

PĀ MAI TŌ REO

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi
INCORPORATED

Sails built to 'swallow the wind'

Ngahiwi Tomoana

One of the greatest technological advances of early Māori ancestry while in Taiwan was what is widely known now as the "crab claw" sail because of its shape.

It "swallows" the wind through a "V" shaped structure of spars and sails creating a vortex flow giving the vessel both lift and depth at the same time.

But due to the huge oceans, tides and currents and the strong trade winds this also made the boat more unstable as well. Ama, hama or outriggers were fitted to the windward side to stabilise small canoe which were then designed for larger vessels which were then adapted as double hulled waka.

These innovations enabled Austronesian, Melanesian, Micronesian and Polynesian sailors to become voyagers covering thousands of miles of unexplored oceans, over one third of the earth's surface, the Great Ocean of Kiwa, to become the greatest sailors of that time and there has been no journey of those epic proportions until a rocket landed men on the moon in 1964, thousands of years later.

As previously described, names for these vessels are familiar throughout Austronesia, from wangka in Southeast Asia to wanga from Malaysia further west, to baaka in the Philippines to waka, vaka, va'a, wa'a and waka again as you reach Aotearoa.

Some names for sails in Asia are laya and layar while deeper in the



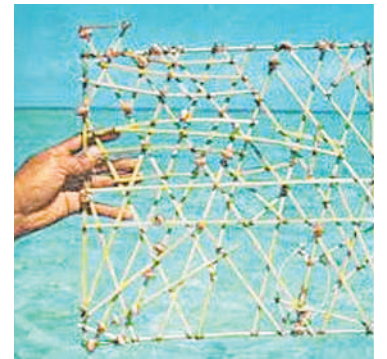
Tawhana Chadwick was one of just two Ngāti Kahungunu crew members who sailed on Te Matau A Maui, a double hulled sailing waka that undertook an epic pacific journey back in 2012.

Pacific they are la and ra. The outrigger float is arman and saman then hama and ama here. The outrigger boom is kiaja, 'iato, 'iako and kiato while the boom of the crab claw sail is jila, tila, sila and tira.

All this voyaging experiential knowledge could well have been lost to us today had it not been for Mau Pailug from Satawal in the Caroline Islands of Micronesia. He has been described as the "Gateway from the extinction of history and sailing

knowledge to the Renaissance and fertility of new generations of voyagers".

He died in 2010 but not before implanting a vast amount of his experience into a new generation of voyagers including our own Takitimu sailors and navigators including the late Sir Tom Davis from Rarotonga and the late Ta Hector Busby from Ngāti Kahu. We have Hoturoa Barclay Kerr from Kawhia, while one of our own, Piri Smith, has the highest celestial



A sailing stick map, as used by ancestral voyagers covering thousands of miles of unexplored oceans. Photo / Walter Meayers Edwards

navigator title, one of only a handful throughout the world.

Some of our other qualified voyaging captains are Frank Kawe, Jack Thatcher, Tawhana Chadwick, Raihania Tipoki, Hana Wainohu, Dion Wong and Te Aturangi Clamp.

Hoturoa will be presenting in Dubai next month with me to reintroduce the ancient trade routes of our ancestors, tribe to tribe, nation to nation, continent to continent to the World Business Expo in the UAE during Te Aratini – the tribal trading global expo supported by our government, the UAE and the United Nations.

You see, our global voyaging is continuing on ... but that's another story!

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