



Pānui 1: Hoe Tonga Winter Series Race 5 Saturday 12 September 2026

EVENT SUMMARY

E rere kau mai te awa nui mai i te kāhui maunga ki Tangaroa,
Ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au.

He karanga tēnei ki ngā iwi, ki ngā hapū, ki ngā waka, ki ngā karapu me ngā whānau puta noa i te motu. Nau mai, haere mai ki Te Wahapū o Whanganui – te wāhi e tūtaki ai te awa me te moana, hei whakanui i te māia, te haumarua me te wairua o te hoe.

Nau Mai, Haere Mai

Ratana Pā Kaihoe Trust warmly welcomes all paddlers, officials, volunteers, whānau and supporters to the **final Hoe Tonga Waka Ama Series event for 2026 (Round 5)**, to be held at **Wharf Street, Castlecliff, Whanganui**, on: Saturday 12 September 2026 **This year's final Hoe Tonga event marks an important milestone as we gather at Te Wahapū o Whanganui, continuing the journey of our tūpuna upon the waters of te awa o Whanganui, from the place where the awa meets Tangaroa.**

This event provides an opportunity to honour our connection to the awa and moana while creating a safe pathway for experienced paddlers to extend their skills into the coastal environment.

Through **Te Wahapū o Whanganui**, we celebrate the enduring relationship between our people, our waterways and the spirit of Waka Ama.

He Kōrero mō Te Wahapū o Whanganui

The name **Te Wahapū o Whanganui** acknowledges the place where **te awa o Whanganui** reaches Tangaroa.

The wahapū is a place of transition and connection — where freshwater meets saltwater, where journeys begin and end, and where people have gathered for generations.

This event recognises the importance of providing a safe pathway for paddlers as they develop the confidence, knowledge and experience required to move from the shelter of the awa towards more challenging coastal waters, including the bar crossing environment. The course embraces the unique character of the estuary, river mouth and coastline, while recognising our collective responsibility as kaitiaki of these treasured waters.

As we paddle these waters, we remember those who travelled before us and those who will follow after us.

Race Distances

Short Course – 8km For: W1, W2, W6

Long Course – 16km; W6

Postponement Day:

Sunday 13 September 2026

Event Timing

Due to the timing of the tide and the river mouth conditions, the event will operate to a strict schedule to support the safety of all competitors.

High Tide: 10.38am **8km Race Start:** 8.30am

All 8km teams and waka are expected to have completed racing by approximately **9.40am**.

Teams competing in the **16km race** using a waka from the first race are asked to:

- Prepare spare paddles and equipment before completing the first race.
- Gather your team promptly.
- Be ready for the next race briefing.
- Ensure all steerers attend the second compulsory safety briefing.

Your support and cooperation will help us maintain a safe and timely event.

Haumaru – Safety First

The safety and wellbeing of all paddlers is our highest priority.

As this is the inaugural **Te Wahapū o Whanganui** course and includes a coastal bar environment, participation is limited to paddlers who are:

- **18 years and over**
- Ocean competent
- Able to swim confidently
- Experienced in changing water conditions

We acknowledge that previous Hoe Tonga events have included **J16 competitors**. However, for this first Te Wahapū event, we have chosen to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of rangatahi while we establish this new coastal paddling pathway. Should weather conditions change and sustained winds reach **20km/h or greater**, the course will be redirected towards **Pūtiki and Pākaitore** to ensure a safer racing environment.

Biosecurity – Protecting Our Waterways

If you are bringing your own waka from another location, particularly from a lake environment, please support the protection of our waterways by washing your waka before travelling to Whanganui.

A wash-down facility will not be available at the venue.

Prizegiving

Join us after racing as we celebrate the conclusion of the **2026 Hoe Tonga Series**.

Castlecliff Club

4 Tennyson Street
Castlecliff, Whanganui

The venue is approximately five minutes walking distance from the event site.

EVENT SCHEDULE

6.30am	Registration, waka drop off & safety checks
7.30am	Whakamoemiti / Karakia
7.45am	Managers meeting
8.am	Race 1 - 8km - safety briefing
8.20am	Race 1 starts
10.00am	Race briefing for race 2 - 16km
10.30am	Race 2 starts
12.30pm	Racing finishes
1pm	Prizegiving & kai
2pm	Closing Karakia

Car Parking: Parking is available on the grass next to the Manawatu Sea Fishing Club at 1 Wharf Street.

Trailer parking: Trailer parking is next to the Coastguard on Wharf Street, see pānui for the map.

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: Portaloos and one permanent toilet is located on the main road heading toward the slipway.

First Aid: First Aid will be available at the registration tent, via 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 hireage: - limited waka hire available, please enquire to ratanapakaihoe@gmail.com and tekaihuokupe@gmail.com bring your spareblades and safety ropes.

WAKA DROP OFF & SAFETY CHECKS

Waka Drop off:

- Waka drop off will be available between 6pm and 8.30pm on Friday 11 September and the following morning at 6.00am event day.

Blue triangle is car parking



Red square is trailer parking

- Trailer parking is next to the Coastguard opposite the slipway and only public toilet.

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 Aotearoa New Zealand race and safety rules.

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

AGE DIVISIONS & RACE EVENTS

WAKA	DISTANCE	DIVISIONS	GENDER
W1, W2, W6	8kms - race 1	Opens, Masters	Men, Women, Mixed
W6	16kms - race 2	Opens, Masters	Men, Women, Mixed

FEES**PER PERSON BY EVENT** (charged for each event entered)

Event	Cost
Race 1	\$20.00
Race 2	\$30.00
Both Race 1 and 2	\$30.00

ONLINE ENTRIES & PAYMENT

- Online entries are to be completed using the Waka Ama Aotearoa 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 **7 September 2026**
- Rosters close on **9 September 2026**, rosters must be completed by close date, no exceptions
- Once entered, payment can be made online to:
 - Ratana Paa Kaihoe Trust ○ **38-9019-0705204-01**
 - Include your club and team name

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- All waka must be Safety Checked
- All kaihoe must have the following safety equipment for their races:
 - PFD - Personal Floatation Device (per person) no horseshoe lifejackets are permitted. Only waistbelts and full lifejackets permitted.

- Bailers x 2
- Flare or cellphone in a waterproof case
- Spare Paddle - 2 for a W6
- Spray Skirt (W6)
- Tow Rope (W6)

INDIVIDUAL & TEAM WAIVERS

- Individual and Team waivers must be completed by all paddlers/teams
- Waivers can be sent to ratanapakaihoe@gmail.com or handed in at the managers meeting on the day
- Team waivers can be found on our event page on the Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ website

CONTACT INFORMATION

- All enquiries please email: ratanapakaihoe@gmail.com
- All urgent matters please call: **0275091142 (Tahi) or 0277675211 (Desiree)**
- Facebook: **Ratana Paa Kaihoe Trust**

COURSE MAPS

- low tide: 4.47am 0.56m
- high tide: 10.55am 2.81m

The turning points will be marked with a large inflatable buoy and smaller.

Short Course 8kms



Long Course 16kms



Alternate 8km course – from the river mouth to *Rabbit Island*



Alternate 16km course



Alternate long course 16kms Start line is from the Trig station to the turning buoy at adjacent to Bates Street, central Whanganui

He Whakatau

Whether you come to paddle, support your whāau, volunteer or simply witness this special occasion, we warmly invite you to stand alongside us as we continue the journey of our tīpuna upon the waters of **te awa o Whanganui**

Te Wahapū o Whanganui is more than a race. It is a celebration of whakapapa, tikanga and the enduring connection between our people, our awa and Tangaroa.

It is an opportunity to strengthen our paddling community, challenge ourselves safely, and create a pathway for future generations to follow.

As one generation passes the hoe to the next, may we continue to uphold the values

of: **Manaakitanga – Kaitiakitanga – Whanaungatanga – Haumarū** ensuring these

waters remain a place of learning, achievement and belonging.

Nau mai, Haere mai, Whakatau mai ki Te Wahapū o Whanganui.

**E rere kau mai te awa nui mai i te kāhui maunga ki Tangaroa. Ko au te awa,
ko te awa ko au.**

Mā te hoe ka ū.