

# Kupe Waka Centre

## Newsletter, September 2019



It was with great sadness that many of Aotearoa's waka whanau joined thousands of tangata whenua to farewell Sir Hekenukumai at his tangihanga at Pukepoto in May.

Sir Hekenukumai Ngāiwi Puhipi Busby, KMNZ, MBE, NZCM, PhD h.c.. Pwo Master Navigator, of Te Rarawa/Ngāti Kahu was born on 1st August 1932 and died aged 86, on 11th May 2019.

Among the mourners at the tangihanga were navigator Nainoa Thompson from the Polynesian Voyaging Society and Randie Fong of Kamehameha Schools in Hawai'i and Sir Tumu Te Heuheu.

Over the last 30 years, Sir Hek led the revival of waka building, ocean voyaging and traditional navigation in Aotearoa.

This legacy and vision from Sir Hekenukumai will be aided by a tourism venture to be developed at the Kupe Waka Centre on a 2.1ha Maori Reserve at Aurere in Doubtless Bay, donated by Sir Hek in 2013.

Opening in late 2020 the Centre will provide a unique cultural tourism experience.

### Provincial Growth Fund grant

A \$4.6 million grant from the Provisional Growth Fund will be used to upgrade the facilities at Aurere and develop the cultural tourism operation.

Arawai Ltd, the commercial arm of Te Tai Tokerau Tarai Waka Inc. and the Hekenukumai Ngā Iwi Trust

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### Sir Hekenukumai Ngāiwi Puhipi Busby

Waitangi was the source of Sir Hekenukumai's passion for waka. As a young boy he went to the Native School at Pukepoto where one of the highlights was visits to Waitangi.

There he would sit and commune with the waka taua *Ngatokimatawhaorua* and wonder if he would ever see a waka like that in the water.

Sir Hekenukumai left school at 15 years old and had a number of jobs before starting a 40 year career in bridge building in 1951.

He led or was involved in building 158 bridges around Northland.

His first major Involvement with waka came in 1973 when it was decided to launch *Ngatokimatawhaorua* for the 1974 Waitangi Day celebrations.

A pivotal event occurred at the Waitangi marae in December 1985. At the powhiri for Nainoa Thompson and his crew of the Hawaiian canoe *Hōkūle'a*, Sir James Henare said he hoped that one day in the near future a waka

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## Sir Hekenukumai Ngāiwi Puhipi Busby (from Page 1)

would be built in Te Tai Tokerau that would go back to where Māori came from.

The challenge was taken up by Sir Hek and his small team who in 1990-2 built the waka hourua *Te Aurere* (right) from two massive Kauri from the Herekino Forest. The waka was lashed together in the age-old way, but using modern ropes and cords.

Sir Hek went on to build over 30 more waka, here and in Hawai'i. Perhaps the most significant was the waka hourua, *Ngahiraka Mai Tawhiti*, named after his wife Hilda who was a key figure in the early days of waka at Aurere before sadly passing away in 1995.

Since the maiden voyage to Rarotonga in 1992 *Te Aurere* has gone on to sail from the Marquesas to Hawai'i and back to Aotearoa via Rarotonga; to New Caledonia; and to Norfolk Island as well as many sails in the waters of Aotearoa. In 2012/13 *Te Aurere* with *Ngahiraka*, sailed from



Aotearoa to Rapanui (Easter Island) and back via French Polynesia. This voyage completed Sir Hek's long-held dream of a waka from Aotearoa linking the three points of the Polynesian Triangle.

Sir Hek was not only a master navigator and waka builder, he was also a noted exponent of kapa haka, and was a life member

of Te Matatini, the national kapa haka competition.

Over the years Sir Hek was active in a wide range of organisations including the NZ Māori Council, the Taitokerau District Māori Council, the Waitangi National Trust, Te Kohanga Reo, the Māori Womens Welfare League, and the Polynesian Voyaging Society.

## Provincial Growth Fund grant (from Page 1)

will use the grant to:

- sustain Sir Hek's legacy by generating funds for traditional wayfinding, voyaging, and waka building by Tarai Waka;
- deliver education and training programmes that complement those of Tarai Waka. This will extend the outreach to schools that was so close to Sir Hek's heart, including a free visit for every primary school class in Northland;
- create sustainable jobs, initially for 12 people, with salaries

based on the living wage. There will be extensive on-the-job training to help develop skills and improve employability;

- setup a new high end tourism destination which will provide a key link in the chain of cultural tourism attractions along the Twin Coast Discovery Highway;
- engage the local community, and promote social inclusion;
- help restore wetlands, reafforest some of the adjoining lands, and promote environmental sustainability.

The PGF is a \$3 billion investment in regional economic development over three years. It is intended to lift productivity potential in the provinces, with Te Tai Tokerau~Northland one of PGF's six priority regions.

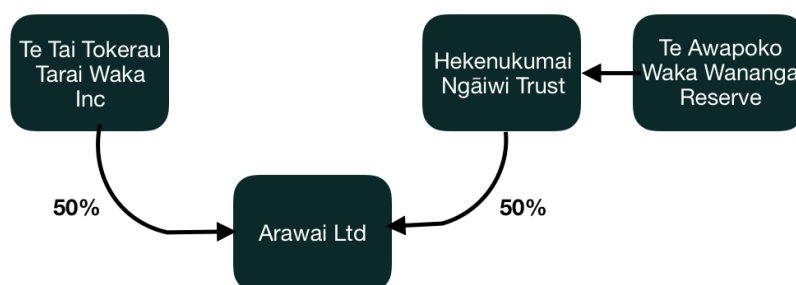
The PGF aims to enhance economic development opportunities, create sustainable jobs, enable Māori to reach their full potential, boost social inclusion and participation, build resilient communities, and help meet climate change targets.



## Provincial Growth Fund grant contract signed

Arawai has now signed the contract with PGF to develop the Kupe Waka Centre as a premium cultural tourism destination. Arawai developed the proposal to PGF and signed the contract in its role as the commercial operator for kaupapa waka at Aurere. It is a limited liability company with two shareholders:

- Te Tai Tokerau Tarai Waka Inc (50%) is the education, training waka building, and voyaging society founded by Sir Hek in 1988;
- Hekenukumai Ngā Iwi Trust (50%) are kaitiaki of the waka built by Sir Hek for Tarai Waka, and for most of the Okokori B block on which the Centre is located. The Trust is also the beneficiary of the Te Awapoko Waka Wananga Reserve on which the Centre is sited.



Name	Te Tai Tokerau Tarai Waka Inc.	Arawai Limited	Hekenukumai Ngā Iwi Trust	Te Awapoko Waka Wananga Reserve
Legal status	Incorporated Society	Limited Liability company with charitable tax status	Charitable Trust	Māori Reserve under the <i>Te Ture Whenua Māori Act, 1993</i> .
Main activity	Education and training in waka building, sailing wayfinding; protect and promote kaupapa waka	Commercial operations of waka and the Kupe Waka Centre for the benefit of the shareholders	Kaitiaki of the land at Aurere and of waka held for the use of Tarai Waka	Holds reserve land for the benefit of the Hekenukumai Ngā Iwi Trust

## Cultural tourism at Aurere

The site at Aurere is unique. It is the only place in the world where the revival of traditional wayfinding, waka building in timber, and ocean voyaging have been combined at one place.

Over the years Tarai Waka has been fortunate enough to get grant funding towards the cost of waka building and voyaging, including from Creative New Zealand. It also got generous support from NZ Lotteries Grants Board and ASB Trust (now Foundation North) towards the cost of the whare wananga. But grant funding can't be relied on.

Tourism at Aurere is very much a means to an end. It is one of the few sectors in Te Tai Tokerau that

can provide an income to sustain kaupapa waka. It is an excellent fit with Northland Inc's *Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan*; the Te Taitokerau Iwi CE's *He Tangata, He Whenua, He Oranga* strategy; and FNDC's *He Whenua Rangatira* plan, and other plans.

### Managing tourism

Most important in planning for tourism is to protect the mana of the site. Measures which will be put in place include:

- a protocol developed with the Hekenukumai Ngā Iwi Trust and Tarai Waka to ensure all visitors respect the mana of the site and to deliver an authentic cultural experience;

- Up-market positioning (no tour buses as in a different market to the Kupe Waka Centre);



- Limit number of visitors on the site at any one time;
- Pre-booking on scheduled tours only, by internet or agent - no casual visitors; and
- Guided tours only, no-one wandering around the site.





# Multi-stage work programme

The first of two contracts with the PGF has two activities - consultation with the shareholders, and detailed project planning.

The first step is to review the 25 project in the draft work programme which was developed by Sir Hek and Arawai managing director, Dr Peter Phillips. The

consultation with the Hekenukumai Ngā Iwi Trust and Tarai Waka will ensure that both the owners and users are in agreement on what is to be done.

The 25 projects in the draft Development Plan has been divided up into four batches. Some, like improving the access road and safety rails on the bridge

over the Aurere Stream need to be done before other work can go ahead. Some, like the planetarium, will take longer than others to plan. Once the design of projects in the first batch is complete they will be able to start building while the other projects are designed so the Centre can be opened in November 2020.

Week Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Week beginning Sunday	18/08/19	25/08/19	1/09/19	8/09/19	15/09/19	22/09/19	29/09/19	6/10/19	13/10/19	20/10/19	27/10/19	3/11/19	10/11/19	17/11/19	24/11/19	1/12/19	8/12/19	15/12/19	22/12/19	29/12/19	5/01/20	12/01/20	19/01/20	26/01/20	2/02/20	9/02/20	16/02/20	23/02/20
Review Development Plan and Management agreement(s)																												
Prepare documentation																												
Meetings																												
Editorial and review																												
Develop monitoring protocol																												
Works Planning																												
Tranche 1 works planning																												
Tranche 2 Works planning																												
Tranche 3 Works planning																												
Tranche 4 works planning																												
Finalised Development Plan																												
Management																												
Liaison with PGF																												
Meetings with PGF CA																												
Board meetings																												
Communications																												
Updates																												
Press releases																												

## Upgrading the infrastructure and new facilities

The 25 proposed construction projects included in the Draft Development Plan cover:

- improvements to the infrastructure of the site including safety works on State Highway 10 and upgrading the access road;
- replacement of some older facilities including the round barn and the jetty;
- completion of the second stage of the Whare Wananga; and
- new facilities, including a planetarium, an entrance/exit/ shop, and a shelter under which to maintain the waka hourua.

On the site now are the star compass, the whare wananga, the kura whakairo, and the old round barn in which many waka have been carved.

The new planetarium will be a key part of the visitor experience as it will use video to introduce the story of Sir Hek, and tell them about waka hourua and traditional wayfinding about which many people know little or nothing. Seeing the star movements in the planetarium will help them understand the star

compass and Polynesian voyaging history and will ensure they get the most out of their visit.

