



Women's National Keelboat Championships 2012

Rhonda Richie & Holly Farmer helmed the 2 WOW teams entered in this year's competition. Held over the weekend of 28 & 29 April and sailed on the fleet of Farr MRX 10.2m yachts, a total of 8 teams competed in challenging conditions on Saturday with steady winds 20-25 kts gusting to 30kts occasionally only to be marooned in variable winds on Sunday.

Holly Farmer, determined to improve on last year's result of 7th, finished the regatta in 5th place. Her crew were Lisa Knapton, Jan Dijk, Tessa Denniston, Fi Charman, Helen Maxey, and Mel Pilcher from Auckland.

Rhonda Richie and her keen crew were thrilled to be able to participate and learn from the experience. Although absolutely exhausted we all agreed it was well worth it. The crew were Megan Harris, Susie Pierce, Delwyn Hodgson, Lorna Perry, Barbara Johnston and Katie de Lange ex RNZYS Youth Squad.

It was great to sail alongside our top women sailors such as Samantha Osborne, who won the regatta and who's been selected to go to the London Olympics, Joy Adams, Danielle Bowater, Melinda Henshaw, Gillian Williams and Claire Johnson who, with the absence of Leslie Egnot, were able to improve their ranking.

In summary, the experience has highlighted the need for more windward leeward training if we are to compete at this level which we aim to address before next year's regatta. All in all, it was a fantastic opportunity for WOW Tauranga and all helps to keep those Auckland girls on their toes! See photos in the WOW gallery.