

WOW
Women On Water
sailing



Women's National Keelboat Championships 2013

Hoping to improve on last year's result Leslie Goddard took the helm this time with Rhonda Ritchie on mainsheet, Jan Dijk & Delwyn Hodgson trimming, Jojette Drost on keyboard, Megan Harris at the mast and Laura Vonk at the bow. Held over the weekend of 27 & 28 April and sailed on the fleet of Farr MRX 10.2m yachts, a total of 7 teams (including a first time entry from Noumea's CNC yacht club) competed in challenging conditions on Saturday with steady SW winds 25-30kts gusting to 38kts on one of many squalls but at least we had nice 10-13kt SW winds on Sunday.

A couple of showers didn't dampen our spirits but when the mainsheet ratchet block separated from the deck after a spectacular broach with the spinnaker up on the first leg of the first race we were feeling somewhat dejected. Tom Mackay happily repaired it while they postponed the next race hoping that the wind would abate as forecasted but after an hour nothing had changed so it was on with the show and thankfully without spinnakers as the wind was steady in the high 20s.

A total of four races were completed on both days with almost every race won by Karleen Dixon's team. Tauranga's Claudia Pierce did much better this year finishing 2nd with last year's winner, Sam Osborne, in 3rd place. A long time supporter of women's sailing in Auckland, Joy Adams, finished 4th, the Noumea team helmed by Emmanuelle Merlo, was 5th, Melinda Henshaw's team came 6th and, as expected, the Tauranga WOWzrs finished in 7th place...last but not too unhappy as we helped celebrate success with the French girls, swapping shirts frantically and drinking plenty of wine!



As more WOW members take the opportunity to compete at a National level the more experience and confidence we gain so we're determined to improve our skills ready for next year's competition and give those Auckland ladies double trouble...yeah!