

# Mangawhai Waka Ama Surf to Surf 2025

5th & 6th April - Mangawhai to Waipu Cove - Pānui 1



## EVENT SUMMARY

In April, Mangawhai Waka Ama proudly hosted the inaugural **MWA Surf to Surf**, a three-event weekend featuring the *Surf to Surf Relay*, *10km Estuary Race*, and the first-ever *OC4 Surfing Challenge*. With strong planning and manaakitanga, our MWA team created a race schedule that drew clubs from across the motu to our taonga, te Moana ō Mangawhai.

### Day One – Surf to Surf Relay

Leading into the weekend, 25-knot onshores stirred up rough seas, but Tāwhirimātea delivered sunshine, a 1m easterly swell, and light southwest winds—perfect conditions for an epic race.

Fourteen crews lined up for the relay start, sprinting out of the estuary and over the Mangawhai Bar. The field stretched quickly, with Parihaka's Hiwa-I-Te-Rangi/Oruku crew establishing an early lead. After rounding Bream Tail teams continued on to Langs Beach. Hugging the coast, spectators caught close-up action before the crews landed at Waipū Cove for a beach changeover.

Despite a challenging shore break, most teams made it safely. One crew capsized and couldn't continue—hopefully they'll be back stronger next year. Crews switched out and battled back through the waves.

Lead changes on the return leg saw Taniwha Team Mahuika find their way to the front of the pack. The rising tide made the bar crossing manageable and offered a good opportunity for teams to use their wave riding skills to gain ground or extend leads.

With timing and power the crews headed in and were welcomed with roars of encouragement from whanau, spectators and team mates eager to see them finish strong.




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The race concluded with a sprint up the beach to the finish line, beating drums welcomed the paddlers followed by hugs, kisses, high fives, smiles, laughter and an amazing vibe that paddlers experience once they have conquered a race.

## Relay Results:

-  *Taniwha – Team Mahuika (1st Masters) – 2:39:30*
-  *Parihaka – Hiwa-I-Te-Rangi & Oruku (2nd Masters) – 2:39:39*
-  *Te Pou Herenga – Matukutureia (1st Open) – 2:46:28*

Can your crew beat the time next year?




Paddlers were then spoiled with kai! Beautiful homemade soups, brisket sausages and onions in frybread, fresh fruit and luxurious cakes were handed out to eager bellies. The frybread hotdogs seemed to be a crowd favourite!

## 10km Estuary Race

Next up, the 10km Estuary Race welcomed 19 crews, including rangatahi (J16), new teams, novice steerers, and seasoned paddlers. The wide start line squeezed into a 30m channel made for a thrilling start to the race.

With the tide pushing in, waka flew toward Mangawhai Village, rounded the buoy, then raced home to Mangawhai Heads. Once again, crews had to sprint to the finish line.

## Estuary Results:

-  *Te Pou Herenga – Te Manu I Rewa (Men's Open) – 54:56*
-  *Mitamitaga – Miti Mix (Mixed Open) – 58:50*
-  *Mangawhai – Mangawahine (Women's Open) – 1:04:45*

Kai and prizegiving wrapped up a successful first day, giving paddlers and organisers a chance to rest before Sunday's fun.

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## Day Two – OC4 Surfing Challenge

Sunday brought light offshore winds, swinging to onshore in the afternoon, a 0.7–0.9m swell, and 11 fearless crews ready to surf. Teams competed in two rounds of 20-minute heats and scored on their top two waves per heat.

The vibes were electric—shouts, hoots, and courage filled the line-up. Hats off to our MWA wāhine crew who rode some amazing waves, showing up the boys with some incredible steering and recorded one of the longest waves in the competition. A young paddler wowed everyone with a handstand while surfing a wave! As the swell built, the bar became familiar territory and teams pushed hard for big scores.

### Surfing Results:

- 🥇 *Mitamitaga – Moana Nui – 29 pts*
- 🥈 *MWA – Duncan’s Donuts – 28 pts*
- 🥉 *Orākei – Mangapare Torotika – 27 pts*

We closed the weekend back at the MWA club with prizegiving, kai, and karakia.

**Ngā mihi nui** to our sponsors, paddlers, organisers, and volunteers.

*He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.*

**Te Hei Mauri Ora!**