

Karen Muller & Ruth Chapman – Tour de Tasman 2010:

Saturday morning we awoke to the sound of pouring rain and got ourselves ready for a soggy day. Then just as we departed our cosy backpackers for registration the rain stopped and it was all set for a great day of racing.

The race involved 8 stages, over 2 days. There were a variety of craft from Sea kayak's, eclipse's, Surf skis and Sharps and Double vessels. The aim was to get from the start to finish of each stage as quickly as possible.



Day 1

Stage 1: From Marahau we paddled out and circumnavigated Fishermans Island, before heading for Appletree Bay where we were greeted enthusiastically by the timekeepers, race staff, fast finishers and a huge box of snacks to revive us for the next stage of racing.

Stage 2: From Appletree Bay we travelled out to and around Adele Island before heading in to Observation Beach. Adele Island presented us with our first taste of paddling in a swell.

Stage 3: From Observation Beach we braved the Mad Mile out to Pinnacle Island with lots of interesting water and then back into Anchorage where we had a well needed break for lunch and to set up camp or claim a bunk in the hut.

Stage 4: A 4km Time trial from Anchorage past Balloon Rock then out to Boundary Bay before sprinting back to Anchorage via a lumpy wave section!

The safety boats were fantastic and we always felt as if there was a watchful eye on us just in case of a mishap! That night was spent dissecting the days racing, recovering, eating and planning tactics for the next day!



Day 2

Stage 1: From Anchorage we paddled out and around Tonga Island which had some exciting waves to deal with and then back into Onetahuti Beach. At this point there was a change of plan as a southerly was brewing and we didn't want to get stuck.

Stage 2: From Onetahuti Beach we followed the coastline back into Anchorage. Where we broke camp, grabbed a hot drink with lunch and prepared for the final 2 stages.

Stage 3: From Anchorage to Cyathea Cove via the Mad Mile which wasn't so Mad this time!

Stage 4: From Cyathea Cove back to Marahau a short but hard sprint finishing against an outgoing tide! Congratulations to Carla Laughton who took out the Women's tour and Andrew Martin for the Men's Tour. Full Race Results can be viewed at: www.tourdetasman.co.nz

Who's This Race For?

Anyone who wants to lift their kayak endurance and technique skills in a safe environment. Coming from a multisport background I benefited from 2 days of solid paddling at race intensity, learned about paddling in the ocean and improved my technical skills. It was an extremely well organised and friendly event. There was plenty of time to quiz the experienced paddlers about technique and a great opportunity to paddle alongside some of the best south island paddlers even if it wasn't for very long ?