

# CHAMPIONS CUP

JAMES MOORE-MORIAL RACE. MOUNT MAUNGANUI.



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## WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

James Lance Kiri Moore (aka Bhuttz) was a core member of the Goodyear Outrigger Canoe Crew and New Zealand's White Water Rafting Team. He loved the water and there weren't too many days when he wasn't amongst it in one way or another. In July 2008 we had to bid our brother farewell, as while we were doing a down-winder Bhuttz got the call up into Tangaroa's team. We host this event to honour our friend, to celebrate his life & what he achieved. The race is designed to raise the bar, to keep us all in top form and at the top of our game. To be able to compete, or complete, means that you will have had to have done the hard yards and every time you are out training you can thank Bhuttz for the legacy that he left.

## WHEN IS IT?

### Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2026:

Saturday is Bhuttz challenging 30+km Open Ocean Downwind 'Champions Cup' Race. This is the race you want to win!

### Waitangi Weekend

It's a long weekend so make your way down to the bay of plenty and enjoy what we have to offer.

### Reserve Day

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of February will be used if weather is too dangerous.



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## WHO'S IN?

This is the event for the countries best Outrigger Canoe, Ocean Ski and SUP Paddlers. But it is for anyone who loves paddling and wants to challenge themselves with a 30+km ocean run on the Bay of Plenty's beautiful coast, over 100 paddlers can't be wrong. No doubt there are some unsettled scores and we hope to see the best of the bunch return to either retain their title or to claim it for themselves. Sorry, but Bhuttz's 'Champions Cup' race is NOT an event for novice paddlers.

Race divisions are: **Men & Women - Single Outrigger Canoe, Ocean Ski and Stand Up Paddle Board, + Open Double Outrigger Canoe & Double Surf Ski + Relay.** We don't want any excuses like "There is not enough or too much wind" or "There is no rudderless division". Pick your canoe of choice and show us what you're made of.

Everyone is welcome to be a part of the event. If you can't paddle you can help run shuttles, be on a support boat, or just mingle with good people and come for the feed (James would). Contact us if you are keen to help out in any way or just show up on the day. Help is always needed and appreciated.

### Prior Champions Include:

- OC -** Kingi Gilbert, Bryce Irving, Tonga White, Stephen Roulston, **Tupu King**, Paul Chong, Julius Petersen, Bernie Murch, Sarah Url, Mereana Hodges, Mariana Hodges, Coral Darbishire, **Lynora Hati**, Penelope Strickland, Nicky Kingi Anne Cairns, Jessica McDuff
- SKI -** Paul Wilford, Tim Grammer, Simon Mclarin, Mike Walker, Oskar Steilau, **Simon Longdill**, Andrew Mowlem, Garth Spencer, Tom Ashley, Ben Keys, Tupu King, Katie Pocock, **Dene Simpson**, Rachel Clarke, Danika Mowlem, Katrina Madill
- SUP -** Mike Nuku, **Armie Armstrong**, Brent Bourgeois, Nick Chater, **Annabel Anderson**, Penelope Strickland, Michelle Head # Bold holds the course record

# 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

wakaama  
Outrigger / Va'a / New Zealand

## WHERE WE HEADING? ↗ ↘ ↙ ↚

**High tide -14:10/Low tide -**

30+km ONEWAY AND DOWNWIND!!!\* Depending on what the weather is doing on the day will determine the way we will race. Our options are to run from Maketu back to the Mount (preferred) or from the Mount down to Maketu. We will make the call on the day and inform you at the race briefing as to which beach we will be starting from. If the ocean is too dangerous an adequate double header course will be set in the harbour.

\*event organisers can not be held responsible for lack of adequate wind, but you can trust us to pick the best course we can with the conditions that are given.

**\$300 for 1<sup>st</sup>, \$200 for 2<sup>nd</sup> & \$100 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Places overall\*\* winners.**

## WHAT'S UP FOR GRABS?

**Great spot prices!!!**

All paddlers go into the draw for a chance to win one of our awesome spot prizes kindly gifted by our generous sponsors, so support them when and where you can.

Category winners go down in history as 'CHAMPION' and get their names inscribed onto the 'James Lance Kiri Moore – Memorial - Champions Cup'.

\*\*Cash prizemoney of \$300 for 1st, \$200 for 2nd and \$100 for 3rd place for line honours with more than 10 entries will be awarded to those on the podium.

\*\*\* Medals will be awarded in each division with more than 10 entries

**Please arrive early & get through registration so we can get the show on the road. There will be plenty of time to catch up with old friends afterwards.**

## WHAT'S THE PLAN? ⌚

### CHAMPIONS CUP

On Saturday we will all meet at Pilot Bay, Mount Maunganui. Once gathered and registered you'll be given further instruction to which beach we will start from. Everyone will then shuttle his or her own canoe to the start if required and get ready to race.

#### Rego opens

7:00

Please bring completed entry forms and any outstanding money.

#### Briefing

8:30

Safety procedures, race rules, weather conditions, and race-course direction.

#### Shuttles\*\*\*

9:00

Load your shuttle vehicles and head to the designated race start. *You must provide your own shuttle.*

#### Pre race

10:30

Karakia, safety checks, sign in and head out to start line.

#### Stand up paddle board race start

10:45

All male and female stand-up paddleboards will start together.

#### Outrigger canoe race start

11:00

All male, female and double outrigger canoes will start together.

#### Surf ski race start

11:15

All male, female and double surf skis will start together.

*You can all synchronise your watches with the safety directors at the race briefing. It is a tight time frame with shuttles and getting to the start line, so save your catch-ups till after the race. Make sure you are on the line, as the race WILL start without you!*

#### Feed

14:00 to 18:00

Anytime after the race you can go and refuel at the **Lolo Authentic Turkish**  
97b Maunganui Road, Mount Maunganui

#### Awards ceremony

16:30-ish

This will be held at **Omanu surf lifesaving club** – 15 Surf Road, Mount Maunganui

**Parking:** at Port of Tauranga Rescue Centre – 62 Golf Road, Mount Maunganui

\*\*\* If shuttles are not required then the race start times will be brought forward.

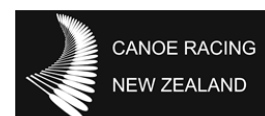
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**Early Bird** - \$100 per paddler before 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025

\$120 per paddler before 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026

\$140 per paddler from 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

For \$100 you get a supported Ocean Race, a limited edition event cap, a good feed of Turkish, a chance at the cash, and a chance of a great spot prize, plus a cool day hanging with friends. Perfect!

You can pay by cheque, cash or direct credit our bank account which is preferred. Ensure you have given clear reference details to who you are as you don't want to have to pay twice. Please note that we must see your payment in our account prior to the event for **THE \$10 LATE PAYMENT** not to apply. Don't worry. This only means you're shouting coffee for the volunteers extra work they have to do.

**A \$10 LATE PAYMENT PENALTY APPLIES  
TO ALL ENTRIES MADE ON THE DAY MAKING IT AN \$150 ENTRY FEE**

## HOW DO I GET THERE?

### PILOT BAY

Make your way toward Mount Maunganui's Main Shopping Street and turn left onto Salisbury at the roundabout, then right onto The Mall, which follows Pilot Bay around. Halfway down is Hoe Aroha Whanau's canoes and shed. We will all meet here.

### MAKETU BEACH

Turn off SH2 towards Maketu. Go through the roundabout at Maketu then turn left at Maketu Pies factory onto Beach Road. Meet at the park on the left, rig and get ready to race.

**EVERYONE IS TO MEET AT PILOT BAY FOR REGO & BRIEFING. YOU ALL  
NEED TO PROVIDE YOUR OWN SHUTTLE TO & FROM THE RACE START**

## SAFETY +

## *For the Champions Cup*

We will have 1 support boat per 10-15 paddlers. So that we can achieve this, we may have to cap entries on the day. To help us with organising the support boats PLEASE get your entry in early.

You need to take responsibility for yourself and provide all of your own safety equipment. There will be safety checks for all vessels before you put on. You will not be able to race without all the appropriate safety equipment on this checklist below.

### YOU MUST HAVE:

**Leash** - You are no good if your canoe, with all your safety equipment floats away from you. Use it! It is a water start and finish so no excuse.

**VHF or Cell phone** - A VHF can save a lot of hassle being able to have direct contact with safety boats or the coast guard. Make sure it is fully charged and that you have the safety director's number.

**Life vest** - It is only good if you can get it on. You are better to wear it or at least have it attached to you

**Hydration & food** - You must carry enough food and fluid to sustain you for the entire race. Hydration is crucial, keep drinking.

**Spare paddle** - Ocs only. You can't do much with a broken one or if it floats away after a flip. Ski's and Sups are welcome to take a spare if you can, but this is not compulsory.

**Bailer or Foot pump** - Cockpit Ocs only. It is no fun watching your mates surf past you or have your canoe snap in half because you are too full of water. Keep it dry!

### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

**VHF Radio** - Make sure it is fully charged and that you have the safety director's radio channel.

**Extra clothing** - Conditions can change so be prepared for anything on the day.

**Whistle** - Great to let those around you know that you need help. It's a big ocean and it gets even bigger really quick.

**Flare** - Great if you are stranded on an island.

Everyone is required to fill in and sign their own **Assessment of risk & Release of liability - Entry Form**, accepting their own responsibility for being on the water on the day and acknowledging that they are competent in the conditions before them.

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