

# Whitireia e-news

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## Degree and postgraduate students capped at Whitireia

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Wednesday 12 March to Friday 14 March was graduation week for students who have completed Whitireia degrees in business, IT, applied arts, nursing, Pacific nursing, social work, early childhood education, postgraduate nursing and paramedic subjects.

Parading from Cobham Court in Porirua town centre to the Elim church venue, graduands were cheered on by proud family members and friends who lined the streets. A torrent of dark gowns with flashing



bright stoles depicting undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications is a mark of the growth and development of Porirua.

"In this room we know that Porirua is the capital of New Zealand" announced the Hon. Luamanuao Winnie Laban, Keynote Speaker at Thursday's ceremony "and Whitireia is the heart and brains of Porirua!"

Laban quoted recent studies indicating that New Zealanders with tertiary training have increased by 15% of the total population over the last 10 years.

"Education is a life long process. There is a spirit in New Zealand society that encourages and supports each other, we work together as partners. This is what makes our people great."

Twenty eight students graduated with a Bachelor in Applied Arts. This is the first graduating cohort for the degree developed in 2005. Among the successful music graduands are international Hip Hop artist, Tyna Keelan and Gloria Hildred, whose innovative band The Porirua Comb Club, has been a great success.

Whitireia Chief Executive Don Campbell acknowledged the significant and excellent work achieved by Dr Margaret Southwick in establishing a leading training centre for health workers, at a time when nurses are in high demand. He congratulated graduates for their commitment, motivation and sacrifices made to achieve their goals.

## The new year kicks off for Whitireia students

On Monday 11 February the new study year started for approximately 1000 students in nursing and education, trades, arts, office systems, IT, communications and business at Whitireia in Porirua.

The new cohort gathered in quiet expectation at the main entry to Whitireia. Behind the students, the pneumatic hammers paused in the construction of the new nursing facility. Construction teams around the central quad also paused. The 2008

student body were called in as manuhiri – guests – in an age old way. The traditional pōwhiri that starts a year of study at Whitireia challenges students to do well and offers support in this life journey.

Students in 2008 are in a changing environment, not only with new buildings nearing completion on site, but also with significantly more competition to find study places in high demand areas.



The beginning of the new year for students starts with a traditional pōwhiri

## Live music gets a push

A new one year qualification in live sound and event production – the technical side of concerts, gigs, theatre and staging – has brought ‘sound production maestro’ Kelly Coughlan back from Australia to teach.

Coughlan worked on projects ranging from large indoor productions like The Russian Ballet, to band performance venues like the Brisbane Conservatorium, The Brisbane Exhibition Centre and taught sound production at The School of

Audio Engineering in Perth.

“The graduates of this course will be fully capable of commercial sound setup for stage or other venues says Coughlan. There’s so much demand for sound techies; in events, concerts, film sound production and studio work.

No other music school has commercial bands and DJ students as well as performance students working alongside live sound and event production. The whole mix is here.”



Kelly Coughlan

Certificate in Live Sound and Event Production

# Whitireia goes RED HOT in The Philippines

"RED HOT from New Zealand" was a week long focus on New Zealand business and education in Manila, The Philippines in February 08. Organised by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and championed by New Zealand Ambassador to The Philippines David Pine, Red Hot from New Zealand Week aimed to build commercial relationships between the countries.

Whitireia provided the focus week with designs in a 'wearable art' style fashion parade, as well as

contemporary jewellery exhibitions, performances and a tour by Whitireia DJs. Whitireia Visual Arts staff are currently judging a clothing design competition that will net the Philippino winner a trip to New Zealand and tickets to an annual wearable art event in Wellington. Fashion Tutor from the Whitireia Bachelor of Applied Arts programme, Deb Donnelly says the 10 'wearable art' style gowns created by Whitireia graduates provided a fashion show with a difference. Alongside the fashion show, Whitireia

jewellery tutors Owen Mapp and Peter Deckers displayed contemporary jewellery pieces. Whitireia music tutors DJ Raw and DJ Shan performed at the event, kicking off a three gig tour in The Philippines.

## Full to bursting

The Whitireia Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Early Childhood Education, Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic) filled up very quickly for 2008, with staff managing waitlist issues. Places in administration, computing and office skills programmes are well ahead of expectations as well and will close off to new enrolments considerably earlier than usual. Truck licenses, Publishing, Music programmes – it is the same in many areas as Whitireia completed semester one enrolments for 2008.

"We have a moral obligation to provide training to those who seek it, where it is needed says Health Faculty Dean Dr Margaret Southwick. Our new building opens shortly and we have already filled all its rooms. Same for the new lecture theatre and high tech facilities. The health, education and social services degrees are high demand."



A professional model is dressed by Deb Donnelly before going on stage for the 'RED HOT from New Zealand' wearable art fashion show.

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## New digital design option in applied arts degree

The Bachelor of Applied Arts (Visual Arts) at Whitireia has been boosted by the addition of a high technology digital design option.

Launched in 2006, the Whitireia Bachelor of

Applied Arts incorporates core units in entrepreneurship in industry. "Our applied programme simulates real world business development for artists, says programme leader Rudy Whitehead-Lopez. And now practicing

artists can develop their ideas in state of the art tools like Indesign or Photoshop or focus specifically on web design and other design skills."

"New technology tools are the logical next step for this programme says Whitehead-

Lopez. Artists need the technology to produce their work on aluminium, plastic, as an animation or directly into MySpace for Facebook. You can't do that with a pencil and pad."

## Partnership with international film school

Whitireia is strengthening ties with a key educational provider in the Philippines' says Whitireia Chief Executive Don Campbell. 'The Red Hot in the Philipines trade event

included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Whitireia and the International Academy of Film & Television (part of Big Foot Studios) in Cebu, The

Philippines.' The agreement promotes student exchanges between digital filmmaking programmes in Cebu and the Bachelor of Applied Arts at Whitireia.