



Seahorse Wild West Coast Kontiki Competition

Ever heard of Tangimoana, well after reading this you will know where it is.

On the 16th & 17th March, the Tangimoana Boating Club hosted the very first of its kind for their area of the west coast was a competition with a difference.

A team in the club put their heads together and came up with the idea of getting behind another popular style of fishing very different from boats.

Big Russ Hunter and Mike from [Mikes Salted Baits](#) had tossed and murmured the idea of holding a Kontiki competition for the local area for quite some time.

Mike is an avid Kontiki fisherman and Big Russ a bit of a boatie.

Big Russ is the Club's Vice Commodore and was very passionate about getting this idea up and running to give anglers more choice.

Both of these guys approached Phill Scherer at "[Seahorse Kontiki's](#)" in Tauranga and asked him if he would consider backing the competition and sponsor a Kontiki as a prize of which he did do. Well with the Club taking on a bit of a gamble with an attractive prize of \$1000.00 cash in each category and with Phill offering a torpedo as a prize draw for all entries we were away, all we had to do was put it all together and make this little Tangimoana dream happen.



Big Russ put a huge effort into sourcing new sponsors for the competition of which turned out to be a massive success as many of these are now continuing to sponsor the Clubs future events.

Those that sponsored cash, was spent immediately into a variety of goods prizes which gave us a massive display of exiting goodies at the prize giving.

The response from these sponsors was so good that the original thought of having about five prizes in each category was about the limit.

But after all of the prize groups were worked out and the goods spread around this turned into twelve prizes in each group with the \$1000.00 leading the way in each one.

Big Russ and the Club's Commodore Ian Thompson had a bit of a side wager on the possible number of entries as this was the first time the comp was ever run, no one knew what the likely outcome would be.



Russ was hugely confident that they would get more than the Ninety Mile beach competition at sixty or more torpedo's.

Ian (Tommo) was a bit more hesitant and reckoned around the 40 would be a terrific effort for a first off

attempt at this venture; well that final entrant number was 48 teams.

The entries stretched from all over the lower north island from Napier, New Plymouth, Featherston and Lower Hutt to name a few.

What an awesome response, the mood, and the feeling on the beaches over the weekend were fantastic and it was a total pleasure to be a part of it.

The drastic shootings in Christchurch were on many minds and became a constant conversation topic and yet on the other hand and in stark contrast we were having a fantastic family event for all to enjoy.

Graeme Tanner who is one of the organizing team and the Club's Secretary set up all the forms required for entry and rules via our Web page, tangimoanaboatingclub.kiwi and as well as our Face book page so it was easy for all of those outside the region to enter.

Prize giving was held on the Sunday evening, which had a brilliant turnout of entrants along with local Club members to support them.

By the time everybody were fed with great steak meals from the "Shipwreck Café" cooking crew and well-watered by the Bar staff we were in for a great night.

There were some difficult obstacles to consider and overcome as this hadn't been done before and to ensure it would be a success for all concerned.

How do we police it? How many can we accommodate? Will the entrants return to Tangimoana to weigh their fish each day? Will we get the support from locals?

Firstly, the area that came to mind was from the south side of the Whanganui river mouth to the north side of the Waikanae River.

This gave a fishing area close to 93km of beach but for safety reasons for swimming zones and river mouths to consider along the coast allowed us to use 89km of beach.

Divide this by a preferred 700m or more between teams gave us the room to easily accommodate 127 Kontiki's.

Policing it became easy as most anglers whether boat or surf are nose characters and everybody keeps an eye on everybody.

The honesty of all the anglers shone through when one angler fished outside of the fishing period, which was 6am – 3pm daily.



He happened to land a very impressive 11.480kg Snapper that would have cleaned up first prize with ease, but he chose not present it for the competition, as he knew it was dishonest.

Hence, he was awarded an Honesty prize and many other entrants commended him and thanked him for his outright honesty.

Prize giving was a terrific finale and many teams walked away with beaming smiles and arms aching from carrying a load of prizes.

Going back to the opening statement, “ever heard of Tangimoana “ well we are a little coastal village situated at the mouth of the Rangitikei river 22km south of Bulls and 24km north of Foxton.

We are already planning next year’s event with the odd tweak here and there. So come and enter next year’s event and enjoy a bit of our west coast hospitality at Tangimoana.

