

## **Nationals Report**

Gisborne turned on some awful conditions for the National Championships at Midway Beach last weekend.

A huge southerly swell was predicted and turned up in style with 2.5m swells on Friday and Saturday with an easing surf on the Sunday.

This coupled with a bitterly cold South East onshore wind made conditions very challenging for both athletes and officials. In every event favourites were being knocked out in early rounds and the long courses were a test of stamina. Just finishing an event was an achievement in itself.

However, the surf meant that there was some exciting racing, particularly the Ski Races and in the Boat arena with some spectacular wipeouts.

Surf conditions dictated that the event was transferred to other venues on Friday and Saturday and the programme schedule was constantly being changed to suit the conditions.

Our team performed with credit in the tough conditions and recorded some excellent results. Certainly a lot of our team (even the experienced campaigners) were pushed outside their comfort zone but they all gave it a crack. Well done everyone.

Hard luck to Richie Sweetman, Mandy Jones and Nastasia Randell who all sustained injuries which forced them out of the competition.

Orewa placed 11<sup>th</sup> overall which was a good result given the conditions.

Special congratulations to Rachel Clarke who was named the outstanding female competitor of the championships. I don't think there was anyone from Orewa who didn't have a lump in their throat or a tear in their eye when Rach won the Open Ironwoman – man what a race!!

Rachel and Teneale Hatton were also named in the New Zealand Team to contest the Rescue 2010 international event being held in Japan in 2010 – congratulations girls.

A full set of results is on the SLSNZ website as are photos of the event (a few good ones of our team).

### **Results**

#### **Gold Medalists**

Open Ironwoman	Rachel Clarke
Under 19 Ski Race	Teneale Hatton
Under 19 Ski Race	Sam Wilson
Under 19 Ironwoman	Rachel Clarke
Under 19 Ski Relay	Rachel Clarke/Teneale Hatton/Laura Lesson

#### **Silver Medalists**

Open Ski Relay	Georgia Butt/Rachel Clarke/Teneale Hatton
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Under 19 Ski Relay Alastair Dixon/Jed Franich/Sam Wilson  
Under 19 Beach Relay Nicola Coventry/Amie Sisson/Amie Thomason/Becky Thomason

**Bronze Medalists**

Open Taplin Relay Georgia Butt/Rachel Clarke/Teneale Hatton  
Open Ski Relay Georgia Butt/Rachel Clarke/Teneale Hatton  
Under 19 Board Relay Rachel Clarke/Teneale Hatton/Laura Leeson  
Under 16 Board Relay Tom Clarke/Luke Siddins/Jack Wilson