

## Race Report: 2026 James (Bhutti) Moore-morial

### Ocean Mastery and Strategic Gambles at Mauao

The 2026 James (Bhutti) Moore-morial was more than just a race. it was a gathering of the paddling whānau to honour those we have lost. Before the paddles hit the water, the beach fell silent. We stood together for a moving moment of silence to remember **James (Bhutti) Moore**, alongside all those we have lost and those affected by the Mauao slip. This collective breath of remembrance reminded everyone why we gather each year, to celebrate life, community, and the moana.

### The "Wide Line" Strategy

The race was defined by the early decision to handle a tricky southerly wind. While the main pack stayed tight to the coastline, a group of veterans including **Johno Smith**, **Ash Roozendaal**, and **Jonathon Alsop** gambled on a "wide line" to the left of Rabbit Island.

This move was the winning stroke. By finding the offshore bumps early, they carried superior momentum into the mid-section of the race.

- **Johno Smith (OC1)** leveraged this line to split the V1 favorites, clinching **2nd Overall** in the Outrigger category.
- **Ash Roozendaal (OC1)** dominated the Open Men's Solo division, winning his category by nearly 6 seconds.
- **Jonathon Alsop (Ski)** used the deep water lines to secure a comfortable win in the 40-49 Men's division.

### V1 vs OC1: A Tactical Battle

As expected, **Manutea Millon** delivered a powerhouse performance on the **V1** to claim the overall title. **Tupuria King** (V1) rounded out the top three. However, the performance of the day was undoubtedly **Johno Smith** on his **OC1**; holding off elite V1 paddlers in those conditions proved that local knowledge and a perfect line can trump craft type.

History was made in the youth categories. Under the new Waka Ama NZ rules, 14-year-old **Lochlan Te'o** became the youngest finisher in event history. Meanwhile, **Gene Prato** (Ski), **Rebecca Cole** (Women's Ski), and **Jasmin Stevenson** (Women's OC) all celebrated significant victories in their respective fields.

Check out the full gallery of race photos here: [James Moore-morial Facebook Photos](#)

Place	Men's Ski	Time	Men's Canoe	Time
1st	Gene Prato	2:21:14	Manutea Millon	2:29:44
2nd	Tobias Brooke	2:25:17	JOHNO SMITH	2:30:58
3rd	Garth Spencer	2:26:04	Tupuria King	2:31:51



## Full Divisional Results

### Surf Ski Divisions

#### Open Mens Solo - Ski

1. Will Lloyd (2:29:47)
2. Sam Clark (2:30:29)

#### 40-49 Mens Solo - Ski

1. **Jonathon Alsop** (2:31:54)
2. Marchand le Roux (2:32:13)
3. Brad McNamara (Finished)

#### 50-59 Mens Solo - Ski

1. Andy Logue (2:31:50)
2. Neil Gard (2:32:46)
3. Peter Hartley (2:51:25)

#### 60-69 Mens Solo - Ski

1. Paul Gillard (2:54:30)
2. Mark Torrington (2:55:20)

#### Open Womens Solo - Ski

1. Rebecca Cole (2:31:48)

### Outrigger (OC/V1) Solo Divisions

#### Open Mens Solo - V1

1. Maia Campbell (2:35:35)

#### Open Mens Solo - OC

1. **Ash Roozendaal** (2:33:02)
2. Pharrel Grbic (2:33:08)
3. Paora Monk (2:33:36)
4. Anachie Mcloughlin (2:36:05)
5. Kaitawhiti Kereopa (2:37:43)
6. Josh Walsh (2:37:59)
7. Callum O'Leary (Sebualala) (2:39:18)
8. Manawa Irwin (2:41:01)
9. Jake Suitauloa (2:42:12)
10. Kumeroa Dillon (2:43:11)
11. Vance Smith Smith (2:44:47)
12. Koroiti Tongia (2:49:22)

#### 14-19 Mens Solo - OC

1. TĀMATI HETA (2:40:41)
2. MĀTAHI HETA (2:44:59)
3. Lochlan Te'o (2:47:19)

## **40-49 Mens Solo - OC**

1. Steve Roulston (2:34:04)
2. Simon Wolfgram (2:34:46)
3. Eric Holland-Waterson (2:36:03)
4. Paul Roozendaal (2:37:53)
5. Jesse Teniteni (2:47:01)
6. Lionell Nel (2:50:07)
7. Aden Waikari (2:54:23)
8. Mark Roozendaal (3:00:34)

## **50-59 Mens Solo - OC**

1. Richard Pehi (2:41:35)
2. Tonga White (2:44:39)
3. Paora McGrath (2:49:29)
4. Bevan Roozendaal (2:58:23)

## **60-69 Mens Solo - OC**

1. Paul Wilford (2:45:03)
2. Gordy McKay (3:03:06)

## **Open Womens Solo - OC**

1. Jasmin Stevenson (2:44:11)

## **Double Canoe (OC) Divisions**

### **Mens Double - OC**

1. L Wainui / T Tere (2:29:52)
2. Q Fenwick / N Bury (2:32:00)
3. K Bedggood-Noa / K Tito (2:34:06)
4. M Zandstra / B Huntley (2:37:05)
5. R Iti / M Rogerson (2:40:11)

### **Womens Double - OC**

1. N Kingi / R Rapana (2:43:40)
2. B Hoani / N Ornsby (2:46:41)

### **Mixed Double - OC**

1. M Archer / M Archer (2:49:52)

## **Special Thanks to Our Sponsors**

We extend our deepest gratitude to **Vaikobi, PSN (Paddlesport NZ), Red Seal, Kai Wa'a, Yomi (Frozen Yoghurt), Port of Tauranga, and Lolo Turkish**. Your support keeps the memory of James alive and allows our community to thrive.

Thanks

Paul Roozendaal