



NGATI WHATUA O ORAKEI
MAORI TRUST BOARD

30 September 2008

To whom it may concern;

Re: Letter of Support for Bernadette Papa, Attendance at Bioneers, 2008

This is a letter of support for Bernadette Papa to attend the Bioneers Conference in the United States in October.

Bernadette is a member of the Ngati Whatua o Orakei tribe in Auckland City and is employed in its Heritage and Resource Management unit. Bernadette has worked alongside me for over 5 years with a particular focus on protecting native flora, fauna and understanding our relationship to the wider Auckland environment.

Bernadette has contributed to a number of major projects including;

- *Ko te Pūkākī* – Native forest restoration project; the largest in Auckland City;
- Ngati Whatua o Orakei Heritage and Resource Management Kaupapa and Policy document;
- Nga Manga Toitu - Cultural Assessment of 5 Urban Auckland Streams;
- Numerous urban design projects including the Queen Street upgrade and Aotea Square upgrade;
- Numerous reserve management plans including – Maungawhau–Mt Eden Draft Vegetation Management Plan;
- Te aho ki Hikurangi – Orakei Sustainable Village project.

Bernadette is in constant contact with members of our tribal community and at the interface with Crown and Local Government officials who implement environmental legislation such as the RMA91. She is a member of the Tangata Whenua Consultation Committee in Auckland City and a member of the ERMA Maori advisory group.

Bernadette is in a unique position therefore to disseminate knowledge gained at the Bioneers conference. I am confident her attendance and participation at the conference will improve her capacity and make her a better advocate for our tribe and therefore the people of Auckland on cultural/environmental matters. I have no doubt hers and therefore our networks will be extended well beyond our tribal boundaries into those of other tribes and first nation's peoples who share similar world views and face similar challenges.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the writer on 336 1683.

Naaku noa,

Ngarimu Blair

Heritage and Resource Manager