



Individual Award Regional Winner Profile

Hawkes Bay, Taupo, Poverty Bay, Manawatu, Wanganui, Waiouru

Alayna Hokianga *Te Hiringa Inc - Te Aka After Kura Activities*

What is your job title?

Kaiwhakahaere.

Give a brief description of a typical day at OSCAR for you.

Our tamariki are picked up from their respective kura, via 'walking bus' or van. On arrival at the centre they begin their 'mahi kainga' (homework), followed by Te Wa 'Whariki' - Karakia, Mihimihi, Pepeha, Waiata (kapa haka), Kemu (games), Then Kai Timotimo (afternoon tea) and then into various activities including arts and crafts, sports and recreation, and/or an excursion to the local adventure centre for a bit of rock climbing or unihoc. Soccer, touch and basketball at the nearby park or courts also proves to be a favourite with our tamariki.

How long have you worked in OSCAR?

We opened the doors to TE AKA with our first four tamariki on the 30th July 2007. This is when I first became involved in OSCAR.

What do you feel your greatest achievement has been in OSCAR?

Seeing our tamariki progress from having no Te Reo Maori to being able to stand confidently and deliver their pepeha in front of their peers... has been my greatest achievement.

Why should you become The OSCAR Foundation National Award winner?

"Ehara taku toa he toa takitahi, engari taku toa he toa takitini" As this Whakatauki (proverb) "Success is not achieved by one person alone, but by many", without all those who have contributed and continue to contribute to our Kaupapa; TE AKA (After Kura Activities) - would not be what it is today. E Kore e mutu nga mihi, ki a koutou katoa. So, to have been nominated by staff for the OSCAR Individual Section was an honour and a privilege, let alone winning the award for our region. Ki a korua ko Te Rina, Ari, kei te mihi.

As a finalist for the National awards, I feel so blessed, and yet, have found it quite overwhelming and difficult to say why I should become the OSCAR Foundation National winner. Another Kawasaki "Kaore te kumara e korero ana mo tona reka", Waiho ma tetahi atu hei mihi" The kumara doesn't talk of it's own sweetness, let alone sing it's praises", I believe it is by ones actions, that provides more substance than what any words can say. I will endeavour to strive for great things for our Kaupapa. The Kaupapa, I believe, is bigger than any one of us here today. The Kaupapa is our tamariki. The Kaupapa is Pride. Proud of who they are? Proud of where they come from? To be grounded in Tikanga Maori, and to embrace both Maori and English languages and Cultures, whilst gaining an appreciation of other cultures that have found their place in Aotearoa. Through passion and understanding, empathy and honesty, we will all achieve.

