

The Pearl of the North 2017,
Te Pepeha o Ngati Rehia

Ko Mataatua te waka
Ko Mataka te Maunga
Ko Te Awa o nga Rangatira te Awa
Ko Te Kerei Mangonui te Roto
Ko Whitiara me Hiruharama Hou nga Whare Tupuna
Ko Ngapuhi te Iwi
Ko Ngati Rehia te Hapu
Tihei wa Mauriora!!



In 2017, we wish to connect you to our Ngati Rehia whakapapa, and to the essence of what the Pearl of the North is about.

Look 5km West towards Takou Bay, lays the **Mataatua Waka** of which Ngati Rehia is Kaitiaki, settled in its resting place, resisting currents and manmade nuisances to hold steadfast to the river bed.

Further North, Ngati Kura and Ngati Rehia are one people, intertwined and the subject of the beautifully hand crafted taonga 'Nga Whiringa e Rua'.

Set out early and paddle east into the rising sun, follow the wash of the magnificent magical coastline. Lion Rock catches the eye and one's efforts can't help but intensify just to get a good close up look of this Sphinx- like rock then onwards to Wiwiki and the Nine Pins.

Next appears **Mataka**, a maunga born witness to every piece of history that has evolved and shaped our country. Holding status over our identity and testaments of our ancestors and their era.

In the distant is the Hole in the Rock, Rawhiti, Russell, Opuia, Waitangi and inland as far west as Waimate North, Puketi Forests around northeast to the the Cavalli Island, one can only feel blessed to be surrounded by all these beautiful places and their rich history.

Around Wiwiki and up **Te Awa o nga Rangatira (Rivers of the Chiefs)** assisted by the incoming tide, the hoe will have passed the half way stage! To one side are the Black Rocks, always cluttered with fat mussels, known for great fishing and diving. To the other, at the foot of Mataka, is Rangihoua or Marsden Cross, a constant reminder of a busy Trading station, Christianity and Samuel Marsden in the 1800s.

Then right, turning into **Te Kerei Mangonui** where history tells us Te Tiheru of the Mataatua (Bailer

of the Mataatua Waka) was lost overboard but still visible at low tide - hence our place name, Te Tii. Saluting the Oyster farms to the left right and scattered everywhere, signals not far away is the end.

Finally, **Whitiora** and **Hiruharama Hou** marae, where the Pearl of the North begins and ends.

Kaihoe o **Ngati Rehia** Trust truly hope you enjoy this unique race, we also hope our new marae ablution block and modern kitchen, will serve up a fitting end to your weekend. Nau mai haere mai e nga whanau hoe waka!

Tihei wa Mauri ora!!

