



**MEDIA RELEASE**



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Attention Sports Editors

## **Radford claims prestigious open water prize for second time**

Rotorua swimmer Kane Radford has won the prestigious Tiburon Mile open water race in San Francisco at the weekend for a second time.

Radford followed up his victory in 2009 with a strong performance to edge out Australian 5km open water champion and Oceania winner Codie Grimsey with his compatriot Ryan Napoleon third.

There were 750 swimmers competing in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual one mile race from Angel Island in San Francisco Bay to Tiburon, which carries a US\$10,000 winner-take-all prize for the men's and women's champions.

The key is to manage the strong currents in the Bay and the 15C degree water temperatures.

"I learned a lot from last year when I got caught swimming way out in the Bay," Radford told reporters after his win. "I played it differently and stayed inside this year, waited until we got round the point and went for it from there and it seemed to work out perfect this year."

It became a match race between Radford and Grimsey, who had fought out several duels in the State Ocean Series last year, with the Australian edging the kiwi in the State Harbour Crossing.

Radford made his move in the final stretch in Tiburon harbour to edge out Grimsey by just three seconds, clocking 18 min 58sec.

The New Zealander, coached by Mark Regan, was delighted with the win and the prize purse.

"The prizemoney is a great incentive in the race. When it is winner takes all you want to win it that much more.

"I don't think there's another race in the world like this. It is so well organised, it attracts a world class field. It is so unique and it's great."

Radford returns to New Zealand to resume training with his focus on the New Zealand Open Water Championships in Taupo in January which will be the selection event for the final Olympic qualification race in Portugal.

Former world 5km champion Melissa Gorman (Australia), who has already qualified for the London Olympics, won the women's race in a superb performance, finishing fourth overall behind Napoleon.

Results:

Tiburón Mile Open Water, male: Kane Radford (NZL) 18:58, 1; Codie Grimsey (AUS) 19:01, 2; Ryan Napoleon (AUS) 19:19, 3.

Melissa Gorman (AUS) 19:20, 1; Ashley Twitchell (USA) 19:40, 2; Christine Jennings (USA) 19:54, 3.

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