



Ko Mataatua te waka

Ko Putauaki te maunga

Ko Whakatane te awa

Ko Wairaka te marae

Ko Ngati Awa te iwi

Ko ngati Hokopu, Ngati Pukeko nga hapu

Ko Ramari Oliphant-Stewart taku ingoa

Ramari Oliphant-Stewart is a registered Maori nurse with former postgraduate experience in Accident and Emergency and Intensive Care. For the past seven and a half years she has worked in Maori health on the West Coast and completed a post graduate certificate in Primary Health Care nursing in 2011.

Ramari is also a member of the West Coast Public Health Organisation (PHO) Clinical Governance Committee. Traditional Maori values are the foundation of her world views and form the basis of Ramari's clinical experience alongside best practice.

Ramari also has a long life experience with the sea and has been on numerous voyages including over 1000 sea days as a Ministry of Fisheries scientific observer on deep water fisheries both inside and outside New Zealand's territorial waters. Among her many achievements she has held a Marine Mammal Research permit for twenty years (1980-2000) and in 1989 was appointed an Honorary Associate in marine biology with the Museum of New Zealand.

Ramari is internationally recognised for a lifetime of experience with whales and numerous other natural history subjects. She has assembled and led some major research projects including four expeditions to Campbell island in the sub-Antarctic and in recognition of these achievements received a Department of Conservation award in 2010. She actively supports a country wide revival of Maori customary use of beached whales and is a Treaty claimant (Wai 1421) in relation to Maori customary whale practice.

Ramari brings a distinctly indigenous dimension to the way she views the natural environment, a quality that sits comfortably with a long experience in the field. It is this quality which has made her the subject of the international television documentary *A Whale out my Window* (1996) and the recent Maori television documentary *I know a Sheila like that* (2011).

Her recognition as a tohunga tohoro tends to over-shadow her lesser known interests. Ramari is also an experienced Rongoa Maori consultant and practitioner and was elected in 2008 as a Te Wai Pounamu representative on Te Pae Matua. Her recent focus has also been the development of a 'Te Ao Turoa' whanau based program on the West Coast (2009-2012).