



**Sensational finish at Sand to Surf**  
**State Sand to Surf, Mt Maunganui, March 21st 2015**  
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It was trans-Tasman rivalry at its best at the State Sand to Surf on a stunning day in Mt Maunganui today.

New Zealand World Championship team member Charlotte Webby and leading Australian open water swimmer Samantha Watts produced the closest finish in State Ocean Series history, with Webby pipping her rival by just one second at the finish line.

The two had been stroke for stroke for the entire race, with the final sprint up the beach proving the difference. Webby just had the legs on the Australian, claiming victory by a metre.

“I didn’t start running until literally the water had finished because I’m not very good at wading. But you just have to back yourself or you’re out of the race already,” said Webby.

It’s Webby’s third victory of the series, after winning the opening two events late last year. That puts her in the box seat heading into the final event at Takapuna next month.

“I’m really excited for the State King of the Bays, and hopefully it goes my way again.”

Meanwhile, the men’ race was equally exciting with New Zealand Open Water champion Kane Radford battling 1500 metres national record holder Nathan Capp and current series leader Phillip Ryan all the way.

The trio were swimming side by side as they rounded the last marker, to set up a grandstand finish.

But as they closed in on the beach, Capp managed to get a small break on his rivals and held on to beat Radford by seven seconds. Ryan was just two seconds further back in third.

“It’s always good to get a win over Kane, especially since he’s the top open water swimmer in New Zealand,” said Capp.

“I wanted to follow Kane for a while but he just ended up following me most of the way, so my plan didn’t really work but I came away with the win anyway so I’m happy.”

Charlotte Webby and Phillip Ryan now lead the respective series, which will be decided in the double points round at the State King of the Bays next month.

ENDS

2014 State Sand to Surf:

Men:

1.	Nathan Capp (Auckland)	29:21	
2.	Kane Radford (Perth)	29:28	+0:07
3.	Phillip Ryan (Auckland)	29:30	+0:09
4.	Matthew Scott (Gisborne)	30:50	+1:28
5.	Ben Ruback (Wellington)	31:48	+2:27

Women:

1.	Charlotte Webby (New Plymouth)	31:58	
2.	Samantha Watts (Australia)	31:59	+0:01
3.	Alessandra Colombini (Australia)	34:17	+2:18
4.	Abi Chapman (Auckland)	34:28	+2:29
5.	Bridget Maher (Auckland)	35:12	+3:14

2014/2015 Series Standings (after five rounds):

Men:

1.	Phillip Ryan	299.01
2.	Troy Balvert	295.82
3=	Yasunari Hirai	200.00
3=	Nathan Capp	200.00
5.	Kane Radford	199.71

Women:

1.	Charlotte Webby	300.00
2.	Abi Chapman	289.60
3.	Gendi Roberts	285.06
4.	Aimee Moss	284.80
5.	Sam Winward	282.30

Photo: Courtesy Simon Watts/BW Media  
Samantha Watts (left) and Charlotte Webby

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