

## December Team Sailing Regatta at Kerikeri Cruising Club



Five teams, Whangarei Boys, Whangarei Girls, Team Waiuku and two teams from Kerikeri met on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> of December for a three-day regatta aimed at bringing on less experienced sailors with the help of competition from current experienced teams.

Waiuku Yacht Club mainly Finn and Zephyr sailors with Optimists and Starlings for juniors, brought 5 sailors from Franklin County Schools making their first effort at team sailing. They were only able to muster two 420s at the last minute. This resulted in a cooperative effort from the other teams who each subbed in a boat and crew to make up the Waiuku team when they were racing. It was very impressive how well most of the sailors from the other teams supported the spirit of team sailing making the 5<sup>th</sup> team welcome to their first regatta and resulting in five very keen converts to team sailing. The two Flag officers from Waiuku who are setting up the team were also impressed at the format and cooperative spirit.

The weather was near perfect and 6 round robins totalling 60 races were completed over the three days. All the sailors seemed to enjoy the regatta and learned heaps as shown by the improvements in sailing skills over the three days and the friendliness between teams.

The regatta was supported by a great group of volunteers including parents. Some of these were learning on the job while others showed a respectable amount of experience. Alan Clarkson was an excellent mark layer and all-round organiser. Thanks, are also due to KCC for the use of their facilities on the water and at the clubhouse

The racing was often very close, and the results only reflect a learning regatta where skippers and crews were often interchanged and the main goal was learning and enjoying the sport

Kerikeri Red 19 points, Whangarei Boys 16 points, Whangarei Girls 15 points, Waiuku 6 points, Kerikeri Blue 4 points,

The Whangarei Girls' and Boys' teams were the closest match going down to the last race to get a 'decision'.

Derry Godbert