

AUTHENTIC LEARNING STORY FROM THE FAR NORTH

Ngataiawa's Legal Investigation

The first few steps on the Authentic Learning Pathway ... Ngataiawa Watkins meets with Kaiarahi, Susan Ramsay, at his whanau home in the Hokianga. Ngataiawa became interested in studying Law after taking a Legal Studies paper through Te Kura and attending a restorative justice process at a local Marae. He is interested in supporting his local community as a Lawyer in the future, practicing Constitutional (Treaty) Law, Land Law and Criminal Law.



He piko, he taniwha ... Ngataiawa stops off to pay homage to Tainui and the Waikato River on his way to Waikato University. Waikato has a strong Maori support network on campus comprising of: Maori lecturers, student liaison, student reps and boarding houses designed to provide iwi affiliated support to students; which means, plenty of Ngapuhi whanau whanui around to support Ngataiawa.

The best advice ... Matiu Dickson, Associate Dean of Law, Senior Lecturer and Chairperson of Te Piringa, Faculty of Law, meets with Ngataiawa. Matiu was very generous with his time, giving a guided tour and introducing Ngataiawa to other Maori lecturers. Matiu is so excited at the prospect of recruiting Ngataiawa to the faculty that he has offered him every support to keep him on track.



Moe Edmunds, Kaitakawaenga Maori (Maori Liaison for the Faculty of Law, Waikato University) discusses scholarships and boarding options with Ngataiawa.

From one Te Kura student to another ... Pera Ulu, Pouawhina Maori has been there, done that. As an ex-Te Kura student she knows how both challenging and rewarding distance learning can be. She also knows how long the road is ahead for Ngataiawa. Pera has a conjoint degree in Maori Studies and Sociology, as well as an LLB. She has just completed her professionals whilst working toward a Masters in Maori Studies. Pera advised Ngataiawa about the criteria for gaining entry to the Faculty of Law for Maori students.



A sign of things to come ... outside the Auckland District Court with Lawyer Puti Corbett. Here, Ngataiawa got the opportunity to see a few Lawyers in action, sitting through three (short) hearings, and meeting some of the Crown Prosecutors working at the Ministry of Justice.



So, where to from here? Ngataiawa discusses the prospect of a future internship with Barrister and Solicitor, Stuart Ramsay, at LIA Community Trust. Living in Rangi Point, Kohukohu, poses some big barriers for Ngataiawa to engage in an Internship on a weekly basis. However, coming down to Auckland in the school term breaks is possible and Ngataiawa has whanau he can stay with. The plan is for Ngataiawa to travel to Auckland and spend time in a law firm at the end of Term two and three.