

RACE FROM MANGERE BRIDGE TO FRENCH BAY & BACK!



EVENT SUMMARY 12th September 2026

Portage Crossing Trust welcomes you to an exciting event at the mighty Manukau Harbour at Mangere Bridge. The event caters for our waka ama community during our spring months as we approach the beginning of our sprints season.

The Mangere Bridge Boating Clubrooms will serve as our central location, providing facilities for refreshments, meals, and the prize-giving ceremony following the conclusion of racing. The first event is a 4km course where paddlers will complete 2 laps. This is designed for J16, J19, novice and mixed sections. The entire race can be viewed from spectators positioning at Mangere bridge Boat Club.

The second wave is a 18km course which is from Mangere Bridge Boat Club to French Bay in Titirangi and back. This course is for all senior paddlers divisions, as well as mixed categories. The history of this location extends back to the Tainui waka sailing vessel, which crossed the isthmus at Otahuhu now called Portage Road.

EVENT SCHEDULE

7.00am	Registration, waka drop off & safety checks. Waka can also be dropped off on Friday night at Mangere Bridge Boat Club Kiwi Esplanade parade, carpark.
8.30am	Karakia
8.45am	Race 1 briefing by Race Director/Jessie Papalii Rescue boat briefing by Walter Tongiamua
9.00am	Race 1 starts for 8km (x2 laps of a 4km course). Race for Novice and Junior sections including mixed categories
10.00	Race 2 briefing.
10.30	Race 2 starts for 20km Mangere Bridge Boat Club to French Bay & Back. All senior divisions W6 including mixed.
1.00pm	Prize giving for all categories racing, food and refreshments Closing Karakia

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RACE SCHEDULE

Time	Race
8.45am	Race 1 Briefing – Mangere Bridge Boating Club Kiwi Esplanade
9.00am	Race 1 Start – W6 J16 J19 Novice & mixed
10.00	Race 2 brief for 18km race
10.30	Race 2 Start - W6 all senior categories including mixed
1.00pm	Prize giving refreshments & food

RACE INFORMATION

Car Parking: Parking is available by street parking and parking in Mangere Bridge Boat Club Kiwi Esplanade. 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 Mangere Boat Club parking and associated grounds.

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. Food and soup will be provided to paddlers and their support team after races.

Toilets: Toilets are located on site and at Mangere Bridge Boating Club.

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 12th September 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 in the car park and associated grounds clearly marked.

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.

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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
W6	8km (2x 4km laps)	J16, J19, Novice section	Men, Women, Mixed
W6	20km	J19, and All senior divisions	Men, Women, Mixed

FEES

PER PERSON BY AGE DIVISION <i>(charged one fee according to age on race day)</i>	
Age Division	Cost
J16	\$10.00
J19	\$20.00
Open - GM	\$30.00
Novice	\$30.00

ONLINE ENTRIES & 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 Tues 8th September 2026**
- Contingency date if weather conditions are poor, Saturday 31st October 2026
- **Rosters close on Thur 10th September midnight**, rosters must be completed by close date, no exception
- 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**

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SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- All waka must be Safety Checked
- Paddlers are encouraged to wear warm undergarments
- All Junior (J16 & J19) and Senior (Open and above) must have the following safety equipment for their races:
 - PFD - Personal Floatation Device (per person)
 - 2x Bailers
 - Flare or cell phone in waterproof case
 - Two Spare Paddles
 - Spray Skirt
 - Tow Rope

INDIVIDUAL & 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 sent to portagecrossingtrust@gmail.com or handed in at registration on the day
- Team waivers can be found on our [event page](#) on the Waka Ama NZ website

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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TIDES / COURSE MAPS

- High tide: Onehunga 11.14am

MAP - 8km Course



MAP - 20km Course

