



# 34th Portage Crossing 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Te Taahuhutanga O Te Waka Tainui

### Waitemata & Manukau Harbour

#### EVENT SUMMARY

*Portage Crossing Trust and Te Kei O Te Tainui Waka welcome you to the 34<sup>th</sup> Te Taahuhutanga O Te Waka Tainui (Portage Crossing) Regatta & free family festival. The regatta is a revival of the ancient Māori route first used by the Tainui waka captained by Hoturoa. This crossing between the Waitemata and Manukau harbours was also utilized by the early settlers of Mangere when transporting their fishing vessels between the harbours. This regatta starts at Okahu bay with Ngāti Whatua representatives leading the karakia for safe journeys by paddlers and support boats.*

*Waka race from Okahu bay down Tamaki estuary to Nga Hau Maiangi waka ama club rooms Panama Road. Paddlers load their waka onto trailers which will be towed to the final leg of Portage Crossing at Mangere Inlet, Otahuhu. Paddlers are then welcomed by Tainui elders and kuia by a brief Powhiri in the NHM building. After the Powhiri the race director Jesse Papali'i will explain the next leg regarding paddlers **doing a hikoi (walking) the 5km road section through Portage Road.***

*At Mangere Inlet Otahuhu the race director will direct paddlers regarding the last leg as novice section will paddle straight into festival at Mangere Bridge and others will paddle past two bridges and turn at first green pole returning to festival and finish line. The novice section and jnr paddlers race starts at Panmure Wharf Tamaki Outrigger Canoe Club. Paddlers are then welcomed by Tainui Iwi, and we are represented by Ngāti Whatua elders when we walk onto reserve. The event is a full day of fun & competitive racing, spot prizes, live music, food vendors, and free children's rides. After the Powhiri prize giving with **medals for place getters regardless of how many teams in your category.** All **paddlers will receive a hangi.** Hangi will be on sale for your whanau and supporters.*

#### EVENT SCHEDULE

<b>7.00am</b>	Registration, waka drop off & safety checks. Waka can also be dropped off on Friday night at Okahu Bay Beach or Panmure Wharf Tamaki Outrigger Canoe Club for novice section.
<b>7.30am</b>	Karakia by Ngāti Whatua reps
<b>7.45am</b>	Race briefing by race director Jesse Papali'i
<b>8.00am</b>	Race & safety checks completed and rescue boat briefings.
<b>8.30am</b>	Racing starts for 18k leg
<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Novice Section @ j16 Registration and lashing waka W12 &amp; W6 Panmure Wharf Kings Road Tamaki Outrigger Canoe Club. Waka can be dropped off Friday left on grass area.</b>
<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Safety checks completion - life jackets compulsory for J16</b>
<b>10.15am</b>	<b>Race briefing race director</b>
<b>10.20am</b>	Karakia
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Race start for this group all together from Tamaki Outrigger Club to Nga Hou Maiangi 2k</b>
<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Arrive at NHM and join other groups ready for hikoi</b>



<b>11.00am</b>	Waka arrives at Nga Hou Maiangi Powhiri held by Tainui elders and race briefing by race director. Paddlers put your waka on your waka trailers ready to be towed the 5km by vehicles to Railway Lane. Then everyone move upstairs to the lounge area for the Tainui Powhiri then the race briefing and hikoi instructions.
<b>12.30pm</b>	Paddlers hikoi 5km through portage road Otahuhu carrying paddles and wearing club uniforms and banners. Spot prize for best club banner.
<b>1.30pm</b>	Waka arrives at Railway Lane Otahuhu, re-lash waka and final race briefing
<b>2.00pm</b>	Relaunch waka and race to the finish line at Mangere Bridge.
<b>2.30pm</b>	Arrival of all waka at Mangere Bridge
<b>3.00pm</b>	Powhiri & welcoming from Tainui
<b>3.30pm</b>	Prize giving, team photos of podium winners, prize money, hangi and whanau festival.
<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Festival restarts</b>

### RACE SCHEDULE

Time	Race
7.45am	Race Briefing - all races at Okahu Bay
8.30am	Race Start - <b>W1 W2</b> J19 OW MW SMW GMW & mixed in these categories
8.40am	Race Start - <b>W1 W2</b> OM MM SMM GMM
8.50am	Race Start - <b>W6</b> J19 OW MW SMW GMW & mixed in these categories
9.00am	Race Start - <b>W6</b> J19 OM MM SMM GMM
<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Lash waka and reg novice section W12 W6 and J16 Men &amp; Women and mixed. Panmure wharf Tamaki Outriggers.</b>
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Race Start – for above section</b>

### RACE DAY INFORMATION

**Car Parking:** Parking is available by street parking. Please note all parking is under Auckland Council management, you will need to read the signs and park accordingly.

**Trailer parking:** Trailer parking will be in the fields opposite Okahu Bay. Due to restrictions, this will only be available for trailer drop off – you will need to park your car elsewhere for the day.

**Remember take your waka trailer to Panama road for the hikoi part as you need to tow your waka the 5k to Railway Lane Otahuhu while paddlers walk the distance.**

**Food:** We encourage you to bring your own healthy kai, however a small range of food vendors will be available onsite to purchase healthy kai.

**Toilets:** Toilets are located at the far end of the driveway, past the main registration tent.

**First Aid:** First Aid will be available at the registration tent, via the main driveway.

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

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



## WAKA DROP OFF & SAFETY CHECKS

Waka can be dropped off on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March as well as early Saturday Morning.

- Waka drop off will be available from 5.00am on the event day
- Waka drop off will be on the beach front landing and will be clearly signed with entry & exit
- Trailer parking is on the opposite side of the road, please be aware of your surroundings through this process

### Safety Checks:

- All waka will have to pass a safety check and be marked before racing. Any boats not marked will not be permitted to race.

## RACE RULES

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](#)

## AGE DIVISIONS & RACE EVENTS

WAKA	DISTANCE	DIVISIONS	GENDER
<b>W1</b> <b>W6</b>	18km first leg 5km hikoi 3km final leg	, J19, Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master & mixed in these categories.	Men & Women & Mixed
<b>W6</b> <b>W12</b>	2km first leg 5km hikoi 2.5km final leg	J16 Novice J19 open master SM GM & mixed in these categories	Boys, Girls, Men & women & Mixed

## FEES

### PER PERSON BY AGE DIVISION *(charged one fee according to age on race day)*

Age Division	Cost per paddler
J16	\$20.00
J19	\$20.00
Open - GM	\$30.00
Novice	\$30.00
Coastal rowing & Kayaking	\$30.00

## ONLINE ENTRIES & PAYMENT

- Online entries are to be completed using the Waka Ama NZ online entry system.
- **Other crafts i.e. coastal rowing and kayaking can register under portage crossing trust.**
- 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 3rd March 2026
- Rosters close on 4th March - rosters must be completed by close date, no exceptions
- Once entered, payment can be made online to:
  - **Portage Crossing Traditional Canoeing & Sailing Association**
  - **03 1506 0203459 000**
  - **Use your club, team name and division as your reference**



## SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- All waka must be Safety Checked
- Paddlers are encouraged to wear **appropriate footwear for the 5km hikoi (walk)**
- All Junior (J16 & J19) and Senior (Open and above) must have the following safety equipment for their races:
  - PFD - Personal Floatation Device (per person)
  - Bailers
  - Flare or cell phone in waterproof case
  - Spare Paddle - 2 for a W6, 1 for W1/2
  - Spray Skirt (W6)
  - Tow Rope (W6)
  - Leg leash (for sit on top W1)

## INDIVIDUAL & TEAM WAIVERS

- Individual and Team waivers must be completed by all paddlers/teams
- All paddlers U18 must have their waiver signed by their parent/guardian
- Waivers can be sent to [portagecrossingtrust@gmail.com](mailto:portagecrossingtrust@gmail.com) or handed in at the managers meeting on the day
- Individual & Team waivers can be found on our event page on the Waka Ama NZ website

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- All enquiries please email: [portagecrossingtrust@gmail.com](mailto:portagecrossingtrust@gmail.com)
- All urgent matters please call race director Jesse Papali'i 021 117 1732

## MAPS

- High tide: Onehunga 13.55

