



## Pānui 1: Te Whanganui-a-Tara Changeover Race

**Saturday 24 January 2026**

### EVENT SUMMARY

Wellington Harbour — Te Whanganui-a-Tara — with its beautiful waters, exciting winds, and unbeatable harbour views, our city is perfectly placed to showcase waka ama changeover racing at its best, while challenging our kaihoe, and their teamwork, timing, and energy.

This proof-of-concept event will test the format with up to six mixed crews (max five tāne per crew), any age. All paddlers must be experienced paddlers - this is not a race for a first time paddler! We would expect every paddler to have either completed a changeover race before, or have ocean racing experience. It's all about teamwork, timing, and that shared wairua hoe that makes these races so thrilling.

We'll provide the waka — unless your crew prefers to bring your own — and we've got the changeover boat sorted too. All you need to bring is your crew, your energy, and your competitive spirit. We will be working with Evans Bay Yacht and Motorboat Club, who will provide each waka with changeover boats.

Given it is Te Whanagnui-a-Tara, backup days will be Sunday 25 January, and Saturday 31 January. Our race times are indicative, and subject to change based on the weather forecast – we suggest that you leave the whole day free!

Let's put Te Whanganui-a-Tara on the map for changeover racing. Kia kaha tātou, e te whānau hoe! Let's make waves and show what our harbour can do.

### ANTICIPATED EVENT SCHEDULE (subject to change, based on weather forecast)

<b>Friday 23 January 7.00 pm</b>	Race briefing (Steerers, team captain & safety boat drivers to attend, may be held online)
<b>Saturday 24 January 08:00 am</b>	Registration open, waka drop off, safety checks
<b>Saturday 24 January 09.00 am</b>	Karakia and race briefing
<b>Saturday 24 January 09.15 am</b>	Race starts

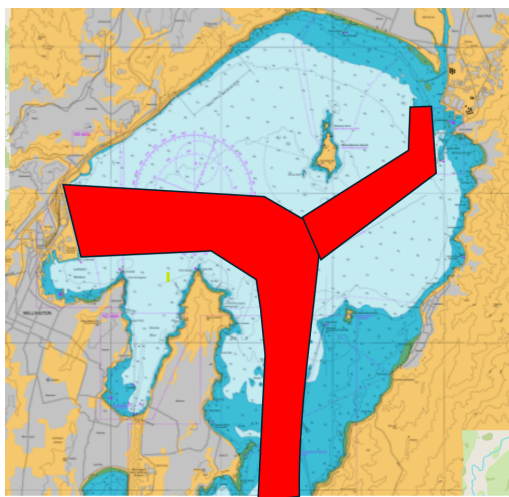


**ANTICIPATED RACE SCHEDULE** (subject to change, based on weather forecast)

Time	Race
<b>Saturday 24 January 09.00 am</b>	Karakia and race briefing
<b>Saturday 24 January 09.15 am</b>	Race starts

**RACE RULES**

- All entrants must:
  - **Be a strong and competent paddler, familiar with ocean conditions, and ideally have completed a changeover race before.**
  - Be familiar with the Waka Ama New Zealand race and safety rules.
  - **Be able to swim unaided for minimum of 200metres**
  - Be fit enough and competent enough to compete and finish the race
  - Be competent in righting and bailing an overturned or swamped craft
  - Have sufficient nutritional liquids for the duration of the race
  - Wear a lifejacket at all times (if required)
- In addition:
  - No changeovers in the shipping lanes



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



#### AGE DIVISIONS & RACE EVENTS

WAKA	DISTANCE	DIVISIONS	GENDER
W6	30 km	Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master	Mixed ( <b>max five men</b> )

#### FEES

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

Event	Cost
Race	\$80 per person

#### 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 once six teams are entered (registered, roster completed, paid) or on *Wednesday 7 January 2026*, whichever is first** .
- Once entered, payment can be made online to:
  - Tai Tonga 41
  - 38-9011-0013609-00
  - Reference [clubname][division][teamname]

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- All paddlers must be proficient paddlers, and be prepared for the conditions.
- We recommend all paddlers wear high vis tops and hats.
- You will be required to download and operate a tracking app



- **All waka must have the following safety equipment for their races:**
  - Spray skirts (weather dependent). If you are borrowing a waka from us, we will supply spray skirts.
  - 6 x PFD - Personal Floatation Device (per person)
  - 2 x Bailers
  - 1 x Flare
  - Cellphone in waterproof case
  - Spare Paddle - 2 for a W6
  - Tow Rope (W6)
- All water craft will have to pass a safety check before racing.
  - The water craft needs to be placed at 'waka parking' in the image below to be safety checked.
  - Launching is from the Evans Bay Boat Ramp.
  - We suggest that you bring tires for your waka
  - The ramp is very slippery and can have glass/other rubbish on it. Please bring appropriate footwear.

#### INDIVIDUAL & TEAM WAIVERS

- 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 ***taitonga41@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

#### REGISTRATION

- Pick up your race pack from Registration
- Get your waka checked, and safety sheet signed off, including noting your race number (existing or new)
- Fill out your waiver form, and return to Registration to confirm your entry



## LOCATIONS

- Waka drop off will be available from 7.00am on the event day, with waka drop off and trailer parking will be as indicated on the plan below
- Car parking: Where possible, please park on the road. There is limited carparking as shown in purple below
- Toilets: At the Coastguard (Orange), the showers (white), or the club house (red)
- There is some limited carparking marked in purple



## POST RACE

- After the race please join us at the Evans Bay Yacht and Motor Boat Club for kai!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- All enquiries please email: [taitonga41@gmail.com](mailto:taitonga41@gmail.com)
- All urgent matters please call: **027 310 1587**

● RACE COURSE OPTIONS (Indicative only)

