

23 May 2005

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To whom it may concern,

Henk Haazen

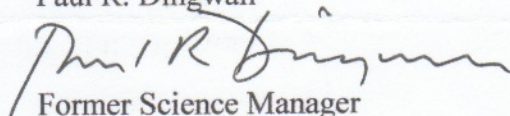
I met and worked with Henk when I chartered his vessel *Tiama* for a month-long Department of Conservation expedition the Subantarctic Auckland Islands in February 2003. The archaeological expedition, which I led, included 12 researchers, and Henk not only transported members to and from the islands, we also travelled extensively within the island group, visiting and recording more than 100 sites.

Henk impressed as a highly competent sailor and skipper. The islands are set in the Southern Ocean, and waters surrounding them are notoriously stormy and in many places poorly charted. The fact that our expedition, involving deep-water ocean travel and many shore landings by small craft, was completed successfully and without incident owes a great deal to Henk's sailing and navigational skills. Henk had a great deal of responsibility for the conduct and safety of our visit to these remote islands, which he fulfilled in an entirely satisfactory manner. *Tiama* proved to be an ideal expedition vessel, both for transport and for the equipment and on-board accommodation and research facilities provided.

Henk also proved to be an ideal expeditioner, not only supporting but also entering fully into our work. His relationship with me and other expeditioners was at all time friendly, co-operative and fully committed. He was totally accommodating to our needs, allowing flexibility in our itinerary and access, strictly within the bounds of safety, to all sites we wished to visit. He and his one crew member also provided tremendous support in carrying and generously augmenting our equipment. Moreover, he was a great on-board host and proved to be a wonderful cook. The atmosphere among all expeditioners throughout the trip was amicable – I cannot recall even one difficult moment or negative aspect during the entire expedition. I attribute a great deal of this to Henk's friendly disposition and helpful attitude.

Based on my experience, I can unreservedly recommend Henk as a man of impeccable character and highly skilled seamanship.

Paul R. Dingwall



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