



Pearl of the North 2026
Saturday 24 October 2026
Tapuwaetahi, Te Tii, Kerikeri
Kaihoe o Ngati Rehia Trust - Waka Ama Club
Pānui 1

TE KAUPAPA / EVENT SUMMARY

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau,

Kua huri anō te tau, kua tae mai anō tēnei whakataetae mīharo rawa atu.

Another year has passed and one of the most amazing competitions is upon us.

He karanga tēnei ki a koutou katoa e te whānau whānui haere mai ki Ngāti Rēhia ki Tapuwaetahi mo te whakataetae 'Pearl of the North 2026'.

We welcome all our waka whānau near and far to join us here in at Tapuwaetahi, Ngāti Rēhia for our annual Pearl of the North Regatta 2026.

Pearl of the North is not only well known for the racing and beautiful location, but also the KAI and Manaakitanga. **Kai** (hangi) will be provided to those who have registered and paid their race fee, as per normal. We will have a **Coffee Cart** for the duration of the day and we're waiting on confirmation for a **Kai Kart**. For the now, we highly recommend to our wider whānau and supporters to bring your own snacks and picnic lunch.

Whitiora Marae, Te Tii is available for **accommodation**. Priority will be given to those who have travelled afar, but there is plenty of space. The cost is **\$40per** person, per night. **You MUST bring your own kai and snacks for the duration of your stay**. The marae is available Friday and Saturday nights. Please contact Soph (0210529093) to book you a bed.

From the whenua to the moana you will be well looked after paddler and non paddlers.
Nau mai ki Ngāti Rēhia.

TE HŌTAKA / EVENT SCHEDULE

Subject to change (please see pānui 2 for any updates)

6.30am	Waka drop off
7.00am	Registration & Race 1 Safety Checks
8.00am	Karakia - Whakatau
8.15am	Race 1 - 24km Briefing
8.30am	Racing 1 - Starts
9.30am	Race 2 - 10km Safety Checks
11.00am	Race 2 - 10km Briefing
11:15am	Race 2 10km - Start
11:30am	Race 3 V1/V2 Safety Checks
12:30pm	Race 3 V1/V2 - Race Briefing
12:45pm	Race 3 V1/V2 - Race Start
2.30pm	Kai and Prizegiving
3.00pm	Closing Karakia



HE PITOPITO KŌRERO / RACE DAY INFORMATION

Car Parking: Is available at the beach, but we ask whānau to please carpool as parking is limited. There is space at Whitiara Marae if you wish to leave your car there and carpool over.

Trailer parking: will be available at the venue, but please follow the parking wardens directions, as space is limited.

Food: All registered paddlers will receive a kai ticket. Each kai ticket represents one kai parcel. Please note: Spectators are advised to bring your own kai as kai tickets will not be sold on the day. We will have a Coffee cart again this year.

Toilets: will be located far left of the parking area in the Beach Reserve.

First Aid: First Aid will be available at the registration tent, please ask Soph. We will also have several doctors at the venue.

Rubbish/Recycling: We encourage you to please TAKE WHAT YOU BRING!!

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

ĒTEHI TIKANGA E PĀ ANA KI NGĀ WAKA / WAKA DROP OFF & SAFETY CHECKS

Waka Drop off:

- Waka drop off will be available from 6.30am on the event day or Friday if organised prior with Uncle Danny.
- Waka drop off will be in the reserve, nearest the boatramp/beach entrance. There will be signage, but please follow the parking wardens instructions.
- Trailer parking will be signposted and parking wardens will direct you.

Safety Checks:

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

NGĀ TURE / RACE RULES

All entrants must be familiar with the Waka Ama Aotearoa New Zealand race and safety rules. Refer to the following link for more information: [Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ Race Rules](#)

TE PAKEKE O NGĀ KAIHŌE ME NGĀ REIHI / AGE DIVISIONS & RACE EVENTS

WAKA	DISTANCE	DIVISIONS	GENDER
V1	10km	J16, J19, Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master, M70s	Men Women
V2	10km	J16, J19, Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master, M70s	Men Women Mixed
W6	10km	J16, J19, Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master, M70s	Men Women Mixed
W6	24km	J19, Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master, M70s	Men Women Mixed



NGĀ UTU / FEES

PER PERSON BY EVENT <i>(charged for each event entered)</i>	
Event	Cost
V1 10km	\$50pp (if you are racing in W6, this event is free)
V2 10km	\$50pp (if you are racing in W6, this event is free)
W6 10km	\$50pp
W6 24km	\$60pp

TE URU KI NGĀ REIHI ME TE TIKANGA / 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 Open 1st October 2026
- Entries Close midnight Monday 19th October
- Rosters Close midnight Wednesday October 21st
- Once entered, payment can be made online to:
 - Kaihoe o Ngati Rehia
 - 12-3091-0219174-00
 - Use your team name and division as your reference

NGĀ RITENGA E MAU AI TE ORA / SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- All waka must be Safety Checked
- All taitamariki and intermediate age divisions must wear life jackets
- 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 cellphone 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)

NGĀ KAWENGA A TE KAIHOE AKE E MAU AI TANA ORA / 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 kaihoengatirehia@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 Aotearoa NZ website



WHAKAPĀ MAI / CONTACT INFORMATION

- All enquiries please email: ***kaihoengatirehia@gmail.com***
- All urgent matters please call: ***Uncle Danny 021958378 Or Soph 0210529093***
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/442089489295640>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/156538157714816>

NGĀ MAHERE O TE RĒHI REIHI / COURSE MAPS

- High tide: 5:20am
- Low tide: 11:30am