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Whitireia May Graduation



Nearly 300 students from Whitireia Community Polytechnic received their hard earned degree, diploma or post graduate qualification at a ceremony with over 1500 guests on 26 March.

Held for the first time at the awesome new Te Rauparaha Arena in Porirua, Hekia Parata MP spoke to students about life after study.

"This graduation really demonstrated the value of celebrating together in our city as a community the individual and collective success of our students," said Chief Executive Don Campbell.

The first students to complete the three year Bachelor of Applied Arts Degrees in Performing Arts, Visual Arts and Design, Creative Writing, and Music, were proud recipients. Another new programme featured the first graduates to qualify with a National Diploma in Journalism (Multi-Media).

Whitireia band 'Just 4 Now' welcomed the guests and graduates with soft jazz music and second year students from the Bachelor of Applied Arts (Performing Arts) performed a 'conch

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ceremony', silencing the stadium as they blew through shells and paraded in spectacular costumes. Second year Bachelor of Nursing (Pacific) students also paid tribute to the graduates, with a Pacific style song and dance performance.

Other guests included Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Laban MP, Douglas Langford The Open Polytechnic Chair, Russell Marshall Chair of the Education Forum, Grant Klinkum from the Tertiary Education Commission, Simon Calvert Executive Director Porirua Chamber, Alan O'Beirne Chief Executive Wellington Free Ambulance, Graeme Hansen Tawa Community Board, Geoff O'Halloran Deputy Principal Tawa College.

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John Key opens Whitireia Paramedic Learning Centre



John Key cuts the ribbon to the Paramedic Centre

At the opening of the Paramedic Learning Centre at Whitireia Community Polytechnic on Wednesday 11 March, Prime Minister John Key reflected on the personal stake he places on education and on the development of the health sector.

"My view is that education is a liberator. My mother was always extremely demanding about education, making sure we did our homework, went to school and had the aspirations we did. If I hadn't understood that value from my mother, I wouldn't be where I am today."

"We are extremely dedicated to workforce issues in the health sector and are aware that we need to invest a lot in the education of our health providers, said Key. We support what Whitireia is doing, the role that you all are playing in supplying graduates to front our health systems."

The Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic) has been offered at Whitireia for five years now and has grown considerably in size. The need for a dedicated laboratory and learning space for the Paramedic students has finally been realised with a new Learning Centre. It has been

developed by refitting existing prefabricated buildings.

The course is run in collaboration with Wellington Free Ambulance. Chairman Shann Stevens gifted John Key with his own paramedic jacket.

Whitireia is a leading "supplier" of graduates to the health systems. Our students are highly regarded for industry based skills and knowledge, ready for the workforce.

Attending the event was Hon Tariana Turia, Hekia Parata MP, her Worship Jenny Brash, Mayor of Porirua and Nathan Guy, Senior Whip and Otaki MP.

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Unique partnership between Cricket Wellington and Whitireia Polytechnic

It's a new kind of educational product, a different approach to international students; these two organisations are joining forces to knock tertiary training for six. Wellington School of Cricket and Whitireia Community Polytechnic signed a Memorandum of Understanding Friday, 30 January.

This joint venture brings international students to study at Whitireia whilst completing a two-year cricket education module with the Wellington School of Cricket.

Cricket Wellington CEO Gavin Larsen said "This is an excellent initiative from our School of Cricket. Not only is there a revenue component that will grow over time, but most importantly these young international players will play cricket in Wellington, adding an exciting flavour to our local cricket."



From Back; (Left to Right) Dolly Seow-Ganesan (Trade and Enterprise NZ), Arthur Graves (Chief Operating Officer, Whitireia Community Polytechnic), Asoka Weerasundara (Manager Wellington School of Cricket), Ian Wells (Chairman of Cricket Wellington), Ian Stockwell (Trade and Enterprise NZ).

Front; Don Campbell (Chief Executive, Whitireia Community Polytechnic) Gavin Larsen (CEO, Cricket Wellington)

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Whitireia Foundation Scholarships

The Whitireia Foundation Scholarships were awarded at a ceremony on 10 March.

Rewa Walters was one of those recipients. The single mother of seven was awarded the Altrusa Zonta Women's Suffrage Scholarship of \$2,500. A stay home mum for the last 22 years Walters says "starting at Whitireia was one of the best decisions I ever made, my life has changed drastically because the power of knowledge is great!"

2009 Scholarships were awarded to; Rewa Walters, Natasha Botha, Timothy Judge, Sam Laurent, Tony Putaura, Nabeel Ali, Nina Carmody, Christina Laban, Lynda Attrill, Kempton Demuth, Eletise Simeona, Tiana Hancock, Isabella Mapusua Laulu, Sophie Robb, Patricia Bayliss, Suzanne Cocker, Pitaarangaotemahita Cole, Dianne Coleman, Mahia Fuimaono, Olivia Giles, Scott Giles, Katherine Hall, Rita Harris, Lana Herewini, Jemma Irvine, Moana Kaika, Vanessa MacDonald-Carruthers, Palauni Madar, Noreen McKie, Rochelle Maroon-Neale, Seethe Smallman, Koshie Williams.

Donors to the Whitireia Foundation include; Altrusa Zonta International, Athfield Architects Ltd, Arrow International Ltd, ASB Bank Ltd, Canon New Zealand Ltd, Ford Sumner, Ian Dale Family Trust, Kirk-Burnnand Family Trust, Mana Community Grants Foundation, NZ Federation of Graduate Women Inc, Allan Sargison, Sheppard Family Trust and Wellington Ostomy Association.



Palauni Madar is awarded his scholarship to help with his Bachelor of Social Work by sponsor Chris Kirk-Burnnand (Kirk-Burnnand Family Trust).

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Wellington Performing Arts Centre Gears up for 09

Whitireia Performing Arts programmes as well as Whitireia Stage and Screen programmes (in partnership with New Zealand College Of Performing Arts) started in the Wellington Performing Arts Centre in 2009. The Wellington Performing Arts Centre will now offer a broader range, from the Whitireia international cultural dance troupe, through to applied acting for stage and screen courses.

“We are looking forward to having the different programmes all working together and developing our own artistic philosophy and style as a centre and as individuals.” Says Alan Palmer, Wellington Campus Manager.

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Award winning performance programme gains ‘cultural innovator’ as new tutor.

Tanemahuta Gray is a creative force to be reckoned with. As a new tutor for the Whitireia Bachelor of Applied Arts (Performing Arts) at Wellington Performing Arts Centre he will bring knowledge, experience and exuberance to the programme.

Back on old stomping ground after training at the Vivian street campus in 1994 (at what was then the New Zealand School of Dance) Gray describes his return as “a homecoming of sorts.”

“This is a special place for me as it is the first place I ever picked up a Taiaha,” Says Gray. “Māori traditions will be the starting point of our work. We will look at modernising and contemporising it and crafting it into something that is our own.”

Gray will teach Māori Dance to the Bachelor of Applied Arts (Performing Arts) students.

Gray admits he has a real fondness for teaching. “Every person represents a kete of knowledge, I see myself as weaving together this knowledge to build our own performances.”



Performing Arts Tutor Tanemahuta Gray

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Bachelor of Nursing (Māori) appoints Programme Manager.

The Bachelor of Nursing (Māori) is set to begin in July 2009, this month a Programme Manager has been appointed; Hemaima Hughes.

“It is an honour to be here and I am very passionate about being involved in yet another Māori nursing degree programme focused on recruiting, preparing, retaining and valuing Māori nurses, says Hughes. These nurses will be instrumental in delivering effective appropriate health care services to Maori and others to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, and reduce the health inequality disparity gap.”

Hughes has a Master of Arts in Nursing from Victoria University. She has an extensive background in nursing, working as a nurse educator, in curriculum design and development, as a current practice clinician, researcher, in leadership and management, governance, and Māori health in primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.

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Pioneer of Development in Pacific Communities wins honourable award.

Dr. Margaret Southwick has been paving the way in education and health for Pacific Island students at Whitireia Community Polytechnic since 1986. Her contribution and dedication was recently acknowledged with a Queens Service Medal for her contribution to Pacific

Communities.

“It is gratifying enough in itself that someone took the trouble to go through the whole process of nominating me”, says Dr. Southwick. Her nominator is unknown.

Dr. Southwick has had a significant role in the local Pacific Community. She is a trustee of the Maninoa Community Trust which provides Mental Health Care for Porirua people and she often takes on advisory roles to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education on Pacific Health issues.

In 2009 Dr. Southwick returns to her role as Dean of the Faculty of Health, Education and Social Sciences at Whitireia. This is after a successful stint in the Whitireia Futures Project, ‘future proofing’ qualifications.

“This year I hope to continue developing the next generation of leaders – both within the polytechnic and the wider community,” says Dr. Southwick. “It is important to continue the development of health and education within the Pacific community, or all that we have achieved thus far will fall through.”



Dr. Margaret Southwick, Dean of the Faculty of Health, Education and Social Sciences

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Trades Training Equips Bradley for Industry

Trades training at Whitireia provides students with general vocational skills, aiming to get students in to the industry more quickly and with strong general skills.

Bradley Young is one of those students. Finishing at Tawa College in sixth form, he began the one year Certificate in Carpentry at Whitireia this year, passed the qualification and is out in the workforce, in his chosen profession, earning fulltime pay, all at only 17.

As part of the trades qualifications students are required to engage in work experience. Young was lucky enough to be offered a fulltime position in the business he did his work-experience with. This is not an uncommon occurrence for diligent students. “Its really useful to have all my paper work completed before working full time, knowing I wont have to work eight hours and

then go to night school that night to work some more. Instead I am about to graduate and I am already employed." Says Young.

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'The Pick of the Fringe' picks Whitireia graduates

Two graduates of the Whitireia Bachelor of Applied Arts (Performing Arts) performed in the Fringe Festival earlier this year, in a play called *Poly-Zygotic*. *Poly-Zygotic* has just been chosen as one of three 'The Pick of the Fringe' plays for 2009 and additional performances will be taking place from 29th April - 7th May, 6pm, at Downstage Theatre.

Tupe Lualua and Taofi Mose-Tuiloma graduated with the Bachelor degree in 2008 and 2007 respectively. This year Lualua has returned to Whitireia as a tutor of Samoan dance in the Bachelor of Applied Arts (Performing Arts).

Poly-Zygotic takes a look at a set of Samoan triplets preparing for their annual Lotu a Tamaiti (White Sunday), an annual celebration for the young which can either be the highlight of the year or a nightmare dreaded by all. The three triplets, played by Tupe Lualua, Taofi Mose-Tuiloma and Asalemo Tofete, all struggle to define their own personality in a family packed with rules and tradition.



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Students plan ahead with help from Whitireia staff

On Thursday 2 April staff and tutors from Whitireia attended a Careers Workshop day at Newlands College, to discuss career and study options and explain what Whitireia had to offer.

160 year thirteen students attended the workshop.

Tutors from programmes such as Trades, Music, Digital Design, Performing Arts, Creative Writing, Early Childhood Education and staff from School Liaisons, led one hour workshops

and talked about opportunities available at Whitireia.

The Career Workshop also included a student panel discussion, where students asked questions of employers, a Work & Income representative, a university graduate, a corporate lawyer, a polytechnic student and a builder.

“Students are hitting the ground running once they leave school these days, says School Liaison Assistant Tiketi Auega. It is really important for them to plan ahead and these workshops provide them with the opportunity to do that.”



Gaylene Sciascia, Performing Arts Programme Manager talks to students

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Education Forum

The Education Forum is for educators and organisations involved in education in the wider Porirua region.

The next Education Forum is taking place at Te Rauparaha Arena, Porirua City on Monday 18 May 2009 at 4.30pm.

Please RSVP to Valerie Bray by 8 May (04) 2373103 ext 3704 or email valerie.bray@whitireia.ac.nz.

We have sent you this newsletter as we believe you are interested in developments at Whitireia. Please contact us on newsletter@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.