

AORERE SPLASH
7th March 2026
Kaiteretere/Abel Tasman National Park
Motueka Waka Ama Club
Pānui 1

EVENT SUMMARY

Motueka waka ama club welcomes you to make a splash with us at the new South Island changeover event held along the tranquil shores of Te Tai o Aorere (Abel Tasman National Park).

The event has now been simplified and will just the 52km race with three divisions (Men's, Women's and Mixed)

This iconic changeover event will take you and your team on an adventure to remember along an ancient waka highway past remote beaches and unique golden granite coastlines through marine reserves and uninhabited pest and predator free islands. We garrentee You will feel satisfied and refreshed after experiencing what this coastline has to offer.

Please read the the pānui carefully and dont hesitate to reach out for any help.

*Please note: Safety Boat briefing will be held on Friday evening 7pm Bethany Park office
88 Martin Farm Road, Kaiteriteri 7197
(Skippers must attend)*

EVENT 1

SAT 7th	W6 52KM		
7:00am	Unloading / Rigging waka at the Northern end of Kaiteretere		
8:00am	Karakia		
8.15am	Race & safety briefings		
8:30am	Support boats and crew depart for Women's and Mixed race		
8:45am	Women's and Mixed 52km race start		
9:00am	Support boats and crew depart for Mens race		
9:15am	Mens 52km race start		
	<table border="1"><tr><td>5:00pm</td><td>The Riwaka Hotel 627 Main Road,</td></tr></table>	5:00pm	The Riwaka Hotel 627 Main Road,
5:00pm	The Riwaka Hotel 627 Main Road,		

	Prizegiving and Kai	Riwaka, Motueka 7198
--	----------------------------	-------------------------

RACE DAY INFORMATION

Trailer parking: Trailer parking will be in the Kaiteretere carpark on your left as you enter Kaiteretere.

Food: We encourage you to bring your own healthy kai, however there are cafes and restaurants and a general store in walking distance from beach.

Toilets: Toilets are located across from the beach near the playground and boat wash up area.

First Aid: First Aid will be available at the registration tent

Rubbish/Recycling: We encourage you to please take what you bring. However, there are rubbish bins provided and a recycling station in the main carpark.

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 Drop off:

- Waka drop off will be available from 7.00am on the event day
- Waka drop off will be on the beach on the Northern side of the boat ramp
- Trailer parking is in the main Kaiteretere carpark



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 & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

All sanctioned events must adhere to Waka Ama NZ race rules. Include any other rules relevant to your event.

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](#)

CREWS

Men's crew - 9 Male paddlers only.

Women's crew - 10 Female paddlers only.

Mixed crews – 10 Paddlers with a maximum of 5 Male paddlers.

All paddlers -to be over the age of 16.

All International paddlers have approved international insurance.

No replacement of original paddlers is permitted once racing has commenced unless signed off by race director.

In addition all paddlers must be able to meet the following requirements:

Be able to swim unaided for minimum of 50 metres

Be fit enough and competent enough to compete and finish the race

Have previously competed in a Waka ama 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

At least half of your team need to be experienced kaihoe paddlers

CANOES

All Canoes need to be sea worthy and have had rigging, iako, ama and hull checked over by race staff. Bailers and or other systems to remove water from the canoe need to be checked also.

Skirts and hoops are mandatory. Spare steering blade.

Canoe numbers will be issued at registration and must be prominent and readable on the bow of canoes.

Standard towropes (12mm rope 20/25metres in length) must be fixed to front iako.

Each team must be proficient in the procedure of rigging and towing their canoe.

Required Items to be on board your canoe:

1x Canoe number displayed on the bow

1x Spray Skirt

1x MSA Approved Flare

6x MSA Approved Life Jackets

2x Spare Paddles

2x Spare lashings

1x Towrope

2x Bailers

Electronic bilge pumps are encouraged

Paddles must be single bladed and may otherwise be of any shape and material.

The Aorere Splash team shall have the final decision on approving or disapproving any equipment or canoes

START PROCEDURE

All paddlers who are not in the starting six will need to board their support craft 15 Mins before race start.

Waka will line up on the waters edge or between designated buoys, depending on weather conditions. Steerers will stand beside their Canoe until the Race start, Flag & Horn if it's a beach start, otherwise it will be a normal deep water start.

Any crew over the line or steerer not standing beside their Canoe when the race commences may be disqualified or subject to time penalty at the Race Director's discretion.

THE COURSE

From race start teams will turn left around the green reef marker coming out of Kaiteretere then continue towards Ngaio Island following the land side of Ngaio, teams will turn North towards the Astrolabe roadstead on the land side of both Motu Aorere iti (Fisherman's) and Motu Aorere nui (Adele) islands.

On approach to Fisherman's teams will be allowed to make their first changeover once past the designated buoy. From here teams will continue North into the Abel Tasman National Park and make change overs as planned by your team.

Teams must follow a clockwise course staying on the coastal side of the coastal side of the pinnacle and Tonga Island once around Awaroa head teams will make a right (non ama) turn at the yellow turning buoy near Awaroa beach and returning to Kateretere keeping all islands on your right side.

On return the final changeover needs to take place before the yellow inflatable buoy on the Eastern side of Motu Aorere iti (Fishermans Island)

Please note that the course and turning points may change if the race director deems necessary for safety reasons and if weather on the day changes. Final Course will be determined on Friday and will be outlined at the race briefing that evening and again on Saturday.

If the race director deems necessary crews may be asked to turn around early if they do not make the cut-off time at Tonga island.

CHANGE OVERS

First Changeover point for canoes will be between Toka Ngawhā (split apple rock) and Motu Aorere iti (Fishermans Island) Further changes will be at the discretion of the teams. On the return the last change must be made before the yellow inflatable triangle buoy after passing Motu Aorere iti (Fishermans Island). All changeovers must be made from the water i.e. No support boat within 20m of any canoe at any time other than in the case of an emergency.

SUPPORT BOAT INFORMATION

Support Boat Briefing:

Friday the 6th of March 7pm at the Bethany Park Holiday camp Kaiteretere

Minimum Requirements for a Support Boat

The following criterion is in compliance with the rules set by the Aorere Splash organisers and must be followed.

A 10-15 meter rope with a buoy to help retrieve swimmers is an excellent option and should be carried.

Vessels must be a minimum of 5m in length

Vessels must be seaworthy and must be able to safely carry all team paddlers and support boat crew members.

Vessels must be fully fuelled and mechanically sound

Vessels must be equipped with all safety gear, including personal flotation devices for ALL passengers, a first aid kit, bailing equipment, flares, VHF Radio, boarding ladder and oars.

All Operators must be aware of and comply with all applicable Water Safety Regulations and Requirements

All Operators must be aware of and comply with all of the Events Official Race Rules.

All Support Boats must have a competent operator.

Crew Support Boat Information

We will need the following information on your support boat.

This information needs to be in no later than the 5th March 2026

Please note this information is a requirement of Maritime NZ and must be supplied to the Event Manager.

Skippers Name

Skippers Email

Skippers Mobile

Boat Type



Boat Name

Boat Age

Boat Size

Engine Type

Engine Age

VHF Call sign

Passenger capacity

Waka ama club that you are supporting

Communications

All support boats must be equipped with two-way VHF radio. Any entry without proper two-way communication will not be allowed to participate.

We will also ask for the skippers mobile number as a backup.

The appropriate emergency channel for communication will be advised in the Support Boat Briefing.

Support Boat Briefing & Waiver

Prior to the race All Support Boat drivers will be sent the Support Boat Briefing and a Support Boat Waiver form. Please ensure the Support Boat Operators read and understand these documents.

Support Boat Waiver is available on WANZ event page. Please send this form to aoreresplash@gmail.com or hand in on Friday at the briefing.

Support Boat Race Requirements & Etiquette

Support boats are to proceed to the first change over point 15 mins before the Race start and wait on the West side of the designated 1st change point.

All changeovers must be made from the water. No support boats within 20m of any canoe, except during an emergency.

Towing of canoes is not permitted, except during an emergency

Support craft MUST NOT reverse up to paddlers in the water.

All support craft must have their MOTOR TURNED OFF when picking up paddlers.

First changeover point for canoes will be after passing the designated point.

Further changes will be at the discretion of the crew.

Support Vessels MAY NOT use megaphones or loud hailers for any purpose whatsoever, except in the case of an emergency.

Support Boat Drivers have absolute discretion as to where they will manoeuvre their vessels when making changeovers.

Any impedance of a canoe by any means (eg. Wash or causing the canoe to alter course) by a support boat will result in either a time penalty or disqualification being applied to the support boat's canoe at the discretion of the Race Director.

Race Officials have the power to act and disqualify any crew whose actions, be it in their canoe or support craft, and do not regard the safety of their own members or other competing crews, or whose support craft does not meet the following criteria.

Launching & Anchoring

Support Boats may be launched from Kaiteretere boat ramp and a secondary option to launch your support boats is Stephens Bay

AGE DIVISIONS & RACE EVENTS

WAKA	DISTANCE	DIVISIONS	GENDER
W6	52km	Open	Men
W6	52km	Open	Women
W6	52km	Open	Mixed

FEES

Open Mens W6 52km	\$800
Open Womans W6 52km	\$800
Open Mixed W6 52km	\$800

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 on **26/02/26**

- Rosters close on **05/03/26** rosters must be completed by close date, no exceptions
- Once entered, payment can be made online to:
 - Motueka Waka Ama Club
 - 03-1354-0487391-00
 - Use your club, team name as reference.

DINNER

Dinner and Prizegiving will be held at The Riwaka Hotel
627 Main Road, Riwaka, Motueka 7198

*Please note all paddlers your meal is included in your race fees.

*Any additional friends / whanau is \$30 per person extra also to be paid into the Motueka Club account above.

INDIVIDUAL & TEAM WAIVERS

- Individual and Team waivers must be completed by all paddlers/teams
- Waivers can be sent to aoreresplash@gmail.com or handed in at the safety boat 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: aoreresplash@gmail.com
- All urgent matters please call: **0274336878**
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/15ozSTMYB5/>

COURSE MAPS

W6 52km Course

*Please note the highlighted white areas are strictly NO CHANGE ZONES







