**Media release**

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**Northland Foundation**

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**High School Scholarship For Outstanding Otangarei Student**

Otangarei 12 year old Teru Carrington-Bartlett has been awarded this year’s Carlos Reed Scholarship, valued at $10,000. Administered by the Northland Foundation, the scholarship earns Teru five years of boarding at Epsom Girls Grammar School where she will commence year 9 in 2019.

Teru was one of the stars of the December 13 prizegiving at Te Kura o Otangarei / Otangarei Primary School. On top of the high school scholarship, Teru was named I Have A Dream Foundation Dreamer of the Year, and received awards for Exceptional Qualities in Te Reo Maori me nga Tikanga, the Year 8 Academic Award and another award for contributions to music and dance.

Teru - who has been part of multiple hip hop dance groups and kapa haka, and has played violin, cello and clarinet –wants to eventually be a dancer.

Music, dance and sport will all be on offer at Epsom Girls Grammar. Teru has visited the school and said the music facilities there are “cool as.”

“You can also do music on computers, other rooms have heaps of guitars.”

Otangarei principal Myles Ferris described Teru as “truly passionate” and says she has driven other Otangarei girls to do their own performances.

Mr Ferris spoke at the school’s prizegiving about his desire for the community to continue believing in Otangarei as a choice for schooling, and said students like Teru have a mandate when leaving Otangarei to “Fill your kete up and bring it back to our people.”

Mr Ferris said in Teru’s case, going to Auckland “brings a breadth of opportunity for Teru.”

Teru has attended Otangarei for the last six years and is of Ngati Wai and Ngati Hau heritage.

“Because she’s had a strong grounding in her language culture and identity, I hope she continues in that,” Mr Ferris added. “She’s got to remember where she comes from and who she is as Māori.”

Teru will board with the InZone Education Foundation. Teru has a cousin at Epsom Girls Grammar School and said she has already made friends during visits to the school.

Teru said she felt “I feel proud, excited and happy” about the Northland Foundation awarding her the scholarship.

Teacher Karen Crosbie said in her letter of commendation, “Teru has blossomed from a very shy reticent student who was afraid of failure to an amazing young girl who can lead a group in a hip hop dance in front of a varied audience. Teru is also able to stand in front of our school and speak an in-depth mihi to start off our assemblies.”

Carlos Reed was the first principal and deputy principal of Te Kura o Otangarei / Otangarei Primary School. Passing away in 2005, Reed left The Carlos Reed Fund as a legacy for students. Northland Foundation uses the fund to support a student to attend boarding school.

Funds totalling $100,000 from Mr Reed’s estate have been invested, developed and grown since 2005 which enables dividends to be released as scholarships every five years.

The total balance of the fund has now increased from its original value by over 50% to $158,680 under the management of Craigs Investment Partners. Anyone wishing to bequeath a fund which can be grown and regularly disbursed to community projects should contact Greta@Northlandfoundation.org.nz.