

Help finish the Whare Wananga at Aurere

Te Tai Tokerau
Tarai Waka Inc.



A new Whare Wananga is under construction at Aurere in Doubtless Bay on land donated by Hekenukumai Ngaiwi Puhipi MBE OMNZ as a Maori Reserve. It will be a new home for the national centre for training in traditional navigation led by Hekenukumai, the only person in the South Pacific qualified to award traditional navigator status.

Aurere has been the base for the waka building by Hekenukumai for nearly 30 years. In that time more than 30 waka have been built including two waka hourua (double-hull, ocean-going sailing canoes) *Te Aurere* and *Ngahiraka Mai Tawhiti*. *Te Aurere* sailed the epic reconnection to Rarotonga in 1992 and has since sailed to Hawai'i and from Aotearoa to Rapanui (Easter Island), linking the three points of the Polynesian Triangle.

The unique Star Compass at Aurere has long been used for teaching traditional navigation based on knowledge of the sun, moon, stars, wave patterns, wind, clouds, and birds. The Whare Wananga will be one of the main teaching spaces along with the Star Compass and the waka.

The Whare Wananga is designed to instantly engage the visitor in a modern Pacific maritime experience. The floor plan is evocative of a hull, while the roof line derives from the lateen sail familiar on many traditional sailing waka across the Pacific. The interior of the whare is designed as a navigation compass with star constellations and Pacific island groups mapped in the roof.

The building provides a flexible space to welcome visitors, convene wananga, provide marae style sleeping for 50 people and allow for extended noho marae for local and Pacific waka hourua crews. It also acts as an exhibition space to introduce people to the Centre. Visitors pass through the whare wananga to the wharekai with views to the Awapoko river and the moored waka. An important feature of whare wananga is the large north facing mahau (porch) which also acts as a wananga space and informal gathering area. The whare will host education outside the classroom, and will be available for hire for small scale conferences and team building exercises.

Tarai Waka has successfully raised \$690k (excluding GST) towards the capital cost of \$980k to build the whare from the ASB Community Trust and NZ Lottery Grants Board. It is now seeking to raise the balance of the funds required to complete the building (\$290k) and to fit it out (\$212k).

Tarai Waka has built a website (www.finishthewhare.nz) to provide more information and enable you to make a donation either through PayPal or direct into a special "Finish the Whare Wananga" account. A suggested amount for donations is \$20 for an individual and \$100 for a whanau, although all larger or smaller donations will be greatly appreciated. If you'd like to talk to us about making a more substantial donation please phone Janelle Beazley on 021 167 3646. Tarai Waka is a registered charity and all donations are tax deductible.

Each individual or whanau donor of \$20 or more will go into the draw for one on 25 sails on a waka hourua. A range of benefits are also available for larger corporate donors. Donor's names will be displayed on the "Friends of Aurere" board at the Whare Wananga. Donors will be acknowledged in all communications about the Whare Wananga.

Te Tai Tokerau Tarai Waka Inc. is grateful for the support of our Platinum Sponsors: the ASB Community Trust and the New Zealand Lottery Grant Board for building funds and Te Puni Kōkiri for funding for design, project management and consenting.



Te Puni Kōkiri
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