



Toa Haere Faulkner Tertiary Excellence Award - 2014



Toa Haere Faulkner
Koroua Rangatira



Adrienne Taungapeau
Completing PhD in Māori Leadership

In 2014, Ngai Tukairangi Trust awarded Adrienne Taungapeau with the Toa Haere Faulkner Excellence Award. It was given to her as a token of support to assist her in her efforts towards completing her PhD in Māori Leadership.

Ngai Tukairangi Trust awards these excellence scholarships to individuals who show erudition within their chosen fields of education. In saying that, these recipients must have also shown evidence of community involvement, through ways of whanaungatanga, and must protrude values that will one day benefit the hapū and its people. Despite Adrienne's absence from our Ngai Tukairangi local community, it was made obvious that her efforts within her own were suited to what was required of a scholarship applicant.

This particular scholarship was created in the memory of Toa Haere Faulkner. As an individual, he showed a strong sense of righteousness, accompanied by a yearn for self-determination. These personal attributes of his, in addition to the manaakitanga he felt for his people, land and community, led him on to pursuing politics. In his lifetime, he frequently involved himself in Waitangi Tribunal Claims, he sought justice in as many places that he could, and he stood up for the rights of his own. Toa will be remembered for his work to do with Matapihi land block rates, his ability to be both socially and politically

involved in his community, and most importantly, for his argumentative yet generous demeanour.

Adrienne Taungapeau is the grand-daughter of Rongopai Hemi Haika, a previous shareholder who passed them on to this daughter, Adrienne's mother. Their lineage and association with Ngai Tukairangi Hapū is an intriguing story, which eventually lead her ancestors to reside in Waikari.

Like Toa, Adrienne was raised in small rural communities. Growing up, she was brought up in between the small township communities of Whangaruru in Te Tai Tokerau, and Whangarei. Here she was raised by her parents, two very important individuals in her life that were able to install the importance of education within their growing offspring. To this day, Adrienne is a living example of that, evident in her studies towards attaining her PhD in Māori Leadership. Adrienne's parents were heavily involved within these communities, essentially helping to create environments that stressed whanaungatanga and manaakitanga. There is no doubt that Adrienne herself adopted these values during her upbringing.

Adrienne and Toa are likened. Both are individuals who rely on whanaungatanga as a base for a great communal set up, and also share an interest in Māori development through all aspects of life.

Adrienne is currently writing her thesis on Māori Leadership within a business context, however has a strong focus on the leadership of Māori women within the tertiary education sector. With this scholarship, we hope that Adrienne is able to impose the values she has learnt throughout her life, and the lessons learnt from her time studying/participating in Māori development, on and with our community in the days to come.