

30 September 2008

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
RE: Bernadette Papa

Bernadette Papa is a former student of mine in the School of geography and Environmental Sciences at the University of Auckland where she completed a B.A. double major in Maori Studies & Geography (Hons). She also holds a Certificate in Contemporary & Traditional Maori Weaving from Unitec, which she completed under the tutelage of one of New Zealand's foremost weavers, Kahu Te Kanawa.

Bernadette affiliates to several iwi (tribes) namely Ngati Whatua o Orakei, Te Roroa ki Waimamaku, Ngapuhi and Ngati He (Tauranga).

She has always maintained close links with her people here in Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland) working on behalf Ngati Whatua in a voluntary capacity. More recently her consultancy role for Ngati Whatua encompasses Heritage & Resource advisor to the Auckland and Waitakere City Councils. She is also a member of the Environmental Risk management Authority (ERMA) National Maori network. Her skills include site surveys and assessment, resource consent reports, database and GIS development, iwi liaison and consultation with Crown authorities.

Bernadette is passionate about her work on behalf of her people, and committed to bringing about positive social and environmental changes for future generations. She is respected by others in her profession and acts as an excellent a role model and leader for younger Maori wanting to pursue a similar career with their iwi.

Bernadette is keen to engage with and learn from other indigenous people engaged in conservation and sustainable development of natural resources, and to share her own knowledge and that of her people.

I strongly recommend her as someone who has truly earned this opportunity. Bernadette will not only bring a lot of useful information back to her people, but will also have much of value to contribute.



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