

## **Hauoterangi Rikihana Tertiary Excellence Award in 2010**



**Meremaihi Ngatai-Aloua**  
**Te Panekiretanga o te Reo Maori**

### **Meremaihi Aloua Receives Ngai Tukairangi Trust Excellence Award**

For only the second time since its inception in 2005, the Ngai Tukairangi Trust awarded Meremaihi Aloua with an excellence award. The Ngai Tukairangi Ahu Whenua Trust, which is located in Matapihi, Mount Maunganui and associated with the Ngai Tukairangi

hapu of Ngai Te Rangi has been providing tertiary scholarships for more than a decade. But, in 2004 the trustees decided that a special award should be created to provide more financial assistance to students and to utilise the award as a way to recognise our esteemed leaders who passed. In 2003, Wiparera Te Kani, one of the founding trustees passed away and in 2004, the first award was provided in his honour. Marama Lambert, a practicing optometrist, wanted to undertake pharmacology training to prescribe medicine to her clients. An intensive one year programme was required and the Trust backed her in her quest.

The next award was dedicated to another esteemed leader of our community, Hauoterangi Dickson, father of Brian Dickson, Chief Executive of the Ngai Te Rangi Runanga and Ngareta Timutimu, a past senior lecturer at Awanuiarangi. However, for the last three years, the trustees have been wishing to give out the award but many of the applicants were not deemed excellent. This year was different, and at the annual general meeting of owners, the trustees were proud to award the scholarship to Meremaihi Aloua to support her attendance at Te Panekiretanga o te Reo, in Napier.

Meremaihi is a mokopuna to Kihi and Maria Ngatai both well known kaumatua of Ngai Te Rangi and Ngati Ranginui. Her mother - Puharangi Ngatai – recently passed away would have been very proud of her daughter.

Meremaihi has a real passion for Te Reo and this coupled with her love of whanau and community means there is a great likelihood our support will lead to inspiration, mentorship and contribution back here to the people of Ngai Tukairangi. Already she stepped up to the mark, by co-tutoring the local Matapihi kapa haka group in the Tauranga Moana festival held over labour weekend.

Meremaihi has indicated that the grant will help her with transport and attendance costs to enable her to complete the course and gain the most from the learnings she will receive.

We look forward to hearing from Meremaihi as she progresses, seeing her utilise this opportunity to better the people of Ngai Tukairangi and involving her in the future journey of the Ngai Tukairangi Trust. Congratulations Meremaihi and we look forward to sharing your success.

Meremaihi's award is dedicated to remembering Hauoterangi Rikihana. He was a generous man who gave of his time unreservedly for matters related to whanau, hapu and Iwi. Always seen supporting the paepae tapu at Whareroa, Waikari and Hungahungatoroa, you could see why the alignment of Meremaihi with our koro as the exemplar of community heart in action is obvious. A fluent native speaker of Te Reo himself, Hauoterangi is a testament to the type of man everyone aspires to be; a humble, humorous and dedicated whanau, hapu and marae gentlemen.

