



**Lincoln
University**
Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki

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Joanne Becker
Department of Internal Affairs
46 Waring Taylor Street
Wellington 6601

Dear Joanne

Shona Sam – Maori Youth Hikoi to Bioneers Conference 2008

It is with pleasure that I give Shona a reference for the Bioneers conference. Shona is a top-achieving student, and has been a key part of our Lincoln University whanau for four years as an undergraduate student. On completion of her undergraduate degree she moved straight into employment within our Division here at Lincoln. Shona's maturity, enthusiasm and strive for excellence is exemplary. I have found Shona to be highly reliable, to have great initiative, determination and management skills.

Shona has a thirst for knowledge and a drive to push projects through to completion. I was therefore pleased to offer her a PhD project within a FRST-funded programme that I am leading: "Smart Large-Scale Multiple Species Vertebrate Pest Control". This FRST programme has multiple industry and research collaborators including Connovation Ltd, Pest-Tech Ltd, Ngai Tahu, Tuhoe and Landsdowne Ventures. The programme is ground-breaking in that it is a conduit between researchers and communities that are working to protect threatened New Zealand ecosystems. Shona's PhD is a key part of this conduit. She is working closely and coordinating with community groups and organisations throughout the country. Shona is therefore an ideal candidate to represent New Zealand at the Bioneers Conference. I know that she will perform highly in sharing information at the conference, and in disseminating information upon return to New Zealand.

Shona is one of our most talented new researchers in ecology, and while still relatively new into her career she has already gained a wide variety of connections and experiences. I strongly recommend that she be given every chance to expand her knowledge and experience by attending this conference.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Shaun Ogilvie
Senior Lecturer and Tumuaki of Te Matapuna