



TEAM BUILDING ON “TE AURERE”

The crew of a double-hull, ocean-going waka like *Te Aurere* is the essence of a team. It has:

- Purpose
- Leadership
- Organisation
- Complementary skills
- Collective responsibility.

Arawai offers team building experiences for new teams to help develop cohesion and for existing teams to refresh and deepen their collaboration. These experiences are customised to meet the interests, capacities and intent of each group. They can range from half-day and full day sessions to overnight and multi-day experiences. They are relevant to all forms of teams from the public and private sectors as well as sports teams looking at a different cross-training experience.

The core elements of the team-building session include:

- learning to sail the waka covering rigging, steering, and maintenance (knots and lashing)
- understanding the waka culture including traditional wayfinding and the critical importance of safety
- aspects of Maori culture related to waka and teams with some use of *Te Reo Maori* in haka and waiata.

Team building sessions are based on an initial discussion with the team leader on the current health of the team and the objectives for the session. This may include a formal assessment of team members' perceptions of the status of their team.

Teams of up to 20 persons can take part at one time. Where there are ten or more people the participants are split into crews with an element of inter-crew competition introduced to provide an extra dimension to the day. All serious fun!

Captain Stanley Conrad will lead a crew of four experienced sailors to help train the participants in sailing the waka. This involves a certain amount of physical effort as not only is the waka lashed together in the traditional way but there are no winches or other mechanical aids. Erecting and adjusting the sails is a combination of skill with some brute force!



The waka can be chartered for team building in March-May 2011. Sessions in February are subject to availability. For an initial, obligation-free discussion, call Dr Peter Phillips on 021 906 737.

The Waka “Te Aurere”

Te Aurere was built in 1991-2 along traditional lines, from two giant kauri trees by Hekenukumai (Hector) Ngaiwi Puhipi Busby. The waka is 17.4m long and 5.5 m wide. The first voyage was the 1,700 nautical mile trip to Rarotonga for the South Pacific Arts Festival in October 1992. *Te Aurere* has sailed over 30,000 nautical miles, including a voyage to Hawai'i. The waka is based at the Maritime Museum next to Princes Wharf, Auckland.

While a traditional-style vessel, *Te Aurere* is fully equipped with modern safety gear and fully certified by the Maritime Safety Authority under the Safe Ship Management programme.

Captain Stan Conrad is one of the most respected captains of traditional ocean-going, double-hull canoes in the Pacific and the most experienced captain of these vessels in Aotearoa.

