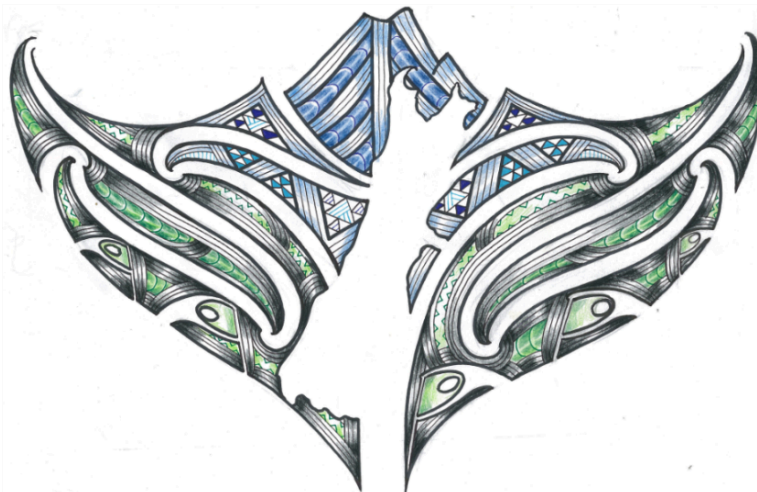




Te Waka o Aoraki Regional Sprint Championships 2026

Saturday 5 December – Lake Ruataniwha, Twizel

Event Pānui / Information

E ngā waka, e ngā reo, e ngā tai e whā o Te Waka o Aoraki
Nau mai, tauti mai ki te whakataetae waka ama o te motu nei i tēnei tau
Kei raro i te maru o Aoraki, te taha hoki o te awa hoki o Ōhau
Rātou ki a rātou e ngā mate kuawheturangitia, tātou ki a tātou e ngā kanohi ora
Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa

Te Waka o Aoraki welcome paddlers from around the region to the 2026 Te Waka o Aoraki Regional Sprint Championships to be held at Lake Ruataniwha on **Saturday the 5th of December 2026**. This is the qualification event for paddlers wishing to race in a W1 and/or the Regional W12 at the 2027 Waka Ama National Sprint Championships to be held at Lake Karapiro from 16th – 23rd January 2027.

VENUE – Lake Ruataniwha, Twizel



After the success last year, we are again hosting the event at Lake Ruataniwha. A world class aquatic paddling event site that hosts Local, Regional, and National Rowing, Dragon Boat, and Kayak events. The lake is situated just south of Twizel on State Highway 8 and is accessed via Max Smith Drive.

Important Dates

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| • 1st August | Event Pānui Released |
| • 25th November | Entries Close |
| • 3rd December | Draft Land Draw Published |
| • 4th December | Final Lane Draw Published |
| • 5th December | Race Day |

Entry Fees and Age Divisions

- Juniors (19 years old or younger) \$5.00
- Seniors \$15.00
- Age Divisions Intermediate (<13yrs) to Masters 80+

Note: Entry fee covers all racing in W1's and W6's

Note: Paddlers must be affiliated to WAANZ (<http://www.wakaama.co.nz/affiliationchecker>)

Entries are to be made via the Waka Ama New Zealand Website with registration fees to be paid ahead of the event via your club. Please see your Club representative to sort out your entry.

Race Distance

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| • W1: 500m / 250m | • W6: 500m/1000m/1500m | • W12: 500m |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|

Indicative Programme – Saturday 5 December 2026

0800-0820	Karakia, welcome and event brief
0820-0900	Registration and W1 Weigh in (fully rigged waka must weigh 14kg minimum)
0900-1100	W1 500m
1100-1200	W1 250m
1200-1300	W6 500m
1300-1400	W6 1500m/1000m
1400-1500	W12 500m
1700-	After Function Venue hosted at The Top Hut Bar & Bistro, Twizel

Regional W1 500m and 250m Dash Representative Qualification Process

Each region has at least 4 entries in each age division for W1 500m events. And two Premier Men and Premier Women, and two J19 Men and Women entries into the W1 250m dash race for the WAANZ Sprint Nationals. There are also additional places in the W1 500m events based on finalists from each regional from the previous year's nationals. E.g. 3 TWoA finalists = 4 + 3 = 7 entries for Nationals.

W1 500m qualifiers from TWoA will be decided at the regional event by placings in the W1 500m final of each division. Paddlers that cannot make the regional event, but who wish to be waitlisted for consideration of a W1 spot, must contact the TWoA President **ahead of the event**. You may then be allocated a spot if all other qualifiers from the regional event pass on their spot.

The W1 250 Dash race happens just before the Regional W12 race on Thursday afternoon. The premier men's and women's events are for all age divisions from Open to Master 70s. To align our regional event with the national event paddlers will get one race to set a time, followed by a final for the top qualifying times in each gender. The fastest two times out of each gender in both the J19 and Premier divisions will qualify to be our regional 250 dash reps.

Regional W12 Qualification Process

Each region also puts forward a Mens and a Womens Regional W12 team to compete at the Sprint Nationals. Qualification for these teams are based on paddlers competing in the **W1 250m Dash** at the TWoA Regional Sprints – *selection for the W12 teams is still to be confirmed*. Anyone wanting to be considered for selection must commit to attending Nationals and **show their intent at time of registration for the W1 250m Dash**.

Notes

- Entries must be made via your club and fees paid ahead of the event.
- W6/W12 waka will be supplied by TWoA. W1 waka must be supplied by paddlers and weighed.
- Clubs are expected to help with running our Region's event.
- You must enter the W1 250 Dash if you want to qualify for the Regional W12 Team.
- Questions or Enquires please contact the race director Maaka Rangihuna (0276126215) or TWoA President Brendon Timmins (021725816 or twoa.president@gmail.com)

Lake Ruataniwha Venue and Racecourse Map



The admin building is in line with the finish line of the course, while the spectator area is the length of the racecourse itself. You are welcome to pitch gazebos etc in front of the admin building also (results and first aid area).

Waka will be loaded/unloaded in front of the admin building next to the spectator area. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure they know what lane they are allocated, are on the water ahead of time and ready to start their race. We are wanting three races at any one time on the water – one racing, one lining up, one paddling down. The fourth getting ready to go. 5 min windows between starts. 10 x W1 lanes available – heat will be seeding for final if 10 or less W1 per category.

It is a 5 min paddle down to the start of the 500m W1 events. **Please ensure there is enough space between races if sharing W1 waka for swapping over without impacting race schedule.**

The 500m Straight Race start line is the 1500m marker of the racecourse. The 250m Straight Race start line (and turn race turning buoys) are at the 1750m marker of the racecourse.

The 250 / 500m Straight Race finish line and 500 / 1000 / 1500m turn race start & finish line is at the 2000m marker and end of the course in front of the admin building.

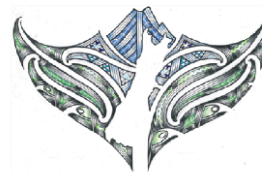
Rubbish bins are present so please ensure they are used.

Toilets are available and located near the admin building.

Food and coffee carts will be available on the day. Twizel Four Square supermarkets are a 5 min drive into town.

LASTLY, PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A NO SMOKING, NO DRUG, NO VAPING, NO ALCOHOL VENUE.

The function will be hosted at the Top Hut Bar & Bistro in Twizel. A 5 min drive from Lake Ruataniwha venue.



EVENT WAIVER and AUTHORITY FORM

Te Waka o Aoraki Regional Sprints

Team / Name _____ Club _____

Gade & Event (s) entered _____

I/We declare that:

1. My/Our accepted entry will not be transferred to another entrant.
2. In the event of any "act of God" conditions causing a cancellation of the event, my/our total entry fee is not transferable or refundable.
3. I/We acknowledge that there are risks involved with Waka Ama and fully realise the dangers of participating in an event such as this and fully assume the risks associated with such participation and my wellbeing during the event.
4. I/We understand and agree that situations may arise during the event, which may be beyond the immediate control of officials or organisers, and I/we must continually participate in a manner that does not endanger either myself/ourselves or others.
5. Neither the organisers, the sponsors nor other parties associated with the event shall have any responsibility, financial or otherwise, for any risk incident that might arise, whether or not by negligence, from any direct or indirect loss, injury or death that might be sustained by me/us or any other party directly or indirectly associated with me/us, from my/our intended or actual participation in the event or its related activities.
6. I/We authorise my/our name, voice, picture and information on this entry form to be used without payment to me/us in any broadcast, telecast, promotion, advertising, or any other way pursuant to the Privacy Act 1993.
7. I/We agree to comply with the rules, regulations and event instructions of the Te Waka o Aoraki Regional Sprints.
8. I/We consent to receiving medical treatment which may be advisable in the event of illness or injuries suffered during the event.
9. I/We confirm that I/we can swim 50 Metres/OR those that cannot swim 50 Metres will wear a PFD during the race.

If Competitor is under 18 the Waiver must be signed by Parent or guardian. Please ✓ if so.

Date	Paddlers full name	Signed	✓Parent/guardian signed.	Medical Conditions	Date of Birth