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Whitireia e-news

ISSUE TEN- MARCH 2010

March Graduation

On Thursday 25 March 453 graduates from Whitireia were awarded diplomas, degrees and postgraduate qualifications at a festive and culturally diverse graduation in a packed and vibrant occasion. Some 2000 people attended the festive event.

Students received qualifications in Health, Early Childhood Education, Business, Information Technology, Communications and Arts including Journalism. Amongst those graduating were students from seven postgraduate health programs. The graduation was an exciting and emotional occasion for guests and staff with haka and songs from friends and family were evidence of the huge sense of pride felt for the graduates and their achievements.

"The people that are here to celebrate and congratulate our graduates today reach across all aspects of this community," said guest speaker Hon Tariana Turia, Associate Minister of Health. "They are here to express their pride in your achievements, and their ambitions for you all to take new pathways into your future. Our collective future will be stronger because of you."



2008 Whitireia School Leaver Scholarship Recipient Michelle Kie Tonga, who graduated with the New Zealand Diploma in Business.

Pacific Graduates Celebration

Whitireia Pacific students and families marked graduation with a function that recognised individual student journeys. The next day, 25 March they graduated formally with their peers in a ceremony for diploma, degree and postgraduate qualifications at Te Rauparaha Arena.

Whitireia Chief Executive Don Campbell praised the graduates on their achievements. "You have all taken risks, faced hardships and had challenging journeys, like our ancient navigators but tomorrow I will be delighted to hand you your qualification and cap those of you acquiring degrees."

22 year old Oscilyna Kulatea will be the first Pacific graduate from the Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic) she congratulated her fellow graduates. "We have all travelled in this boat together from places all over the world. I want to give my sincere personal thanks to Whitireia for making this a home away from home." Kulatea will return to Niue to help set up Paramedic services there. She was inspired to study health science when her uncle had a heart attack while he was swimming in Niue. There were no emergency services available to attend.



Oscilyna with her mother and aunty who have travelled from Niue .

Government Investment pays-off with Nurse Entry to Practice Programme

Three Whitireia Faculty of Health staff have completed a research report that finds that the partially government funded Nurse Entry to Practice (NETP) Programme around New Zealand effectively enhances trainees 'confidence and competence though a supported first year of practice.'

The report has shown that while government spending on new graduate programmes are expensive, when adequately funded and managed the returns are great in measures of retention and recruitment of staff and in building a stable nursing workforce. It promotes a number of important benefits in the continued funding of this programme.

The research found that the NETP provides for transferability of knowledge and skill across the nursing workforce and has had a positive impact on recruitment and retention of new graduate nurses into New Zealand DHBs.

Associate Dean Carmel Haggerty, Associate Dean Kathy Holloway, Senior Lecturer Dr Debra Wilson, along with Associate Professor at Victoria University, Dr Rose McElDowney completed the research project between April 2006- December 2009. 'Growing our Own - An Evaluation of Nurse Entry to Practice Programmes in New Zealand 2006-2009' can be viewed online at [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/Files/ctadocs/\\$file/growing-our-own-NETP-final-report-](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/Files/ctadocs/$file/growing-our-own-NETP-final-report-)

Whitireia donated supercomputer from Weta

Whitireia Information Technology Lecturers are delighted to have been donated equipment from Weta Digital and are now working with industry partners including Cisco and Telecom to set up a supercomputer at Whitireia campus in Porirua. The equipment consists of racks containing IBM Blade servers that work together giving a potential of more than 2000 GHz of processing power and 2.6 terabytes of RAM.

“This supercomputer opens up new opportunities and collaboration possibilities for Information Technology research at Whitireia, enabling development in the areas of data visualisation, virtualisation, eLearning in 3D worlds, and other areas of grid and cloud computing,” says Programme Manager for Information Technology, Sue Chard.

Current plans include using it to provide fast rendering services to students making 3D models, facilitate innovative eLearning opportunities for students using 3D worlds and virtualisation.

Campus is a Buzz

Orientation week was a hive of activity, starting with a Powhiri for the start of Semester One. Whitireia student numbers are 10% ahead of this time last year. The large student body was buzzing for O week.

Orientation activities included DJ and acoustic performances, pizza eating competitions, sumo wrestling and bull riding on a mechanical bucking bronco. New students at Kapiti Campus, Lindale and Wellington Performing Arts Centre were also part of activities, you can view these at the Whitireia Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Whitireia-Community-Polytechnic/150466150184>



New students get welcomed under the Atrium at Porirua Campus.

John-Matai gets contract with Black Grace

Whitireia Bachelor of Applied Arts (Performing Arts) student John-Matai Ferguson is returning from a two month tour of the United States of America just in time to graduate with his degree on March 25th. Ferguson has been given a contract with leading New Zealand contemporary dance Company Black Grace with Choreographer Neil Ieremia.

Creative Director for the Bachelor of Applied Arts (Performing Arts) Tuaine Robati suggested Ferguson audition for a role in the company. "He was the top student in the class of 2009" Robati says. Ferguson auditioned for two days and was given a job the next day. "So far it has been awesome!" says Ferguson. "I have been here for two weeks and four days and each day I learn more about my own technique and precision."



John-Matai Ferguson.

Kapiti Business Manager Appointed

Damien Banks has been appointed to the new position of Kapiti Business Development and Strategic Manager at Whitireia Community Polytechnic. He started on 26 January, ready for the commencement of Semester One.

Damien is leading the development and implementation of an innovative 'Whitireia in Kapiti' Action Plan to deliver programmes tightly aligned to demographic changes and economic development needs in the district.

Damien comes to Whitireia from Career Services, where he worked for six years. He was project leader for a number of projects that provided new career planning tools and implemented skills strategies. "I am very interested in how training and education pathways contribute to real outcomes for the individual, employers and specific economic development says Damien Banks. "A 'one size fits all' approach doesn't work, we need to develop and deliver targeted programmes that fit Kapiti needs."



Damien Banks, Kapiti Business Development and Strategic Manager.

Performing Arts at Wellington Sevens.

This year 30 Whitireia Bachelor of Applied Arts (Performing Arts) students and graduates performed to a 38,500 strong crowd at the NZI Rugby Sevens in Wellington on the 5th and 6th of February. Performer Jaydean Tautari, said "It is an overwhelming but awesome experience! You feel like an All Black yourself, out there performing while the crowd is screaming for you. It is a once in a lifetime experience."

The students on the Bachelor of Applied Arts (Performing Arts) are well prepared for large audiences, performing annually at International Festivals. This July students will travel to Germany, Croatia and Slovenia to perform on the worldwide stage.

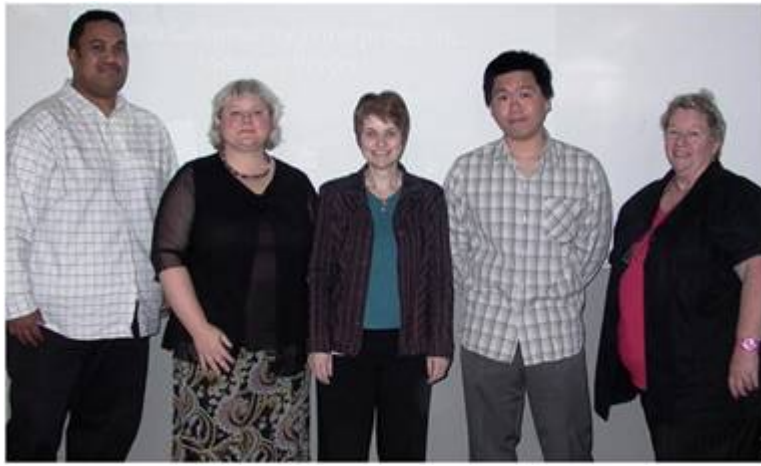


Applied Business Projects well received by Local Businesses

Third year students on the Bachelor of Applied Business Studies are engaging in exciting projects that provide them with intensive, hands-on experience with industry.

One group of students recently completed a project for Mana Community Enterprises. A non profit organisation based in Porirua City which works to rehabilitate, provide vocational training and social skills for people with mental health issues. The Mana Community Enterprises organisation provided a brief to the students to boost their community profile, providing a marketing plan to raise awareness and brand profile, as well as making recommendations and a plan for fundraising opportunities.

“It went down so well on presentation day,” says part time student and project Leader Rita Rousseau. “They implemented nearly all of our recommendations and we received numerous accolades for our high standard of work.” The project with Mana Community enterprises proved very successful. Sonia Moore from Mana Community Enterprises says “We are really pleased with the students work. They were a fantastic team to work with and they put a considerable amount of time and effort into their work.



Students Anthony Nahona, Rita Rousseau (Project Leader), Jill Clark (Tutor/Project Coordinator), Yoma Shiozawa, Jean Sneddon.

A mobile exhibition of tiny proportions

A mobile exhibition of tiny proportions has been popping up around Wellington alongside the Fringe Festival. Alter+EGO is a visual arts exhibition that investigates artists' egos as individuals and as performers – the relationship between our everyday identity and our 'performance' identity. While some artistic egos may be larger than life, the show's curator Vaune Mason insisted that in this exhibition, all the works together, could be squeezed into the back of a truck. It's part of the humour of the exhibition that even the venue has an "alter-ego". The exhibition toured from 25th February- 2nd March around Wellington locations- outside Macs Brewery, Courtenay Park and the Railway Station.

Mason, who is a graduate of the Whitireia Bachelor of Applied Arts (Visual Arts and Design) programme, has collected an unusual mix of artists covering a range of disciplines and approaches. There are 21 artists involved: painters, illustrators, costumiers, jewellers and sculptors. Of those, Vivian Atkinson, Vaune Mason, Annie Collins, Nadine Smith, and Kathryn Yeats are all graduates of Whitireia, tutored by well known Jeweller Peter Deckers, who was also in the show.

Youth Guarantee Scheme "Going Gang busters"

Youth Guarantee is one of the initiatives announced by the Government as part of a 'Youth Opportunities' package to create new work, education and training opportunities for young people. Whitireia Community Polytechnic was offered 80 funded places in the Youth Guarantee Scheme in 2010. Places in Services and Trades programmes aimed at getting students qualified to move into apprenticeships or employment. These places are available to students who are 16-17 years of age and have completed a year 11 minimum, achieved NCEA Level 1 or less or haven't fully completed NCEA Level 2.

Jennifer Poutoa has been appointed to a new role as Youth Guarantee Scheme Student Coordinator at Whitireia. "It's not just about tutoring, you are also there to teach them life skills and help build a bridge to fill the gap and get them on the right pathway" says Poutoa.



Youth Guarantee Student Coordinator, Jennifer Poutoa.

2010 School Leaver Scholarships

21 students have been awarded Whitireia Secondary School Leaver Scholarships for 2010. The students, from Kapiti, Porirua, Tawa, Paraparaumu and Johnsonville secondary schools, receive up to \$4,000 towards their first year of study. In the third year of this scholarship programme, successful applications have increased from 11 to 22.

Recipients have used the award to undertake studies in: Certificate in Plumbing, Drainlaying, Gasfitting & Roofing, Certificate in Automotive Engineering, Certificate in Carpentry, Diploma in Performing Arts (Commercial Dance), Diploma in Stage & Screen Arts, Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Nursing Pacific, New Zealand Diploma in Business, Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Visual Arts (Visual Arts & Design).

Whitireia has been committed to providing quality education, diverse programmes and industry applied skills to students for nearly 25 years. Working closely with schools to transition students into useful and appropriate careers, these awards were proposed by school principals in 2007.



2010 Scholarship afternoon tea, Porirua Campus.

Tertiary Partnership to Benefit Pacific Communities

Pacific communities in New Zealand and the Pacific are set to benefit from a partnership between two leading tertiary institutions from Wellington and Auckland. Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) and Whitireia Community Polytechnic will work collaboratively to provide enhanced educational opportunities for Pacific communities in Counties Manukau, Porirua, Wellington and in the Pacific from February 2010.

Senior representatives from MIT and Whitireia met in Auckland during February to formalise the relationship with the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC). This document represents a commitment from both parties to develop a long-term working relationship for the benefit of Pacific students, staff and the wider Pacific community. It is an important step to improving tertiary education for Pacific communities and is the culmination of a series of discussions between the two institutions over the last 18 months.

Whitireia Website

The Whitireia website is currently 'Microsoft sharepoint website of the month' as voted by developers around the globe.

Accredited Sharepoint platform developers around the world (from web development companies) vote on the most striking and effective website. 951 nominated websites for consideration are competing this month. The live vote can be seen on TopSharePoint.com: <http://www.topsharepoint.com/whitireia>

Developed with Inov8 Ltd, the Whitireia website was launched late last year. It was built on a Microsoft sharepoint platform to enable clear and rich interaction with students says Tim Renner, Director of Communications and Marketing (Domestic). 'We can grow and extend services and shared content with students with this site.'

09/10 Christmas Notes

- 2008 graduate of the Whitireia Bachelor of Applied Arts Jhana Millers was awarded the 2009 A & E Metal Merchants Award for Contemporary Jewellery. Her work is created with predominately non-precious materials. The award ceremony was in Sydney on 3 December.
- Three students on the Bachelor of Information Technology, Michelle Tupaea, Donna Tawhara and Xiang Fei, completed a project with the New Zealand Police Electronic Crime Lab in Wellington. The students were given the project of producing 'plug-ins' to enhance the ECL's Environment for Virtualised Evidence performance.
- The Wellington Pacific Leadership Symposium took place at Whitireia Community Polytechnic Porirua Campus on 7 and 8 December. The theme for 2009 Wellington Pacific Leadership Symposium was 'mobilising a new generation of Pacific leaders in Aotearoa'.
- On December 18, five students were the first to graduate with the Whitireia Certificate in Mastercraft Weaving. The course focuses largely on the natural materials for weaving, and various tikanga (practices) for the harvesting and preparation of these. Students research and specialise in a chosen art-form such as whatu (cloak weaving), raranga (baskets) and tukutuku (lattice-work). An exhibition "Turangawaewae" opened at Pataka, Porirua on December 17 showcasing work by artists of Hongoeka marae, including five students of Whitireia Community Polytechnic's Certificate in Master Craft Maori weaving course.



Graduation December 18 for certificate and diploma students at Te Rauparaha Arena.

We have sent you this newsletter as we believe you are interested in developments at Whitireia. Please contact us on marketing@whitireia.ac.nz if you wish to unsubscribe.

Lack of universal browser support for macrons and accents prevented their use, apologies to readers of Maori.