

## New Zealand surf boat success for Orewa

Last weekend at Waihi Beach the Orewa under 23 surf boat crew came away with the North Island surf boat title for age group men. The race doubled as the third round of the New Zealand surf boat series and with their win at Whangamata in the New Year, the Orewa crew now lead the series with one round to go. The final round should be spectacular as it happens at Piha in 2 weeks time at the aptly name Piha Big Wave classic.

The crew of Johnny McCarthy, Dwayne van den Berg, Jed Franich, Jake Griffiths and sweep Stu Handford qualified top for the final after the qualifying series. In the final, the Orewa crew quickly opened a small lead, but with the tightly packed field just behind. On the way back to shore 3 other crews caught a wave from behind and caught up. This led to a frantic sprint to the finish where the Orewa crew showed their strength to pull ahead of crews from fellow Auckland club, Piha and Wellington club, Paekakariki. One pleasing aspect for the Orewa club was the young under 19 team coming in 5<sup>th</sup>. They compete up an age group and are pleased to be so competitive with the older crews.

