



The Enviroschools Foundation

...empowered students...sustainable communities

17.09.08

Tena koe,

*“Ko te pae tawhiti, whaia kia tata,
ko te pae tata, whakamaui kia tina!”*

Tenei rā he reo e rere ana ki te tautoko i te haerenga o Simon Ngawhika ki San Francisco ki te hui o nga Bioneers a te 16-20 o Whiringa-a-nuku

Kia papaki nga ra o tona waka, kia whakapapapounamu te moana i mua i a ia. Kia tau pai atu, a, kia hoki ora mai i reira me ona kete e kiki tonu ana ki nga mātauranga, ngā korero, ngā whakaaro, ngā akoranga i ako ai ia i reira. Mauri ora.

I am writing on behalf of The Enviroschools Foundation to support Simon Ngawhika's attendance at the 2008 Bioneers Conference in San Francisco, 16th–20th October. I was contacted to recommend someone to represent Aotearoa at this conference; Simon came straight to mind as a great person to connect with that kaupapa and network.

We are excited with the possibility of having a young person from Aotearoa there to engage in the learning and action based community that is Bioneers. I personally have connected with some of the Bioneers whānau in a trip over to San Francisco to attend the Digital Earth Symposium as part of the Youth Insight. The initial connections made will be further strengthened and grown on by sending someone as capable and committed as Simon.

A connection through Simon's mahi in the Nutrient Trading Study Group in Rotorua led to the opportunity to invite him to be a part of Te Aho Tu Roa. This was a youth-led, community supported wānanga that was held at Te Mauri Tau with support from The Enviroschools Foundation that brought 25 rangatahi from around Aotearoa and Te Waipounamu together for some time to “talk while walking” – discussing kaupapa around living as community in responsible and sustainable ways, but doing this while taking action out in the environment: building hybrid adobe mud bricks for an Eco whare, processing rākau that would be used in the building of this whare – building community from the ground up.

Simon stood out as a natural leader and collaborator who has the right ahua, the right skills and commitment to make great connections with others at the conference and more specifically with the tangata whenua and other iwi taketake that will be represented there. We are also confident in his ability and openness to share all the gold that he will find there and implement it in his mahi and his everyday life to the benefit of all the people he will come into contact with. We recommend that he attend and encourage that his proposal be supported.

Mauri ora

Te Rawhitiroa Bosch
National Youth Coordinator
The Enviroschools Foundation