



## Voyagers Party Networks Maori Businesses

The *Te Aurere* whanau threw a party at the Western Bay Finance Around Alone Village in Tauranga on 24th January 2003 to celebrate ten years of sailing the Pacific and the deeds of the Around Alone sailors. The kai, prepared by Charles Royal, John Panoho and their team was enthusiastically consumed by the 500 plus guests who were brilliantly entertained by Moana, locals Jon and Grant, the Te Wero kapa haka group, and by Around Alone skipper Bruce Schwab.

Along with the celebrations the party also served a serious purpose. It provided an invaluable opportunity for Maori businesses in the Bay of Plenty to network with major businesses and exporters. It was also an opportunity for a number of Maori businesses to profile their products - like the Whakarewarewa Village staff who distributed pamphlets all evening and Charles Royal whose company, Kinaki, produces a fine line in wild herbs. The evening received invaluable support from the Tangata Whenua and a range of organisations including Western Bay Finance, Poutama Trust, Tauranga Around Alone, Te Puni Kokiri, Indigenius, and the Community Employment Group.

A celebration was in order because it is now a decade since *Te Aurere* (a traditional waka hourua - voyaging canoe) was built by Hekenukumai Ngaiwi Puhipi Busby from two giant Northland kauri trees. Since then she has sailed from Aotearoa to Hawai'i, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Norfolk Island. She has also circumnavigated the North Island of Aotearoa three times. *Te Aurere* is navigated by traditional wayfinding, using knowledge of the sun, moon, stars, wave patterns, wind, clouds, and birds. *Te Aurere* is spending the summer in Auckland and Tauranga promoting a planned education and tourism centre in Northland.

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## TE AURERE - TEN YEARS SAILING THE PACIFIC