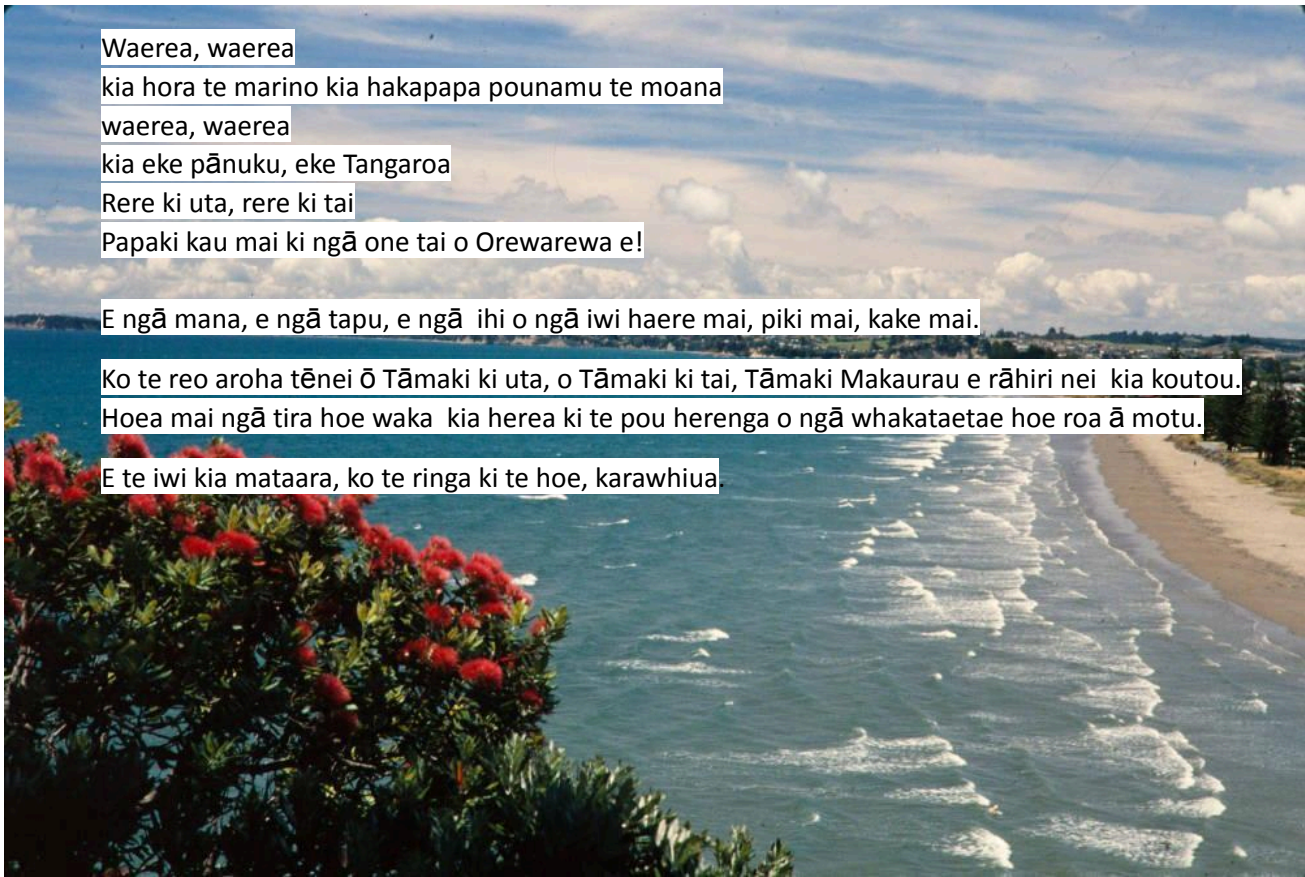


2026 Waka Ama Long Distance Nationals

Orewa, Auckland – Thursday 1st – Sunday 4th October 2026

Race week Pānui



Waerea, waerea
kia hora te marino kia hakaapa pounamu te moana
waerea, waerea
kia eke pānuku, eke Tangaroa
Rere ki uta, rere ki tai
Papaki kau mai ki ngā one tai o Orewarewa e!

E ngā mana, e ngā tapu, e ngā ihi o ngā iwi haere mai, piki mai, kake mai.

Ko te reo aroha tēnei ō Tāmaki ki uta, o Tāmaki ki tai, Tāmaki Makaurau e rāhiri nei kia koutou.
Hoea mai ngā tira hoe waka kia herea ki te pou herenga o ngā whakataetae hoe roa ā motu.

E te iwi kia mataara, ko te ringa ki te hoe, karawhiua.

2026 LONG DISTANCE NATIONALS

Auckland Regional Outrigger Canoe Association (AROCA) alongside Waka Ama Aotearoa New Zealand (WAANZ), are proud to host the 2026 Waka Ama Long Distance Nationals (LDNs), at **Orewa Beach, Orewa**.

2026 PŌWHIRI DETAILS

The pōwhiri will take place at **8am Thursday 1st October** on the beach in front of the Orewa Surf Life Saving Club, followed by a cup of tea. AROCA Clubs, report time = 7am. **Manuhiri, please be on-site by 7.30am.**

- All pōwhiri information and tikanga processes can be found on the [event website](#)

RACE SUMMARY

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| • Thursday 1st October | LDN Pōwhiri - 8am at the race venue |
| • Thursday 1st October | Race 1 10am and Race 2 1pm |
| • Friday 2nd October | Race 3 10am and Race 4 12.30pm |
| • Saturday 3rd October | Race 5 8.30am and Race 6 12.30pm |
| • Sunday 4th October | Back Up Race Day (If needed) |

Please refer to the [event web page](#), and Pānui 1 and 2 for ALL previous pre-event information

BACK-UP RACE DAY

There are 5 possible race courses that can be used, depending on the weather and/or sea conditions. If it is deemed unsafe to paddle any one of the allocated races or days, then **Sunday October 4th, is the back-up race day**. **Clubs/Paddlers are advised to make plans to be available that day.**

VENUE

- The event will be based at the Orewa Surf Life Saving Club - [Google map link Orewa SLSC](#)
- The wider building and wider reserve grass areas are where the following are located:
 - o Registration and Administration - Main event Marquee
 - o WANZ Merchandise Tent, Food trucks and Vendors - Vendors area
 - o Kaumatua and accessible parking / toilet facilities - as marked
- Surrounding the main hub, on the carparks and grassed areas will be:
 - First Aid
 - Safety checks and rigging for all waka - 2 areas
 - Rigging area portaloos, and a 10 bay toilet block right outside the building for all
 - The trailer parking will be on-site at the venue for as many as we can fit. See map below (reverse parallel parking).
 - Overflow parking for cars and waka trailers is at Western Reserve, a 5 minute walk away. (see directions below)





FACILITIES

There is a portable 10 bay toilet unit, a Council toilet block, and an outside shower available at the venue. There will also be portaloos in the waka rigging area. There are waste and recyclables bins onsite, which will be emptied regularly. Please respect the whenua and ensure you pick up any rubbish, and leave the area tidy.

Wheelchair Accessible Toilets

There is an accessible toilet in the main outside toilet block, close to the waka rigging area, and another beside the 10 bay toilet unit right outside the main club building.

Please note: **There is no event access to toilets inside the surf club.** These are reserved for cafe patrons only.

PARKING

Public and paddler car parking will be in the carpark, and grass areas within the reserve confines - see site map. There is also free public parking on the surrounding streets. On street parking is controlled by Auckland City Council, please be considerate of people's driveways, and park according to the street signs. Please do NOT park in the areas where there are yellow lines. **Please follow the instructions of the parking volunteers.**

Waka Trailer Parking is located on the grass reserve to the south of the Surf Club. There is only one gate in/out for access, as is marked on the site map. Please do not park trailers in the regular car parks.

Please note: Trailers parked onsite will remain for the duration of the event. If you need to leave on Friday with your waka, then please park your trailer at Western Reserve. **Please follow the instructions of the parking volunteers.**

Accessible Parking There are limited accessible parking spots close to the event admin area. Please leave these parks for our most physically immobile paddlers. You must also display your mobility pass at all times

RACE RULES

All entrants must be familiar with the Waka Ama New Zealand race and safety rules.

Race Rules can be found online here: <https://wakaama.co.nz/pages/view/1005147>

- **PFD's – All J16 and Novice paddlers must wear PFD's to race.** All other paddlers must have them for the safety checks, and readily available in the waka for racing. Should conditions require it – the Race Director may advise that it is compulsory for all paddlers to wear their PFD.
- **Spray Skirts: All W4/W6 must have spray skirts.** These are required to be fitted for the safety check.
 - For W2 that cannot be fitted with sprayskirts - paddlers will be required to wear their PFDs and have onboard 1 bailer per person.
- **Only 1 Entry in a division –** As per the race rules: *There must be a minimum of two (2) paid entries for a programmed race to be run.* If there is only one entry left in a race, the paddler/team will be automatically combined with the most suitable division, and the affected club will be notified.
 - Please note: there are no medals awarded for divisions with only 1 entry.
- **Race Briefings** - One (1) member of each crew will be required to attend the race briefing and sign the briefing check-in form
- **Racing Uniforms** - As per the [WAANZ Race Rules](#), Paddlers are required to wear club uniform tops for their racing. All paddlers in any one team shall wear the same uniform (Tops) in all but the mixed events - any differences in uniform may only be between the male and female paddlers.

TIDES DURING THE EVENT

The tidal predictions for 1st October have a range of approximately 2.5m and are characterised by high tide in the middle of the day. If the races run to program the majority will fall around mid to high tide with the exception of the Men's W6 on the Saturday.

The table below shows the tide times and the anticipated water levels at the start of each race.

Date	Day	Time	High/Low	Depth
Oct-01	Thursday	4:53 AM	LOW	0.26m
Oct-01	Thursday	11:12 AM	HIGH	2.79m
Oct-01	Thursday	5:22 PM	LOW	0.47m
Oct-01	Thursday	11:27 PM	HIGH	2.66m
Oct-02	Friday	5:43 AM	LOW	0.3m
Oct-02	Friday	12:04 PM	HIGH	2.75m
Oct-02	Friday	6:16 PM	LOW	0.54m
Oct-03	Saturday	12:20 AM	HIGH	2.56m
Oct-03	Saturday	6:36 AM	LOW	0.37m
Oct-03	Saturday	1:01 PM	HIGH	2.69m
Oct-03	Saturday	7:15 PM	LOW	0.62m
Oct-04	Sunday	1:18 AM	HIGH	2.47m
Oct-04	Sunday	7:34 AM	LOW	0.46m
Oct-04	Sunday	2:02 PM	HIGH	2.63m
Oct-04	Sunday	8:19 PM	LOW	0.68m

EVENT SCHEDULE (to be read in conjunction with the Race Schedule on the website)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30th	
2 pm – 6 pm	Waka Drop off, Trailer Parking and Administration areas open Registration for Races 1 & 2 open.
THURSDAY OCTOBER 1st	
6.45 am - 8 am	Waka drop off and Administration areas open Registration & Safety checks for Races 1 & 2 open
8 am	Pōwhiri, Orewa Beach Reserve (registration desk & safety checks closed)
9.30 am	Race briefing for Race 1
10 am	Race 1 Start
9.30 am - 12.00 pm	Administration for general queries re-open Registration and Safety Checks for Race 2 open
12.30 pm	Race briefing for Race 2
1 pm	Race 2 Start
2 pm - 6 pm	Waka Drop off and Administration areas open Registration & Safety checks for Race 3 & 4 open
Approx 4 pm	Prizegiving at event venue
FRIDAY OCTOBER 2nd	
7 am - 9 am	Waka drop off (no vehicle access) and Administration areas open Registration & Safety checks for Races 3 & 4 open
9.30 am	Race briefing for Race 3
10 am	Race 3 Start
9.30 am - 11.30 am	Administration for general queries re-open Registration and Safety Checks for Race 2 open
12.00 pm	Race briefing for Race 4
12.30 pm	Race 4 Start
2 pm - 6 pm	Administration areas open Registration & Safety checks for Races 5 & 6 open
Approx 4 pm	Prizegiving at event venue
Approx 6 pm	Race Briefing for Race 5 & 6 at event venue (after prizegiving)
SATURDAY OCTOBER 3rd	
6.15 am - 11 am	Registration & Safety checks for Races 5 & 6 open
7.30 am	Pre-race Update for Race 5 (steerers only)
8.30 am	Race 5 start
11.30 am	Race briefing for Race 6 (steerers only)
12.30 pm	Race 6 start
2 pm – 5 pm	<u>If Sunday is not required as a Race day:</u> Trailer Parking will be open for collecting of waka
Approx 4 pm	Prizegiving at event venue
SUNDAY October 4th - Back-up Race Day if required	

WAKA - W1 and W6 Drop off and Equipment

W1 and W6 drop-off and rigging areas can be seen on the site map. For W6 drop-off - there will be **drive-on trailer access and parking to the grass on Wednesday from 2-6 pm only**. Additional access to the reserve for W6 drop-off, will be determined at the time if there is any room left. Alternatively, W6 waka can be trolled from the main carpark area from 2pm Thursday (after the start of the last W1 race), and Friday 7 - 9am. There will be no trailer access to the parking area, or the reserve for W6 pick-up until **after racing on Saturday**. **For W1 drop off, there is no vehicle access to the rigging areas.

Waka Trolleys & Tyres

Please bring your own trolleys to move your waka from the safety check area to the launch area on the beach. Tyres will be supplied for those waka needing to be rigged on the carpark surface.

Waka can be left on the grass overnight in the safety check/rigging areas, as security is provided.

Clubs must also bring their own: Lashings. Ratchets, bailers, spray skirts, tow ropes, and PFDs.

PRIZE GIVING

Prizegiving will occur daily at the race venue, within 30 mins of the last competitor finishing.

PADDLER KAI

POST-RACE KAI - THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

- A small kai will be available to all paddlers immediately after each race at the Paddler Kai tent near the Surf Club. Please note, this is only for the paddlers that are racing in that race.

POST-EVENT PADDLER MEAL

As previously communicated, there will not be a Saturday night function and sit down meal this year.

Instead there is a **Paddler Kai Voucher** system, where each paddler will receive a \$20 voucher redeemable at selected Partner Restaurants and Vendors onsite. The vouchers can be redeemed at any time during the event for lunch or dinner. Across the event, there are 1200 Kai Vouchers in circulation, with 14 Partner Restaurants and Vendors, so please plan ahead to ensure you don't miss out on redeeming them.

Details:

- All paddlers will be given **one** \$20 meal voucher when their W6 teams complete registration.
- The voucher will only be redeemable from **Thursday October 1st - Sunday October 4th** inclusive.
- The voucher will only be redeemable at special Partner Restaurants and onsite Vendors - look for the **"Redeem your Kai Voucher Here"** posters in shop windows, and on food truck counters.
- Additional posters onsite will list the participating Partners, and have QR codes to view the menus.
- The voucher can be exchanged for food items from the menu, or an 'Event special meal deal'.
- Any additional meal/drink costs above the \$20, must be paid by the individual paddler.
- Please make a booking at a partner site, if your whole team intends to eat together after your racing.
- **The vouchers cannot be used to pay for alcoholic beverages, cannot be redeemed for cash, and no change is given.**
- For paddlers not in a W6 team e.g. W1 only, vouchers can be collected on Thursday at registration.

There will be no extra paddler meal vouchers available to purchase. Supporters and spectators are encouraged to purchase additional kai directly from the Partner Restaurants and Vendors onsite.

TRAVEL

Here is a Google Map link to the venue: [Orewa Beach, Orewa Surf Lifesaving Club](#)

Please allow plenty of time in the mornings, if you are travelling from Auckland Central or South, to get to the venue, because of the traffic. The pōwhiri will start on time at 8am Thursday.

VENDORS

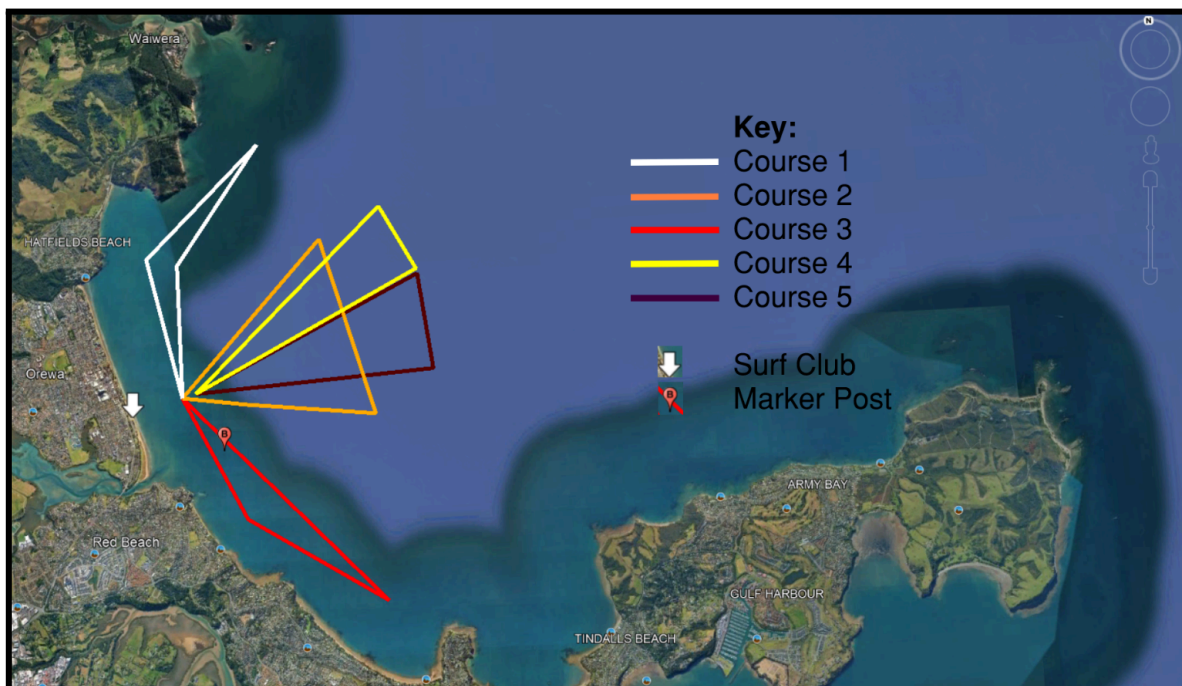
- There are **10 food Vendors** (coffee, drinks, snacks, 5x lunch/dinner meals) onsite. NB. All of the meal trucks will accept Paddler Kai Vouchers, at any time of the day.
- There are **5 Retail vendors** selling various items from paddles to waka accessories, clothing, and hats.
- There are **2 Health Vendors** - FREE spine checks from the team at NZ College of Chiropractors. And The Sauna Collective, where you can book a 15 minute sauna for \$10
- The **Event Merchandise** tent will also be in the vendor's area, for onsite sales & pre-ordered pick-ups.
- ❖ The Orewa Surf Club onsite cafe and restaurant will be open daily from 7.30am for drinks, snacks and meals, and is also a Partner Restaurant for the Kai Vouchers.
- ❖ And a 5 minute walk down the road, will lead to a wide variety of shops along the main Orewa Highway. This includes 8 Partner Restaurants for the Kai Vouchers.

RACE SCHEDULE

Please visit the [event website](#) for the most up-to-date version, and the start wave allocation.

COURSE MAPS

Five 8 km courses have been developed to suit varying weather and swell conditions, balancing enjoyable racing with sheltered alternatives where needed. Decisions will be made leading up to each race day as to the most suitable course for the predicted weather patterns



**Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ, our hosts AROCA and the collective of Auckland Clubs
look forward to hosting you next week in Orewa!**