

Pānui 2 - 14 & 15 March 2026

Ko Pukekaroro te maunga

Ko Ngati Whatua te iwi

Ko Te uri o hau te hapu

Nei ra te mihi ki a koutou

Nau mai, haere mai, whakatau mai ra i te karanga o Tangaroa.

No reira tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa.

EVENT SUMMARY

Set in the stunning Kaipara region, our epic playground stretches from the sheltered Mangawhai Estuary and surrounding heads to the open ocean—and for the bold, the legendary surf bar awaits!

We're calling on waka ama crews from all over Aotearoa to come together for a weekend of racing, fun, and good vibes.

Whether you're a seasoned paddler or just keen to give it a go, there's something for everyone. Our race weekend features events for all skill levels - expect action-packed races, awesome spot prizes, and prize-giving to wrap up.

After a wicked event last year, we can't wait to welcome you and your whānau back for another unforgettable weekend on the water!



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EVENT SCHEDULE

Race 1 Saturday - W6 RELAY (15Km x 2) - ocean

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 7.00am | Registration, waka drop off & safety checks |
| 8.30am | Karakia |
| 9.00am | Race & safety briefings |
| 10.00am | Racing starts |
| 10.05am | Shuttle(s) departs to Waipu Cove |
| TBC | Shuttle(s) will return from Waipu Cove when they are full |
| 1.00pm | Racing finishes |
| 4.30pm | Prizegiving |
| 5.00pm | Closing Karakia |

Race 2 Saturday - W6 10Km - Short course in Estuary

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 12.00pm | Registration, & safety checks |
| 2.00pm | Race & safety briefings |
| 2.30pm | Racing starts |
| 3.30pm | Racing finishes |
| 4.30pm | Prizegiving |
| 5.00pm | Closing Karakia |

Race 3 Sunday - OC4 Surfing Challenge

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 9.00am | Registration, & safety checks |
| 10:00am | Competition & safety briefings |
| 10:20am | Karakia |
| 10.30am | Ferry to Sandspit |
| 11.15am | Competition starts |
| 4.00pm | Competition finishes |
| 4.30pm | Prizegiving |
| 5.00pm | Closing Karakia |

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RACE SCHEDULE

| Time | Race |
|---------------|--|
| 10.00am (Sat) | Race 1 - W6 Mangawhai to Waipu Cove Return relay. 15km each way. |
| 2.30pm (Sat) | Race 2 - W6 Open. 10km. |
| 11:15am (Sun) | Race 3 - OC4 Surf Challenge |

RACE WEEKEND INFORMATION

Waka Drop Off: Mangawhai Heads Rd - Open Car Park - this will be signed from the Mangawhai Heads Road roundabout.

Waka Trailer Parking: After unloading your waka vacate the area ASAP, to allow others to unload. Park your trailer at the Campbell Park Christian Youth Camp (Cnr North Ave and Molesworth Dr).

Car Parking: Parking is available at Sellars Reserve, Campbells Park Youth Camp and by street parking. Please do not double park in or use any of the trailer boat parking spaces at the boat ramp as you may be towed, all parking is under Kaipara Council management, please be considerate.



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Registration: Is under the Mangawhai Waka Ama Gazebo at the Mangawhai Holiday Park. Drive down Alamar Crescent past the Mangawhai Fishing and Boating Club. If it rains, registration will move into the Fishing and Boating Club.

Kai: Food is provided as part of your race entry. Extra kai tickets can be purchased at the event. Coffee carts available at Mangawhai and Waipu Cove.

Accommodation: There are a number of B&B options in Mangawhai – we also encourage you to book in early to get a cabin or tent site at the Mangawhai Heads Campground which will be right where all the action is!

W6 Relay: We suggest you have a 'team' bag, easily identifiable, to leave on the beach at Waipu for teams changing over.

Toilets: Located at Sellars reserve (end of North Ave), and at the Mangawhai Boating and Fishing Club.

First Aid: Will be available by Event and Registration area and the Waipu Surf Club.

Rubbish/Recycling: We encourage you to please take what you bring. However, the main rubbish and the recycling station is located by the Event and Registration area.

Alcohol/Smokefree: Alcohol, smoking, vaping and any other substance use is not permitted at this event, including all premises of the event.



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WAKA UNLOADING & SAFETY CHECKS

Waka unloading: Available from 5.00pm to 7.00pm Friday and 7.00am Saturday. The drop off area is in the open car park at the end of Mangawhai Heads Road (by the Mangawhai Heads Holiday Park). Once you have unloaded, move your trailer and vehicle to the Campbells Park Youth Camp (Cnr North Ave and Molesworth Dr).

Waka Rigging: Rig your waka on the beach in front of the registration gazebo. (see map below)

Safety Checks: All waka must pass a safety check and be marked. Any waka not marked will not be permitted to race. The safety check team will be wearing hi-vis grab one when you're ready.



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RACE RULES

For the relay race, Mangawhai to Waipu Cove, paddlers under the age of 18 must have a Parent/Caregiver approval and signature on the waiver form.

All entrants must be familiar with the Waka Ama New Zealand race and safety rules.

Refer to the following link for more information: [Waka Ama NZ Race Rules](#)

| WAKA | DISTANCE | DIVISIONS | GENDER |
|------------|----------|---|------------------------------|
| W6 | 2x15km | Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master | Mixed (minimum of 6 females) |
| W6 | 10km | J19, Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master | Mixed, Male, Female |
| OC4 | 2 Waves | Open | Mixed, Male, Female |

RACE FEES

| PER PERSON BY EVENT <i>(Charged for each event entered)</i> | |
|---|---|
| Event | Cost |
| W6 - Surf to Surf Relay - 2 x 15km | \$50.00 - includes bus transfer to/from Waipu |
| W6 - 10km | \$30.00 |
| OC4 Surf Comp | \$35.00 - includes W4 hire fee |

ONLINE ENTRIES AND PAYMENT

Online entries are to be completed using the Waka Ama NZ online entry system.

All entries to be completed through your club admin – contact your club admin to process your entry

- No entries on the day, no exceptions
- Entries close on **Friday 6th March** *(please note that due to limited entries for this event, **your entry is not confirmed until payment is made**).*
- Rosters close on **Thursday 12th March**, rosters must be completed by close date.
- Ensure main contact phone number on entry / waiver form for all those that register for quick/clear correspondence.
- Once entered, payment MUST be made online by Friday 6th March:
Mangawhai Waka Ama
 12-3094-0015345-51
 Use your club, team name and division as your reference

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SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

All waka must be Safety Checked

All age divisions must wear life jackets

All W6 steerers need to be competent to steer over the bar and waves, land at the surf beach and also launch through the beach break.

All W6 teams must have the following safety equipment for their races:

1. PFD - Personal Floatation Device (per person)
2. 2 x Bailers
3. Flare or cellphone in waterproof case
4. 2 x Spare Paddles
5. Spray Skirt
6. Tow Rope

All OC4 surf teams must have the following safety equipment:

1. PFD - Personal Floatation Device (per person)
2. 2 x Bailers
3. Spare strapping
4. Tow Rope
5. A competent steerer/kaihautū in waves and surfing an OC4

OC4 optional extra safety equipment; fins, helmets, spare paddles

TEAM WAIVERS

Team waivers must be completed by all paddlers/teams.

All paddlers U18 must have their waiver signed by their parent/guardian

Waivers can be handed in at registration

Team waivers can be found on our event page on the Waka Ama NZ website

LOST PADDLERS

If you are looking for extra paddlers to complete your team please email mangawhaiwakaama@gmail.com - we will try and match you up with other clubs

CONTACT INFORMATION

All enquiries please email: mangawhaiwakaama@gmail.com

Follow us on [Facebook](#), this is where we will put updates and communication of changes and race details leading up to the event.

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COURSE TIDES & MAPS

Saturday

Low tide: 10:22am

High tide: 4:29pm

Sunday

Low tide: 11:19am

High tide: 5:31pm

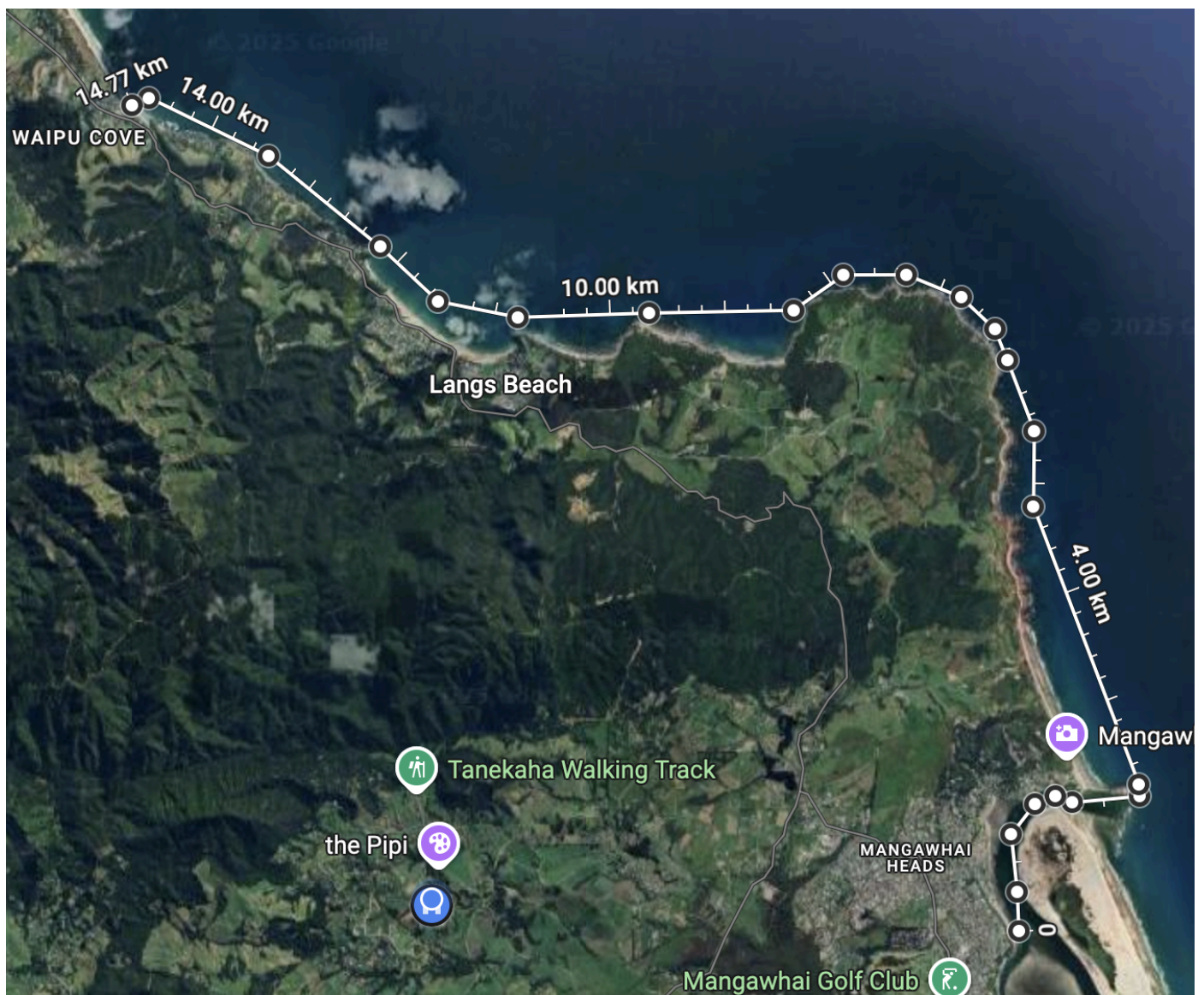
ENDANGERED TARA ITI

Over the estuary from the campground is a sandspit which has fledgling Tara Iti. Our Tara iti/New Zealand fairy tern is the rarest breeding bird in Aotearoa. To protect this species, please avoid walking over the sandspit.



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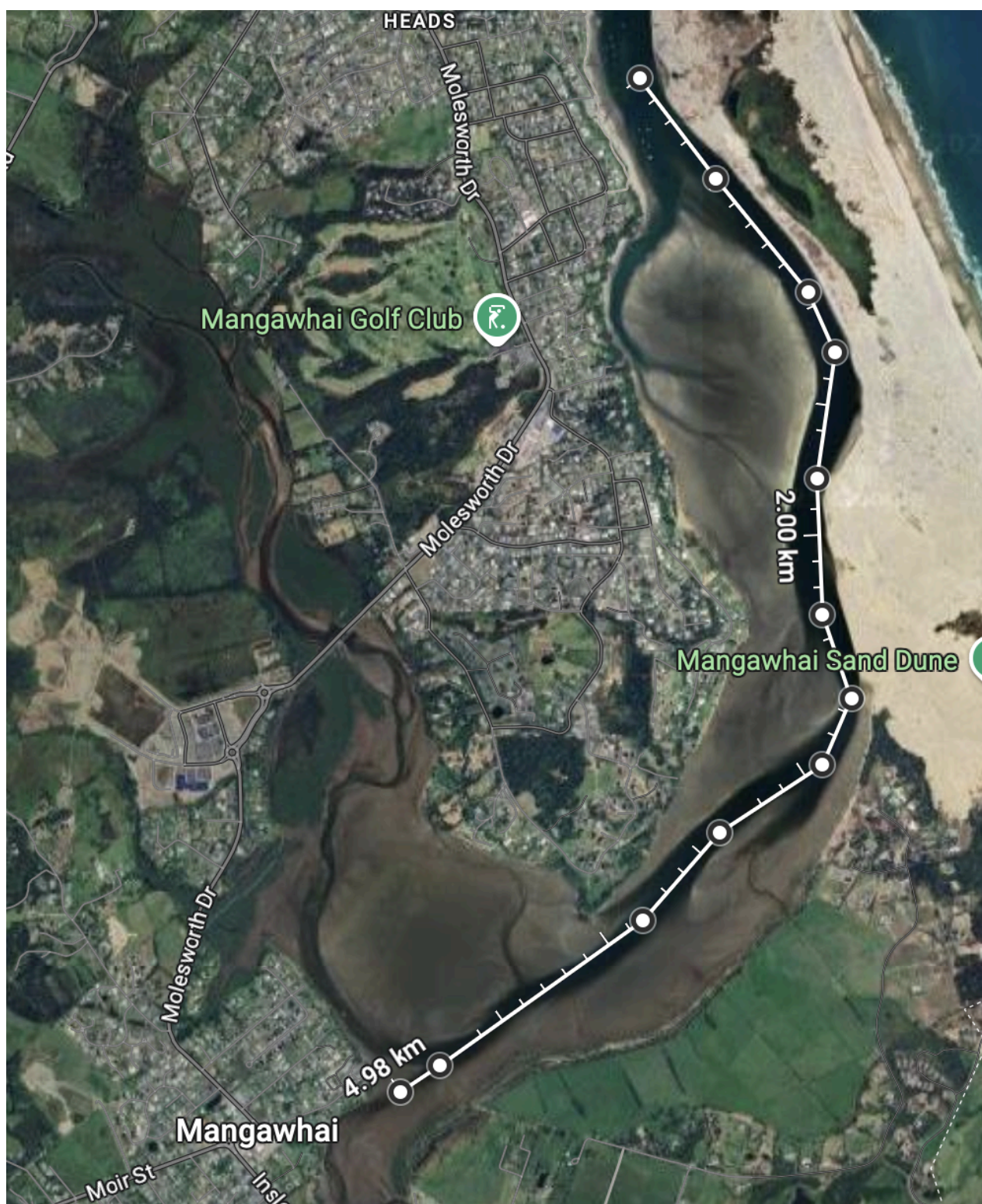
RACE 1 MAP RELAY RETURN FROM WAIPU COVE



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RACE 2 MAP

Turn at top of estuary back to Mangawhai Waka Ama Club.



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OC4 SURFING CHALLENGE - MAP

We're excited to invite teams from across Aotearoa to join us for this unique and exhilarating OC4 surfing competition. Mangawhai Bar offers some of the best waves around—perfect for all kinds of water sports and an ideal setting for our event.

In 2025, nine teams battled it out through heats and a thrilling final to crown a champion! We're looking forward to another epic day of friendly competition, fun waves, and memories that will last a lifetime—weather permitting, of course!

Come be part of the action, excitement and the community! See you on the water!

