

Taupō Te Wheke Challenge

12 September 2026

Tapuaeharuru Bay, Parakiri Reserve,
Ferry Road, Taupō
Taupō Waka Ama Club – Pānui



EVENT SUMMARY

Taupō Waka Ama Club is hosting its annual regatta, Taupō Te Wheke Challenge. The Challenge has a W6 21km race that starts from inside Tapuaeharuru Bay and goes out to the Mine Bay Rock Carvings show casing our beautiful lake. We also have a W6 7.5km novice/junior race, and a W6 16km race that travels around Tapuaeharuru Bay.

EVENT & RACE SCHEDULE

6.00am	Waka drop off & Ruruku waka/Lash waka
6.30am	Registration & safety checks
7.15am	Karakia & Race 1 Briefing (W6 Men's, Women's and Mixed 16km)
7.30am	Race 1 starts
9.00am	Race 1 finishes
9.15am	Race 2 Briefing (W6 Novice, J19, J16 7.5km)
9.30am	Race 2 starts
9:45am	Race 1 Prizegiving
10:15am	Race 2 finishes
10.30am	Race 3 Briefing (W6 Men's, Women's and Mixed 21km)
10.45am	Race 3 starts
11:00am	Race 2 Prizegiving
1:00pm	Race 3 finishes
1:15pm	Race 3 Prizegiving
1.45pm	Closing Karakia

RACE DAY INFORMATION

Car Parking: Parking is available by street parking. Please note all parking is under Taupō District Council management, you will need to read the signs and park accordingly.

Trailer parking: Trailer parking will be above the bunker on Ferry Road up from Taupō Yacht Club.

Food: We encourage you to bring your own healthy kai, however a small range of food is available for paddlers once they have finished their races. There will be a small number of food vendors onsite.

Toilets: Toilets are located on the corner of Ferry Rd & Redoubt St.

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

Rubbish/Recycling: We encourage you to please take what you bring. However, there will be designated rubbish and recycling stations located by the registration tent.

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 6.00am on the event day
- Waka drop-off will be in the carpark off Ferry Road near the beachfront which will be coned off
- Trailer parking will be above the bunker on Ferry Road up from Taupō Yacht Club, please be aware of your surroundings through while parking

Safety Checks:

- All waka must pass a safety check and be marked before racing. Any boats not marked will not be permitted to race

RACE RULES

All entrants must be familiar with the Waka Ama New Zealand race and safety rules.

For more information, see: [Waka Ama NZ Race Rules](#).

AGE DIVISIONS & RACE EVENTS

WAKA	DISTANCE	DIVISIONS	GENDER
W6	7.5km	J16, J19, Novice	Junior, Men, Women, Mixed
W6	16km	Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master	Men, Women, Mixed
W6	21km	Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master	Men, Women, Mixed

FEES

Fees: Fees for this event are *per person by age division*

PER PERSON BY AGE DIVISION (<i>charged one fee according to age on race day</i>)	
Age Division	Cost
J16	\$15.00
J19	\$15.00
Open	\$20.00
Master	\$20.00
Senior Master	\$20.00
Golden Master	\$20.00

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 Friday, **28 August, 2026**
- Rosters close on **4 September, 2026**, rosters must be completed by close date, no exceptions
- Once entered, payment must be made by 31 August, 2026. Payment can be completed online by your club admin to:
 - 02-0428-0098029-000
 - Use your club, team name and division as your references

- Due to large entry numbers, we ask for **ONE payment per club**. Individual team payments will be considered a donation. If you are paying for multiple crews, please follow up with an email to admin@taupowakaama.org.nz advising your crew names, 7.5km, 16km, or 21km and the division.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- **All divisions must wear life jackets. This is a Lake Taupō harbourmaster requirement and there are no exceptions.**
- All divisions must have the following safety equipment for their races:
 - PFD - Personal Flotation Device (per person)
 - 2 X Bailers
 - Flare or mobile phone in waterproof case
 - Spare Paddle - 2
 - Spray Skirt
 - Tow Rope

TEAM WAIVERS

- Team waivers must be completed by all paddlers/teams
- All paddlers U18 must have their waiver signed by their parent/guardian
- Waivers must be handed in to the administration tent before your race or they can be emailed to admin@taupowakaama.org.nz
- Team waivers can be found online

CONTACT INFORMATION

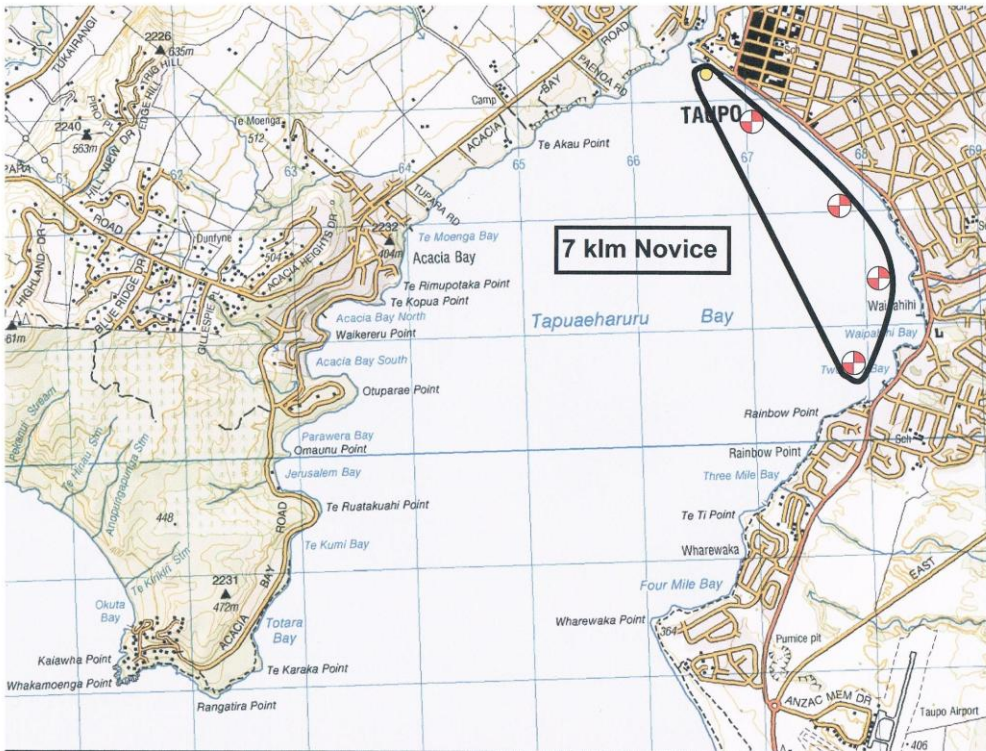
- All enquiries please email: taupowakaamaclub@gmail.com
- All urgent matters please call: Jenny Drayton – 022 317 6588 (admin)
Steph Richards – 021 378 854 (club president)

COURSE MAPS

MAP 1: 16km Course



MAP 2: 7 km course



MAP 3: 21 km Course

