

Takapuna Beach Cup (Waka Ama Regatta)

February 13 - 15th 2026

Attention all Boaties - We need You!

We are looking for local boat owners to assist with the annual **Takapuna Beach Cup outrigger regatta** being held **Friday February 13th - Sunday February 15th 2026** on Takapuna Beach, Auckland. This is New Zealand's premier outrigger canoe festival, attracting teams from the USA, Australia and the Pacific Islands.

Since the inaugural race in 2007 the event has grown with over 1000+ paddlers competing from NZ and overseas. We are anticipating similar entry numbers in 2026, as NZ's best paddlers go head-to-head for three days of racing on the Hauraki Gulf.

Saturday Requirements - 7.30am - 3pm

Crews compete over a distance of 42km on a course from Takapuna, around Rangitoto and Rakino islands. Every crew must have their own Support/Escort Boat, and this is where you come in.

We need competent boaties willing to skipper their boats and provide support to the competing crews. You will be dropping off and picking up the paddlers as they rotate seats in their canoe. Teams consist of 9 men or 10 women/mixed paddlers and a team captain. The canoe will always have 6 members paddling around the course with changes taking place every 10 -20 minutes. This is an exciting opportunity to be a part of an exhilarating sporting event.



Remuneration for Saturday

You will be paid \$1000 by the organisers, via bank transfer to your chosen account, the week after the event.

Friday and Sunday Requirements - half day commitment

We will also be looking for some Safety Boats on Friday and Sunday. This will be primarily in close proximity to the beach as there are junior and relay races, with only one longer distance. If you wish to assist with Friday/Sunday as well as the Saturday race **you will be paid an additional \$300**. Please specify in the form link below if you are also available Friday or Sunday (limited boats required).

Alternatively please let us know if you are only available on Friday and/or Sunday.

Event Logistics

- **New 2026** - We will host an online safety briefing (instead of on-site), that is **compulsory** for all Support/Safety Boat Drivers to dial into, **7pm Monday February 9th**.
- When you check in on site during the weekend, a full briefing pack will be provided. This will include course map(s), race rules, contact details of your allocated crew, and emergency event contact numbers.
- An event t-shirt, lunch, water and snacks will also be provided to the boat crews.

Media Boats - If you would like to be involved, but your boat is not suitable to provide support to teams, we do need to confirm a small number of media boats. Please email takapunabeachcup@wakaama.co.nz

Drivers - If you no longer have a boat available, but may be able to drive a hire boat, please let us know.

Support Boat Minimum Requirements

To participate in the Event as a Support Boat, we need your vessel and skipper to meet our minimum requirements:

- Tin or inflatable dinghies are not suitable to act as a Support Boat
- Vessels must be a **minimum of 5m in length**
- 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 be equipped with all safety gear, including personal flotation devices for ALL passengers, a first aid kit, bailing equipment, flares, mirror, VHF Radio, boarding ladder and oars
- 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 Official Event Rules
- All Support Boats must have a competent and experienced Operator
- All Support Boats must have a noncompeting observer. We can provide a support person if required.

Maritime NZ - IMPORTANT NOTICE

Maritime NZ is actively involved in the Events Water Safety Plan. Maritime NZ Officers may conduct random safety checks on the Support Boats on Saturday morning. All Support Boats must meet the minimum event requirements (as above) in order to participate in the event as a Support Boat. Any boat not meeting the minimum requirements will not be allowed to participate in the Event.

How to sign up

Please click on this link to complete and submit the form [2026 Crew Support & Safety Boat Form](#)

Check out the website for more details <http://www.takapunabeachcup.com>

If you have any friends with boats, who might be interested, please forward this email to them and ask them to also complete the form.

This is a fantastic event showcasing Takapuna and the greater Auckland area to the world. We would love to have you join us again, or join us for the first time.

Ngā mihi



Lara Collins
Waka Ama NZ CEO



Aroha Lynch
Waka Ama NZ Event Manager

