

Otago University 3rd Year Medical Students Hosted at Te Aowera Marae

It was with pleasure that Te Aowera Marae Whanau, on behalf of Ngati Porou Hauora hosted ten 3rd year medical students from Otago University. The medical students were hosted by Ngati Porou Hauora as part of their cultural- rural learning experience.



The students spoke highly of our facilities, their comfort and the tasty meals that were provided during their stay. The students observations that; "we were a real Maori experience"; welcoming; inspirational and for those who, previous to this experience, knew little or nothing about Maori culture now felt right at home. That type of comment touches our hearts as we remember their time with us.

Sharing and caring, manaakitanga that we take for granted. Living as we do in the rural back blocks of the East Coast, Ngati Porou, we retain the cultural heritage passed on to us from our tipuna. Strangers entered our midst and left enriched by our culture, and we too were left with the "image" of who they may yet become.

Maybe one day they will walk back into our lives, as other young student doctors have; to say hello, climb Mt. Hikurangi and work for a time for Ngati Porou Hauora. We prepare



now with them for the future. Their favourite activity was the school visits. Just as we have left our impression on them we hope they will have impressed our tamariki to become doctors or enter the field of medicine. It was an honour and a privilege to share with these young students part of who we are here on the Coast.



University life is hard, with long hours of study and many surviving on a student loan, which does not allow for any luxury. Being able to spoil them for a little while was an added bonus. God willing that our own students experience the same depth of manaakitanga from the communities in which they learn.

15

Gateway Programme

Two year 11 – 12 students from Ngata Memorial College choosing to pursue a career in the field of dentistry are currently based at Ruatoria Dental Clinic for one day per week. This is due to Gateway which basically gives students the opportunity through their careers advisor to be in placements of choice on various career pathways. The training involves dental reception/administration; assisting as well as all aspects of cross infection within the dental practice they will also be doing similar tasks in the mobile unit.

The students are attentive as well as co-operative in their training. This experience will be a great foundation towards their future aspirations.

Other students have been placed in various areas of health through out Ngati Porou Hauora health services.

