

The KAKINA, a Club project

Not all of the canoe races this summer have been in the water. The refurbishing of the Club's prime racing canoe has been a race against time. Barely ready for the Leeward Regatta and paddled with wet paint and much work ahead, the Kakina presented quite a contrast to her usual sleek polished appearance. In the two weeks between races a transformation took place.

Inspired by paddlers Mike Mason and Jimmy Bugbee, many of the paddlers pitched in and laboriously hand-sanded and put coat after coat of varnish on her beautiful koa hull. The paddlers worked long hours and far into the night with their project, right up to the eve of the Oahu Championship. Even at midnight there were at least five or six people putting on the finishing touches. Brant Ackerman, with much assistance, put beautiful racing stripes the length of the gunwales. Local artist, Wally Young, hand-lettered "Kakina" in beautiful script. Even race morning brought more last minute preparation as Mark Buck and several paddlers gave the hull a final wet sanding. The helping hands for the project came mostly from the younger paddlers. Frequent laborers were Walter Guild, Robbie Miller, Scott Rigg, Billy Bugbee, Drea Kaava, Greg Crane and many others who stopped to help, including President Rab Guild's wife Alice, who gave it a go for awhile following the Bouillabaisse dinner.