

2026 New Zealand National Rowing Championships

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PLEASE ENSURE YOU SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH TEAM MANAGERS, COACHES, SAFETY OFFICERS, PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS.

This notice contains important information on attending the New Zealand National Rowing Championships that we strongly recommend you read.

NOTABLE POINTS

- Any trailers arriving **before Monday 16 February**, must park in D2 (via Gate 2 on the right and first turn on the right, behind the Mighty River Domain offices, along the fence line)
- Boats can be placed on racks in the Upper Campground (with priority given to South Island Clubs) for use while training on Saturday and Sunday. There is limited space available, so if clubs can only bring boats through from Monday, it would be greatly appreciated.
- Venue facilities (e.g., boat park ablutions) close at the end of racing each day.

REGATTA INFORMATION AND SAFETY BRIEFING

The Regatta Information safety briefing will be held on **Monday 16 February at 6:45pm** via a Microsoft Teams Webinar.

If the safety officer recorded in rowIT becomes unable to attend the safety briefing, the entity must notify KRI of an alternative safety officer by email to safety@karapirorowing.com prior to the start of the regatta. The appointed safety officer as above must attend the safety briefing and must fulfil the safety officer's obligations under the Rules for the duration of the regatta. **Please note that the Safety Officer must be present at the regatta.**

All safety officers and any other interested parties should preregister for the Webinar **in advance** using the following **REGISTRATION LINK**. A joining link to the Webinar will then be automatically emailed.

Please be on time. Entering the meeting after 6:50pm will be regarded as non-attendance. Remember that it is mandatory to attend the Safety Briefing. Clubs that have not been briefed with the safety provisions will not be permitted to take part in the regatta. Any amendments to the information provided in this document will be highlighted during the Safety Briefing.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All Clubs / Schools are to take responsibility within their own Health and Safety plans to manage their athlete's health including immunisations and the spread of any infectious diseases.

Please DO NOT ATTEND any EVENT at Lake Karapiro if:

You are sick or show symptoms of any infectious diseases **OR** Gastro – instead, stay home and seek healthcare advice from your doctor, healthcare professional, Hauora Māori provider or Pacific health provider. You can also call Healthline on 0800 611 116 anytime for free advice and support.

If you become unwell during the event, or are concerned about someone else, please seek medical assistance immediately and follow any health advice. You may need to return home or to your accommodation and isolate from others.

Please inform the Chief Safety Officer directly if any infectious diseases **OR Gastro occur in your squad while at Lake Karapiro or afterwards for a period of 7 days.**

You can also call **Healthline anytime on 0800 611 116** for free advice and support.

Thank you for helping us keep the regatta safe for everyone.

WHATAPP GROUP

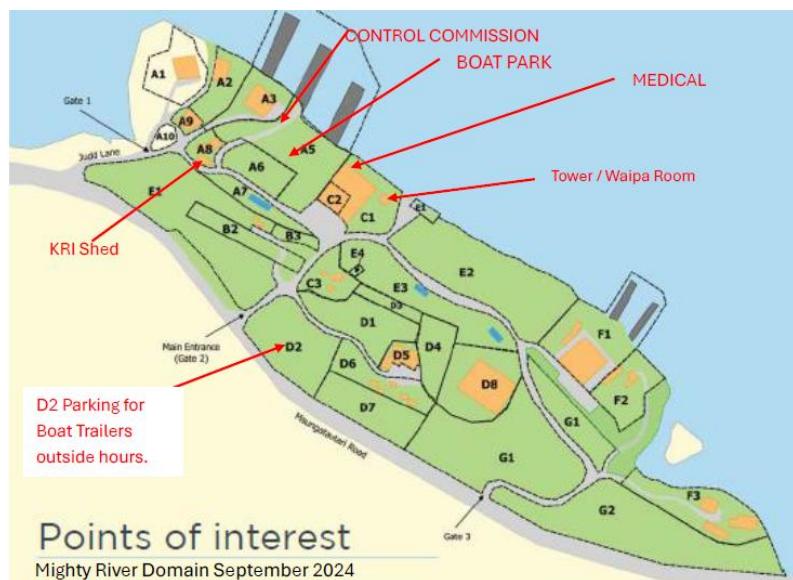
We have set up a WhatsApp Group for communicating during a regatta on issues that might be of interest to Coaches and Safety Officers (such as updates if a regatta is on hold). Please scan or click on the [LINK](#) and join.



REGATTA CONDITIONS, PENALTIES AND FEES

We request that all coaches review the Regatta Conditions, via this [LINK](#).

POINTS OF INTEREST



OPERATIONS CENTRE

For this regatta we will be operating out of the Karāapiro Room. The Karāapiro room is directly above the Waipa Room next to the Tower (see map) and access is via the steps on the Finish Tower side of the Don Rowlands Centre.

TRAILER PARKING AND BOAT PARK ACCESS

The designated trailer parking plan will be uploaded onto the KRI website no later than 13 February 2026. Please contact boatpark@karapirorowing.com if you have any enquiries. Please ensure you print off the map and give it to your trailer-towers, so they know where to park.

Trailers can arrive in the boat park **from 10:00am Monday 16 February**.

Any trailers arriving before 10:00am Monday 16 February must park in D2 (via Gate 2 on the right and first turn on the right, behind the Mighty River Domain offices, see map above). Trailers will then need to be relocated the following day to the correct allocated parking area.

Trailers need to be removed no later than 8:00pm on the final day of the regatta. Should this not be possible, please contact Mighty River Domain info@lakekarapiro.co.nz (CC: operations@karapirorowing.com) requesting permission to remain on site longer.

Very Important Boat Park Information:

- Absolutely no car/tow vehicle parking is allowed in the Lower or Upper Boat Park.
- Do not place any boats on dumps in the road and/or on the pavement.
- Please ensure you bring and use chocks for your trailer.
- Should space allow, you can erect a 3m x 3m gazebo immediately adjacent to your trailer. Ensure that guy ropes or ergs do not restrict walkways nor encroach on your neighbours.
- If you are allocated a trailer park on the island of Judd Lane, you can erect a 3m x 3m gazebo on the embankment between the Upper Campground and Lower Boat Park areas.
- Do not erect any tents under trees along Judd Lane (these are deemed unsafe).

Some boat racks in the boat park are initially left down to allow trailer access. Please ensure that your athletes do not erect them. KRI will do so.

Tow vehicles are not allowed in the Boat Park until racing completes. In the unlikely event that you need to access the Boat Park during racing; you must contact the Event Manager or Safety Officer for permission. If permission is granted you will require escorts on ALL corners of the vehicle / trailer.

During the regatta, the Boat Park is limited to competitors and coaches only. People may be asked to present their coach pass as confirmation. As coaches, please assist us in managing others in the boat park and should you notice parents/supporters from your school in the boat park, please ask them to leave.

Support Vehicle Pass

Each club will be issued with ONE support pass. This allows a vehicle, or equipment spares trailer to park in the upper part of Judd Lane, overflow parking is in D2, using Gate 2, on the right. Please display the pass in the vehicle window. The pass can be collected from the KRI Regatta Office. Please retain your pass for the duration of the regatta; replacement passes will be issued at the cost of **\$7 per regatta day** for the remainder of the season.

SPECTATOR, CLUB & DAY SITE TENTS

All SPECTATOR tents can only be erected **from 12:00 Tuesday 17 February**. The Spectator Tent site allocations will be available on the KRI website **from Friday 13 February**.

Very Important Tent Information:

- Please use clear plastic bags for collecting rubbish and recycling as no black bags will be accepted at the Waste stations. Transparent bags allow for easy inspection prior to disposing of into the correct bin/s.
- If you have gas present in your tent, you **MUST** have a fire extinguisher **READILY** available.
- Please ensure all the tent pegs are safely covered with an appropriate object to prevent injury.
- Please ensure no tent legs or guy ropes obstruct the emergency access paths or other tent sites.
- Please do not remove any bollards when accessing the spectator tent site with your vehicle and/or trailer. Use the entrance points already opened.
- Please ensure all electrical equipment and cords being used have been tagged and tested and electrical WOFs are current where applicable.
- Please pick up litter in your allocated tent site area and do not leave any broken chairs or other equipment.
- Removal of any litter or discarded items will be directly invoiced to the club.

In line with KRI's Waste Minimisation Policy and Waipa District Council's Zero Waste Policy, we request that spectator tents provide the necessary bins for use within the tent and that these are lined with a clear plastic bag. The various bins to sort into at the Sorting Station include waste, recycling (this is further sorted into cardboard & paper; plastic bottles; glass & tins) and food. This will enable quick delivery of your waste and recycling to the Sorting Station. Only transparent bags will be accepted; these must be sorted into each type of recycling. The Sorting Station is located on the main spectator embankment next to the ablutions and will be open from 8:00am to the end of racing.

Please remember that this station is supervised by Volunteers.

Please support them in distributing your waste responsibly.

Please leave only footprints when you leave the site.

Tent Servicing Pass

Each club that has booked a tent site will be issued with a Tent Servicing Pass. This pass allows vehicle access to the main embankment or Upper Campground for the delivery of food and/or equipment for a **maximum of 20 minutes only**. After 20 minutes, the vehicle must be parked in the main public parking area by Gate 3. Please keep this ticket for the duration of the season.

Access to the main embankment is not allowed from 30 minutes prior to the start of racing until the end of racing.

Please note that we are required to have a strict NO vehicle movement on the Spectator Embankment.

Should you need to access your chiller trailers and equipment prior to the end of racing due to unforeseen circumstances, you will be required to obtain permission from the KRI Safety Officer or the Event Manager and have two walkers escorting the vehicle along the spectator embankment.

PARKING

Parking will be as follows:

- **Gate 1/Judd Lane:** Competitor Drop Off, boat trailers and parking for vehicles displaying a Support Vehicle Pass
- **Gate 2:** Support Vehicle Pass overflow parking, big Buses, VIPS, Merchants and KRI Volunteers
- **Gate 3:** Coaches and Club Vans, Public and overflow parking

Competitor Drop-off

Competitor drop-off will be via Judd Lane Gate 1. Please do not drop off or collect passengers along the side of Maungatautari Road or at any other entrances to the Domain.

Mobility Parking

Parking for people with disabilities is via Gate 3, from where they will be further directed by the parking attendants.

Please note that they will no longer be able to park along the spectator embankment.

Parking Fees

The cost of parking is \$7. Please note that no cash will be accepted, only **EFTPOS**.

Prepaid Parking Tickets

Prepaid parking tickets can be purchased at the cost of \$6 per ticket at the KRI Regatta Office.

Coach Pass

Coach passes will be prepared for all coaches as listed on rowIT. They can be collected from the KRI Office. Should a coach require a replacement card, this will be issued at the cost of **\$7 per regatta day** remaining in the season.

COACHES' ROOM

The coaches' room will be in the Sir Don Rowlands Hall on Wednesday to Friday and in the Waipa Room on Saturday.

SAFETY

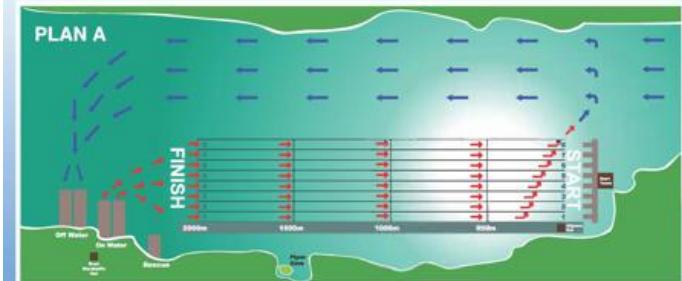
You and your competitors' safety are our priority. Please ensure ALL participants are familiar with our requirements.

ON WATER TRAFFIC FLOW

Lake Karāpiro is a public lake, and we share it with many other parties. There are two FLOW PATTERNS that we must comply with:

1. When the Lake is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**, the flow pattern is:

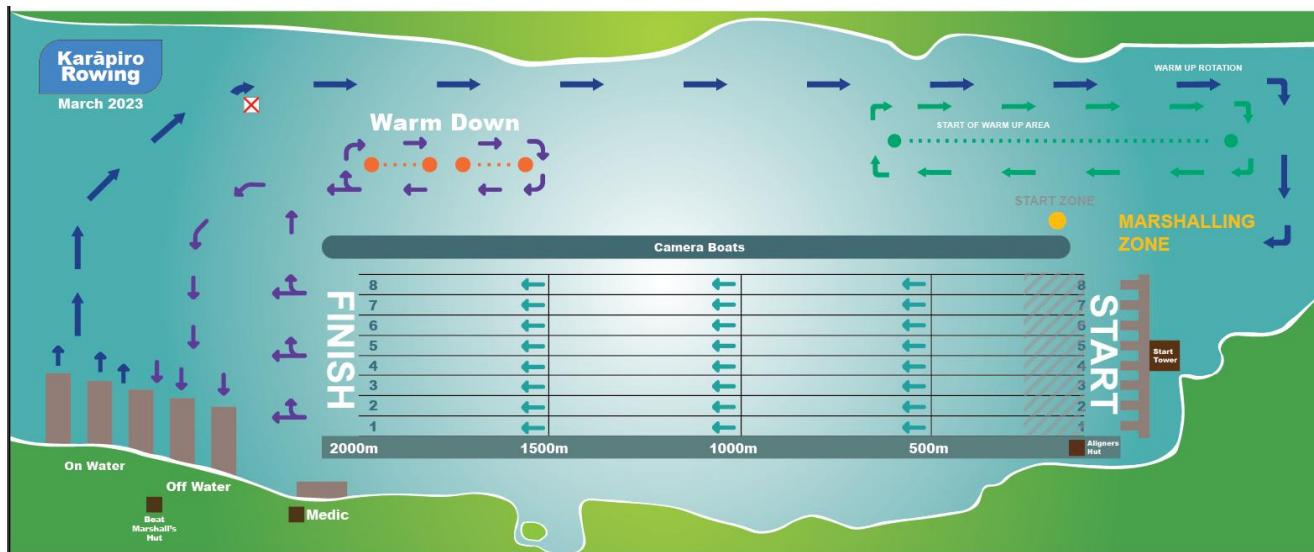
**NO LAKE CLOSURE
WITH OR WITHOUT
BUOYED LANES IN POSITION**



- IT IS UNLAWFUL TO UTILISE THE LANES IN A DOWNSTREAM DIRECTION AT ANY TIME (E.G. HEADING FROM THE START LINE TOWARDS THE FINISH LINE)
- IMAGINE THERE IS AN IMAGINARY LINE DOWN THE CENTRE OF THE LAKE. ALL VESSELS MUST KEEP TO THE STARBOARD (RIGHT) SIDE OF THE LAKE.
- USE PLAN A WHEN TRAINING OUTSIDE A LAKE CLOSURE.

When the Lake is booked by KRI, the Numbers Hut will be open and the Regatta Flags will be flown (RED=Lake closed, GREEN=Lake open). Any movement on the Lake will be supervised.

2. When the lake is **CLOSED** TO THE PUBLIC, the flow pattern is:



Please note: Practice starts are to be conducted in the warmup area (Green lines) and NOT the marshalling area.

This map can also be found on the back of the Numbers Hut. If you have any queries about flow rotations, see other users not complying with the flow rotations, or notice any safety issues of any kind, please contact the Chief Safety Officer (details listed below).

TRAINING

There will be supervised training available **from 10:00am to 5:00pm on Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 February**. This is subject to KRI having enough volunteers to supervise training. Entities will need to provide coaches, adults or Senior Students to assist. Volunteers will require:

- Suitable clothing for the conditions
- Closed-in toe shoes (clogs permitted with heel strap up)
- Full briefings and equipment supplied.

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 February:

The KRI Junior and College Sport Regatta is being held over these 2 days.

1. Training will be available **before Regatta Start**, 6:50am (Sunrise) until 7:15am (Regatta Competitors on water)
Please text the Safety Officer with Time on water, time off water and how many boats. Text again when all boats are clear of the water.
2. Training will be available **after Regatta Finish** 6:00pm (approx.) until 8:15pm (Sunset), the Lake will open to the public use Public Flow Rotation.
3. Training will be available **during the Regatta** in the area between the Pontoons and the Dam around the Pylons (in an Anticlockwise direction) 800m approx. distance, please collect a Training number from the Numbers Hut and be briefed by the Chief Compliance.
4. Training is **available past the weed wire**.

If departing from the Boat Park.

- a. Collect a Number from the Numbers Hut and be briefed by the Chief Compliance.

If Departing from RNZ / Waikato Sheds.

- a. Text the Safety Officer with How many boats / when planned back / and text again when ALL have returned.
- b. Cross over the course behind a race and exit the course.

On return aim for the GREEN Bouy, follow the WARMUP lane flow, pass to the East of the Marshalling area, HOLD around the Orange Bouy awaiting clearance to cross the course, travel down Lane zero.

Wednesday 16 until Saturday 21 February:

ALL points 1-4 above apply during the NZRC Regatta.

For planning purposes, please email the Chief Safety Officer (Greg) at safety@karapirorowing.com should you plan to train during the above times.

COMPLIANCE

Please ensure boats are compliant in line with the [RNZ Rules of Racing](#). If boats do not meet the minimum standard, they will not be allowed on the water until the identified problem has been resolved. Please support us in keeping everyone safe. **Crews will be asked to conduct safety checks on their own boats in the presence of a Licensed Race Official.**

Boat Marshal

There will be limited calling of races. Assume the Regatta is on time and be at the Start in good time for your race.

Cox Weigh-In

Cox weigh-in will be in the KRI Shed (formerly the Green Shed).

Coxswains must weigh in pursuant to Rule 19.5(a)(ii) of the [Rules](#)

not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first race; and

where the coxswain is part of a crew that qualifies for a final, and the coxswain's first final of the regatta is on a later day than the day of their first race of the regatta, not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first final of the regatta.

If a crew properly opts out of an optional preliminary heat in accordance with the Conditions, that race will **NOT** be considered the coxswain's first race.

Please remind coxes to keep their wristbands on until the regatta is finished, or else they will be required to be fully weighed in again. They will be issued with new arm bands between heats and finals.

Additional notable points:

- Please use the test scale provided to test weights. This is located by the entrance. Weights will not be allowed to be test weighed/adjusted when weighing in.
- Should there be a queue that might result in a late weigh-in, please attract the attention of one of the KRI volunteers.

Boat Weighing

There will be boat weighing at this regatta in the KRI Shed. Please test-weigh boats prior to the start of the regatta. Test weigh in will be open from 08:00 – 17:00 on Monday 16 February and from 10:00 – 17:00 on Tuesday 17 February.

Uniform

Rowers must row in the official colours of the entity they are entered to represent at the regatta.

Coaching During Racing and Technological Devices

Competitors and coaches must comply with Rule 63 of the [Rules](#), noting Rule 63.3 that a crew receiving coaching while racing, with the use of a technological device, may be Excluded from the event.

Under Rule 63.2 of the [Rules](#), the Organising Committee may require crews to carry on their boats such equipment as it considers desirable for the better promotion of the sport of rowing (e.g., mini-cameras, microphones, GPS, etc.) provided that such equipment is identical in weight and location for all boats in a race.

CEREMONIAL

Crews who qualify for a medal can choose to row to the Ceremonial pontoon, should they wish. If they are selected for random boat weigh in, you will be required to first go weigh your boat, whereafter, you can walk to Ceremonial.

The presentation will take place as soon as possible after the race, but no later than 30 minutes post the start time of the race. KRI will endeavour to provide a chaperone to meet the eligible crew/s at the pontoons to escort them to the medal dais. Crews that are dawdling will not be waited for.

We will require some boat holders (4-6) to assist with Ceremonial. Should any of your athletes who don't make it through to finals, be interested, if they can please hand their name in at the KRI Office. Alternatively, if you win a medal, if members from your club can please come hold the crews boat.

MEDICAL WATCH /STAND DOWN

A Medical Stand Down Certificate is issued by the on-site medics for a competitor who is too ill or injured to be able to complete their next race. **This competitor is then not allowed on the water for the remainder of the regatta unless they have been cleared to row. They must be removed by their club from all their events by submitting medical (zero fee) scratchings and/or medical substitutions.**

A competitor who is medically substituted out of crews can be reinstated, but only once an independent registered medical practitioner assesses them as restored to health from the above illness/injury and written evidence of this is provided to Regatta Control (regattacontrol@karapirorowing.com).

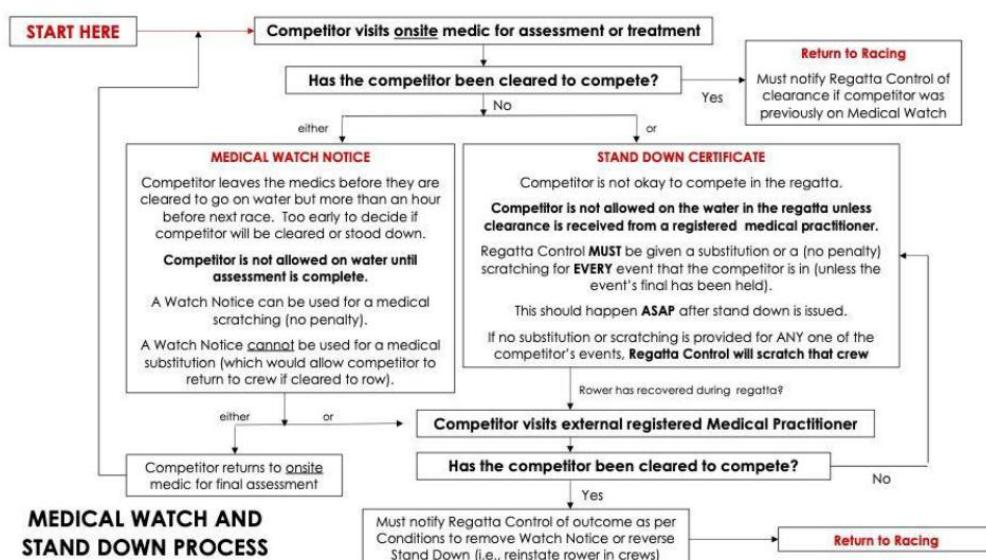
Guidelines on Medical Stand Down Certificate

- When a stand down medical certificate is issued by the on-site medics, the competitor is not allowed on the water again at the regatta.
- The competitor needs to be scratched or substituted out of all their remaining crews (though the substitutions can be reversed if a medical clearance is accepted by Regatta Control).
- Regatta Control will accept the medical stand down certificate as medical evidence of injury or illness allowing a medical substitution to be made to replace the crew member in their crews. It can also be used to support a medical (zero fee) scratching.

Medical Clearances

- There is provision for a competitor who has been granted a medical substitution out of crews to be reinstated into those crews.
- Reinstatement of a competitor requires medical evidence the competitor has been restored to health. It has already been accepted the competitor was recently too injured or unwell to compete, so a precautionary approach is taken to allow them back on the water.
- Medics are not on site to undertake such assessments. Medics will not certify a competitor has been restored to health.
 - Instead, competitors must be assessed by a registered medical practitioner with a relevant competence. The competitor must be assessed to have sufficiently restored to health from the injury or illness that warranted them being replaced in their crews. They will need to submit that assessment to Regatta Control.

The following flow chart illustrates the medical stand down and watch process.



CHECK CLEAN DRY

KRI will have a wash station set up outside the KRI Shed; however, we encourage clubs to bring along their own hose pipes which can be connected to any of the Mighty River Domain taps. It is also suggested that you keep a container with the bleach solution in your trailer for absorbent materials to soak in during your travels home. A separate email will be distributed in this regard.

All boats must be washed before arrival and departure.

TRANSPORT

- Please note that the dam wall/Hydro Road is now OPEN. Trailers are not permitted.

- Please note the following closures for your trip to Lake Karāapiro:

Road Closure: SH 01 Rangipo to Waiouru

Night Road Closure Due to road rebuilding works on SH1 between Rangipo and Waiouru, Saturday 15 February to Monday 9 March. Sunday to Thursday nights, 7:00pm-6:00am, and speed restrictions will be in place during the day. Expect delays
Starts 15 February 2026 7:00pm. Ends 9 March 2026 6:00am

TROPHIES

Please return any trophies to the KRI regatta office as soon as possible.

SOME FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- KRI regattas are “Wheels Free”: no scooters, roller skates or bikes to be used recreationally on the Domain
- No drones are allowed.
- The entire site is non-smoking (this includes vaping).
- No overnight camping in campervans, unless you have a booking with the Domain office.
- No dogs are permitted on the site. There will be a **\$300 fine** issued by the Waipa District Council if this is not adhered to.
- Mighty River Domain is an alcohol-free venue for ALL event dates listed on the event calendar at www.lakekarapiro.co.nz. No alcohol to be consumed on the embankment during rowing regattas.

VOLUNTEERS

FACT: It takes 64 volunteers to get a single boat down the course, irrespective of the regatta size. We always need more volunteers in roles such as the following:

- Boat driving and Safety Boat spotting
- Coxswain weigh-in
- Marshal Hut
- Office based duties, e.g., selling day sheets or programmes, taking scratchings, etc.
- Are you a numbers and details person? Then there are roles in the tower on the judges' floor that would be perfect for you!
- Lunch distribution for volunteers

Please **CLICK** the [LINK](#) or come and visit us in the Karāapiro Room (access via steps/ramp next to the Finish Tower).

CONTACT DETAILS

Area	Contact Person	Email
Regatta Control (entries, regatta conditions, scratchings, crew changes, race scheduling, and pre-regatta enquiries such as race conditions)	Andrew Carr-Smith & Tricia Balle	regattacontrol@karapirorowing.com
Operations Manager	Carol Howard	operations@karapirorowing.com 027 506 6544
KRI Safety Officer	Greg Liddy	safety@karapirorowing.com

		027 336 0873
KRI Boat Park Manager	David Haydock	boatpark@karapirorowing.com 021 810 182
Volunteers	Nic Peacocke	volunteers@karapirorowing.com 020 4124 0771

We look forward to a great regatta.

Regards,
KRI Regatta Committee