coombe, New Plymouth [2008 race no# 7]

Neil – congrats on a great first event. May it grow and grow. I'll certainly push it out there to our customer base J

I'm really keen for canoe and kayak to take the lead sponsorship for this event so I look forward to talking to you about that when the dust has settled.

Email Regards from Rob Howarth (2008 Major sponsor - Canoe & Kayak)

Dear Neil

Great event well organised good safety features - will try to be there next year

Email Regards from Ted Hughes, Auckland [2008 race no#19]

Hi Neil and thanks for running such a great event! Your words at prize giving were inspirational.... This is a wicked event with great future potential.

Email from Andrew Wagg, Christchurch [2008 race no# 67]

Hi Neil & Kat,

Thank you for a wonderful day and well organised event. You will see us back next year! Also we were very pleased with the relay option as this suited us with young kids, so they were looked after and both of us could partake.

Thanks again for a great day!

Well Done,

Email from Yoka & Urban Camenzind, Auckland [2008 race no#16]

My mate Jim and I came down to do the Trans Taupo along with four supporters and we all had a marvelous time. Apart from the beauty of Taupo the lake and surrounding area it was fantastic from a paddlers perspective to not only be involved in a competitive paddle but to see the lake as never before.

Neil all credit to you, Kat your Mum and Dad and team of supporters it was a no hassle event and one I will put in my diary for next year.

Your idea of a staggered start next year would add a bit more drama so go for it.

I was amazed at the high level of spot prizes at this the first event.

See you next year.

Cheers

Email from John Sanderson, Auckland [2008 race no#1]

Tracey and I will give the rowing side of things a big push for next year and get some more entries in.

Email Cheers, Craig Smith, Hunterville [2008 race no#54]

Thanks Neil

Great event and enjoyed seeing you have such success at things you are passionate about.

Great race.

Cheers

Steve Knowles, Sportzhub [2008 Event partner & media]

Hi Kat and Neil,

I know that you will be getting 'hundreds' of these but can I add my congratulations for a marvelous weekend rowing the Giant's pond

'Big ups' to you both and also to your Mum and Dad Neil for being part of it all

A definite for next year.

Email regards Bruce Butters, Wanganui [2008 race no# 35]

Hi Neil

I would just like to thank and your team you for putting on a great event in the Trans Taupo race. It was very well organized and you covered all the bases very well, I have organized races myself and I know the size of commitment required to run such an event in this day and age.

The course offers a wonderful back drop, particularly for rowers as I was on this occasion and I a good race in our build up to the Trans Tasman rowing next year.

The team and myself had a great time, we would love to come back next year but we hope to be in the middle of the Tasman at this time.

As a sponsor of the race Barracuda Kayaks would like to be involved next year without question, if you have any more kayak races in the near future please let us know.

PS. your mums cookies rock!!!!

Emailed Best regards from Gordon Robinson

Owner/Director Barracuda Watercraft [2008 Major Sponsor]

Hi Neil

What a great event Everything seemed to run smoothly-one of the best prize givings Ive attended.

I am sure several more from here will come down next year.

See you next year

Email from Jeff Wells, New Plymouth [2008 race no# 4]

Morning Neil

Just wanted to thank you & family/friends for hosting such a wonderful event – beautifully run and real good feel about it.

My teammate Christian from Denmark reckoned it was one of the best things about his bike trip in NZ, big thanks from him – he’s gone to the North Pole to join up with some Huskies.

The prize giving was just right – not too much time spent on the spots and no need for prizes for all.

I’m sure it will be bigger next year as the good word will spread – probably the biggest potential for growth would be in the relay section, particularly SK1 & SK2 which brings a big bunch of recreational sea kayakers into play.

Looking forward to next year – just off for a paddle

Email from Stu Golding [2008 race no#71].

You guys did a fantastic job organising the Trans Taupo race!

Email from Dave Hicks, Wellington [2008 race no#47]

Hi Neil

Thanks for a great event down in Taupo a couple of weeks ago.
...it was great the event had a relaxed feel to it...

Email Thanks, Mike Ettema, Auckland [2008 race no#20]

Great event and an impressive piece of water to row on....

Brilliant event Neil

All of us who took part from here regarded it as memorable and will be back if you can find the time/energy etc to keep it going... well done mate!!

Cheers

Email from Rod Trott, Wanganui [2008 race no# 22]

I have been looking forward to Trans Taupo 2009 since the end of the last one!

Email from Brad Hayes, Hamilton [2008 race no# 9]