

## SURFING TARANAKI

### INAUGURAL INTER-CLUB TEAMS CHALLENGE.

By Allen Pidwell

On Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> Surfing Taranaki held their inaugural Inter-Club Team Challenge at Arawhata Road...

Four teams competed, New Plymouth Surf Rider's Club A and B, Oakura and Opunake. Each team consisted of 8 members including one who had to be a junior under 16, one woman, and one over 40 years of age. Competitors were drawn into heats of four and had 20 minutes to score with their best two waves counted and points awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place – 4, 3, 2, 1.

With Taranaki's top surfers gathered together, among them Jess Terrill and Cain Aldridge from Opunake, Hamish Bowling, Jarrod Hancox, Keone Campbell, Kane Rowson, Sean Kettle and Amaia Sasia from New Plymouth, and Simon Deken and Tyler Anderson from Oakura the spectators were treated to a feast of top surfing in the lumpy 4 to six foot surf.

At the end of the teams event the standings were: New Plymouth A: 23.5 points, New Plymouth B: 20, Oakura: 19, Opunake 18.5; and with the Tag-team section winner gaining ten points it was still any team's to take the title.

The teams surfed as individuals who each had ten minutes to claim two top rides. They could ride as many waves as they wished but the judges only scored a wave when the surfer raised both arms above their heads after the ride to indicate they wished that ride counted. When they had claimed two rides the surfer had to paddle over and tag the next member of their team. This made for a tactical event with only New Plymouth A and B claiming all their 16 waves with Oakura falling one short and Opunake two rides short.

New Plymouth A came first (33.5 points) with Oakura second (26) followed by New Plymouth B (24) and then Opunake 18.5.

All those who attended thoroughly enjoyed the event and it will now become an annual surfing competition on the Taranaki calendar.