

GAMES CANOE 09

The Auckland trio of Phil Exeter, Richard Couchman and Susan Burborough dominated the Masters Games canoeing on the Whanganui River.

They each claimed a hat-trick of gold medals in their age groups with Exeter, 41, quickest over 500m (8sec faster than Couchman in 4m 38s), Couchman, 51, fastest over 500m (2m 10s) and 10,000m (44.16) with Burborough, 42, taking time hours over all three distances – 2.36, 5min and 52.06.

Couchman was fully extended to hold off a determined Wayne Patterson (Tauranga) by a single second in the 500m flat water sprint.

Other triple title winners were Greg Larsen (Napier) 55, Judine Fitness (Hastings), 32, Judith Swainson (PN) 53, and Helen Palmer (Auckland) 64. Double winners were Jermy Devlin (PN) 34, Rod Sutherland (Masterton) 61, and Gilbert Cole (PN).