

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION In Support of Randal's trip

Recommendation for Randal Stensness.

To who it may concern,

As a French Canadian writer, I have been attracted to Aotearoa/New Zealand to learn more about what sustainable development means for Maori. I met many amazing people from diverse communities around the country. I also had the great opportunity to accompany three Ngati Whare from Te Whaiti to Wisconsin where they were speaking at a conference on Indigenous Wisdom. Later the same year, I went with two other Maori to a conference on Sustainable Resources in Colorado. In both cases their mind blowing intelligence and social skills earned the respect and love of all the participants.

On my second trip to your lovely country, I went to Hokianga to pay a visit to Will Stensness and met his son Randal. They had built a nursery and were busy restoring the harbour by planting native trees. I could witness Randal sharing his knowledge with school students from Northland. He is an amazing teacher. Two years later, I met him again in San Francisco at the Center for Ecoliteracy, a center dedicated to sensitizing school kids to a more sustainable living. Once again I had the opportunity to appreciate Randal's attitude and talent.

Paul Stamets is the world leading expert on mycology. Randal has already attended a first workshop with Paul and I hear that he has now an opportunity to further his learning with the master of mycorestoration. Not only would it be good for Randal and his community, but it would be profitable for New Zealand as well if this young man is given the opportunity to share his experience with other people around the country. So, given Randall's communication skills, I ask you please to help him perfect his knowledge of this leading-edge technology and share it with all New Zealanders.

I love your country so much that I am planning a fifth visit next December. I have learned a lot from my numerous Maori friends and am deeply grateful to them. Besides writing, I am teaching Management and Sustainability at the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec where I don't miss an opportunity to talk about the dedication of Aotearoa's tangata whenua to the land and pay tribute to the people of New Zealand for the preservation of its gorgeous nature.

Thank you for paying attention to my cry from the heart.

Best regards,

Andrée Mathieu

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30 April 2008

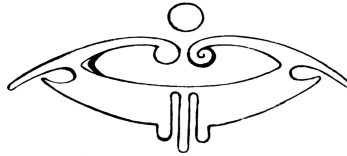
To Whom It May Concern.

I write in support of the application for funding for Randall Stensness to participate in a workshop in USA on mycorestoration, and to learn from an internship on Lopez Island. While I have not personally met Randall, I am aware of his interest and that of the Hokianga community he represents in environmental improvement, especially for lands associated with members of the Kaitiakitanga Programme and Network.

The mycorestoration course is being organized by Paul Stamets, a highly experienced scientist and entrepreneur – I have visited his mushroom farm in Washington State and read his very successful books covering cultivation and applied uses of a broad range of fungi. Applied uses of fungi is of relevance to research undertaken by mycologists (fungal scientists) in Landcare Research, a CRI and part of Science New Zealand.

I will be interested to learn of Randall's experiences through Paul's workshop and through working with practitioners who use mycorestoration technologies. This represents new methodology for New Zealand, that will need to be evaluated, customized, and tested for its applicability here. But in principle there is great appeal in the potential to use living fungal systems for the cost-efficient clean-up of effluent and polluted soils in both rural and urban areas.

Peter Buchanan  
Science Leader, Biosystematics



**HE ORANGA MO NGA URI TUKU IHO TRUST  
TAONGA TUKU IHO PROJECT**

20 BARRY AVENUE – RUATOREA PH / FAX: 06 864.8363

***Reference for Randal Stensness***

**I write on behalf of our organisation to endorse the application for travel funding made by Randal Stensness from Hokianga Harbour care to attend a seminar by Paul Stamets on Mycorestoration Natural Technology 7-8 June Olympia US.**

**Randal has met the requirements for attending this seminar as he has previously attended a mushroom cultivation seminar. He will complete time as an intern on Lopez Island US to practice the techniques of mycorestoration, sustainable housing and sustainable community development.**

**I believe the opportunity to extend his well developed knowledge and experience in this field will be shared extensively with communities such as ours here in Ruatoria on his return to New Zealand. We will be richer as communities in New Zealand by providing support for someone such as Randal to extend his proficiency in the area of developing sustainable communities.**

**Tui Aroha Warmenhoven  
(Trustee: Research Manager)**

-----Original Message-----

From: MalibuOutWest [<mailto:cleaneearth@clear.net.nz>]

Sent: Monday, 28 April 2008 10:07 a.m.

To: 'peter goldsbury'

Subject: RE: Mycorestoration Project - Randal to US then back to share with all

Kia ora Peter,

Clean Earth and Kaiwhenua Organics supports this initiative to allow Randall Stensness to travel to obtain more knowledge on environmental restoration and mycorestoration plus knowledge on fungi.

As a country we are moving towards projects for environmental restoration, it is paramount that we have community personal that would lead and guide us with their knowledge to undertake these tasks.

Whaingarua Affordable Housing here in Raglan would also benefit from a report from Lopez Island on how they undertake their projects in housing and environmental remediation. There are several groups in Raglan that would attend a meeting held to share the knowledge that Randall has gained.

Naku Noa Na,

Malibu Hamilton.

P.O.Box 2

Whaingarua

Raglan

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cleaneearth@clear.net.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: andy.blick@ihug.co.nz [<mailto:andy.blick@ihug.co.nz>]

Sent: Wednesday, 30 April 2008 8:58 a.m.

To: peter goldsbury

Subject: Re: Mycorestoration Project - Randal to US then back to share with all

Hi Peter,

I am more than happy to add my support this hikoi of Randalls to the United States to look at Mycorestoration. Fungi play a huge, but largely unseen role, in all ecosystems. Harnessing fungi power to correct some of mans transgressions has lots of potential and an opportunity such as this to learn from one of the worlds foremost experts in the "field" should not be passed up.

I wish Randall well on his journey and look forward to his coming down this way and passing on some of what he has learnt.

Appropriately on my blogsite: [minginui.blogspot.com](http://minginui.blogspot.com) I have a picture of the largest mushroom I have ever seen. The mild autumn after a drought has been a boon for fungi and mushrooms are in abundance like I have never seen.

Regards Andy Blick

Minginui. ph. 07 3663 912

-----Original Message-----

From: Caleb Royal [<mailto:caleb.royal@twor-otaki.ac.nz>]

Sent: Monday, 12 May 2008 1:35 p.m.

To: peter goldsbury

Subject: RE: Mycorestoration Project - Randal to US then back to share with all

Tena koe Peter,

I must apologise for my slow response, I have been busy with various projects at present as well as refreshing myself with some annual leave. I believe that Te Wananga-o-Raukawa would be very interested in learning more about Mycorestoration. As we have little to no expertise in this topic it is an opportunity that we would welcome (to learn more). Please use this email as a supporting information with regard to mycorestoration and the idea of information dissemination to maori and the wider Otaki community. We are involved in various restoration projects but as yet fungal restoration is something we have yet to venture into. Having someone who is versed and grounded in mycorestoration would be a significant asset and add a new dimension to our understanding of this area.

Nga mihi

Na

Caleb Royal

Te Wananga-o-Raukawa

Otaki

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