



EVENT SUMMARY

Portage Crossing Trust proudly welcomes our waka whānau back to the mighty Manukau Harbour for our second year hosting this special regatta at Mangere Bridge. Our kaupapa is simple: create a safe, uplifting, community-driven event that celebrates our paddlers as we move into the spring racing season.

The Mangere Bridge Boating Club will again be our home base for the day — a place for karakia, kai, kōrero, and prizegiving as we gather after each race. This year we're excited to expand our programme with W1 and W2 racing, alongside our W6 divisions, giving paddlers of all levels a chance to test themselves on our harbour.

From our junior and novice paddlers completing the 8km course under the two Mangere Bridges, to our senior crews taking on the 18km journey to French Bay and back, this regatta honours the long history of waka movement across this rohe — including the ancient Tainui portage at Ōtāhuhu.

Nau mai, hoki mai — bring your wairua, your whānau, and your best paddling energy. Manukau is ready for you.

EVENT SCHEDULE

6.30am	Registration opens, waka drop-off & safety checks (W1, W2, W6). Waka may also be dropped off on Friday evening at Mangere Bridge Boat Club Carpark
7.00am	Rescue Boat Briefing
7.30am	Karakia
8.00am	Race 1 8km Briefing – W1, W2, Novice W6, J16 W6
8.30am	Race 1 8km Wave 1 Start – W6 Novice & J16 <i>Novice and Junior sections including mixed categories</i>
8.35am	Race 1 8km Wave 2 Start (5-minute stagger) – W1 & W2 <i>J19, Open, Masters, SM, GM including mixed categories</i>
9.45am	Race 2 18km Briefing – W6
10.15am	Race 2 18km Start – W6 <i>J19, Open, Masters, SM, GM including mixed categories</i>
1.00pm	Prizegiving, kai & refreshments, closing karakia

RACE SCHEDULE

Time	Race
8.00am	Race 1 – 8km Briefing W1, W2, Novice W6, J16 W6
8.30am	Race 1 – 8km Wave 1 Start W6 Novice & J16 including mixed.
8.45am	Race 1 – 8km Wave 2 Start (5-minute stagger) W1 & W2 Senior divisions including J19 & mixed.
9.45am	Race 2 – 18km Briefing W6
10.15am	Race 2 – 18km Start W6 Senior divisions including J19 & mixed.
1.00pm	Prizegiving, kai & refreshments, closing karakia

RACE INFORMATION

Car Parking: Parking is available by street parking and parking in Mangere Bridge Boat Club Kiwi Esplanade. 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 Mangere Boat Club parking and associated grounds.

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. Food and soup will be provided to paddlers and their support team after races.

Toilets: Toilets are located on site and at Mangere Bridge Boating Club.

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

WAKA DROP OFF & SAFETY CHECKS

Waka can be dropped off on Friday 11th September as well as early Saturday Morning.

- Waka drop-off will be available from 5.00am on the event day
- Waka drop-off will be on the beach front landing and will be clearly signed with entry & exit
- Trailer parking is in the car park and associated grounds clearly marked.

Safety Checks:

- All waka are required to pass a safety check and be marked before racing. Any waka 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.
Refer to the following link for more information: [Waka Ama NZ Race Rules](#)

AGE DIVISIONS & RACE EVENTS

WAKA	DISTANCE	DIVISIONS	GENDER
W6	8km	J16 & Novice section	Men, Women, Mixed
W1	8km	J16, J19 & all senior divisions	Men, Women
W2	8km	J16, J19 & all senior divisions	Men, Women, Mixed
W6	18km	J19 & all senior divisions	Men, Women, Mixed

FEES

PER PERSON BY EVENT(<i>charged a fee for each race entered according to age on race day</i>)	
Age Division	Cost
J16	\$10.00
J19	\$20.00
Open - GM	\$30.00
Novice	\$30.00

*Note: **Entry fees are charged per race entered.** If a paddler competes in more than one event (for example, both the W1/W2 8 km and the W6 18 km), they will pay the fee for each race according to their age division on race day.*

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 Wed 9th September 2026 11.59pm**
- Contingency date if weather conditions are poor, Saturday 31st October 2026
- **Rosters close on Thur 10th September 11.59pm**, rosters must be completed by close date, no exception
- 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 warm undergarments
- All Junior (J16 & J19) and Senior (Open and above) must have the following safety equipment for their races:
 - PFD - Personal Floatation Device (per person)
 - 2x Bailers
 - Flare or cell phone in waterproof case
 - Two Spare Paddles
 - Spray Skirt
 - Tow Rope
- **All J16 and Novice paddlers must wear their PFD while competing**

INDIVIDUAL & TEAM WAIVERS

- 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 registration on the day
- Team waivers can be found on our [event page](#) on the Waka Ama NZ website

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

TIDES / COURSE MAPS

- High tide: Onehunga 11.14am

MAP - 8km Course

The course starts between the red pole and yellow buoy adjacent to Mangere Bridge Boat Club (Kiwi Esplanade), travels 2km south under both Mangere Bridges to the turn buoy, then returns to the start line. Paddlers complete two laps of this 4km route to make a total of 8km.



MAP - 18km Course

The course starts between the red pole and yellow buoy at Mangere Bridge Boat Club travels north-west into the Manukau Harbour for 9 km, following the coastline towards French Bay to the green pole opposite French Bay, where crews complete a single ama-side turn and retrace the same route back to the Mangere Bridge Boat Club finish line.

