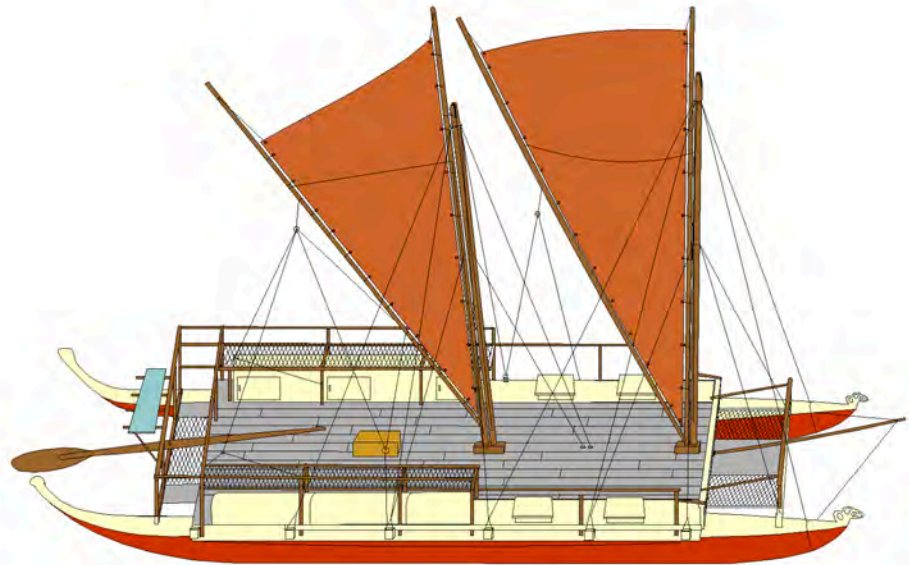




"Te Aurere" Fact Sheet

Thousands of years ago Polynesians peopled the Pacific on sailing canoes built in the same way as "Te Aurere". Hear the stories, learn the skills and help sail this genuine ocean-going Maori waka hourua on the Waitemata Harbour, Auckland, Aotearoa-New Zealand.



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Arawai Ltd is a registered charity owned by Te Tai Tokerau Tarai Waka Inc. and the Hekenukumai Ngaiwi Charitable Trust. Charity registration number: CC34114

"Te Aurere" is a waka hourua - a double-hull canoe

- Built in 1991-92 by Hekenukumai Puhipi (Hector Busby) MBE
- Hulls are two hollowed-out kauri logs from Herekino State Forest, near Kaitaia, Northland
- The waka is lashed - no bolts, nails etc used in construction of hull, decking, rails, etc
- 18 metres (57 feet) long x five metres (16 feet) wide; weighs eight tonnes
- Six aku (cross beams) lashed to the hulls form the main structure
- Main and mizzen sails are a spritsail design (triangular) tied to spar and boom with reef knots
- Traditional navigation by stars, moon, sun, waves, birds, expanded landfall
- Crew of up to 12 for voyaging includes captain and navigator
- On a voyage "Te Aurere" sails 24 hours per day, typically with crew working six-hour watches
- An average of five knots (9.26 km/hr) is used for trip planning
- First voyage to South Pacific Arts Festival on Rarotonga in 1992. Subsequent voyages to Cook Islands, Tahiti, Marquesas, Hawai'i, New Caledonia (Isle of Pines), and Norfolk Island
- Longest non-stop sail was 35 days from Honolulu to Rarotonga, Cook Islands in 1995
- The waka has completed four circumnavigations of the North Island of Aotearoa
- Exceptionally stable with full complement of safety equipment including life jackets, radios
- Fully certified in Maritime New Zealand's Safe Ship Management programme.



Arawai

About us

Arawai (Paths across the water) is a limited liability company with charitable status registered in New Zealand (No. CC34144). Arawai operates the waka hourua "Te Aurere". Arawai is jointly owned by Te Tai Tokerau Tarai Waka Inc and the Hekenukumai Ngaiwi Charitable Trust. Arawai was set up to provide a source of income for the two shareholding charitable organisations to help them to promote waka building, waka sailing, and cultural development for all the people of Aotearoa-New Zealand.

Key People



"Te Aurere" was built at Aurere in Doubtless Bay by **Hekenukumai Puhipi** (Hector Busby) MBE. Hekenukumai is recognised around the Pacific as one of the leading master carvers of traditional waka. A former bridge builder, Hekenukumai worked first on the refurbishment of the large waka taua "Ngatokimatawhaorua" in 1973. Since then Hekenukumai has carved close to 30 waka ably assisted since 2002 by Hemi Eruera.



The waka is captained by **Stanley Conrad** whose first ocean sail was on the Hawai'ian waka Hokule'a in 1985 from Rarotonga to Waitangi. Stanley is one of the foremost captains of traditional ocean-going, double-hull canoes in the Pacific and the most experienced captain of these vessels in Aotearoa-New Zealand. Coming from a fishing background in the Far North Stanley has captained "Te Aurere" since the first voyage to Rarotonga.



Jack Thatcher is the navigator of "Te Aurere". He is one of only three navigators in Aotearoa (and a handful across the Pacific) to be recognised as a master navigator by Mau Piailug of Satawal who is the source of much of what is known about traditional wayfinding by the voyaging societies across the Pacific. He is active in all forms of waka including waka taua, waka ama and waka hourua. Jack is based in Tauranga and has "Ngahiraka Mai Tawhiti" as a training waka.

Frequently Asked Questions

It is not surprising with a vessel as exceptional as "Te Aurere" that there are a number of frequently asked questions:

Q: Will I have to paddle?

A: No, "Te Aurere" is an ocean-going sailing canoe. The waka weighs eight tonnes and the deck is over a metre above the waterline so paddling (like in a waka taua) is impractical on "Te Aurere"

Q: How many people can the waka carry?

A: "Te Aurere" is licensed for 20 passengers and four crew. Going offshore the waka typically has a crew of 12

Q: Where does the crew sleep?

A: There are seven bunks in the hulls - nothing flash, just planks with thin rubber mats on top. On voyages these are "hot bunks" with crew using them when they are off-watch, with the changover typically every six hours

Q: How do you cook your food?

A: The smaller of the two beige-coloured boxes on the foredeck contains a two-burner gas stove. If conditions are too rough, cooking may have to wait as the cook has no shelter!

Q: Why do you have an outboard on a traditional-style vessel?

A: The 40 horse power, four stroke motor frees us from the need for a support vessel to tow us in and out of port; enables us to move around easily in confined spaces like the Maritime Museum; and can get us back to our berth if the wind drops while we are out on the Harbour with paying passengers on board.

Q: Does the waka have a toilet?

A: Yes, the waka has a proper marine toilet with a holding tank, although we encourage people to use the toilets in the Museum before coming out for a sail to better protect the environment - a (small) part of our efforts to deliver sustainable tourism

Q: Can anyone sail on the waka?

A: Yes. There are no cultural issues which limit access to "Te Aurere" (unlike waka taua) - everyone is welcome aboard!

Q: Will I get seasick?

A: Almost certainly no! "Te Aurere" is a good size and is very stable; conditions in the inner Harbour where "Te Aurere" sails with passengers are rarely rough; and, most important, Arawai does not operate its waka experiences in adverse conditions

Eke te waka! - Board the canoe!

Experience first-hand sailing on an ocean-going migration canoe built like the ones that brought the first settlers to Aotearoa-New Zealand 800 years ago and learn about navigating across the vastness of the Pacific Ocean long before the days of compasses, let alone GPS!

Choose from one of our regular sailings or arrange a custom sail for yourself, family and friends, workplace, conference or incentives programme. We are based at the Voyager New Zealand Maritime Museum next to Princes Wharf, Auckland.

For more information and bookings visit: www.arawai.co.nz

To book a sailing, call us on 0800 4ARAWAI (0800 427 292)

You can also find us on Facebook - search for: Arawai

