

## **Personal Profile – Martin Mikaere**

Kia ora ra koutou! Ko Martin Mikaere toku ingoa.

My association with waka ama began nine years ago when our children first started paddling for Ngā Tai Whakarongo Whānau Hoe Waka. Shortly after attending their first national sprints regatta, I started paddling myself.

As a parent of a family of dedicated paddlers I have a huge respect and admiration for our club executive committee, who have shouldered the workload of running a busy club each year. Having chaired Ngā Tai Whakarongo for two years, through a period of change and growth, I have an understanding and appreciation of what it takes to run a club successfully. I have also performed a coaching role at various times, both with Ngā Tai Whakarongo and, more recently, with preparing crews to participate at the Secondary Schools national sprints.

I am currently President of Te Puku o te Ika and have served in this capacity for 3 years. I am familiar with the issues faced by paddlers and with how to progress and resolve them. Both Ngā Tai Whakarongo and Te Puku o te Ika have equipped me with the skills and knowledge required to be an efficient and effective executive member.

I would like to see waka ama be the number one lifestyle choice for individuals and families. As the 2006 World Sprints illustrated there is enormous strength in unity and moving forward together.

A well organised National Body, with the capacity to coordinate events and lead by example is what all paddlers desire. The culture will be determined by the clubs, regions and in the main by the executive members on NKOA.

I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing development of waka ama.

Whakamaua kia tina, tina, hui e taiki e!