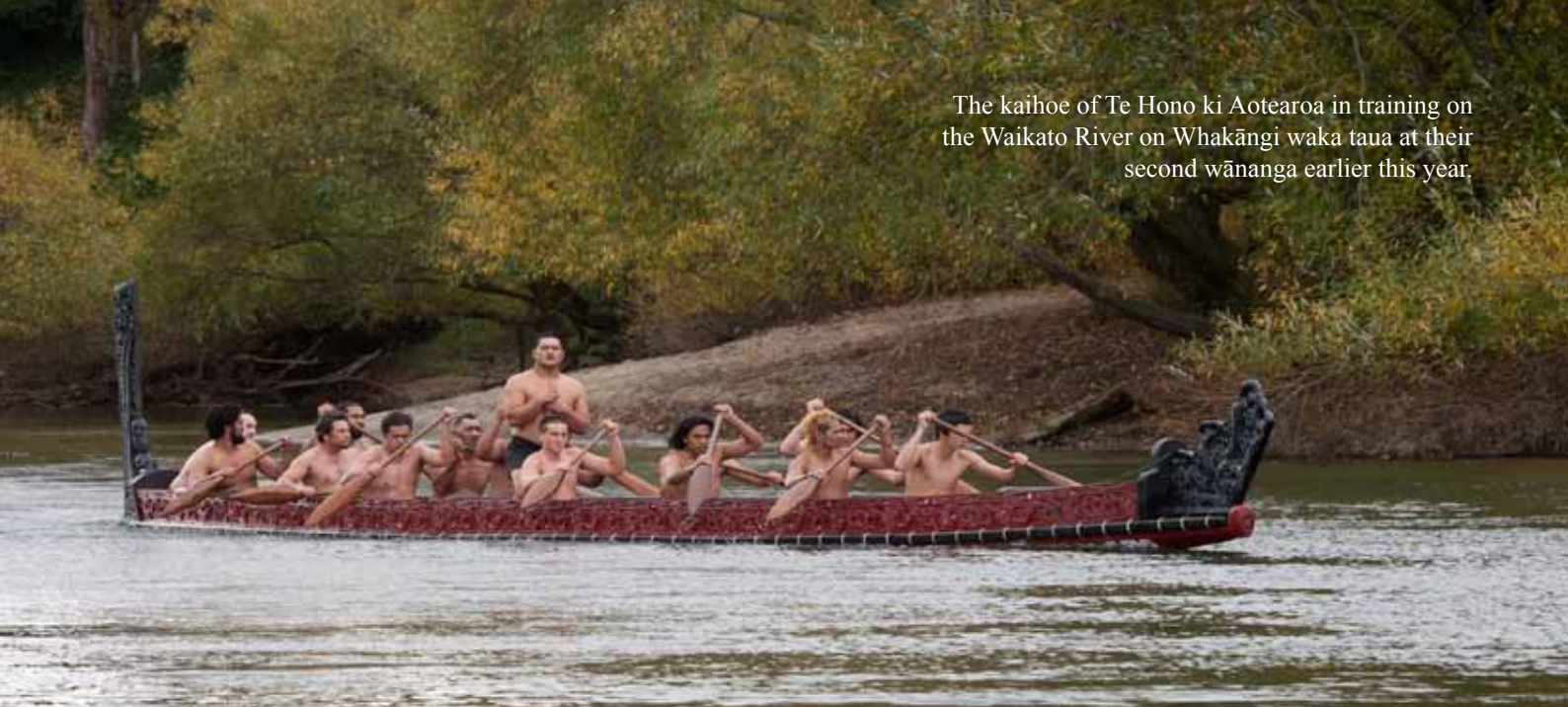


The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

From Whangārei to the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Pageant

Eighteen year old Billy Harrison has been paddling waka Māori since he was six years old. He’s now preparing to fly to London at the end of May to take part in the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee on 3 June.

The Whangārei resident is one of 14 kaihoe (paddlers) that will row the ceremonial waka taua (war canoe) *Te Hono ki Aotearoa / The Link to New Zealand* in the Pageant.

Billy, who is also kaihoe for *Te Ika a Māui*, says he first started paddling at Waitangi alongside Chapman Harrison, also in the crew for the Pageant, and other whānau. It is now a part of his lifestyle that he enjoys for the “whakawhanaungatanga, tikanga and just getting out on the water.”

“For me kaupapa waka keeps me grounded and keeps me wanting to learn more and I encourage everybody to participate in kaupapa waka,” Billy says.

The waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river.

The crew of 14 kaihoe began their training at the end of March and included three wānanga in Hamilton. They trained on the Waikato River with a waka taua named *Whakāngi* which was carved from the same 800 year old tree that *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* was crafted from. As well as being out on the River, the wānanga also involved gym work, road running and haka and waiata practices. It is an intense weekend of learning and training.

Billy Harrison (Ngāti Kahu)

For Billy, the biggest challenges about being a kaihoe are: “paddling for two hours straight and getting off [the waka] because I love it.”

This is Billy’s first time to London and his family is very proud of his selection for the crew. His father is a staunch supporter who encourages his son to “Go hard!”

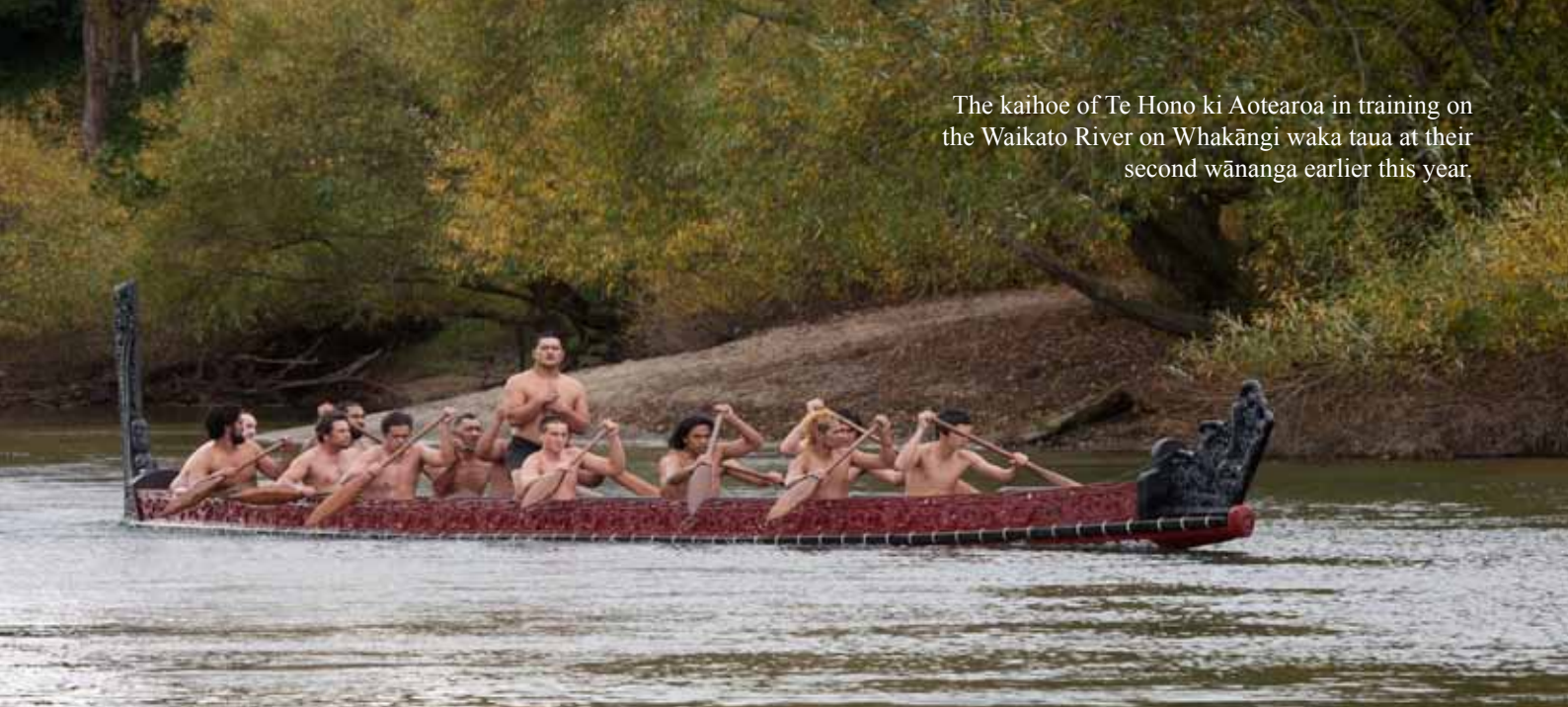
He’s looking forward to the whole experience and what he will learn. “Going to London will give me an idea of what other countries and cultures are like.”

The Toi Māori waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* is on permanent loan to the Volkenkunde Museum in Leiden. It was built as a *Waka for Europe* and can be used as a vehicle to promote Māori arts, culture and New Zealand at events throughout Europe. The involvement of the waka in the Diamond Jubilee pageant has been funded by the New Zealand government. Officials from Te Puni Kōkiri; Te Manatū Taonga the Ministry for Culture and Heritage; and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have assisted with arrangements.



For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

Chance meeting leads to new passion and Queen's Diamond Jubilee

A chance meeting with a man looking for a lift in 2007 introduced Anaru Irwin to a passion that is now taking him to represent New Zealand at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Anaru, 37, is one of the kaihoe (paddlers) that will row the ceremonial waka taua (war canoe) *Te Hono ki Aotearoa / The Link to New Zealand* in the Thames Diamond Jubilee River Pageant on 3 June.

"I met a man by the name of Hoturoa Kerr and his two girls looking for a lift from Te Aroha to his home on Whatawhata Road and he asked if I wanted to go for a paddle with him and I have paddled ever since for his club Te Toki."

His passion for paddling is such that less than five years after his introduction to it, Anaru and his son are now on *Taheretikitiki* one of the six waka taua of Tainui. And now Anaru is preparing to fly to London at the end of May. The waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river.

The crew of 14 kaihoe began their training at the end of March and included three wānanga in Hamilton. They trained on the Waikato River with a waka taua named *Whakāngi* which was carved from the same 800 year old tree that *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* was crafted from. As well as being out on the River, the wānanga also involved gym work, road running and haka and waiata practices. Each wānanga is an intense weekend of learning and training.

Being a kaihoe is not only enjoyable, it's a positive challenge and responsibility. "It's about the bringing together of proud men who are very much involved in our culture," Anaru says.

"Being a kaihoe means you can use all you have been taught around waka and take that into everyday life. When waters are sometimes rough, everyone needs to work together to help the waka get through the rough water. Same applies with life." Anaru says he feels "proud and humble" to be going to London for the Diamond Jubilee as a kaihoe. It will be an experience that he will be able to share with his kids as an example that "they can do anything".

The Toi Māori waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* is on permanent loan to the Volkenkunke Museum in Leiden. It was built as a *Waka for Europe* and can be used as a vehicle to promote Māori arts, culture and New Zealand at events throughout Europe.

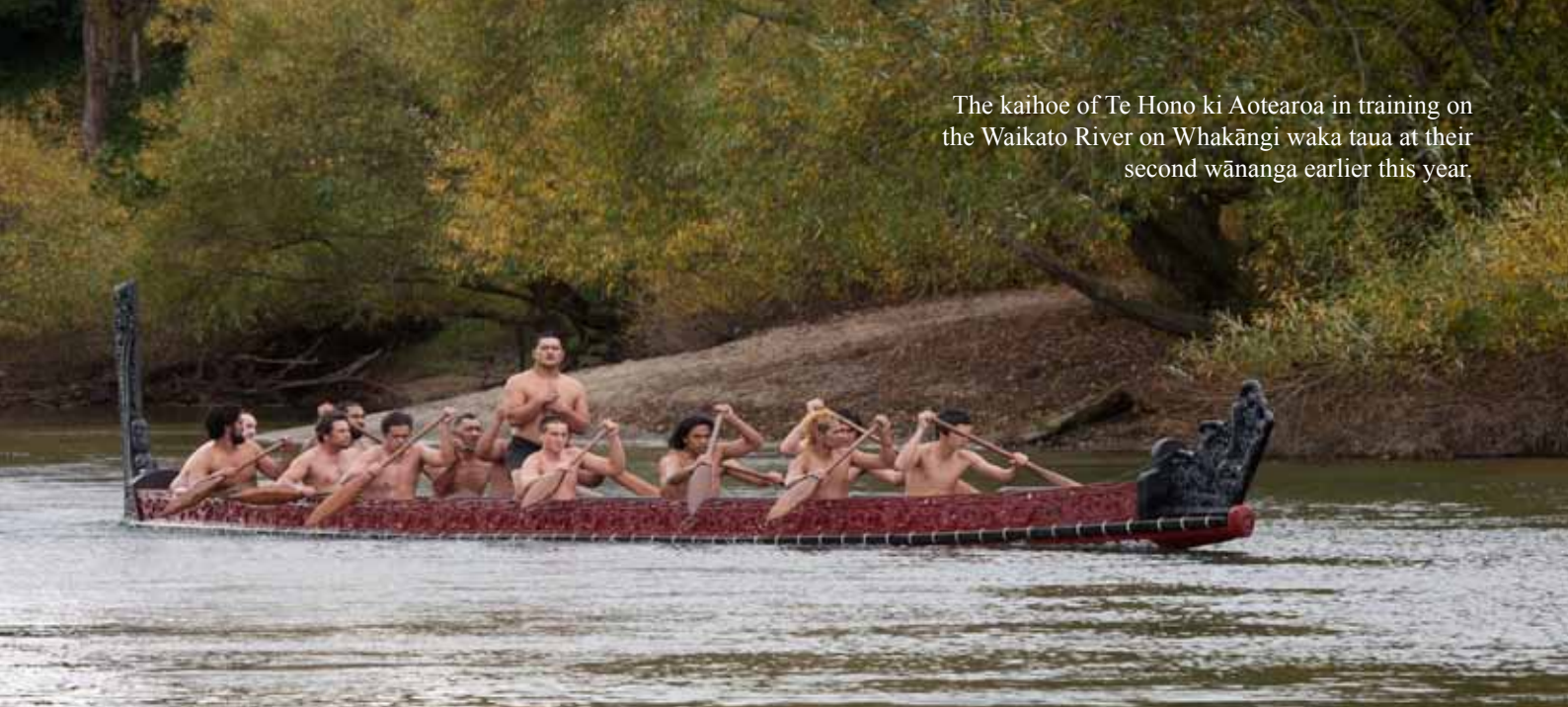
The involvement of the waka in the Diamond Jubilee pageant has been funded by the New Zealand government. Officials from Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Manatū Taonga the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have assisted with arrangements.

Anaru Irwin (Maniapoto, Waikato)



For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

Proud to be part of indigenous crew at Queen's River Pageant

Whakatāne resident Boysie Paul is humbled to be in one of the few Commonwealth Indigenous representations taking part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant.

Boysie, who has been paddling waka for 23 years, is one of 14 kaihoe (paddlers) that will row the ceremonial waka taua (war canoe) *Te Hono ki Aotearoa / The Link to New Zealand* in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the River Thames on 3 June (UK time).

The waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river.

Boysie says it's humbling to be on the waka representing New Zealand because "there are not too many people from our rohe privileged to be in such a kaupapa."

The crew of 14 kaihoe began their training at the end of March and included three wānanga in Hamilton. They trained on the Waikato River with a waka taua named *Whakāngi* which was carved from the same 800 year old tree that *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* was crafted from. As well as being out on the River, the wānanga also involved gym work, road running and haka and waiata practices. It is an intense weekend of learning and training.

The Toi Māori waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* is on permanent loan to the Volkenkunde Museum in Leiden. It was built as a *Waka for Europe* and can be used as a vehicle to promote Māori arts, culture and New Zealand at events throughout Europe.

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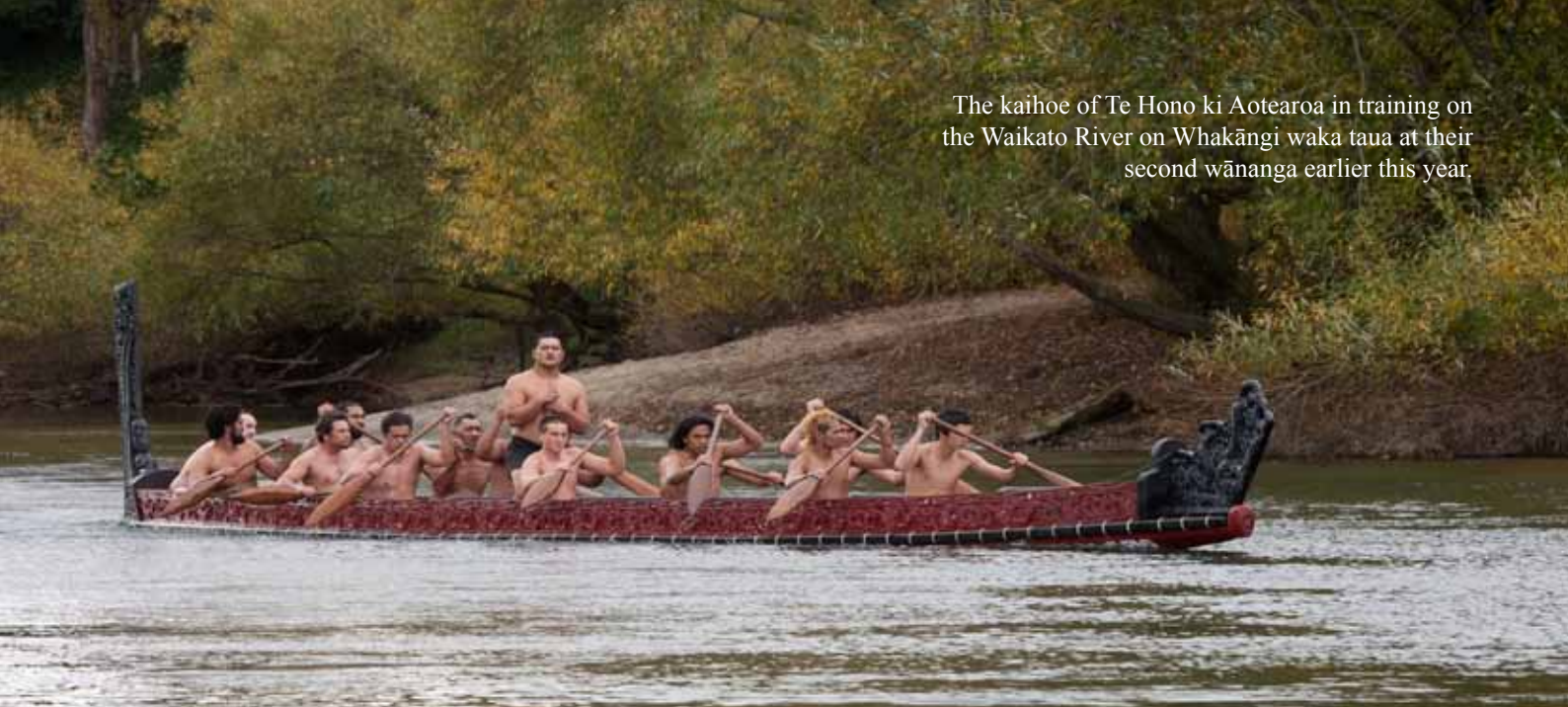
Boysie was in the kaihoe crew at the waka handover ceremony in Leiden in October 2010. But this is his first time to London in the waka. He's looking forward to learning more about other peoples and cultures and to promoting the Māori culture as well.



Boysie Paul (Ngāti Awa)

For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

Waka Captain leads River Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant ‘Link to Aotearoa’

Kaitia resident Chapman Harrison stands tall as kaihautū (leader) of the ceremonial waka taua (war canoe) *Te Hono ki Aotearoa / The Link to New Zealand*; literally and figuratively. “Chappy” will captain the waka taua as it takes part in the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee River Pageant in what is probably the largest flotilla ever to sail down the River Thames in London. *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. Chappy will lead the crew of 14 kaihoe that will represent New Zealand in the Pageant on 3 June.

As he prepares to fly out to London on 29 May, Chappy is excited about the upcoming experience of “taking waka to the world, proud and strong”. He says it makes him feel “proud to be Māori, Kiwi and a New Zealander”.

The crew of 14 kaihoe began their training at the end of March and included three wānanga in Hamilton. They trained on the Waikato River with a waka taua named *Whakāngi* which was carved from the same 800 year old tree that *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* was crafted from.

As well as being out on the River, the wānanga also involved gym work, road running and haka and waiata practices. Each session is an intense weekend of learning and training. The Toi Māori waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* is on permanent loan to the Volkenkunde Museum in Leiden. It was built as a *Waka for Europe* and can be used as a vehicle to promote Māori arts, culture and New Zealand at events throughout Europe.

Chappy Harrison (Ngāti Kahu) watches over his kaihoe

The involvement of the waka in the Diamond Jubilee pageant has been funded by the New Zealand government. Officials from Te Puni Kōkiri; Te Manatū Taonga the Ministry for Culture and Heritage; and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have assisted with arrangements. Chappy began his involvement with waka 34 years ago with his parents, on trips to Waitangi. He remembers his first role in a waka, as a seven-year-old, was as a bailer.

When asked what he enjoys most about being a kaihoe he replies simply; “Everything. The haka, hoe, whanaungatanga and oneness with the waka.”

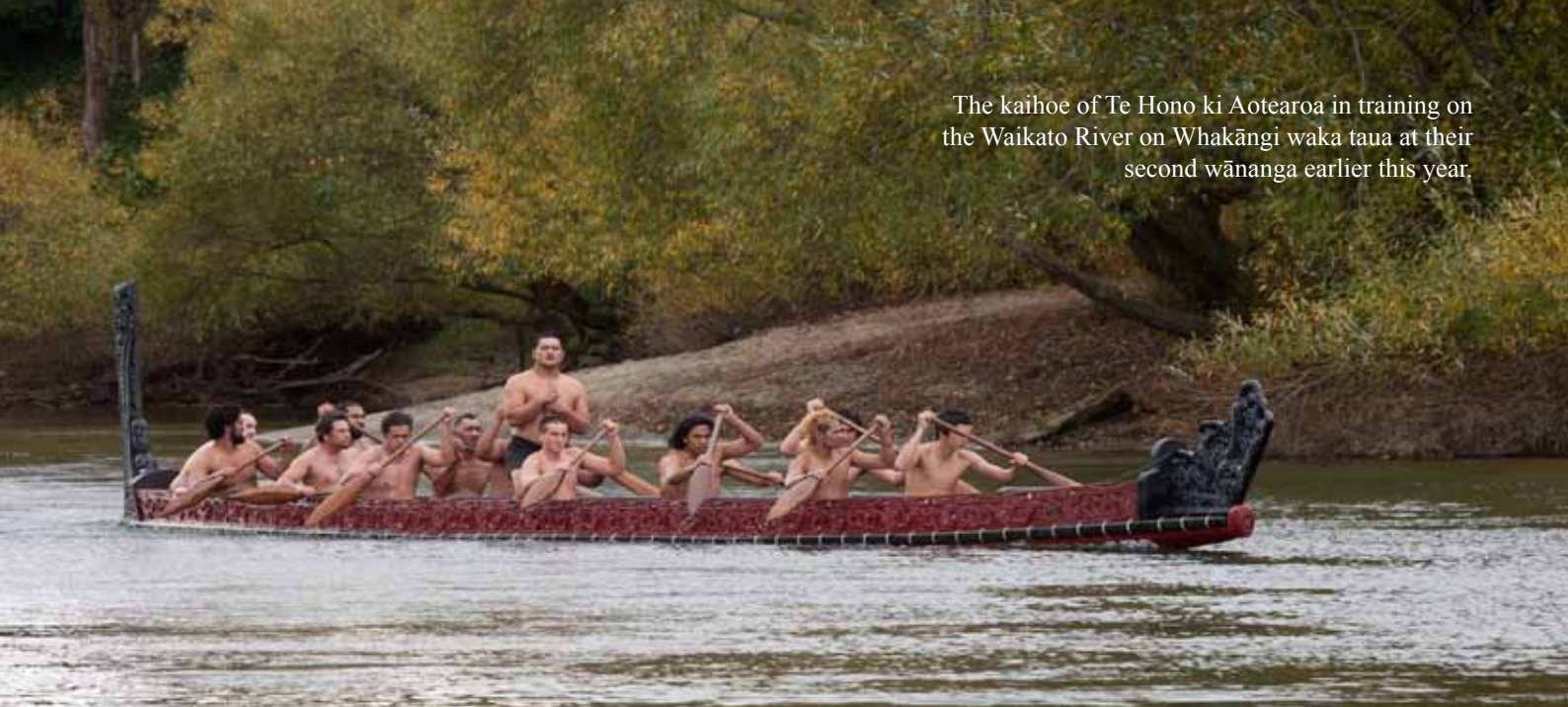
The upcoming trip to London is Chappy’s fourth overseas as kaihautū for a Toi Māori waka taua. His role as kaihautū is one he holds with pride: “Leadership on waka helps me relate to people in my professional world.”

Respecting others is important, even if they have a different world view. “But once we are on (the same) kaupapa we all have one intention, passion and objective,” Chappy says.



For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

Celebrating the Queen’s Jubilee in waka taua; uniquely Aotearoa

Of Samoan-Chinese whakapapa Fuifui Teevale says being a kaihoe on the waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* which will represent New Zealand at the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee River Pageant is a “once in a life time experience”.

The 34-year-old father has been paddling for five years. “I was first introduced to waka ama, through my partners’ family, and then later got involved with waka taua at Waitangi Day.”

He is now preparing to travel to London at the end of this month as part of the 14-man kaihoe crew that will row the ceremonial waka taua (war canoe) *Te Hono ki Aotearoa / The Link to New Zealand* in the Pageant on 3 June.

The waka taua will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river.

Te Hono ki Aotearoa was constructed by Toi Māori and is on permanent loan to the Volkenkunde Museum in Leiden, Holland. It was built as a *Waka for Europe* and can be used as a vehicle to promote Māori arts, culture and New Zealand at events throughout Europe. The involvement of the waka in the Diamond Jubilee pageant has been funded by the New Zealand government. Officials from Te Puni Kōkiri; Te Manatū Taonga the Ministry for Culture and Heritage; and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have assisted with arrangements. Fuifui has already been kaihoe on *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* two times. The first in 2010 when the waka taua was handed over to the Volkenkunde Museum; the second in 2011 when the waka took part in the City of London Festival and sailed on the River Thames.

Fuifui Teevale (Ngāti Hamoa)

Everything Fuifui has learned and experienced as a kaihoe has been positive on many levels. “I enjoy knowing that I am learning skills and knowledge passed down through the generations. Already my six-year-old son has taken an interest in kaupapa waka and that is something I am very proud of.” There are the usual challenges about being a kaihoe such as time commitments and organisation of work and family but it is “really a small hurdle to get over,” Fuifui says.

Being of Samoan-Chinese heritage, Fuifui says that kaupapa waka allows him another avenue to experience Māori tikanga and te reo. “My children attend kōhanga reo and kura kaupapa and Māori and Samoan are their first languages,” he says.

“Being involved with waka allows me to be immersed in a natural environment where tikanga and reo are practiced.”

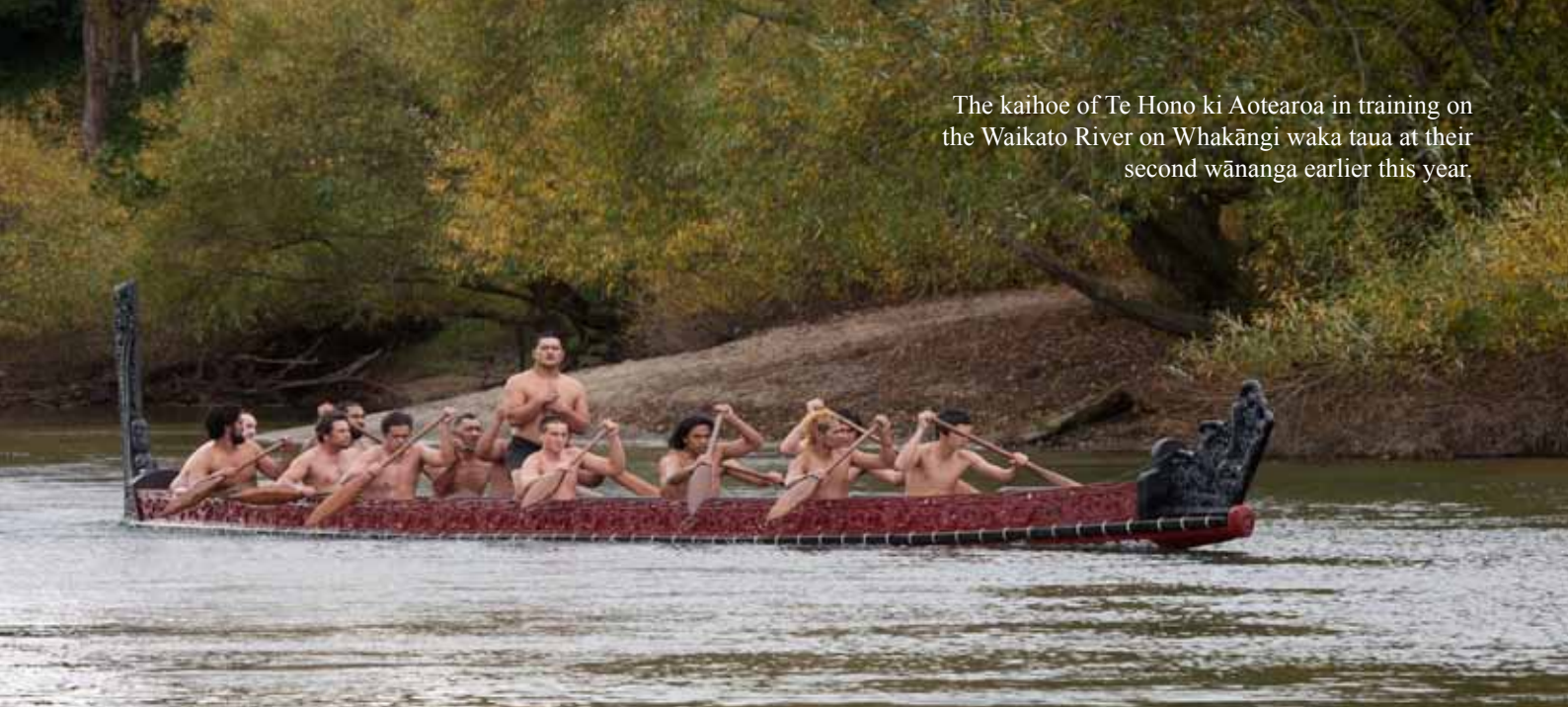
In preparation for the upcoming River Thames Pageant, Fuifui has shed 10kgs and has made fantastic connections with other kaihoe both within Aotearoa and internationally.

“It is a real honour to represent Aotearoa at the Pageant, especially through kaupapa waka. My family and friends think it’s great to see us support this celebration in a way that is unique to Aotearoa.”



For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

Kaihoe journey to London

Becoming a kaihoe (paddler) 12 years ago started Jordan Paraha on a life-long journey to learn more about himself. The 20 year old Ngāpuhi has come a long way thanks to his involvement with waka and paddling. “Before I started doing waka I didn’t know anything about where I was from; didn’t even know what tikanga meant.”

Not only is Jordan speaking te reo Māori, doing haka and waiata but through his involvement with waka he’s now preparing to travel to London to represent New Zealand at the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

Jordan is one of the kaihoe (paddlers) that will row the ceremonial waka taua (war canoe) *Te Hono ki Aotearoa / The Link to New Zealand* in the Thames Diamond Jubilee River Pageant on 3 June.

The waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river.

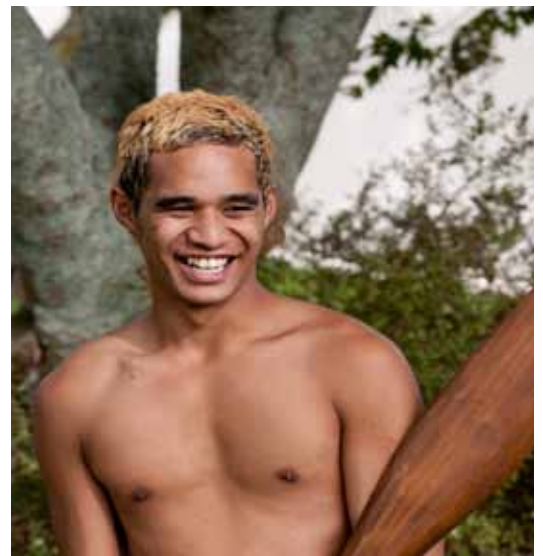
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Now living in Ōtara, Jordan had moved back up north in 2000 to his family home in Moerewa. His Uncle introduced him to

waka and trained him as a kaihoe in preparation for Waitangi Day. “And I’ve been doing waka ever since,” Jordan says. He enjoys the hard work that comes with waka and says it “keeps me focussed on life and makes me stay out of trouble”. It is a passion Jordan feels he can pass down to his younger whānau too.

He’s looking forward to the experience; his first time overseas. “It might give me a different look at life, hopefully.”

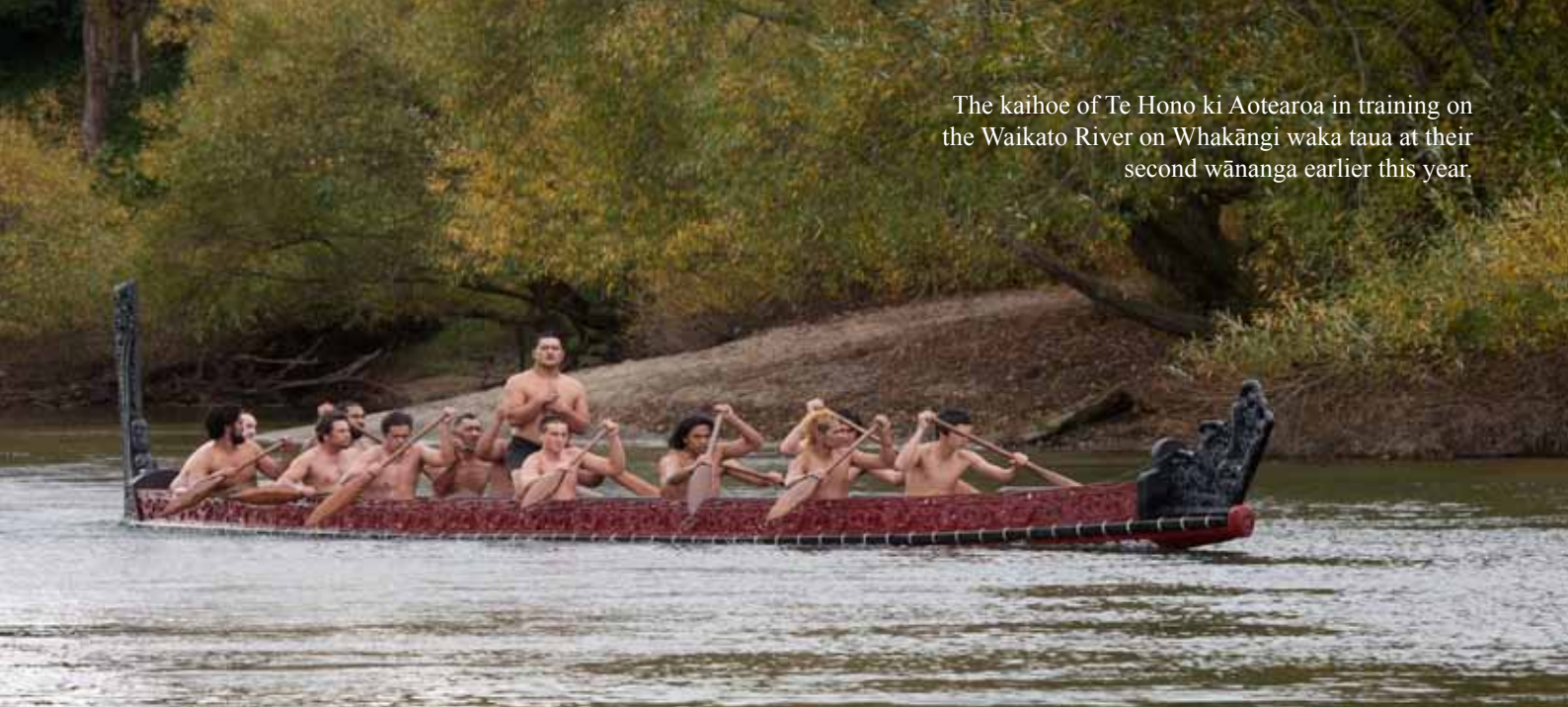
The Toi Māori waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* is on permanent loan to the Volkenkunde Museum in Leiden. It was built as a *Waka for Europe* and can be used as a vehicle to promote Māori arts, culture and New Zealand at events throughout Europe. The involvement of the waka in the Diamond Jubilee pageant has been funded by the New Zealand government. Officials from Te Puni Kōkiri; Te Manatū Taonga the Ministry for Culture and Heritage; and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have assisted with arrangements.



Jordan Paraha (Ngāpuhi)

For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

A brotherhood at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Kaitiā resident Kevin Harrison has been paddling in waka only since the late 1990s. But already, his passion has taken him to Leiden in the Netherlands and now he's preparing to travel to London.

The 21-year-old is one of 14 kaihoe (paddlers) that will row the ceremonial waka taua (war canoe) *Te Hono ki Aotearoa / The Link to New Zealand* in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the River Thames on 3 June.

Kevin was introduced to paddling through his whānau and going to Waitangi. What's enjoyable about it is "the brotherhood with other kaihoe and the opportunities that waka provides".

Being a kaihoe means he's "meeting new people and going to different places which helps me to understand myself."

The waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river.

The crew of 14 kaihoe began their training at the end of March and included three wānanga in Hamilton. They trained on the Waikato River with a waka taua named *Whakāngi* which was carved from the same 800 year old tree that *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* was crafted from. As well as being out on the River, the wānanga also involved gym work, road running and haka and waiata practices. It is an intense weekend of learning and training.

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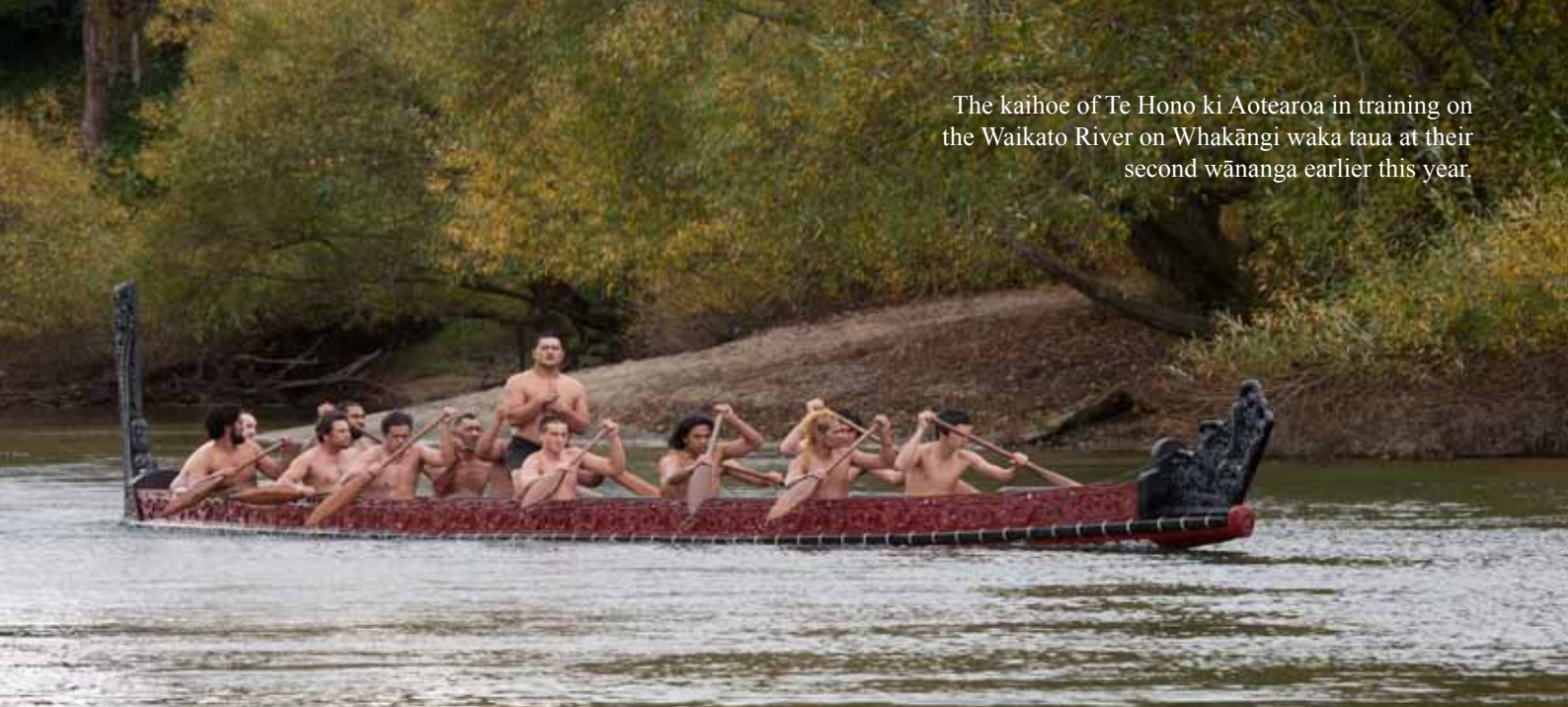
Kevin was in the kaihoe crew at the waka handover ceremony in Leiden in October 2010. But this is his first time to London. Kevin says he's looking forward to being in the waka on the River Thames. "It will give me an idea on what London is like; also rowing on different waters is an experience."

Kevin Harrison (Ngāti Kahu)



For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

Born into waka

The eldest son of well-known waka exponent Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr; Namaka Barclay-Kerr says he was born into waka.

“The first time I set foot in a waka was when my dad made me bailer on his waka taua *Taheretikitiki* down at Tūrangawaewae,” Namaka remembers.

“The first time I paddled a waka, we were going on holiday down in Whakatāne and we stopped at Maketū, took two single waka and he taught me how to paddle in a little lagoon.” Those first paddles for Namaka started at five-years-old. Now 23, he has paddled in many ceremonies and racing events around the world and is preparing to travel to London at the end of this month.

Namaka is part of the 14-man crew of the ceremonial waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa/The Link to New Zealand* which is representing New Zealand at the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. The waka taua will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the River Thames.

Having his eyes opened to the many different kinds of water transport and learning about the different styles of how other iwi hoe (paddle) their waka is something that Namaka is looking forward to.

Being a kaihoe has challenges, including getting past the physical and mental fatigue as well as getting all of the actions right. But it is a very positive experience for Namaka.

“I enjoy being out on the open ocean, racing, and also doing cultural waka activities like big ceremonies at Waitangi and the Coronation. I enjoy reliving and doing something that our ancestors used to do before us.”

Namaka Kerr (Waikato)

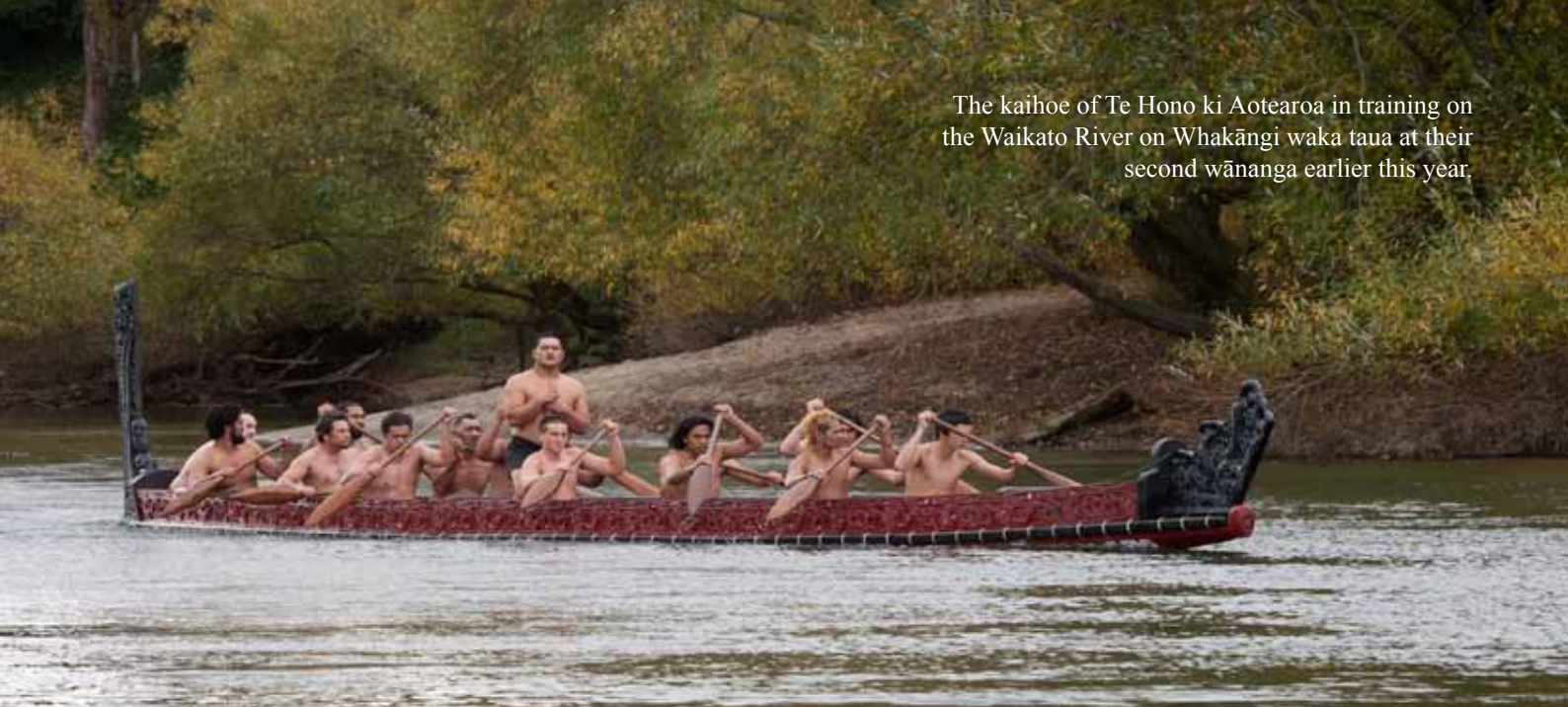
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Namaka’s family and friends think his role as a kaihoe on *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* at the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee is “awesome” and “an honour”. For Namaka; “it’s an awesome feeling representing us as Māori.”



For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

A story for the mokopuna

When Pomana Taniwha's whānau and friends found out he was going to London for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee as a kaihoe (paddler) on *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* their response was "Mean Māori Mean!"

The 23 year old Kororāreka resident started paddling in 2004 for a year then returned to the kaupapa in 2010. The upcoming trip to London will be Pomana's second overseas trip as a kaihoe on *Te Hono ki Aotearoa*.

Pomana is part of the 14-man kaihoe crew that will row the ceremonial waka taua (war canoe) *Te Hono ki Aotearoa / The Link to New Zealand* in the Thames Diamond Jubilee River Pageant on 3 June.

The waka taua will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river.

When asked what he enjoys most about being a kaihoe, Pomana says it allows him to "embrace the wairua and the mana of my tūpuna. I feel the ihi and the wehi of what it may have been like. It's one of my passions that I get to do and celebrate with my brothers."

Although there may be physical challenges paddling long distances, Pomana reckons it's all worth it. "When you're paddling and chanting I feel as if I'm in a trance, I feel like a toa (warrior)."

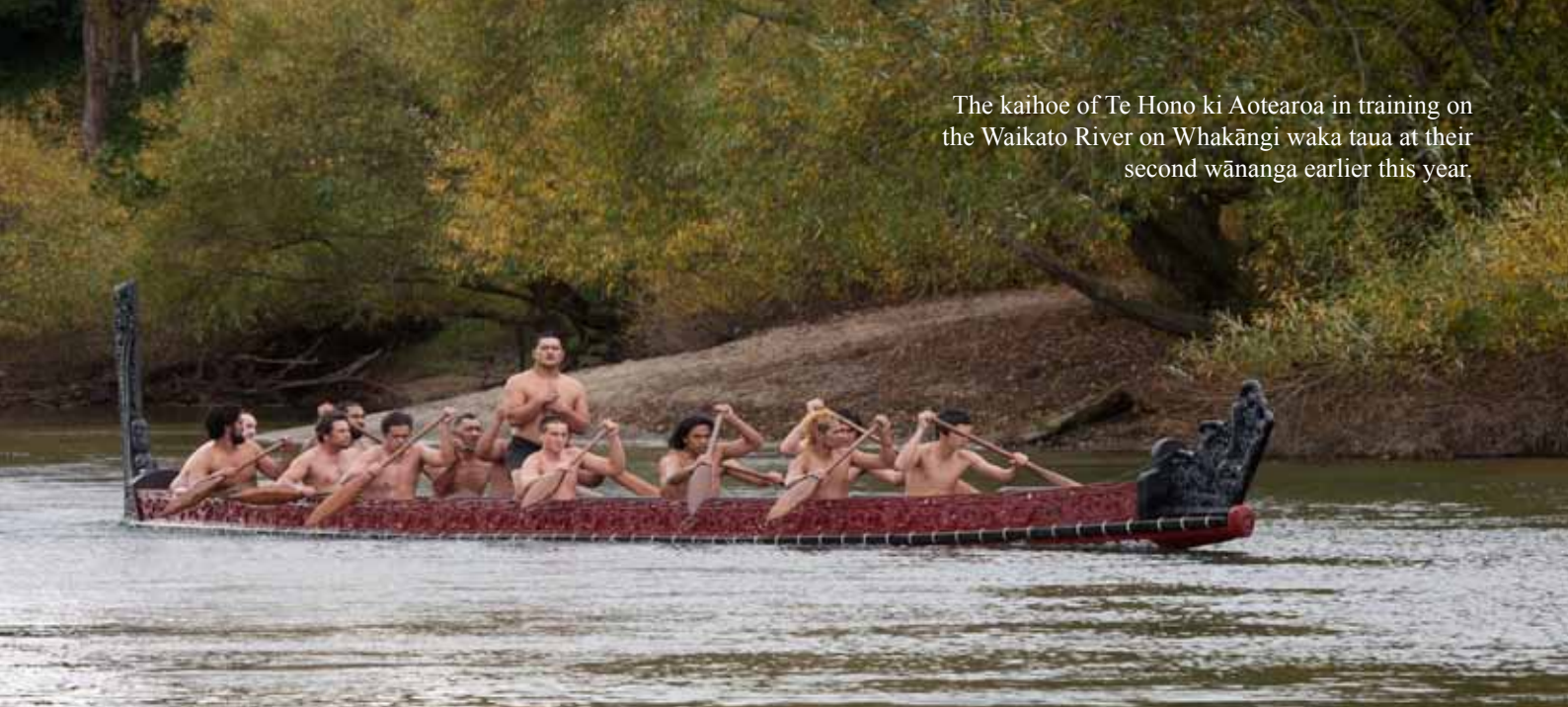
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Pomana Taniwha (Ngāpuhi)



For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

Māori Ambassador rows waka taua at Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant

Twenty-five-year-old Rutene Gabel's involvement in te ao waka (the world of waka) was inevitable, as the son of Robert Gabel, Chair of Ngā Waka Federation.

Rutene has paddled for 20 years. "I was introduced to the waka kaupapa through my father and his involvement with the waka hourua *Te Aurere*."

Then, Hawaiian navigators led by Nainoa Thompson held wānanga on Rutene's papakāinga at Aurere, Mangonui where they taught traditional Polynesian and celestial navigation techniques.

Now, Rutene is preparing to travel to London as part of the 14-man kaihoe crew that will row the ceremonial waka taua (war canoe) *Te Hono ki Aotearoa / The Link to New Zealand* in the Thames Diamond Jubilee River Pageant on 3 June.

The waka taua will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river.

For Rutene, taking part in such a prestigious, international event is both exciting and an experience to be proud of as Māori Ambassadors on the River Thames. "It will be a truly amazing experience to see the world from another angle." *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* was constructed by Toi Māori and is on permanent loan to the Volkenkunde Museum in Leiden, Holland. It was built as a *Waka for Europe* and can be used as a vehicle to promote Māori arts, culture and New Zealand at events throughout Europe. The involvement of the waka in the Diamond Jubilee pageant has been funded by the New Zealand government. Officials from Te Puni Kōkiri; Te Manatū Taonga the Ministry for Culture and Heritage; and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have assisted with arrangements. Although he began his journey in kaupapa

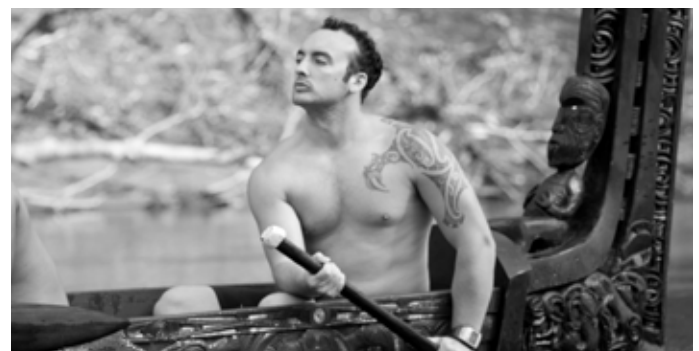
waka in his fathers' footsteps, Rutene has grown into his own as a kaihoe who has the important role of steering the waka from the back.

Rutene has already been kaihoe on *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* two times. The first in 2010 when the waka taua was handed over to the Volkenkunde Museum; the second in 2011 when the waka took part in the City of London Festival and sailed on the River Thames.

For him, the enjoyment of paddling is multi-dimensional. "There is a physical, spiritual and mental element of being a kaihoe. Paddling, especially on a waka tūpuna, gives you spiritual and mental sustenance and the mental toughness to complete any task at hand."

One of the key challenges as a kaihoe is achieving unity. "Waka revolves around kaihoe paddling together as one, to paddle as one is a spectacular sight; to not paddle as one can have grave consequences," Rutene says.

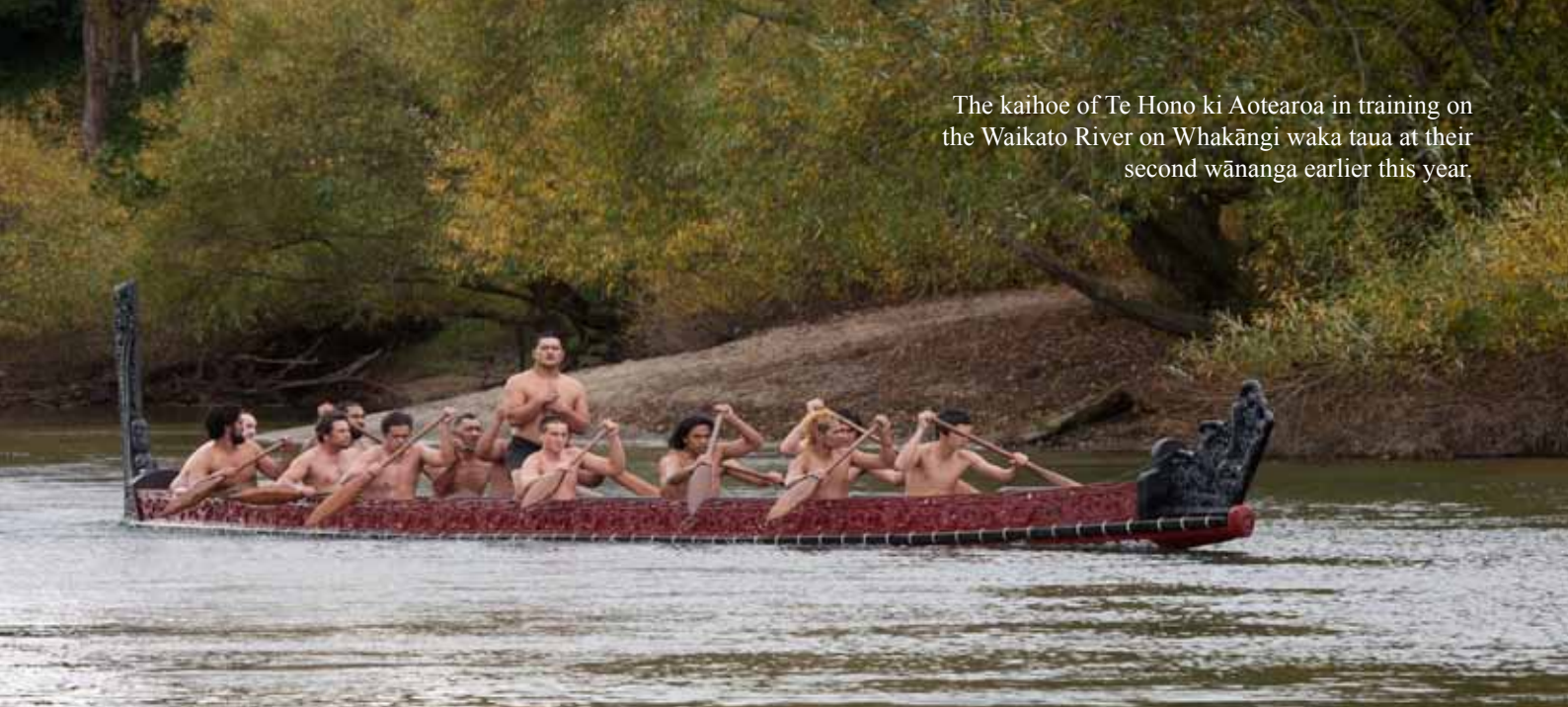
"Waka paddling," he says "gives me a balance. Waka Ama gives me the physical fitness to do anything, to be in great condition at all times. Waka taua gives me the cultural and tikanga sustenance that is important in today's society. Waka releases me from the everyday pressures such as work and university studies."



Rutene Gabel (Ngāti Kahu, Te Rarawa)

For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

Hoping to open doors for other waka kaihoe

Twenty-one-year-old Tamahau Tangitu of Tauranga hopes that by paddling as well as he can, in the ceremonial waka taua representing New Zealand at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee River pageant, it will open doors for other kaihoe in Tauranga. Tamahau is one of 14 kaihoe (paddlers) that will row the ceremonial waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa / The Link to New Zealand* in the Thames Diamond Jubilee River Pageant on 3 June.

Te Hono ki Aotearoa will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river. Although Tamahau has been paddling since he was seven-years-old, this is his first time paddling overseas on a Toi Māori waka taua.

"I was raised with kaupapa waka," Tamahau says. "From my work as a paddler, I strengthen my ties to my tūpuna."

The crew of 14 kaihoe began their training at the end of March and included three wānanga in Hamilton. They trained on the Waikato River with a waka taua named *Whakāngi* which was carved from the same 800 year old tree that *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* was crafted from. As well as being out on the River, the wānanga also involved gym work, road running and haka and waiata practices. Each session is an intense weekend of learning and training.

Although it can be a challenge to attend the wānanga it is clearly worth it. It is, he says, an "honour to demonstrate

traditional practices and protocols because waka paddling exhilarates me and excites my soul."

Tamahau's passion for waka sees him paddling for three other waka too; *Tākitimu*, *Ngā Kaihoe o Tauranga*, and *Ngā kuri a Tarawha*.

Te Hono ki Aotearoa is on permanent loan to the Volkenkunde Museum in Leiden. It was built as a *Waka for Europe* and can be used as a vehicle to promote Māori arts, culture and New Zealand at events throughout Europe. The involvement of the waka in the Diamond Jubilee pageant has been funded by the New Zealand government. Officials from Te Puni Kōkiri; Te Manatū Taonga the Ministry for Culture and Heritage; and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have assisted with arrangements.

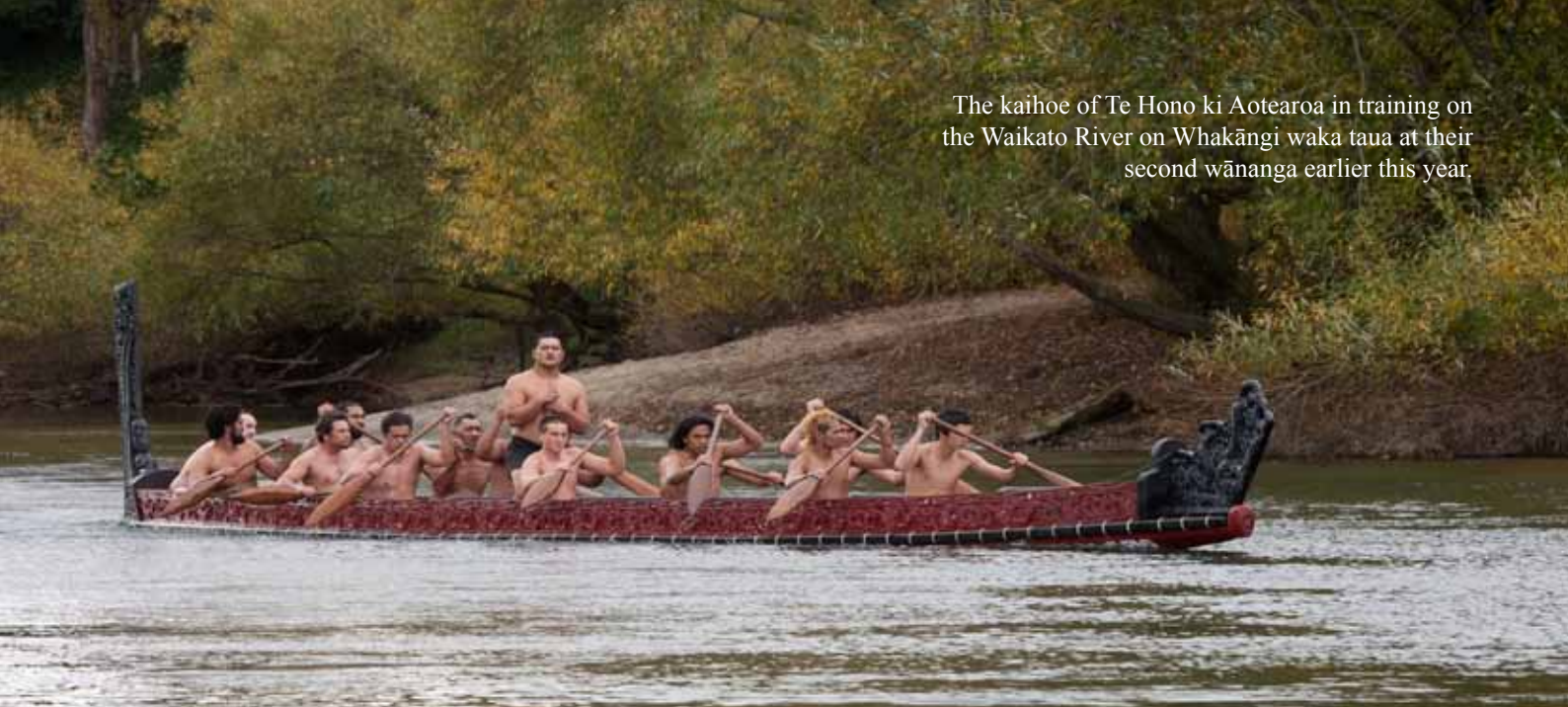
As he prepares to fly to London on 29 May, Tamahau is mindful of the responsibility of being a representative; "first, for my whānau, second, for my marae, hapū and waka, third, for my iwi and Māori people."



Tamahau Tangitu (Ngāti Ranginui, Ngai te Rangī, Ngāi Tuhoē, Ngāti Haua)

For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

A stronger individual and family man thanks to kaihoe experience

Manukau resident Tapa Henry says being a kaihoe (paddler) in a ceremonial waka taua makes him a stronger individual and family man. After just two years paddling, he is about to embark on a great opportunity and says he still “can’t believe it”.

Tapa is one of 14 kaihoe (paddlers) that will row the ceremonial waka taua (war canoe) *Te Hono ki Aotearoa / The Link to New Zealand* in the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the River Thames on 3 June.

Tapa says he was first introduced to paddling at Waitangi when he saw friends and family involved. “I was amazed by the discipline and technique.”

Now that he’s involved, he says it brings his family closer and he hopes his boys, 11 and 6 year olds, will follow in his footsteps one day.

The waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river.

The crew of 14 kaihoe began their training at the end of March and included three wānanga in Hamilton. They trained on the Waikato River with a waka taua named *Whakāngi* which was carved from the same 800 year old tree that *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* was crafted from.

As well as being out on the River, the wānanga also involved gym work, road running and haka and waiata practices. It is an intense weekend of learning and training.

Tapa says he looking forward to the experience and beyond it to further his future in waka.

The Toi Māori waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* is on permanent loan to the Volkenkunke Museum in Leiden. It was built as a *Waka for Europe* and can be used as a vehicle to promote Māori arts, culture and New Zealand at events throughout Europe.

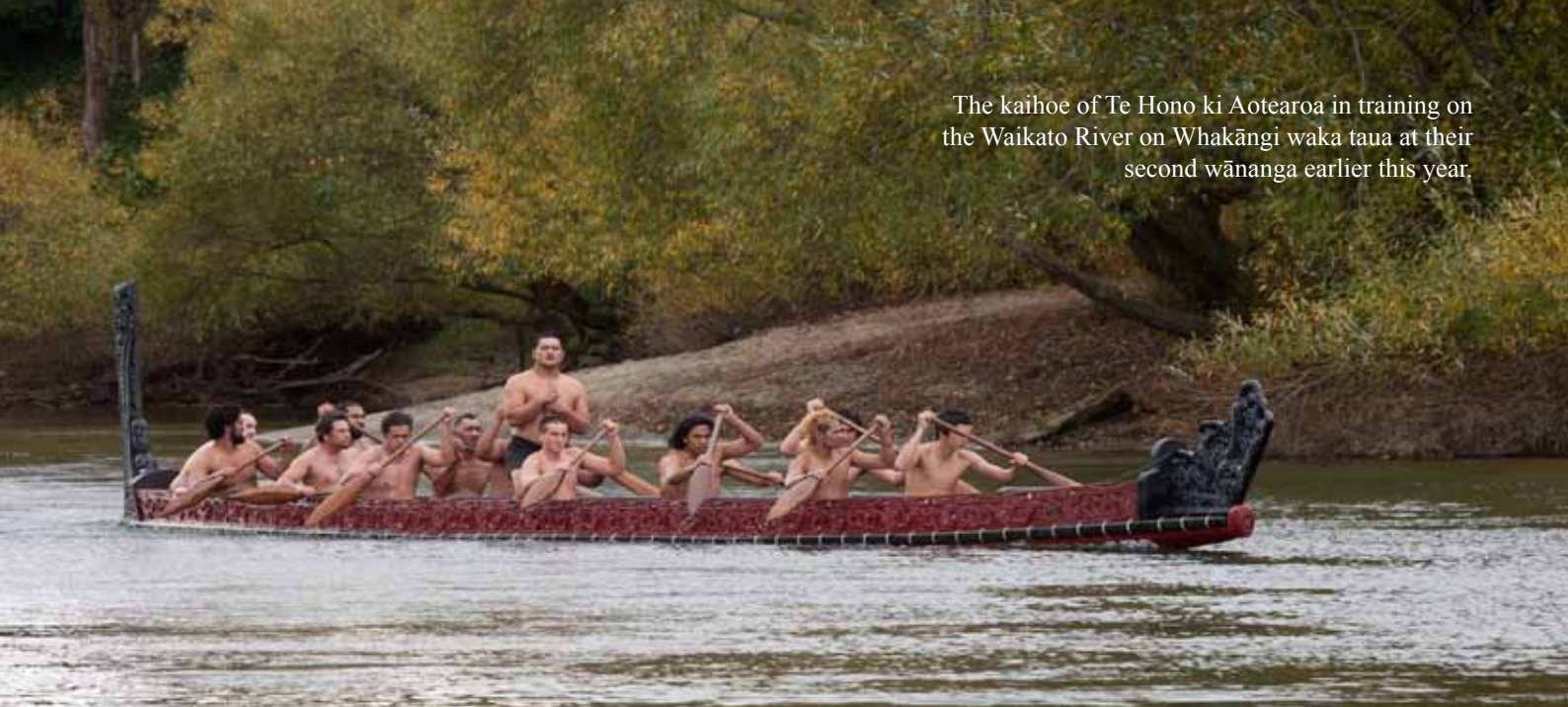
The involvement of the waka in the Diamond Jubilee pageant has been funded by the New Zealand government. Officials from Te Puni Kōkiri; Te Manatū Taonga the Ministry for Culture and Heritage; and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have assisted with arrangements.



Tapa Henry (Takitumu)

For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



All photos by Tamati Norman; courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri and Toi Māori Aotearoa

A family tradition

Eighteen-year-old Turanga Barclay-Kerr comes from a family of waka kaihoe (paddlers).

Along with his older brother Namaka, Turanga is part of the 14-man crew of the ceremonial waka taua *Te Hono ki Aotearoa/ The Link to New Zealand* which is representing New Zealand at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on 3 June.

Like his brother, Turanga has paddled since he was five years old, having been introduced by their father Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr. His father is one of this country's leading exponents of waka and a revivalist of ocean sailing by celestial navigation on waka hourua (double-hulled canoe).

As a kaihoe, Turanga has paddled on waka taua and sailed waka hourua in Aotearoa and throughout the Pacific. "I enjoy getting to experience new things in different environments, with different people," Turanga says.

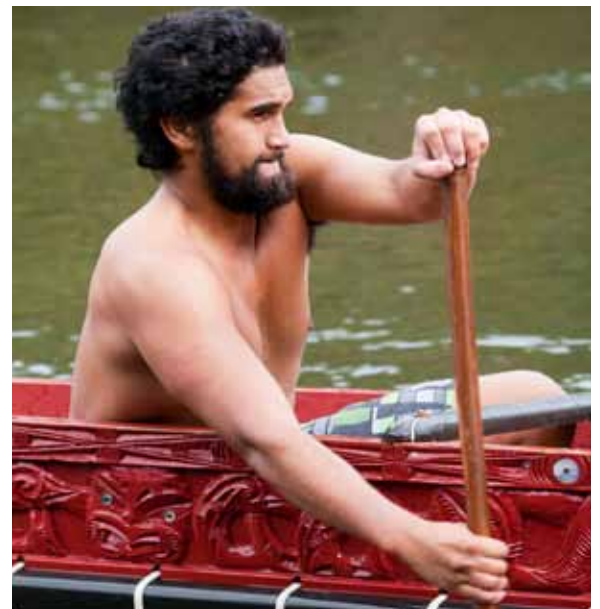
The kaihoe and their waka crew will be leaving New Zealand at the end of this month; meeting up with the 13.5 metre, 1 tonne waka taua on 1 June. *Te Hono ki Aotearoa* will be one of more than 1,000 vessels in a flotilla taking part in the 4-hour formal procession. It will be one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the River Thames.

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Turanga says being a kaihoe connects him to his reo Māori and tikanga because haka, waiata and karakia are what they go through and is all part of the experience.

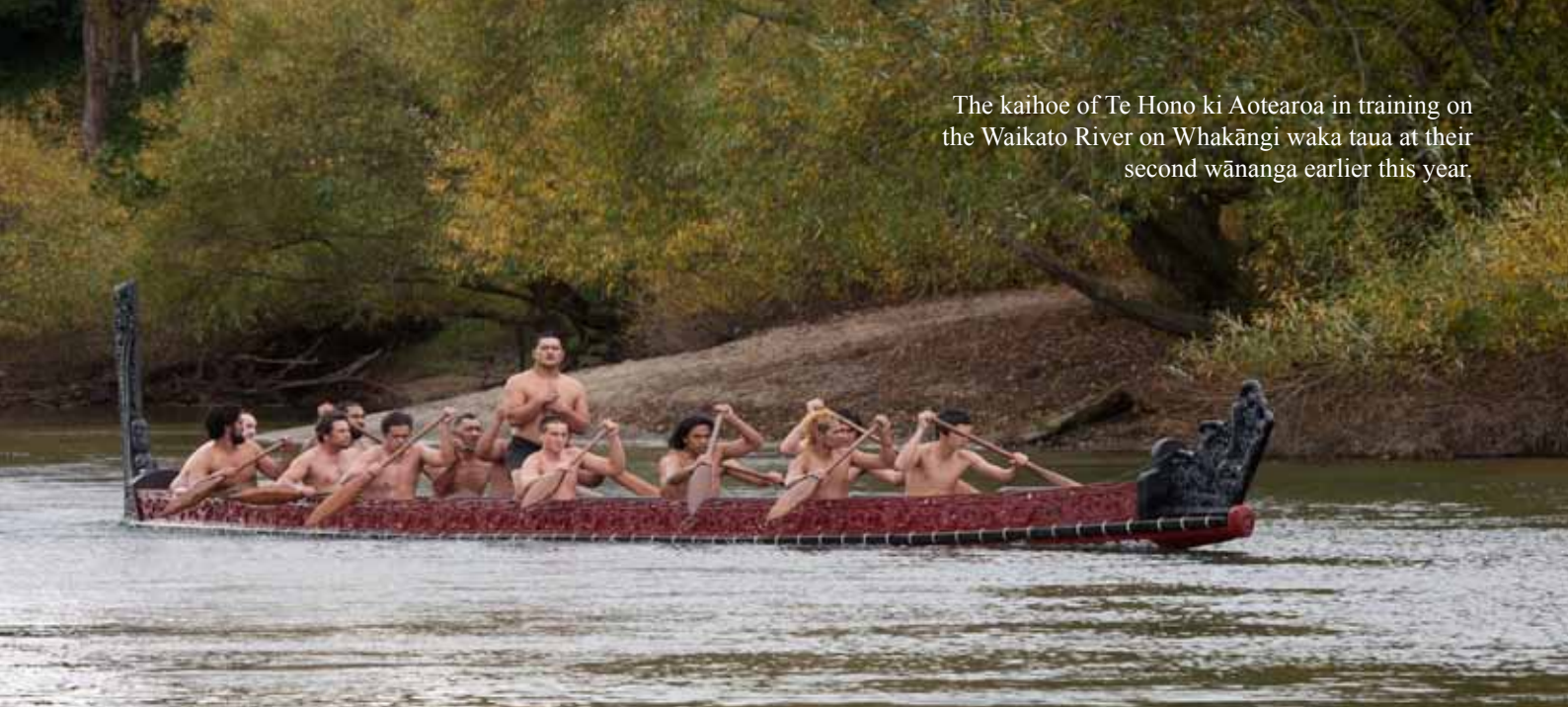
It's this experience, of being Māori, which he is looking forward to representing on a world stage as the crew takes the waka taua down the River Thames.



Turanga Barclay-Kerr (Waikato)

For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518

The kaihoe of Te Hono ki Aotearoa in training on the Waikato River on Whakāngi waka taua at their second wānanga earlier this year.



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An experience like no other

When Zane Katene Murch's friends found out he was going to represent New Zealand as a kaihoe (paddler) on a waka taua (war canoe) taking part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant they were "speechless bro".

Eighteen year old Zane has been paddling since he was 14. He was introduced to kaupapa waka by Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr who is one of this country's leading exponents of waka and a revivalist of ocean sailing by celestial navigation on waka hourua (double-hulled canoe).

"Hotu ... and their whānau introduced me to paddling by taking me along to some of their training for the Koroneihana (annual Coronation celebrations for the Māori King)." Now paddling for *Taheretikitiki* one of the six waka taua of Tainui, Zane enjoys being part of the kaihoe whānau. "It's an experience like no other; not many people get the chance to be a kaihoe," he says.

"Being a kaihoe connects me to our tīpuna that paddled waka throughout the Pacific Ocean; we are able to be in their footsteps, getting a taste of what they did in life."

Now his kaihoe involvement sees Zane preparing to travel to London at the end of this month. He is part of the 14-man kaihoe crew that will row the ceremonial waka taua (war canoe) *Te Hono ki Aotearoa / The Link to New Zealand* in the Thames Diamond Jubilee River Pageant on 3 June.

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Zane Katene Murch (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Porou)

For more information contact: Tamahou Temara 021 357 894 OR Paula Collins 021 518 518