

**Principal:**  
Julia Beaumont

**Postal Address:**  
13 Nimon Street  
Havelock North 4130

**Web Site:**  
[www.hni.school.nz](http://www.hni.school.nz)



# Havelock North Intermediate

*Learning together*

**Office Details**

**Phone:**  
(06) 877 8039

**Fax:**  
(06) 877 2422

**Email:**  
[admin@hni.school.nz](mailto:admin@hni.school.nz)

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To Whom It May Concern:

## **REFERENCE FOR INSPIRE IN EDUCATION: Conrad Waitoa**

Havelock North Intermediate was fortunate to host the pilot programme of 'Inspire in Education' in 2017. We were so impressed by the programme and its outcomes that we have continued this year and will do so again in 2019.

Inspire in Education offers targeted Maori students, predominately boys, mentorship and creates a school based whanau. Together the group learn about their heritage and culture, connecting with and finding pride in their ancestry. From this platform they begin to support each other in learning and behavior challenges: sharing successes and overcoming trials.

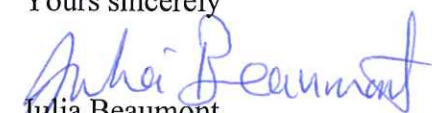
Conrad Waitoa is a skilled mentor for the group. He builds trust and links the boys to each other, to their heritage and culture and to the community around them. Conrad introduces the group to a variety of experiences: visits to marae, art workshops, technology extension etc. This helps them find and develop skills, talents and passions. Conrad facilitates personal development workshops and makes introductions to other role models and successful people in the community.

The programme is much valued by the students who attend. They all talk of trust and camaraderie, of wanting to attend school for the sessions and how supported they are by the mentorship offered by the leader.

Some of the boys in the programme have high behavior challenges, and we find that by the end of the year the number of incidents reported have greatly reduced. We have evidence from teachers that focus and progress improves in the second half of the year.

I would like to provide this reference for Conrad Waitoa attesting to the value of the Inspire in Education programme for the students, and provide testament as to his vision, talent, commitment and passion as the leader.

Yours sincerely

  
Julia Beaumont  
Principal