Pānui 1: Eke Panuku, Eke Tangaroa: Te Whanganui-a-Tara Changeover Race

Saturday 13 March 2027

EVENT SUMMARY

Wellington Harbour — Te Whanganui-a-Tara — with its beautiful waters, exciting winds, and unbeatable harbour views, is perfectly placed to showcase waka ama changeover racing at its best, while challenging our kaihoe, and their teamwork, timing, and energy. It's all about teamwork, timing, and that shared wairua hoe that makes these races so thrilling.

We will hold the race on Saturday 13 March 2027, with the exact race time to depend on the weather conditions. Given it is Te Whanganui-a-Tara, the backup day will be Sunday 14 March. Our race times are indicative, and subject to change based on the weather forecast – we suggest that you leave the whole weekend free!

Let's put Te Whanganui-a-Tara on the map for changeover racing. Kia kaha tātou, e te whānau hoe! Let's make waves and show what our harbour can do.

This is the first pānui – once crews have entered we will provide further information to the crews racing via email and the event page on facebook.

KEY DATES (subject to change, based on weather forecast)

Friday 19 February	Entries close, webscorer registration completed at Webscorer , and support boat information required to be provided via Support Boat Form
Friday 12 March 7.00 pm	Race briefing (steerers, team captain & safety boat drivers to attend, may be held online)
Saturday 13 March 07:00 am	Registration open, waka drop off, safety checks
Saturday 13 March time TBC - half an hour before race start	Karakia and race briefing
Saturday 13 March time TBC	Race starts
Sunday 14 March	Back up race day

ANTICIPATED RACE SCHEDULE (subject to change, based on weather forecast)

Time	Race
Saturday 13 March time TBC - half an hour before race start	Karakia and race briefing
Saturday 13 March time TBC	Race starts

RACE RULES

- All entrants must:
    - Be familiar with the Waka Ama New Zealand race and safety rules.
    - Be able to swim unaided for minimum of 50 metres
    - Be fit enough and competent enough to complete and finish the race
    - Be competent in righting and bailing an overturned or swamped craft
    - Have sufficient nutritional liquids for the duration of the race
    - Wear a lifejacket at all times if required
- In addition:
    - **No changeovers in the shipping lanes**
    - **Comply with the Waka Ama NZ Race Rules**

AGE DIVISIONS & RACE EVENTS

WAKA	DISTANCE	DIVISIONS	GENDER
W6	40 km	Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master	Men, Women, Mixed

- Men's crew - 9 Male paddlers only.
- Women's crew - 10 Female paddlers only.
- Mixed crews – 10 Paddlers with a maximum of 5 Male paddlers.

FEES

PER PERSON BY EVENT	
Event	**Cost**
Race	**$70 per person**

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 will not be refunded if the race is postponed or cancelled.
- Entries close on ***Friday 19 February 2027***,
- Rosters close must be completed ***Tuesday 9 March 2027***, no exceptions. By the same date, please complete your webscorer registration at Webscorer, and provide the support boat information via the Support Boat Form
- Once entered, payment can be made online to:
    - Tai Tonga 41
    - 38-9011-0013609-00
    - Use your club, team name and division as your reference

SUPPORT BOATS

- **For 2027, All crews must provide their own support boat.**
- All Support Boats must meet the minimum requirements below.
    - Vessels must be a **minimum of 5m in length**
    - No inflatables or dinghies
    - Vessels must be seaworthy and have a minimum carrying capacity of 5 people; and must be able to safely carry all team paddlers and support boat crew members.
    - Vessels must be fully fuelled and mechanically sound
    - Vessels must have sufficient power to travel faster than the canoe, so water changes and/or rescue can be made safely.

- Vessels must be equipped with all safety gear, including personal flotation devices for **ALL passengers**, a first aid kit, bailing equipment, flares, VHF Radio, boarding ladder and oars.
- PFDs - not kapok, not more than 10 years old, have working canisters if inflatable (have been checked for rust & if they are working or serviced), straps won't break.
- All Operators must be aware of and comply with all applicable Water Safety Regulations and Requirements
- All Operators must be aware of and comply with all of the Event Official Race Rules.
- All Support Boats must have a competent operator.

Crew Support Boat Information

- We will need all of the following information on your support boat. This information needs to be provided via the Support Boat Form , no later than the ***Friday 19 February 2027*** (with your entry):
    - Skipper's Name
    - Skipper's Mobile number
    - Skipper's Email
    - Skipper's Experience
    - Boat Name
    - Boat Type
    - Boat Age
    - Boat Size
    - Engine Type
    - Engine Age
    - VHF Call sign
    - Passenger capacity

Communications

- All support boats must be equipped with two-way VHF radio. Any entry without proper two-way communication will not be allowed to participate.
- We will also ask for the skipper's mobile number as a backup.
- The appropriate emergency channel for communication will be advised in the Support Boat Briefing.

Support Boat Briefing & Waiver

- All Support Boat drivers will be emailed the "Support Boat Briefing" and a "Support Boat Waiver form" prior to the event. Please ensure the Support Boat Operators read and understand these documents.

Support Boat Race Requirements & Etiquette

- All changeovers must be made from the water. No support boats within 20m of any canoe, except during an emergency.
- Towing of canoes is not permitted, except during an emergency
- Support craft **MUST NOT** reverse up to paddlers in the water.
- All support craft must have their **MOTOR TURNED OFF** when picking up paddlers.
- First changeover point for canoes will be after passing the designated Buoy.
- Further changes will be at the discretion of the crew.
- Support Vessels **MAY NOT** use megaphones or loud hailers for any purpose whatsoever, except in the case of an emergency.
- Support Boat Drivers have absolute discretion as to where they will manoeuvre their vessels when making changeovers.
- Any impedance of a canoe by any means (e.g. wash or causing a canoe to alter course) by a support boat will result in either a time penalty or disqualification being applied to the support boat's canoe at the discretion of the Race Director.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- All paddlers must be proficient paddlers, and be prepared for the conditions.
- We recommend all paddlers wear high vis tops and hats.
- You will be required to download and operate a tracking app (webscorer).
- All waka must have the following safety equipment for their races:
    - Spray skirts
    - 6 x PFD - Personal Floatation Device (1 per person)
    - 2 x Bailers
    - 1 x Flare
    - Cellphone in waterproof case
    - 2 spare paddles
    - Tow Rope (W6)
- **All waka will have to pass a safety check before racing.**
    - The waka needs to be placed at ‘waka parking’ in the image below to be safety checked.
    - Launching is from the Evans Bay Boat Ramp.
    - Please bring tyres for your waka
    - The ramp is very slippery and can have glass/other rubbish on it. Please bring appropriate footwear.

- LIVE TRACKING: We will be live tracking all support boats, safety boats and waka on the course via webscorer. Every craft must carry a device with webscorer enabled. This is a safety requirement, so that we can see where all waka are on the water, and if you get in to any trouble, so we can advise the safety boats and Coastguard where to find you.
    - By February 19 2027, on the Webscorer website, register for the race.
        - Use this Webscorer Link, or QR code to open our event page, or find us through the search function – search for Sport: “Paddling - outrigger”



        - Register for the relevant race. Please use the following format for your team name “Waka - [Team Name]”. Support Boats please use the format “Support Boat - [Team Name]”
        - You will get an email confirming your registration, and instructions for race day
    - Before Race Day: Install the free Webscorer app on the phone you will carry on the waka
    - On Race Day
        - Make sure you have installed the webscorer app
        - Start the Webscorer app and select “GPS self-tracking”
        - Tap "My upcoming GPS races" and then tap the race name
        - Tap “Start GPS tracking” at any time before the start of the race
        - You can then turn the phone screen off and put the phone in your pocket. You must carry your phone during the race.

INDIVIDUAL & TEAM WAIVERS

- 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 ***taitonga41@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 NZ website

REGISTRATION

- Pick up your race pack from Registration
- Get your waka checked, and safety sheet signed off, including noting your race number (existing or new)
- Fill out your waiver form, and return to Registration to confirm your entry. You will also be required to show your webscorer app and entry at this time.

LOCATIONS

- **Waka drop off** will be available from 7.00am on the event day, with waka drop off and trailer parking will be as indicated on the plan below
- **Car parking:** Where possible, please park on the road. There is limited carparking as shown in purple below
- **Toilets:** At the Coastguard (Orange), the showers (white), or the club house (red)
- There is some limited carparking marked in purple

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The race is subject to postponement or cancellation by the Race Committee if weather conditions, in their opinion, render running of the race to be unsafe. Entry fees in such cases are non-refundable.
- In the event that a team or its associated support group fails to meet any of the conditions of entry listed, the Race Committee reserves the right to have the Race Director disqualify them immediately.
- Race Officials have the power to act and disqualify any crew whose actions, be it in their canoe or support craft: Do not regard the safety of their own members and/or other competing crews; or whose support craft do not meet the criteria.
- If a team is disqualified they are no longer permitted to take any part in the event, entry fees in such cases are non-refundable.
- All Crews must be deemed capable of completing the course and sanctioned by their club coaches and or president as such for insurance and liability reasons.
- Should any circumstances arise not covered in these racing Conditions, the Race Committee reserves the right to have the Race Director make a ruling on any such circumstance, and any such decision is to be final and binding.



POST RACE

- After the race please join us at the Evans Bay Yacht and Motor Boat Club for kai!

CONTACT INFORMATION

- All enquiries please email: ***taitonga41@gmail.com***
- All urgent matters please call Kate: ***027 310 1587***