

Thursday, November 26, 2015

Sport



□ LEFT: The T and G Woolly Kumaras competing for Horouta Waka Hoe. Together after their first race of four in the men's premiere league are: from left, Rawiri Taokao, Horiata Raihania, Jed MacKenzie, Glen Anderson, Bruce Campbell and Grant Donaldson.



□ ABOVE RIGHT: David Apelu shows a smooth stroke.



□ Gisborne's Florrie Brooking on her way out to the starting line for the women's division.

Waka ama at Whakamarino

MORE than 220 competitors from all over the country descended on Lake Whakamarino near Lake Waikaremoana last weekend for the waka ama regional sprint championships.

The championships — for individual paddlers racing over 250 metres and 500m — served as qualifiers for the national championships to be held at Lake Karapiro in January.

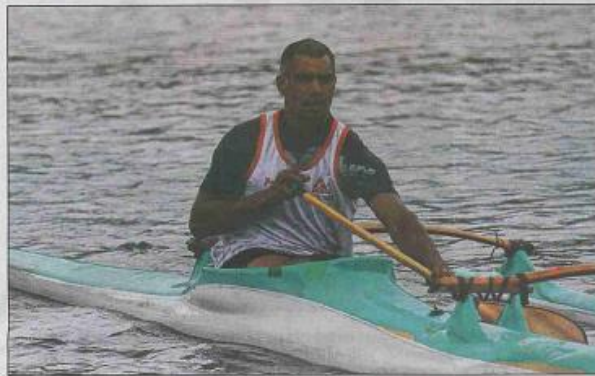
The goal for competitors was also qualification for the waka ama world sprint championships on the Sunshine Coast, Australia, in May.

Competitor and one of the organisers, Vesna Radonich said ages of entries spanned from 7-70, and it was a great day.

Entries came from as far as Auckland and Wellington.

Each region has a quota of paddlers who can compete at the national championships as individuals.

Each paddler had two chances to qualify, with times achieved being a key factor.



□ LEFT: Aku Hiki from Hawke's Bay was a powerful competitor on the day.



□ Gisborne's Keith Pomare was a big supporter on the day, especially for daughter Halecia who was representing Horouta Waka Hoe.