

Te Hoe ki Motuoroi 2004 National Long Distance Waka Ama Championships – Anaura
Te Hoenga Roa-ā-motu Waka Ama
Nā Wayne Ngata

“Ko Maninitua, ko Maniniaro, ka tangi te kura ka tangi wiwini, ka tangi te kura ka tangi wawana...” – inā noa te hihiko o te ngākau tangata ki ngā pounga hoe ki te wai ki Anaura i ngā rangi ka taha ake nei, hei whakaterere i te waka ama, hei whakaterere anō i te kaupapa hoenga roa ki te moutere o Motuoroi i te whanga o Anaura mō ngā whakataetae hoenga roa-ā-motu. Kāti, i ū mai ko ngā waka ama o te motu, mai i ngā moka katoa o Aotearoa, i rāwāhi hoki, ki raro i te maunga o Nuhiti, ki te marae o Hinetamatea ki Anaura i runga i te karanga a Te Uranga o Te Rā, te kāhui o ngā rōpū waka ama o Te Tairāwhiti.

I rauika mai ko ngā kaihoe 200 me ā rātau whānau ki tēnei whakataetae. I tawhiti rawa te haramaitanga a Ngā Hoe Horo, a Te Rangaunu, a Mitamitaga ole Pasifika o Te Taitokerau; a Pineula, a Waitakere, a Taniwha, a Orakei, a Manukau o Tamaki; a Te Toki, a Ngā Tai Whakarongo o roto o Waikato; a Hoe Aroha Whānau o Mauao o Tauranga; a Te Aurere o Rotorua, a Tunui-a-te Ika o Pōneke; a ‘Fire and Ice’ o Te Waipounamu, a Hawaiki Tuarua o Otaki; tae atu ki ngā rōpū o Te Tairāwhiti, a Mareikura, a Horouta, a Tūranga-ara-rau, a Te Roto o Hinetakawhiti, a Te Whānau a Tūwhakairiora, a Pokohinu; me te nui noa atu i haere takitahi mai ka whai whanaunga anō ki Anaura.

I kitea anō hoki ko te pakari, ko te māia, ko te toa o te tāne, ko te mana o te wahine, tamariki mai, pakeke mai, ki te hoe. Kātahi nā te hanga miharo ki ngā whakapaunga kaha mō te āhua rua haora te roa o ētahi o ngā whakaterenga waka; rere ana te wehiwehi, tū ana te ihiihi, heke ana te werawera, pou ana te hoe ki te wai, anō nei he waka tauā e kokoti ana i ngā ngaru o te moana.

Waimarie mātau i a Tāwhirimatea, i a Tangaroa hoki mō te pai o te rangi, mō te tau o te moana, ka kiia ake ai he tai hoenga tamāhine i tiakina ai e Hinemakawerangi, te kaitiaki o te wai i reira. Waimarie hoki mātau i ngā rōpū me ngā iwi āwhina i te kaupapa, ā, nā rātau i whai huruhuru ai te manu nei hei whakarere i a ia. He nui tonu rātau i takoha mai i te ringa mahi, i te kai, i te moni, i ā rātau nā rourou tonu hei tautoko. Ka mutu te manaakitanga mai o Te Tairāwhiti i ngā ope manuhiri i tae mai ki konei, he aha hoki he kōrero kē atu ki a koutou? Ko Ngaru Toa rāua ko Sentient Ltd, ko Te Reo Irirangi o Tūranga, ko Te Reo Irirangi o Ngāti Porou, ko Te Kuratini o Te Tairāwhiti, ko Ngāti Porou Hauora, ko Tūranga-ara-rau, ko Tūranga Health, ko Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Porou, ko Te Kaporeihana Whenua o Anaura, o Arai Matawai hoki, ko Tourism Eastland, ko te Public Health Unit, ko ACC, ko XCEL Paddling Clothing Ltd, ko Gisborne Milk, ko Coca Cola, ko Wainui Surf Club, Ko Midway Surf Club, ko Harcourts, ko Auahi Kore, ko Sunsmart hoki, tae atu ki a Te Aitanga a Hauiti, tēnā rawa atu koutou katoa.

Koinei te wā tuatahi i whakahaeretia ai tēnei kaupapa ki Anaura, ā, e tūmanakohia ana kia pēnei anō ā te wā, kia hokihoki mai ngā kaihoe nei ki te hoe ki Motuoroi, kia manaakitia anō e Ngāti Wakarara, e Ngāti Hau o Anaura; ki te hoe!