TE HOIERE SEAGULL FLEET HIKOI EVENT 2021.

Saturday the 27th of February saw 24 members of the Fleet assemble for our annual Hikoi. Our theme was Maori & Early settlers, there was several stunning outfits, from Captain Cook, Maori warrior/Wahine, early goldminers, settlers, with boats dressed appropriately, with flags flying from, Ireland, Japan, England, Maori, Scotland, Dutch, Latvian, NZ as well as boats carrying their own name and proudly displaying our origins “Te Hoiere”.

H&S briefing and Risk management requirements, followed by a Karakia from the Shady Lady, with a note that the fleet, probley would need all the blessing we could get.

Lee Man start from Captain Horn Blower, who signalled start of event and it was all on, as members scrambled to get to their boat and fire up their mighty seagulls.

First off, the starting line was the Flying Seagull, followed by Mae Bee, then Vision, with remaining members, who managed to get their motors going, following in their wake. The fleet made an impressive sight going out the harbour. Back at the floating jetty, the Admiral & his new boat the “Pink Panther”, decided to perform a ceremonial baptism and ended up in the water, pulled out by support staff, and managed to get his boat going.

Shady Lady motor as usually was uncooperative at the start, but once it fired up, new strategic trim tabs in place, raced ahead to catch up with the fleet. Kai Tahu & Grandy, had engine failures & didn’t get to leave the marina. Grandy had been involved in a slight mishap before the race, going over one of the speed bumps in the marina and coming off the trailer, this possibly contributed, to the boats non-performance, but with typical kiwi ingenuity, boat out of the water, home and got his loopy boat and became part of our support boat crew, following the fleet.

Our Hikoi course was approx.10.5 miles long around some of the most beautiful waterways & estuaries in our own back yard, up to the Awanui, heading towards the Willows canyon, top of the Double Crossing and heading down Te Hoiere around Twiddles island, towards Popes Bridge, down to Blackball, through the reeds, heading towards the marker buoy at the Timber wharf, then back home to our starting line.

Lots of laughter, break downs with broken springs, weed around props, Mae Bee, getting their prop tangled up with flax, retrieving a Booty prize, prop ended up in the water and the skipper, going for a swim to retrieve it.

At the head of the Fleet, Black Pearl, Proper Waka & Red Rocket challenging for lead. Proper Waka jet fell out of his motor on the home straight at timber wharf, following Black Pearl, who won with a time of 1-hour 28mins, followed by Red Rocket 1-hour 30m & Shady Lady 3rd, who like the boats name, followed behind in the clear water of several boats, then gapped it when opportunity arises.

Support boats did a fantastic job, keeping an eye on the safety of the fleet, towing boats in, “Scooby Doo 2” & “Pink Panther” aka: Pink Pussy! along with” Proper Waka.

Once all boats were accounted for, up to the Havelock Hotel for the after-match function and prize giving. Karakia to bless the food by our kaumatua Lena, and in keeping with our Hikoi theme, menu reflected Maori kai. Cod head boil up, watercress & pork bone boil up, smoked eel, paua, mussels, crayfish, whitebait, hapuku, and cold meats, chips & salads. Special thanks to Hotel Chef “Bright “& kitchen crew who assisted with Kai.

1st boat home Black pearl, 2nd Red Rocket,3rd Shady Lady

1st team home: Vision, 2nd Mae bee, 3rd Moenui 2.

1st Lady home: Shady Lady, 2nd Silver bullet.

Rear End winner: Whakatu, 1st time entry with 2hp motor.

Best boat: Proper Waka, Best flag; Pink panther, Best dressed male Harry from Proper Waka, Best dressed lady Tamara from Baby Blue, Best dressed boy Michael from the Linda, Best dressed girl, EMJ from Baby Blue & Honey from Mae Bee.

Our Te Hoiere wahine, Ligita & Hiromi in the “Leg Cutter” successfully completed their maiden voyage along with Michael in the “Linda” Luca & his dad Wal in the “Sand Fly” & Teone, Dan & Jack in the Whakatu.

Special thanks to our sponsors Havelock Hotel, Port Marlborough, Imersion Fishing, Pirimoana Holdings & Town & Country Builders Ltd. To our Support boats, course masters, Happy Snappa’s & all our volunteers & members who entered, into the spirit of the event to make it a fun filled occasion.

A total of $501.50 was raised by the members for the Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter.

Next trip for the Seagull Fleet will be the “Break Out” in June, open theme, and “Sunshine course & record” up for challenge. Date TBC, depending on weather & Covid issues.