

The Motorway Classic started as an event in 1991 and was first Organised by Mark Watson, who later went on to form the Mana Kayak Racing Club. Welly Paddlers have been organising the event since 2008 with 2015 having the biggest attendance of 115 paddlers on the start line (the last time we organised the event)

The Motorway Classic has morphed somewhat from the traditional 14 km out and back course (from Honiana Te Puni Reserve to the Interislander reclamation and back) to include a 6 km and 3 km option which was really popular for SUP paddlers and junior waka ama paddlers in 2014 and 2015.

Welly Paddlers started running events for the surf ski, waka ama, kayak communities in 2003, by the end of 2015 we needed a break (and Chester needed to return to the workforce to build some skill sets) and from this the opportunity was there for some new blood to step up to the plate, but no one took up the challenge. By the end of July 2018 we announced that we would run a monthly Spring summer series again, and naturally "The Motorway Classic" was the big event that needed to come back onto the event calendar again.

As usual "The Motorway Classic" is an event for everyone, it's quite often an introductory event for new paddlers and also one where others can also "race for the town clock"

We like to add something new every time we organise the event and this year we invited 12 x times Molokai Ocean Racing Champion Oscar Chalupsky to attend, and Oscar accepted our invitation, from this he will also attend the Auckland "King & Queen of the Harbour" the week later. With Oscar being in this part of the World he will also be running Coaching clinics in Nelson, Blenheim and Wellington which Welly Paddlers are assisting to co-ordinate

Please see coaching detail <http://wellypaddlers.blogspot.com/2019/02/oscar-chalupsky-coaching-clinics.html>

The second addition this year is adding some incentive for the best attended club (most paddlers on points system) and we'll be offering \$500 to that club. If we achieve a threshold over 180 paddlers we will also offer \$300 for 2nd and \$200 for 3rd.

Please refer to the entry detail <https://www.facebook.com/events/2248925938763365/>

O.k. how long does it take to do this event

Well we have a cut-off of 1 hr 45 minutes on the 14 km long course if you can't achieve this in a training session then we have the 6 km option for you. Why the cut off for safety and also for the event spot prize giving at 12 noon, then the Coaching clinic at 12.30 pm

Best times :

56:00 Waka Ama W6 Men Worlds Crew (2010)

63:18 Multisport Kayak men - Glenn Muirhead

64:33 Adventure racing double men – Jerry Sheppard & Dave Rudge

65:36 Surf ski men – Rogan Clarke

67:01 Waka Ama W6 women – Wairarapa Women's

70:31 – Waka Ama W1 men - Patrick Tikato

73:54 Waka Ama W1 women – Marianna Hodges

75:58 Adventure Racing double mixed – Heather Kirkham & Dan Pringle

69:28 Waka Ama W2 women – Sara Snow & Michelle Warren

86:23 Sea Kayak Men – Trevor McDonald

86:26 SUP men – Felipe Dos

89:23 Surf ski female – Sharon Henderson

Event Management detail

Event Organiser – Chester Burt

Registration Management and timing systems – Sharlene Winiata

Event Safety number on the day 027 4581 005

VHF channel 17 – Welly Paddlers Sharlene shoreline co-ordinator – On water co-ordinator – Chester (via Sharlene)