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Whitireia e-news

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A blueprint for action

Welcome to the first edition of "Whitireia e-news". This is the first in a series of regular updates and news from Whitireia Community Polytechnic. We hope you enjoy it.

It is now nine months since I arrived at Whitireia. I knew before I came here what a great reputation it has and nearly every day brings a new surprise, another great story or another person doing something outstanding.

During the last nine months we have made some important decisions for the future. We have begun to upgrade our Industry Training Centre in Mohuia Crescent, to consolidate all our trade training activities in one complex. We have committed to a new building for the Health, Education and Social Sciences centre at the main Porirua campus. This will centralise the faculty administration, provide three new 40-seat classrooms, and incorporate an upgraded 90-seat lecture theatre.

The recently released Performance Based Research Fund rankings of tertiary institutions for research activities ranks us very highly in the nursing and arts fields, where a lot of our research is undertaken.

We're also moving through a campus master planning exercise with a view to replacing prefabs with permanent buildings and looking at extending an existing atrium and create a large gathering space for graduations, community activities and powhiri.

The main issue at present for us and other Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics is understanding the new funding system and developing our plan for 2008-10 in conjunction with the Tertiary Education Commission.

So many good things are happening here, read on to find out more, give us feedback, keep in touch.

Best wishes
Don Campbell
Chief Executive

Nursing graduates target Pacific health problems

New Whitireia nursing graduates are tackling the particular health problems of Pacific Island people in the Wellington region and beyond.

The first 19 graduates of a Pacific nursing degree were honoured at a ceremony in Porirua in May, attended by Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, Associate Minister of Pacific Island Affairs and Member of Parliament for Mana.

Whitireia created the Bachelor of Nursing (Pacific) degree in 2004 – the first of its kind in the country – to meet the health needs of the Pacific community.

Programme leader Wendy Scott says 18 of the 19 graduates are already working in the health sector for the Hutt and Capital & Coast District Health Boards on graduate programmes and in the private sector.

Faculty Dean Margaret Southwick says the focus on Pacific health is something keenly needed in New Zealand. She says the health of Pacific peoples is worse than other ethnic groups in New Zealand and increasing the numbers of Pacific health practitioners is an important strategy for improving the health of this group.

Bachelor of Nursing (Pacific) graduates

"Currently, Pacific peoples are poorly represented in all health professions and Pacific students are less likely to pursue maths and science at school – the subjects that will gain them entry into careers in medicine and health."

The Pacific nursing degree is designed to link mainstream health institutions with the Pacific community and provide skilled health professionals who can work within the Pacific community, either as registered nurses in hospitals or in a variety of community organisations. Students undertake three years of full-time study, including a large clinical component. This year, there are 17 third-year students, 21 in second year and 30 first-year students – the highest intake so far.

Matagi Sione-Ula, Funaki Pauta, Tavita De Seymour, Fa'asavili Magele and Joseph Logologo

Aka Arthur, Margaret Southwick, Don Campbell, Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, Dennis Sharman

New $5 million faculty building for Whitireia

A new $5 million building is to be built at Whitireia in Porirua to provide permanent accommodation for its largest faculty, Health, Education and Social Sciences.

The two-storey building will contain classrooms, staff offices, meeting rooms and administration services. It will house the nursing, paramedic, early childhood education, and community and social work courses.

The building is being designed by Athfield Architects, who were responsible for the polytechnic's award-winning Te Kete Wānanga library and learning centre.

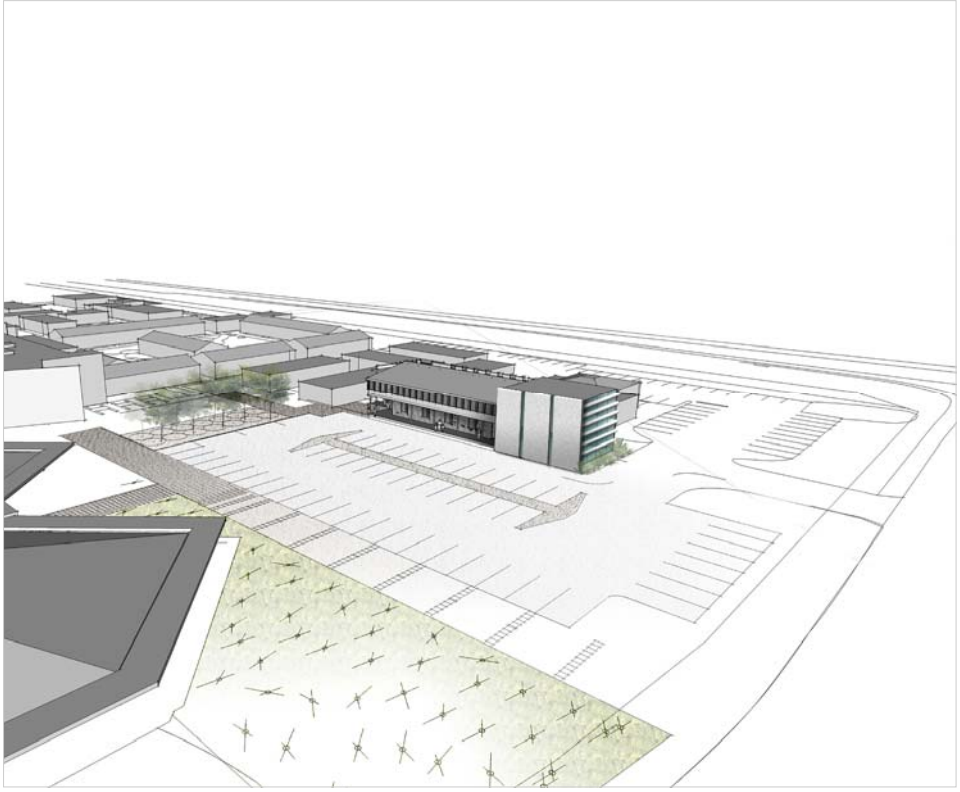
Construction is expected to start later this year and be finished by June 2008.

Chief Executive Don Campbell says faculty staff and students are at present housed in prefabricated buildings spread around the campus. "The new building will allow us to bring the focus of the faculty into one place. Our programmes are world class and deserve to be housed in permanent buildings." he says.

The new building will be constructed near the Wineera Drive main entrance. Some of the prefabs and car parking will be relocated and there will be alterations to the main entrance.

The building marks the relaunch of the polytechnic's building programme, which had been on hold because of uncertainty over funding. But Don Campbell says the buildings are urgently needed and would be funded from reserves.

Also planned is an "Atrium Project" to provide a covered gathering space for 1000 people. Whitireia does not have a large auditorium for conferences, meetings or graduations and has had to use community facilities and split its graduations into smaller ceremonies.



Athfield Architects design of the new building

Top journalist trainer Jim Tucker joins Whitireia

Jim Tucker, one of New Zealand's best known journalism educators and media commentators, is to head the Whitireia journalism school in Porirua.

He brings outstanding skills and reputation both as a journalist and educator and will bring a leading edge to our journalism programmes.

Several new developments in our journalism offerings will be announced over the next period of time under Jim's leadership.

Jim says he welcomes the chance to move back to teaching. Teaching the next generation is my first love and I'm looking forward to the possibilities Whitireia offers."

Jim has 42 years' experience as a journalist, editor, journalism lecturer and education administrator and is editor/author of the two basic journalism training textbooks used throughout New Zealand since 1991.

Chef's superb soup is taking her places

Trainee chef Doreen Moana struck gold when she took her "Superb" soup to the recent Wellington Culinary Fare. She then went on to mix at the top – on work experience with the chefs at Parliament.

Doreen, 18, a Whitireia student from Cannons Creek in Porirua, won a gold medal in the Superb Soup category for her spicy chili, venison and smoked chicken soup in a nine-medal haul for Whitireia cookery students.

Doreen devised the recipe for the soup with a bit of help from her tutor, she says. But on the day of the competition, everything seemed to go wrong. "In the beginning I kept stuffing up. I was supposed to start with the garlic and I started with the onion. And the cuts (the sliced vegetables and meat) weren't really identical."

It didn't matter. The judges thought the soup was ka pai. Doreen followed up her success with work experience at Bellamy's restaurant at Parliament for two weeks. She wasn't on soup though; she did the "prep". And she loved it. "It's just the experience and meeting the chefs who have actually seen the Queen."

Lisa Harris-Powell, Programme Manager of Hospitality, Tourism and Catering at Whitireia says students had an awesome result at the Wellington Culinary Fare – "with our seven students winning a total of nine medals, including all four fresh fruit flans taking out the silver medals.

"Our huge medal haul included one gold, six silver and two bronze medals in the events."

Other medal winners also scored work experience positions in some of Wellington's other top restaurants. David Clark (Silver and Bronze meals winner) worked at Logan Brown and Pengyu was at The White House.

Doreen Moana scored 'Gold' at the Wellington Culinary Fare.

Tertiary educators work on a team approach

Instead of competing for students, tertiary educators have been discussing ways of collaborating to meet the region's training needs.

The move is being led by Whitireia, WelTech and the Open Polytechnic and two meetings earlier this year were the start of a process to develop a regional statement of tertiary education needs, gaps and priorities.

It is the first collaboration of its kind in the country between government-funded institutions, including universities, polytechnics and high schools, and private training providers.

Nursing students setting up their 'scenario'.

The initiative is part of a Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) strategy to establish a regional and national network for providing education and training.

Starting this year, the TEC is introducing a new approach to planning, funding, quality assurance and monitoring in tertiary education.

Tertiary organisations are required to work together to determine industry training needs on a national and regional basis. The aim is to match education and training with market demand to achieve economic growth in a region.

"The purpose of the process is to tighten the link between what we provide and industry needs in our region," says Whitireia Project Manager Tim Renner.

Whitireia Chief Executive Don Campbell says this initiative will increase access, fairness and efficiency in tertiary education.

Trades training base expands to meet demand

Whitireia Community Polytechnic has started work on a $500,000 revamp of its Industry Training Centre in Elsdon, Porirua.

The redevelopment, expected to take five months, is being carried out to meet a growing demand for trades training. It will bring all Whitireia trades training together on one site and provide three new workshops, teaching rooms and garages.

Whitireia has been running automotive engineering courses from a nearby site in Prosser Street, and carpentry, plumbing, gasfitting, drainlaying, roofing, commercial road transport and electrical engineering programmes from its base in Mohuia Crescent. The Prosser Street premises will be sold and automotive engineering training – working at full capacity this year with over 70 students – will move to the expanded base at Mohuia Crescent.

Chief Executive Don Campbell 'turning the first sod' at the Industry Training Centre.

The redevelopment will include covering in a carpentry area, building a vehicle storage area and a new welding shop. The polytechnic has leased an adjacent site in Mohuia Crescent from where it now runs its commercial road transport training.

Dean of the Service Industries and Trades Faculty Stephen Wickens says there has been consistent, steady growth in the automotive trades for the past few years and the trades base is also busy in the evenings when carpentry apprenticeship courses are run for the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation. The polytechnic also recently started hosting evening classes offering advanced training for plumbers.

Whitireia Chief Executive Don Campbell says he is hoping the Ministry of Education will agree to reinvest the money from the sale of the Prosser Street site in the trades base redevelopment.

Kathy's keen on what comes next

New Associate Dean Kathy Holloway isn't just interested in turning out successful graduates in the Health, Education and Social Sciences faculty, she is also focused on what happens later.

Kathy Holloway, formerly Programme Leader in Postgraduate Nursing Studies at Whitireia, is now working alongside Dean Margaret Southwick and Associate Dean Kaye Jujnovich to manage the polytechnic's largest faculty.

"I am really interested in preparing people for professional practice – once they become a nurse or a paramedic," she says. She says getting a qualification is only the start of career development. Kathy is enrolled in doctoral studies at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), where she is developing a framework for specialist practice.

Her study means trips to Sydney at least twice a year – "it's tricky to find the time to do it". As Associate Dean she continues her responsibilities for postgraduate nursing and as Faculty Business Links Project Manager. She will also oversee the paramedic and support worker programmes.

Kathy Holloway - Associate Dean, Faculty of Health, Education and Social Sciences

Kathy is married with two teenage sons, works as the national co-ordinator for Nurse Education in the Tertiary Sector (NETS) and writes a monthly column in the national magazine *Nursing Review* advising nurses how to make good use of the internet.

After studying nursing at Wellington Polytechnic, Kathy became a registered nurse in 1980. She has been at Whitireia since 1996 and first worked as a lecturer in the Bachelor of Nursing Programme. In 2003, she took over as Postgraduate Programme Leader. She was the first to achieve the status of principal academic on the staff at Whitireia.

Students blaze a trail to the Philippines

A former Wellington nanny is one of two Wellington students blazing a trail in what Whitireia hopes will be a series of student exchanges with the Philippines.

Juanita Christie of Johnsonville, who swapped a career as a nanny to study pre-school education, and Rachael Whale of Newlands, have won scholarships to study at Miriam College. The college is a Catholic institution in Quezon City, near Manila, that teaches women and girls from pre-school through to tertiary level.

The Philippines partnership is part of a push by Whitireia into South-east Asia. The agreement, signed in May, with the Quezon City college is a first for a New Zealand tertiary institution in the Philippines. The agreement provides for student and teacher exchanges and collaboration on research and training in early childhood education.

Juanita, 28, and Rachael, 19, are both in their final year at Whitireia and will round off their three-year Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education) with a semester at Miriam College.

Their government-funded New Zealand Undergraduate Study Abroad Awards contribute $4000 each towards the three months of study. The students will leave in October to do formal classroom work and undertake two placements in childcare centres.

Juanita switched from nannying because she wanted to know more about how young children learn. But she is expecting to encounter some big differences. She says in some Philippines' childcare centres there is one computer for each child – with online interactive learning a big part of what they do.

Rachael is particularly keen to work in childcare centres for the under-twos. She says at that age brain development is critical.

Rachael Whale and Juanita Christie

Auckland campus draws international students

Two highlights at our Auckland campus this year are the success of the new Early Childhood diploma and the growth of the hospitality diploma.

The Diploma in Early Childhood Education started in February with 24 international students, many of whom are keen to progress on to the Whitireia degree at the end of this year, preferably at the Auckland campus. The National Diploma in Hospitality Management continues to grow with an expected 90 EFTS this year. A key to the success of this programme is the internship programme where students gain paid employment in one of 10 major hotels during their final semester.

Our campus in Queen Street, continues to diversify its offerings to attract both international students and new migrants. Its particular focus is on students who have English as a second language.

Essay winners take a turn at being tourists

The exciting part of writing about eco-tourism for two young Hong Kong students was getting to experience it first-hand in New Zealand.

Elisa Cheng Wing Yu and Witty Lee Wing Man spent three full-on weeks at Whitireia in May-June after winning prizes in the 2006-07 New Zealand Student Ambassador Selection Programme.

The Student Ambassador Selection Programme aims to give Hong Kong secondary school students the opportunity to study and gain work experience in New Zealand. It is organised by New Zealand Trade & Enterprise and supported by a number of co-organisers and sponsors. This is the second year the programme has run.

Elisa was the winner and Witty the runner-up in the Eco-Tourism Prize sponsored by Wing On Travel.

They were two of 12 students chosen as ambassadors based on their performance in an interview and their essays about the ideal eco-tour in New Zealand. The 12 were given the chance to attend hospitality and tourism courses in New Zealand and a working holiday visa to allow them to do some work experience here.

The two Whitireia guests spent their time between campuses at Porirua, Kapiti and in Auckland. Aside from experiencing the polytechnic's travel and hospitality courses, the pair went sea kayaking and sight-seeing around the Wellington region. This included visits to Karori Sanctuary, Nga Manu Reserve in Waikanae and Lindale tourist centre in Paraparaumu for a farm experience. After some work experience at a travel company they returned to Hong Kong at the end of June.

Elisa and Witty sea kayaking in Wellington

Whitireia International Manager Kaye Le Gros says the students had a fantastic time and it is hoped that they will go back and tell their fellow students all about it. She says this is the beginning of a relationship between Whitireia and these students who will act as ambassadors for the polytechnic at education fairs.

Who are the people on the Whitireia governing council?

This issue

Dennis Sharman (Chairman)

Dennis has been Chairman of the Whitireia council for three years. He operates and owns Sharman Consulting Ltd., a consultancy company that delivers comprehensive technology services to small- and medium-sized businesses. Formed in 1994, the company provides a range of services including technology development, strategic planning, computer consultancy and web design.

Dennis has a background in computer engineering and business, and is a founding member of the National Association of Māori Mathematicians, Scientists and Technologists, and also of Te Awe - Wellington Māori Business Network. His interest in Māori business has led to presentations at the Māori Economic Development Conference and the Māori Business Conference. Dennis is also the Chairperson of Tawa School Board of Trustees and President of Star Gymnastics.

Dennis Sharman
Chairman, Whitireia Council

www.whitireia.ac.nz

Main Campus - Porirua
Kapiti
Wellington City
Auckland

Phone: 0800 944 847
E-mail: info@whitireia.ac.nz
If you wish to un-subscribe to this newsletter email newsletter@whitireia.ac.nz

Whitireia
living · learning · sharing

Whitireia Community Polytechnic was established in 1986. It is known for producing a wide range of work-ready graduates who have found employment both in New Zealand and overseas.

Over 130 full-time programmes of study are available. Many of these programmes can be taken part-time and Whitireia also has postgraduate programmes and short courses of community interest. Full degree level programmes are offered in Nursing, Pacific Nursing, Paramedic, Social Work, Information Technology, Business and the Arts.

More information can be found by visiting our website or picking up a Prospectus.

The main campus is in Porirua, sitting at the edge of the scenic harbour.

The very pleasant Kapiti campus is situated off State Highway One, 1km north of Paraparaumu township.

Wellington City Campus is located in Wellington's Central Business District, and it caters for professionals looking at re-training for career advancement.

Auckland campus is in Queen Street - the heart of the Central Business District of New Zealand's largest city. The campus mainly caters for international students studying English, Business and Information Technology.

Students urged to take the 'Cable Car Challenge'

Entrepreneurs who believe they have a great idea to boost wealth in the Wellington region must convince the judges in the time it takes to ride the Wellington Cable Car.

The winner of the Cable Car Challenge – a new business competition – will receive prizes worth $50,000, including $30,000 in seed capital to get their idea off the ground.

The competition to find creative business ideas has been launched by the Wellington Innovation Network (WIN), a group of business support organisations. Whitireia Community Polytechnic, one of the competition sponsors, is encouraging students to submit business proposals online.

Entry is open to individuals and teams, and to everyone from students to corporate employees. The competition is for people living in the Wellington region – Kapiti, Porirua, Wairarapa, Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt and Wellington City.

Ideas can come from any industry, but these brainwaves must be able to be turned into something concrete. "Good ideas are not enough. There needs to be a number of elements present to build an idea into a potential high-growth business," say the organisers.

"These entries will be viewed by a judging panel of top Wellington region entrepreneurs, who will shortlist finalists. These finalists will then develop more comprehensive business plans and have an opportunity to pitch their idea to the judging panel in the time it takes to travel up and down the cable car track.

"To help them, we'll be running free workshops on how to start a business."

Five runner-up prizes of $2000 plus support services will also be provided. Winners will be announced in October.

Competition sponsors also include Positively Wellington Business, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Clemengers, Victoria and Massey universities, WelTec, Capital Development Agency, Plan HQ and Ellis Verboeket & Terry.

www.cablecarchallenge.com