



35th International Portage Crossing 20th Feb 2027

Te Taahuhutanga O Te Waka Tainui

Waitemata & Manukau Harbour

EVENT SUMMARY

Portage Crossing Trust and Te Kei O Te Tainui Waka welcome you to the 35th International Te Taahuhutanga O Te Waka Tainui (Portage Crossing) Regatta & free family festival. The regatta is a revival of the ancient Māori route first used by the Tainui waka captained by Hoturoa. This crossing between the Waitemata and Manukau harbours was also utilized by the early settlers of Mangere when transporting their fishing vessels between the harbours. This regatta starts at Okahu bay with Ngāti Whatua representatives leading the karakia for safe journeys by paddlers and support boats. Novice and J16 paddlers start from Tamaki Outrigger Canoe club based at Panmure Wharf.

Waka race 18km from Okahu bay down Tamaki estuary to Nga Hau Maiangi waka ama club rooms Panama Road. Paddlers load their waka onto trailers or trollies ready for the road section. Paddlers are then welcomed by Tainui elders and kuia for a brief Pōwhiri in the NHM building. After the Pōwhiri the race director Jesse Papali'i will explain the next leg regarding paddlers pushing their waka on single axle trailers or trollies 5km road section through Portage Road.

At Mangere Inlet Otahuhu the race director will direct paddlers regarding the last leg as novice section will paddle straight into festival at Ambury Park, utilizing boat ramps at Mangere Bridge Yacht club. The experience teams and w1 paddlers will paddle past two bridges and on the 6th green pole, where support boats will be anchored turn around to head towards Mangere bridge Yacht club ramps. Paddlers are then welcomed by Tainui Iwi, and we are represented by Ngāti Whatua elders when we walk onto reserve. The event is a full day of fun & competitive racing, spot prizes, live music, food vendors, and free children's rides. After the Pōwhiri prize giving with medals for place getters regardless of how many teams in your category. All paddlers will receive a free hangi. Hangi will be on sale for your whanau and supporters.



EVENT SCHEDULE

6.00am	Registration opens Okahu Bay 18km.
6.15am	Safety Checks 18km
6.30am	Karakia (<i>Prayer</i>) - Ngāti Whatua Representatives.
6.45am	Race briefing 18km - Race Director/Jesse Papali'i
6.55am	Support boat briefing.
7.00am	Race start 18km.
7.30am	Registration opens Panmure Wharf Novice Section / J16 2km
8.00am	Safety checks Novice/J16
8.15am	Race briefing Novice/J16
8.20am	Karakia (<i>Prayer</i>) - Kalina Papali'i
8.30am	Race start Novice Section / J16 2.5km - All together
9.00am	Paddlers arrive at NHM and load waka onto single-axle trailers or waka ama trolleys for the 5km hīkoi to Railway Lane, Ōtāhuhu. When all waka are prepared, Tainui iwi will lead the pōwhiri, followed by the next-leg race briefing (including hīkoi) from Race Director Jessie Papali'i.
10.00am	Hīkoi - Paddlers push their waka on trailers/trolleys 5km through Portage Road Otahuhu. Portage Crossing will provide free of charge single axle trailers for international teams. Teams led by police escorts and followed by a truck float with Cook Island dancers and drums performing. Traffic management will be present stopping traffic at the following intersections. 1) Mt Wellington Highway and Portage Road. Saleyad road and Railway Lane.
11.00am	Wakas & Paddlers arrive at Railway Lane Otahuhu and rig waka before the race briefing of the final leg.
11.30am	Relaunch Waka and race to finishing line/buoy, Manukau Yacht & Motorboat Club utilizing their boat ramps.
12.00pm	Wakas arrive Manukau Yacht & Motorboat Club. All paddlers across all divisions load waka onto trailers. Paddlers & Supporters march to Ambury Park entrance with Ngāti Whatua Kaumatua led by Taiaha Hawke, with your paddles.
1.00pm	Pōwhiri & welcoming from Tainui.
2.00pm	Prizegiving, including medals and koha payments to gold medalists, team photos of podium winners, hāngī, and whānau festival.
3.00pm	Free family Festival with kapa haka, bands, and entertainment restarts. Free children rides, food stalls, arts and crafts. Farm animals and tractor rides by friends of Ambury Park.
5.00pm	Entertainment finishes – Closing karakia.



RACE SCHEDULE

Time	Race
6.00am	Registration opens Okahu Bay. Safety Checks.
6.30am	Karakia
6.45am	Race Briefing 18km
6.55am	Support Boat Briefing
7.00am	Race Start 18km - W1 W2 J19 OW MW SMW GMW & Mixed in these divisions
7.10am	Race Start 18km - W1 W2 OM MM SMM GMM
7.20am	Race Start 18km- W6 J19 OW MW SMW GMW & Mixed in these divisions.
7.30am	Race Start - W6 J19 OM MM SMM GMM
7.30am	Registration opens Panmure Wharf Novice/J16
8.00am	Safety Checks Novice/J16
8.20am	Karakia
8.30am	Race Start Novice/J16
10.00am	Hīkoi Ian Shaw Park Railway Lane – Railway Lane
11.30am	Race Start Final Leg KiwiRail - Manukau Yacht & Motorboat Club
1.00pm	Pōwhiri Ambury Park
2.00pm	Prizegiving

WAKA DROP OFF & SAFETY CHECKS

Waka drop-off is available on Friday 19 February (afternoon/evening) or from 5.00am on the event day, Saturday 20 February.

Okahu Bay:

Waka drop will be on the beach front landing and will be clearly signed with entry & exit.

Trailer parking at Okahu Bay is on the opposite side of the road, please be aware of your surroundings through this process

Trailers then moved to the Manukau Yacht & Motorboat Club, Kiwi Esplanade Reserve.

Panmure Wharf:

Waka drop will be on the grass section outside Tamaki Outriggers Canoe Club and will be clearly signed with entry & exit.

Trailer and boat parking at Panmure Wharf is extremely limited. Once you have unloaded, please transport and move your trailer to the Manukau Yacht & Motorboat Club, Kiwi Esplanade Reserve.

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 DAY INFORMATION

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

Trailer parking: Trailer parking will be in the fields opposite Okahu Bay. Due to restrictions, this will only be available for trailer drop off – you will need to park your car elsewhere for the day.

Food: We encourage you to bring your own healthy kai, however a small range of food vendors will be available onsite to purchase healthy kai.

Toilets: Toilets are located at the far end of the driveway, past the main registration tent.

First Aid: First Aid will be available at the registration tent, via main driveway.

Rubbish/Recycling: We encourage you to please take what you bring. However, the main rubbish and recycling station is located by the main toilet block.

Alcohol/Smokefree: Alcohol, smoking, vaping and any other substance use is not permitted at this event, including all premises of the event.

RACE RULES

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](#)

AGE DIVISIONS & RACE EVENTS

WAKA	DISTANCE	DIVISIONS	GENDER
W1 W6	18km first leg 5km hīkoi 3km final leg	, J19, Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master & mixed in these categories.	Men & Women
W6 W12	2km first leg 5km hīkoi 2.5km final leg	J16 Novice J19 open master SM GM & mixed in these categories	Boys, Girls, Men & women

FEES

PER PERSON BY AGE DIVISION (<i>charged <u>one</u> fee according to age on race day</i>)	
Age Division	Cost per paddler
J16	\$20.00
J19	\$20.00
Open - GM	\$30.00
Novice	\$30.00
Coastal rowing & Kayaking	\$30.00
International Teams	\$30.00 NZD



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 16th February 2027
- Rosters close on 17th February 2027 rosters must be completed by close date, no exceptions
- Once entered, payment can be made online to:
 - **Portage Crossing Traditional Canoeing & Sailing Association**
 - **03 1506 0203459 000**
 - **Use your club, team name and division as your reference**

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- All waka must be Safety Checked
- Paddlers are encouraged to wear **appropriate footwear for the 5km road section**
- All Junior (J16 & J19) and Senior (Open and above) must have the following safety equipment for their races:
 - PFD - Personal Floatation Device (per person)
 - Bailers
 - Flare or cell phone in waterproof case
 - Spare Paddle - 2 for a W6, 1 for W1/2
 - Spray Skirt (W6)
 - Tow Rope (W6)
 - Leg leash (for sit on top W1)

INDIVIDUAL & TEAM WAIVERS

- Individual and Team 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 portagecrossingtrust@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

CONTACT INFORMATION

- All enquiries please email: portagecrossingtrust@gmail.com
- All urgent matters please call race director Jesse Papali'i 021 117 1732



MAPS

- High tide: Onehunga 11.07am



