



## Lack of wind slows International Classic Yacht Regatta

*Te Aurere*, a traditional waka hourua (voyaging canoe), was in good company at the rear of the fleet in the Classic Yacht regatta races over 6th-9th February 2003. The 118 year old *Undine*, the original Fullers boat in the Bay of Islands, and *Breum*, a 78 year old fishing boat from Denmark (both with tan sails in the top left photo), like *Te Aurere*, do not point well and suffer in light airs. There was plenty time to watch Team New Zealand and to collect some kina for lunch!

In all fairness the waka is not really designed for coastal racing. *Te Aurere* was built in 1991/92 in Northland from two giant kauri trees by Hekenukumai Ngaiwi Puhipi Busby. The 8 tonne waka is lashed together in the age-old way of the canoes that used to ply between Aotearoa and the central Pacific Islands. In the past decade she has sailed over 30,000 miles around the Pacific visiting Hawai'i, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Norfolk Island. The waka is navigated by traditional wayfinding using knowledge of the sun, moon, stars, winds, wave patterns, clouds, and birds - skills not needed on the short sails between Auckland and Kawau Island.

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**TE AURERE - SAILING THE PACIFIC SINCE 1992**