HUDSON & ZAC FIRST HOME ON THE TE HOIERE SEAGULL HIKOI 2020.

On Saturday the 15th of February 2020, 14 boats lined up at the Havelock marina for the Te Hoiere Seagull Fleet Hikoi. Advertised as a fun run only the competitive spirt of the fleet ensured it was all on.

Assembly of the fleet for briefing for new members, karakia by the Bishop to give the Fleet the spiritual guidance they needed, words of wisdom, by our Divine One Blue, Steve our Harbour Master dropped the flag and signalled the start of the Hikoi.

First away was Hudson & Zac in their Canadian Kayak with 3hp Seagull motor, followed by Simon in the “Legs 11’, then a scramble of the remaining fleet, with support boats behind. Out to last beckon at Cullen’s Point and heading up Te Hoiere Awa, both boats established a clear lead on the remaining fleet to make their way up to the Awanui Bridge, with the Orange Ruffy support boat with Vince & Simon our on-water photographer filming their journey.

Further back in the fleet, the lead changed several times, Mac 1, Ant, Sunshine, Black Pearl, Shady Lady & Ruby K, followed by the P Wee, Trudooles, Waka Wombles & Petal then back at the rear of the Fleet, the Wai -Naki & Krusty Krab.

With the Awanui bridge in sight a tussle for the lead between the Black Pearl & Shady Lady emerged, around the corner the Black Pearl ran into some weed, which stalled the motor and allowed the Shady lady to steam ahead. The rest of the fleet followed, with Petal springing a fuel leak and getting pulled out onto the riverbank, quick change of plan and she hopped onboard the Waka Womble.

Most of the boats made it through the Willows, some under tow, at the Double Crossing , the Shady Lady , hit the shallows, broke a spring and was out of action, until Sunshine, Black Pete & the Bishop, stopped and changed the spring and she was away again, with a thanks and a wave and left them sitting in her wake, while she motored on to catch, Mac1, Ant, Legs 11 & Hudson.

Under tow was the Black Pearl, by our new support boat Conch, Waka Womble with Dave & Crew. Passing under Popes bridge was Mac 1, Ant, & Shady Lady, behind them was Ruby K, P Wee & Trudooles, who did a neat 360 turn for the spectators on the bridge, keeping a smile on her face.

Hudson & Zac were first to hit the home straight, followed by Legs 11, Shady Lady, had the launching ramp in sight, closed down the throttle, so she wouldn’t bang into the floating ramp like she did, last run, engine conked out , wouldn’t start, around the corner come Mac 1 & Ant, so out come the oars and she completed the run in 3rd place with cheering from the spectators at the Slip inn.

With all the Fleet in, boats pulled out of the water, with lots of laughs it was up to the Havelock Hotel for prize giving and Surf & Turf meal. A raffle was also run for The Nelson /Marlborough Rescue Helicopter, with $231.00 raised by the fleet.

1st home: Hudson & Zac, 2nd Legs 11, 3rd Shady lady, 1st team Sunshine, Black Pete & The Bishop. Sunshine’s course record of 1hr 51 minutes still stands as a target for our next Hikoi, which will be in June.

The organisers would like to thank our sponsors, Havelock Hotel, Port Marlborough, Town & Country Builders, our 3 support boats & crew. Special thanks to Simon for doing our video, Bob, Robert, Ian and all those who participated & helped on the day.