



Tai Kōtuku – LDN's Build-Up Race

September 12th 2026

EVENT SUMMARY

Tai Kōtuku Waka Ama Club, alongside Ngāti Rāhiri, Ngāti Kawa me Matarahurahu, warmly welcome you to Waitangi for this Waka Ama event in the Bay of Islands. As a key lead-in race to the Long-Distance Nationals, this event provides an opportunity for paddlers to test themselves, fine-tune their preparation, and reconnect with the wider waka ama whānau. We welcome clubs, paddlers, whānau and supporters from across Aotearoa to enjoy a day of racing, whanaungatanga and manaakitanga on the waters of Waitangi. Nau mai, haere mai ki Waitangi. We look forward to welcoming you to our home waters.

EVENT SCHEDULE

6.00am	Waka drop off
7.00am	Registration & Safety Checks
7.30am	Karakia
7.45am	Race 1 safety briefings
8.am	Race 1 starts
9.45am	Race 2 Safety briefing
10.am	Race 2 starts in waves -Women 10am, Mixed 10.05am, Men10.10am
12.30pm	Closing Karakia

- **Car Parking:** Parking is available at the Te Tii Marae grounds, with entry via Te Kemara Avenue, Waitangi.
- **Waka Drop-Off & Trailer Parking:** Waka drop-off and rigging will take place at the boat ramp, across the Waitangi Bridge. Trailer parking is available in the designated overflow parking area.
- **Food:** We encourage you to bring your own healthy kai for the day. A light post-race kai will be available for competitors. Coffee cart will be available at the event. For those looking for something more substantial, Paihia offers a range of cafés, restaurants and takeaway options just minutes from the venue. We encourage you to support our local Bay of Islands businesses while enjoying your time here.
- **Waitangi Treaty Grounds** – discounts for competitors to visit the Waitangi Treaty Grounds will be available at the registration tent.
- **Toilets:** Public toilets are available at the Te Tii Marae grounds, the Te Tii beachfront (roundabout), and the boat ramp.
- **First Aid:** First aid services will be available at the registration tent.
- **Rubbish & Recycling:** Please take home what you bring where possible. Rubbish bags will be provided at both the Te Tii Marae grounds and the boat ramp.
- **Alcohol & Smokefree Event:** Alcohol, smoking, vaping and any other substance use are not permitted anywhere within the event area.
- **Safety Checks:** All waka must complete a safety check and be marked prior to racing. Unmarked waka will not be permitted to compete.



RACE CATEGORIES & AGE DIVISIONS

WAKA	DISTANCE	DIVISIONS	GENDER
W6	8km	J16, J19, Novice	Men, Women, Mixed
W6	18km	J19, Open, Masters, Senior Masters, Golden Masters	Men, women Mixed

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](#)

FEES

PER PERSON BY EVENT *(charged for each team entered)*

Event	Cost
Junior J16,J19- W6 - 8km	\$120 per waka
Novice adults-W6 – 8KM	\$200
Men's, Women's, J19, and Mixed 18km	\$240

ONLINE ENTRIES & PAYMENT

Eligibility: As per the WAANZ Race Rules for ocean racing, J16 competitors must be 14 years of age or older on race day, **and** with a competent steerer.

Competitors J19 must be 16 years of age or older on race day to compete in the 18km **and** with a competent steerer.

Entries: All entries must be submitted through the Waka Ama Aotearoa online entry system by your club administrator. Please contact your club admin to arrange your entry. No entries will be accepted on race day.

Entry Deadline: **Entries close Saturday 5 September.**

Roster Deadline: **Rosters close Monday 7 September.** All rosters must be completed by the closing date. No late roster changes will be accepted.

Spot Prizes: There will be no formal prize-giving ceremony; however, spot prizes will be drawn and announced throughout the day.

Payment: Once entered, payment can be made online to:

Tai Kotuku Incorporated

12-3091-0042540-00

Please use your club name, team name and division as your payment reference.

Entry Limits: To comply with Waka Ama event sanction requirements, entry numbers may be capped based on the support boat-to-waka ratio. If capacity is reached, entries will be accepted in the order registrations are received.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

All waka must pass a **safety check** prior to racing.

The following safety equipment is required:

- **Personal Flotation Device (PFD)** for every paddler
- **Bailers**
- **Flare or mobile phone** in a waterproof case
- **Spare paddles** (minimum of 2 for W6 crews)
- **Spray skirt** (W6)
- **Tow rope** (W6)

Any waka that does not meet the required safety standards will not be permitted to race.

Novice Paddlers:

- The Novice Race is open to all paddlers, with a minimum age 14 years at the date of the regatta.
- Novice teams must have an experienced steerer, and be able to complete 8km within one hour.
- Novice paddlers are those who have either: not competed in a national regatta and/or have been paddling for less than 12 months and/or do not have suitable ocean paddling experience.

All Paddlers:

- All paddlers must have completed a capsize drill in their training for racing.
- It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that only competitors that can competently paddle may enter races.

PFDs/Flotation devices

- **All Junior competitors, and those not able or confident to swim 50m must wear Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) approved non inflatable flotation device.**
- It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that individuals who are not able or confident to swim a distance of at least 50 meters wear a personal flotation device, and are competent while in the water if a capsize occurs.

TEAM WAIVERS

All teams must complete a **Team Waiver** prior to racing.

- All paddlers under **18 years of age** must have their waiver signed by a parent or guardian.
- Completed waivers can be emailed to **taikotuku@gmail.com** or handed in at the registration tent on race day.
- Team Waiver forms are available on our event page on the [Waka Ama Aotearoa website](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

For all event enquiries, please email **taikotuku@gmail.com**.

For urgent matters, please contact:

- **Ben Kingi (Event Manager)** – 027 671 8873
- **Robbie Bristowe-Cumming** – 021 060 4284

TAI KOTUKU

WAITANGI



WAKA AMA

COURSE MAPS

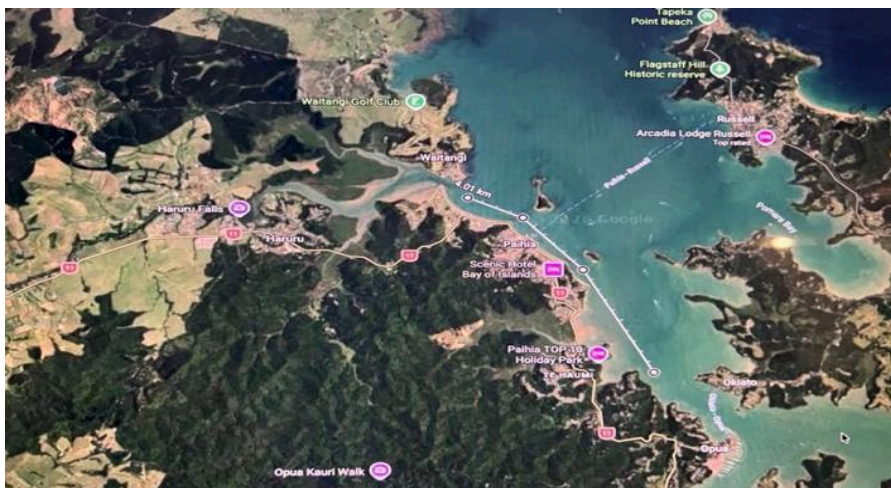
18km race (9km x 2 circuits) Alternative if weather changes (6km x 3 circuits)



8km race (4km x 2 circuits)



Alternative 8km race (if weather changes)



Waitangi Boat Landing



-  **WAKA TRAILER PARKING**
-  **WAKA UNLOADING/RIGGING**

Waitangi Camp Site



-  **NO PARKING**
-  **SPECTATOR PARKING**
-  **REGISTRATION/SPECTATOR GAZEBOS**