

# Paremata and Plimmerton yachties break into 470 competitive teams racing

Local sailors from the Paremata and Plimmerton boating clubs joined forces to form a combined 420 sailing team and raced against some of the best in the country at the National 420 Teams racing held over the May school holidays at Algies Bay, just north of Auckland.

Darby and Finn Georgeson from Plimmerton Boating club and Paremata Boating Club members Daniel Micheal, Nicholas Winsley and Fergus and Caleb Baxter combined forces to form a three boat, two man sailing team to give the nationals a crack.

They were one of the youngest secondary school teams to compete in the nationals (which covers all secondary students in years 9–13). Teams' racing is not just about being the first boat across the line, but making sure your team of three has a winning combination across the six finishers. This makes for very tactical America's Cup style racing with on the water umpires making judgments and awarding penalty turns immediately.

The 'Pareplim' team quickly generated discussion in the local yacht club at Snells Beach with the unknown quantity of this team working their way from the Bronze fleet through to promotion into the Silver fleet after the first day's racing. The event ran every day in the second week of the school holidays, which meant lots of sailing, and in the past, many new teams often never made it past the Bronze fleet. To break into the Silver on their first at-



*Local sailors who made their mark at the 470s teams races in Auckland last month. From left to right, back row: Darby Georgeson, Daniel Winsley, and Finn Georgeson. Front row: Fergus Baxter, Nicholas Winsley, Micheal Winsley, and Caleb Baxter*

tempt, and then finished mid fleet was a remarkable achievement.

About 300 secondary school competitors attended this event and the 'Pareplim' team very quickly got a taste for the competitive, fierce tactics, experience and the sheer speed of 420 sailing. Most of the local team had only started teams racing this season, so the 420 Nationals provided outstanding experience for local sailors, who are all keen to participate again

after getting a real taste for the competitive team racing environment.

To top off a great week of sailing, the 470 regatta organisers invited Caleb Baxter of Pauatahanui and Darby Georgeson of Plimmerton to become part of a development team which will head to Rarotonga in July for some more intense coaching and training. Both sailors are very excited about the new challenges and opportunities that this will bring.