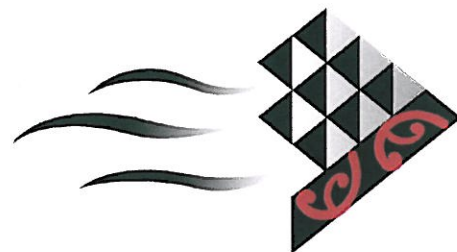


16th September 2008

Recommendation for Simon Ngawhika

*Tukua mai kia piri, tukua mai kia tata
Kia eke mai ki runga i te paepae poto a Haumaitawhiti!*



TE ARAWA LAKES TRUST

Tena koe

I am writing this letter in support of Simon Ngawhika, to attend the *Bioneers 2008* conference in San Francisco over October 16-20 2008.

I have interacted with Simon in a range of settings over the past year. In particular, I have noted and enjoyed his contributions to the Nutrient Trading Study Group over 2007-8 for Lake Rotorua; the working groups on domestic Bioprospecting policy development and the Te Arawa Rangatakapu 2008 emerging leaders programme. His experience on the ground, combined with his position within a policy development role, makes him uniquely positioned to yield valuable contributions to our people.

Simon is extremely passionate about effecting positive change for Maori. The *Bioneers 2008* event will host speakers and participants from a number of indigenous communities and organisations who, like us, are asserting their responsibilities to safeguard life-sustaining resources and the connectedness of social, cultural, economic and environmental issues. The knowledge Simon stands to gain from interaction with this progressive forum will further advance his ability to make quality contributions to all aspects of his mahi. More information on the Bioneers 2008 conference can be found at <http://www.bioneers.org/program>.

This conference is an excellent opportunity for a rangatahi Maori no Te Arawa to link in with other indigenous networks and organisations, listen to their kōrero and the issues they face, then bring that knowledge back to Aotearoa to share widely for the benefit of Maori and New Zealand as a whole. His experience to date and his enormous potential to make greater contributions in the future means I wholeheartedly recommend that Simon Ngawhika be that rangatahi, and I encourage you to support his participation in the *Bioneers 2008* conference.

Naku noa,

Roku Mihinui
CEO
Te Arawa Lakes Trust