

HEADS OF THE RIVER

CHRISTCHURCH justified their pre-race favouritism with an emphatic victory in yesterday's PSA Head of the River at Champion Lakes.

Starting in lane eight, the Christchurch crew charged to an early lead and were never threatened from the 1000m mark, winning the race for the first time since 2014.

The crew avenged their second place in the prestigious event last year, with three boys returning to taste victory yesterday, defeating Hale School by 9sec.

"They were smarting after last year, so it was good to avenge that. We will celebrate tonight," Christchurch head of rowing Justin Forbes said.

From the 1000m mark, a tight race developed between Hale, Scotch (third) and Trinity (fourth).

A headwind meant Christchurch's winning time of 6min 18.03sec was about 30 seconds slower than last year.

It was the first Head of the River victory for Christchurch First eight coach Justin Colangelo, who is a Trinity old boy.

Trinity College took out the Hamer Cup for overall honours.

Top dogs: The Christchurch team of Lucas Gribble, Harry Ickeringill, Chase Bergsma, Henry Chandler, Jackson Bergsma (kneeling front), Mitchell Forbes, Justin Colangelo (coach), William Hart, Tom Newton and Isaac Hamilton. Picture: Daniel Wilkins

