



Portage Crossing Traditional Canoeing & Sailing Trust

30th Portage Crossing 10 December 2022

Dedicated to Portage Crossing Head Coach Kafoa Hala Latu

Bittersweet event this year as we celebrate our 30th year 1992-2022 and our 20th crossing, due to building of third bridge and then the building of ramp on old Mangere bridge, meant we couldn't hold events during construction. Bittersweet as this year we dedicate our 30th year to our head coach Kafoa Latu who drowned on the Manukau Harbour last year while paddling his single waka ama in windy conditions.



Kafoa Hala Latu: Head coach portage crossing waka ama 2020 Lake Karapiro.



Katoa and Katherine Williams



Portage crossing road section leaving Ian Shaw reserve Kafoa team.

This year, Tea Ropati ex rugby league kiwi and Auckland warrior player and local resident of Panama road Otahuhu, is organizing a float from the Panama road community, to lead the waka ama procession this year. His group have distributed flyers to get the residences out of their houses cheering the local floats and waka ama on trailers, heading to Mangere Inlet Railway lane Otahuhu.



Tea Ropati 021 472 2354



James and Fomai putting up Billboards for this year's crossing.



History of Portage Crossing Harbour to Harbour Waka Ama Regatta. 1992-2022

By James Papali'i 16/11/2022

The annual Portage Crossing Harbour to Harbour Waka Ama regatta and free family festival is a revival and celebration of the traditional Mana Whenua route first used by Tainui Waka captained by Hoturoa in the 13th Century. This waka houroa (double hull sailing waka) came from the island Raiatea, Tahiti and they discovered the isthmus of land between the two harbours, Waitemata and Manukau. The Tainui waka then sailed down the west coast to Kawhia. Early European settlers also used this route to transport their fishing canoes before the Mangere Bridge was built over one hundred years ago.

The idea to revive this route by waka ama paddlers racing from Okahu bay down the Tamaki estuary to Ian Shaw reserve, was mooted by our Kaumatua the late Tehere Moana in 1990. He would talk about Hoturoa and the first crossing by the Tainui waka. I asked if we could revive this ancient Maori route utilising waka ama. He advised that we needed permission from Tainui Kaumatua the late Rua Cooper. So I went with the late Rev Haki Graham to visit Rua at Whatapaka Marae. He gave us permission to do this regatta commenting that it would bring different cultures together. He also named our clubs third waka 'Parera' after a native duck that was abundant on the Manukau Harbour.

We then did our first crossing during February 1992 where we now paddle from Okahu Bay to Panama Road. Waka ama are then placed on trailers and pushed through Portage Road Otahuhu to Mangere Inlet. Waka ama are then raced up the Mangere Inlet, passed the two Mangere bridges to a buoy near Hillsborough. Then race back to Mangere bridge reserve on Waterfront Road. Paddlers are welcomed by the Tainui tribe at a free family festival every year. Our next Portage Crossing is the 31st year on the 25th of March 2023.

The reason it is our 20th Crossing is due to the building of the third Mangere Bridge. This took around six years and the area which was where we held our annual event became the building site for the bridge. We also had resource consent to build our waka ama club rooms at a much cheaper cost than the current costings during the occupation of Waterfront Road Reserve at Mangere Bridge. These plans were all put on hold and to date we have received no compensation or acknowledgement from Transit N.Z.