



# 35th International Portage Crossing 20<sup>th</sup> 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 35<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6.00am</b>  | Registration opens <a href="#">Okahu Bay</a> 18km.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>6.15am</b>  | Safety Checks 18km                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>6.30am</b>  | Karakia ( <i>Prayer</i> ) - Ngāti Whatua Representatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>6.45am</b>  | Race briefing 18km - Race Director/Jesse Papali'i                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>7.00am</b>  | Race start 18km.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>7.30am</b>  | Registration opens <a href="#">Panmure Wharf</a> Novice Section / J16 2km                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>8.00am</b>  | Safety checks Novice/J16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>8.15am</b>  | Race briefing Novice/J16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>8.20am</b>  | Karakia ( <i>Prayer</i> ) - Kalina Papali'i                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>8.30am</b>  | Race start Novice Section / J16 2km - All together                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>9.00am</b>  | 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>10.00am</b> | Hīkoi - Paddlers push their waka on trailers/trolleys 5km through Portage Road Otahuhu. <b>Portage Crossing will provide free of charge single axle trailers for international teams.</b> 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.<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Mt Wellington Highway and Portage Road.</li> <li>2) Saleyard road and Railway Lane.</li> </ol> |
| <b>11.00am</b> | Wakas & Paddlers arrive at Railway Lane Otahuhu and rig waka before the race briefing of the final leg. A group called Dawn Raiders will assist and direct paddlers where to rig and where to load at Railway Lane.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>11.30am</b> | Relaunch Waka and race to finishing line/buoy, Manukau Yacht & Motorboat Club utilizing their boat ramps.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>12.00pm</b> | Wakas arrive Manukau Yacht & Motorboat Club.<br>All paddlers across all divisions load waka onto trailers.<br>Paddlers & Supporters march to Ambury Park entrance with Ngāti Whatua Kaumatua led by Taiaha Hawke, with your paddles.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>1.00pm</b>  | Pōwhiri & welcoming from Tainui.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>2.00pm</b>  | Prizegiving, including medals and koha payments to gold medalists, team photos of podium winners, hāngī, and whānau festival.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>3.00pm</b>  | 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>5.00pm</b>  | Entertainment finishes – Closing karakia.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |



## RACE SCHEDULE

| Time    | Race                                                                 |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6.00am  | Registration opens Okahu Bay.<br>Safety Checks.                      |
| 6.30am  | Karakia                                                              |
| 6.45am  | Race Briefing 18km                                                   |
| 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 | Hiko i 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<br>W2<br>W6<br>W12 | 18km first leg<br>5km hīkoi<br>3km final leg | All senior categories, Open, J19 & Mixed.              | Men<br>Women<br>Mixed |
| W1<br>W2<br>W6<br>W12 | 2km first leg<br>5km hīkoi<br>3km final leg  | All senior categories, Open, J16, J19, Mixed & Novice. | Men<br>Women<br>Mixed |

## ENTRY FEES

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



## 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 16<sup>th</sup> February 2027
- Rosters close on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2027 and 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**

## REFUND POLICY

- Entry withdrawals received before 16th February 2026 (midnight, NZDT) will receive a full refund
- No refunds will be given for any withdrawals after 16th February 2026 (NZDT)
- No refund will be given if the event is cancelled or postponed due to a natural disaster or extreme weather

## 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)
  - All J16 and Novice paddlers must wear PFDs – This is compulsory. There are no exceptions.

## 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](mailto:portagecrossingtrust@gmail.com) or handed in at registration on the day.
- Individual & Team waivers can be found on our event page on the Waka Ama NZ website

## SUPPORT/SAFETY BOAT INFORMATION

Support Boat Briefing will be held online via Microsoft Teams on **Thursday 18th, 2027** at 7.00pm. Attendance is compulsory for all operators/drivers.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

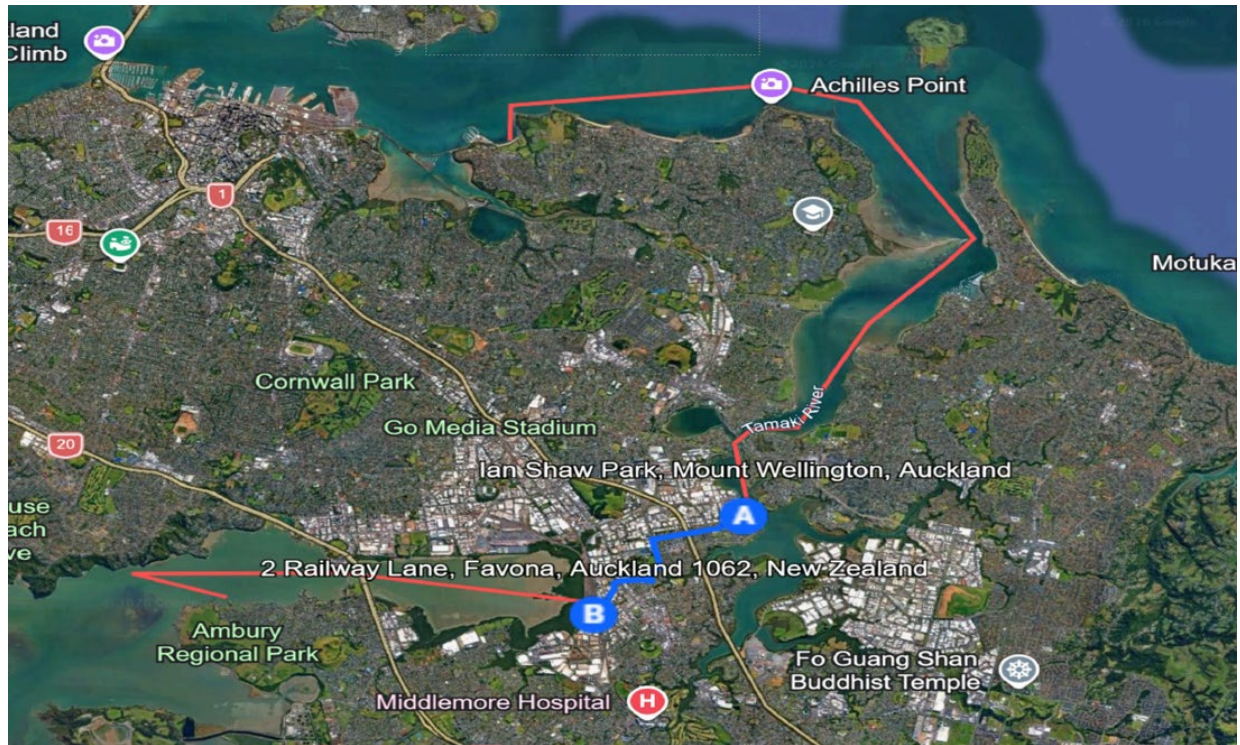
- All enquiries please email: [portagecrossingtrust@gmail.com](mailto:portagecrossingtrust@gmail.com)
- All urgent matters please call race director Jesse Papali'i 021 117 1732



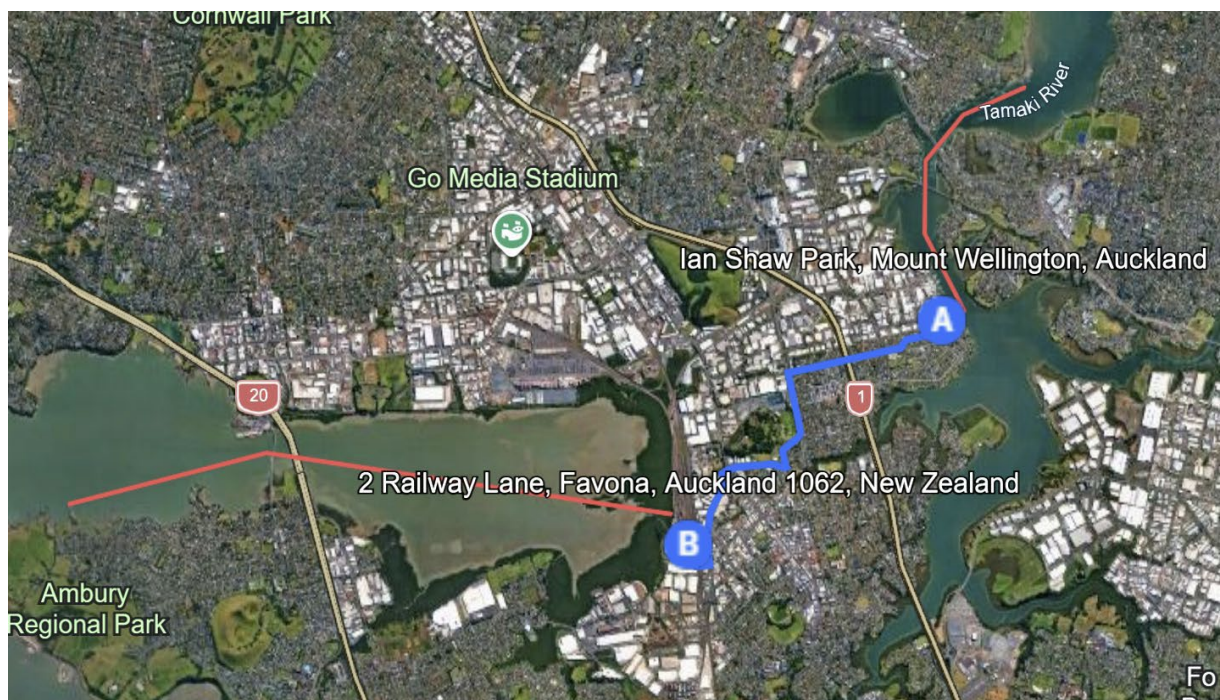
## COURSE MAPS

- High tide: Onehunga 11.07am

### 18km Hoe -5km Hīkoi - 3km Hoe

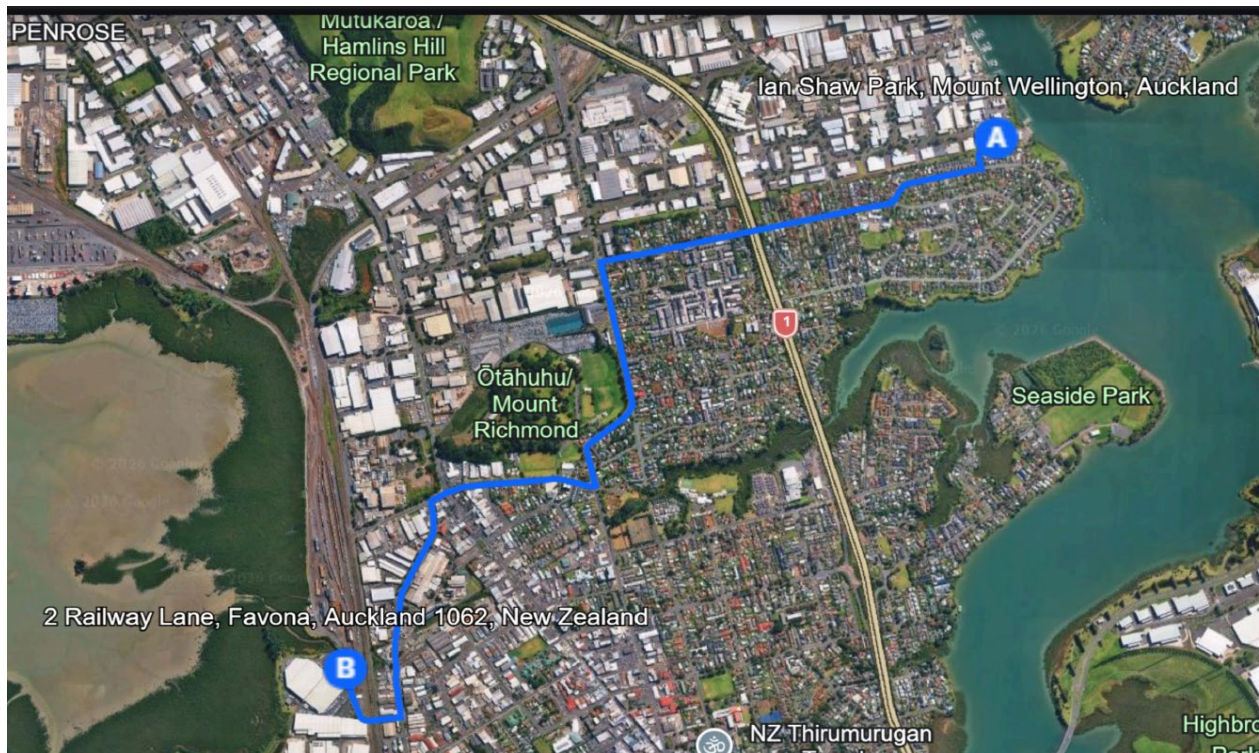


### 2km Hoe -5km Hīkoi -3km Hoe





## 5km Hīkoi



## Ambury Park

