

**Nga Kaitiaki o Ipipiri
PO Box 35 Russell
Bay of Islands
NORTHLAND**

Mataatua te waaka

Rakaumangamanga nga pou o Te Whare Tapu o Ngapuhi te maunga

Ipipiri herenga waaka te moana

Te Rawhiti raua ko Kaingahoa nga hapu

Te Patukeha raua ko Ngati Kuta nga hapu

Ngapuhi te iwi

Rahiri te tupuna

Tehei mauri ora

24th June 2015

To:

Re: Report on Funding Scholarships for Kiwi Training for Kai mahi o Te Rawhiti:

Tena koutou katoa nga rangatira ma o nga roopu o Ornithological Society of New Zealand,
Ka mihi nui kia koutou katoa me nga whanau hoki.

My name is Richard Moses Witehira; they call me by my nick name Blandy. I am the kai hautu (leader) for seven of my fellow kin from two hapu Te Patukeha me Ngati Kuta who hold mana tangata status within the greater Bay of Islands.

Ngapuhi is currently going through its Treaty settlements with the Crown & invariably that would involve the reinstatement of nga hapu of their kaitiaki (guardians) status with the minimum requirement of joint management of the vast Department of Conservation estate within our tribal area.

The objective of Nga Kaitiaki o Ipipiri is to obtain nga tohu (qualifications) to inherit the role of kaitiaki ensuring nga tamariki o Tane (children of Tane god of the forest) are managed incorporating matauranga Maori & DoC best practices. This has warmed those of us who have stepped up to the plate to take the challenge, to follow our moimoia (dreams & aspirations) to ensure the environment & the bio diversity values are enhanced & protected.

The grant from your organisation has enabled us to train my kin in handling small, medium & large birds according to the best practice manual. We have been lucky to work under Dr Isabel Castro & her PHD students from Massey University on Ponui Island Hauraki Gulf. Seven of us have qualified in telemetry tracking, capture, banding & measuring kiwi. It also gave us an opportunity to train in deferent terrain, learn botany & outdoor survival. This phase of the training was under the direction of Dr Isabel Castro, her PHD students, with myself doing outdoor survival.

The grant also enabled us to travel down to work with other kin from other iwi, Tuhoe & Ngati Awa with the Omataroa Kiwi Trust in Te Teko, Whakatane. This allowed us to work with whanaunga from Mataatua waaka, learning of each other, supporting each other, combining manakitanga (hospitality & support), whanaungatanga (engagement with other tribes) to practice & follow our dreams of handling these priceless birds that are indeed a taonga (treasure) to all New Zealanders. We also helped with pest track maintenance & a three night kiwi survey. Ian Tarei kai hautu o Omataroa Kiwi Trust (021 2737277) was in charge of the whole project with our group leaving the Bay of Islands on the 18th June & returning home 23rd June 2015. I have kept a excel sheet of all our expenses along with the receipts attached.

Conclusion:

I would like to thank Massey University, Dr Isabel Castro & her students, the Chamberlain whanau from Ponui Island, Ian Tarei from Omataroa Kiwi Trust, Morgan Cox Kiwis for Kiwi, our whanaunga from Tuhoe & Ngati Awa, Ngati Manuhiri, Tiritiri Matangi Island volunteers, Guardians of the Bay of Islands, Rolien Elliot Department of Conservation BOI Area Office & Forrest & Bird for the opportunity to live our dream, kati ra, e nga whanau whanui, roopu katoa, rau rangatira ma, tena koutou katoa.

Mauri ora



Blandy Witehira
Kai hautu