



2023 Waka Ama Long Distance Nationals

UPDATE – March 2023

Kia ora koutou

The purpose of this pānui is to give our waka ama whānau an update on the LDNs 2023 to be held in Whitianga.

Over the last 2 months, the North Island has experienced several severe weather events. There are many roads and travel routes throughout the motu, that have been impacted and may be impacted further should more weather events take place.

With that in mind, Te Puku o Te Ika, Whitianga Waka Ama, Hauraki Waka Ama, Te Aputa Tira Hoe and Te Whanau Waka Ama o Whangamata in association with Waka Ama New Zealand (WANZ), can confirm that this event is currently going ahead as planned and we are looking forward to seeing everyone.

Below are a number of areas that clubs need to action and take into consideration

Timeline

- Entries close on 23rd March
- World Distance intents close 1st April

On the 1st April, we will make another full assessment of the event and provide further updates to our waka ama whānau.

If for any reason the Long Distance Nationals is not able to go ahead we will first look to postpone the event to later in the year or to 2024.

Future weather impacts

We will monitor weather forecasts and take advice from local officials from the Thames Coromandel District Council regularly. Weather is unpredictable and should, for any reason the Long-Distance Nationals not be able to go ahead we will first look to postpone the event to later in the year or 2024.

Entries and refunds

Refunds will be given if the event is cancelled due to a natural disaster or extreme weather before the 18th of April.





What impact will postponement have on World Qualifiers?

If your club is planning on submitting intents for world qualifying, please don't wait till the 1st of April to submit your intent. **Please get them in as early as possible, then we know what we are dealing with.**

Based on World intents received on 1st April, WANZ will determine an alternate plan for world qualifying, in case for any reason LDNs do not go ahead as planned. This alternate plan will be advised to all.

Travel

As of today (10 March), there is currently one route that is available to travellers currently. We are receiving regular updates from the Thames Coromandel District Council and we will keep our Waka Ama whānau updated.

The Current route is the Thames Coast Road.

Please note as a collective our Waka Ama whānau need to do the following:

- Waka trailers **MUST STICK TO THAMES COAST RD. DO NOT USE 309 OR TAPU RDS.** The 309 and Tapu roads are too narrow and windy.
- Do not rush your trip. Take your time driving to ensure you drive to the conditions, especially if towing waka
- Plan to come early if you can, which will help with the flow of traffic to Whitianga

We will keep in regular communication with any updates. You can view any updates on the following websites and Facebook pages

- <https://www.facebook.com/ThamesCoromandelDistrictCouncil>
- <https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/Our-Services/Transport-Roads-and-Road-Safety/Road-and-Highway-Conditions>

If other routes become available we will let you know.

Other important things to note

Buffalo Beach & Cook's Beach Reserves have not been affected and the water quality is great.

All accommodation sites are operating and in desperate need of customers!

We are working with Thames Coromandel District Council and Met Service to provide weather updates & advice on water conditions.







For up to date event information

- Waka Ama NZ Website - <https://wakaama.co.nz/racecalendar/lookup/2094>
- Waka Ama Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/wakaama>
- Waka Ama Event Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/wakaamaLDN>
- Facebook event (you will get notifications for each post) - <https://fb.me/e/2msUcXAeV>

If you have any questions please contact ldn@wakaama.co.nz

