



35th Portage Crossing 20th February 2027

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 '35th Portage Crossing', Te Taahuhutanga O Te Waka Tainui, 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. This year we will be pushing trailers/trolleys on the road section following police with traffic management operating intersections.

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 yacht club near Ambury Park and others will paddle past two bridges and turn at 6th green pole returning to Mangere Bridge Yacht club 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 the reserve at Ambury Park. 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

6.00am	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.
6.30am	Karakia by Ngāti Whatua reps
6.45am	Race briefing by race director Jesse Papali'i
7.00am	Race & safety checks completed and rescue boat briefings.
7.30am	Racing starts for 18km leg
7.30am	Novice Section @ j16 Registration and lashing waka w12 & w6 Panmure Wharf Kings Road Tamaki Outrigger Canoe Club. Waka can be dropped off Friday left on grass area.
8.30am	Safety checks completion-life jackets compulsory for J16
8.15am	Race briefing race director for Novice
8.20am	Karakia
9.00am	Race start for this group all together from Tamaki Outrigger Club to Nga Hou Maiangi 2k
9.30am	Arrive at NHM and join other groups ready for hiko



9.30am	Waka arrives at Nga Hou Maiangi Powhiri held by Tainui elders and race briefing by race director. Paddlers put your waka on trailers or trollies ready to be pushed by paddlers 5km to Railway Lane. There will be a police escort and road management at intersections. Club representatives and steerers moves upstairs to lounge area for the Tainui Powhiri then the race briefing and hikoi instructions, while paddlers are loading trollies and single axle trailers.
10.30am	Paddlers hikoi 5km through portage road Otahuhu carrying paddles and wearing club uniforms and banners. Spot prize for best club banner.
11.30pm	Waka arrives at Railway Lane Otahuhu, relash waka and final race briefing
12.00 noon	Relaunch waka and race to finish line at Mangere Yacht Club. Novice & J16 paddle straight to yacht club, the rest paddle to no.6 green pole turns on ama and head to finish line at Mangere Bridge Yacht Club.
12.30pm	All waka are scheduled to arrive at the Mangere Bridge Yacht Club. Load waka on boat trailers and as a group head to Ambury Park entrance where a Powhiri by Tainui Iwi will be awaiting.
1.00pm	Powhiri & welcoming from Tainui
1.30pm	Prize giving, team photos of podium winners, prize money, hangi and whanau festival.
2.00pm	Festival restarts

RACE SCHEDULE

Time	Race
6.45am	Race Briefing - all races at Okahu Bay
7.30am	Race Start - W1 W2 J19 OW MW SMW GMW & mixed in these categories
7.40am	Race Start - W1 W2 OM MM SMM GMM
7.50am	Race Start - W6 J19 OW MW SMW GMW & mixed in these categories
8.00am	Race Start - W6 J19 OM MM SMM GMM
7.30am	Lash waka and reg novice section w12 w6 and J16 Men & Woman and mixed. Panmure wharf Tamaki Outriggers.
9.00am	Race Start – for above section

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 to take your waka trailer to the field at Mangere Bridge Yacht club after dropping waka at Okahu Bay for start. Refer to the map attached.

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 19th February 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
W1 W6	18km first leg 5km hikoi 5km final leg	, J19, Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master & mixed in these categories.	Men & Women
W6 W12	2km first leg 5km hikoi 4km final leg	J16 Novice J19 open master SM GM & mixed in these categories	Boys, Girls, Men & women

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 through your club admin – contact your club admin to process your entry.
- **Other crafts i.e. coastal rowing and kayaking can register under portage crossing trust, with details of paddler experience provided.**
- No entries on the day, no exceptions
- **Entries close on Tues 16th Feb 2027**
- Rosters close on Wednesday 17th Feb 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 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
- All urgent matters please call race director Jesse Papali'i 021 117 1732

COURSE MAPS

- High tide: Onehunga 11.14am

