

Seven weeks to go

Hi All

Entries

The countdown clock is about to show 50 days, so only a little over 7 weeks until Tuai Village becomes Race Village, and the Waikaremoana Great Walk Track becomes the Great Race track. Despite Winter's usual sting in the tail, Spring is really happening now here in Northern Hawkes Bay and with the longer days it's great to be outdoors. Don't forget that our standard entry fee prices finish this Friday September 30th so don't lag with those entries to save some \$\$\$\$. It's never too late to get out and train for you team entrants, but don't forget to check out Physio Storm Baynes-Ryan's advice on the website under the [Training](#) tab on the website.



Enthusiasm an advantage..??

Aussie Hongi - fail..!!

Course

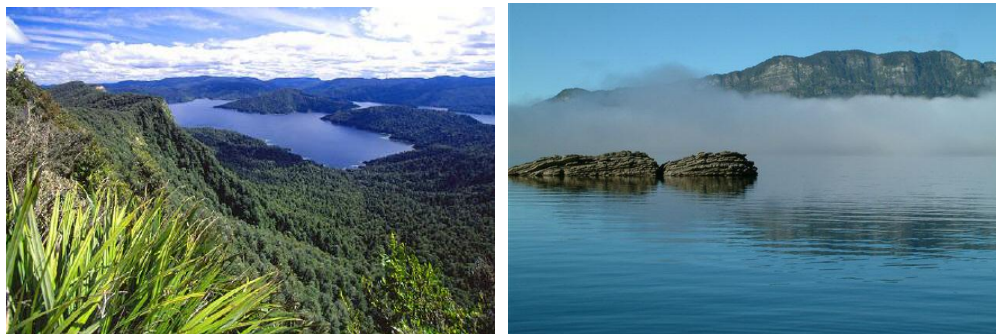
We've had a wet winter here on the East Coast, but DOC will be performing their usual magic in grooming the Lake Track pre-race. Those of you who've been here before will discover that the 4WD track on the first big climb of Stage 5 MTB has been reformed, so will be much smoother and wider, but will be slippery if wet. The following downhill section has become a little more rutted over the winter, so more fun for the technical experts. If you would like to have a reconnaissance run through MTB stage 5 then please advise ASAP, and we will organise a day over Labour weekend if there is sufficient demand.

Stage eight, the final day two run stage has been shortened slightly (yay?), as we have decided to stage the final transition at the beach at the end of the kayak, rather than at the Lighthouse. This means a more direct route out of town at the stage start.



Other Activities

One of the reasons for moving the whole event back one day was to facilitate more activities at Waikaremoana on day one. Saturday will now also see the Waikaremoana Summer Festival held at the start finish venue alongside Lake Whakamarino. This means live entertainment all day, food and craft stalls and displays plus other land and water based activities organised by DOC and local Iwi.



Our Volunteers

Over the three years since 2008 the strength of our event has been in the enthusiasm and commitment of our 180+ volunteers who make the event happen. The largest single group of these are members of Wairoa Search and Rescue who perform the majority of key administration and marshaling tasks. We are totally indebted to them for their ongoing support so please remember to say hi as you pass them on the day ! Also to the Waikaremoana community who turn out in force to provide food, entertainment and huge welcome to this very special part of NZ.



Join us

Not competing this year ? Why not bring the family and be a part of this great weekend. There's plenty of camping space and there will be activities and entertainment for all ages, or just enjoy the scenery and environment.



Can you help these competitors ?

Stu Golding is looking for a team position, principally as a kayaker but can do other duties also. Contact Stu at mardax@xtra.co.nz

Keiran Lond is looking for someone who may be able to assist in getting his bikes down from Auckland. If you have rack space and can help, contact Keiran at rubberk@gmail.com

See you in November