

Welcome to the new school year

Kia orana

A belated Happy New Year and best wishes to you all in 2016. I hope you have all had some sort of a break and feel refreshed and ready for another year. I know many of you have been involved in USP courses over the last month and commend you for your commitment to both your own development and for role modelling being a lifelong learner.

“The best thing about teaching, is how much it matters. The hardest thing about teaching, is that it matters every moment, of every day”

As we start another year, I would like to share with you a quote I recently read about teaching.

You all know how much it matters. No one is a teacher because of the salary! We are teachers because we know it is important for our young people to have opportunity to learn and grow. We are teachers because we know that every child is special and every child has a talent that education can help them find and nurture. We are teachers because we believe in the power and value of education. We are teachers because absolutely nothing beats that look on a student's face when things click and they understand something new (of course if they are Year 10 they will quickly change that face because it just isn't cool). Being a teacher matters.

Apii Ruamanu to celebrate 60 years of teaching

It's been 60 years since Apii Ruamanu first opened it's classroom doors to the eager young minds on the island of Manihiki back in 1956.

School principal Anna Rauru said the school plans on celebrating the milestone during the schools first term back with a range of activities including a thanks giving service, a 'walk down memory lane' evening, sports activities, ura papa'a, a picnic and a open day at school. The school is also organising a commemorative t-shirt to specially mark the occasion.

"I thought this would be a great opportunity for the people of Tauhunu, ex-students and the whole of

But being a teacher matters every moment of everyday. A teacher can't have a bad day, can't let something in their personal life impact on their classroom or just decide "it can wait until tomorrow". Your students are still there, waiting for you to support them in building their knowledge and skills. They look to you for fairness and consistency. They look to you to be ready, planned and resourced. They feed off your enthusiasm to build their own. Being a teacher is hard.

So when you are having one of those days, remember we are all in it together. We all have those days too and no matter what, at sometime during the day a student is going to say or do something that will bring it all back into perspective and remind us why we do what we do. Teachers Matter. You Matter.

I wish you all the very very best for 2016 and look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible during the year.

Kia manuia
Gail Townsend



Secretary of Education Gail Townsend

Manihiki to celebrate", she said.



Tauhunu students and the mayor of Manihiki pose with members of the New Zealand army.



Aprii Te Uki Ou Principal Brendon Fiebig



It's been a homecoming of sorts for Aprii Te Uki Ou's new principal Brendon Fiebig who arrived on the island with his family earlier this month.

Brendon is no stranger to the education sector here in the Cook Islands having previously worked for the Ministry of Education from January 2011 until December 2012 as a Teaching and Learning Adviser. Brendon returns with his wife Janine, and two children George (7) and Emily (6). Janine who previously taught at the private school will be joining the teaching staff once again.

Brendon explains that his previ-

ous role within the Ministry allowed him to develop wonderful working relationships with many members of the local and outer island teaching staff. But his connection to Aprii Te Uki Ou is a strong one as not only had Janine been a teacher at the school previously but the couple's children began their schooling at Aprii Te Uki Ou's pre-school.

"The Cook Islands, and Cook Islanders, maintain a very special place in our family's hearts and lives. Family reasons led to our leaving prematurely in 2012 and whilst those issues have since resolved themselves, we never truly settled back into a New Zealand

way of life, so when this opportunity came up we leapt at the chance to return", Brendon said.

Brendon is looking forward to leading Aprii Te Uki Ou through a period of global educational change.

"This is an exciting time for education, largely due to the rapid change in society and its needs; academically, socially, and vocationally. The challenge for schools in the 21st century is to keep up with this change, remain relevant, and continue to engage students, and provide them with what they need to succeed in this ever-changing world", he added.

RUTAKI ENTERPRISE DAY A

One man's trash is another man's treasure, or at least that's what the Enterprising students at Aprii Rutaki had in mind in term 4 of last year as students merged their creativity with their entrepreneurial knowledge to create funky pieces from rubbish.

The chosen topic Junk 2 Funk meant all classes were to use recycled products from within their community and revitalise it by giving it a new outlook with an opportunity for the community to purchase these products.

We created an en-trepreneur vibe

by hosting a school gala and giving the students the opportunity to observe how money can be made from items we may easily have put in the bin or burnt said a member of the school's staff.

The Enterprise Day was explained as a great learning experience for all who participated and saw the potential in seemingly useless rubbish.

Thanks to the support from the community and family members the school raised in excess of \$2000. The money will be put back into the school in the form of resources

THE RELEVANCE OF CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE IN THE COOK IS-

ADVISOR JUNE HOSEA SHRES HER
THOUGHTS ON THE RELEVANCE OF CAREERS EDUCATION
AND GUIDANCE IN THE COOK ISLANDS.

The Strategic Vision for Education as stated in the Cook Islands Education Master Plan is “to build the skills, knowledge, attitudes and values of Cook Islanders to put their capabilities to best use in all areas of their lives.” An education that is holistic and meaningful is one that will help make this vision a reality, and careers education and guidance play a vital role in providing such an education.

What is Careers Education about?

The ultimate aim of careers education is to equip students to develop their careers throughout their lives, and in so doing, enable them to realise their potential and become positively contributing members of Cook Islands society. Teaching students an identified set of understanding, skills and attitudes - career management competencies – will help them achieve their life, learning and work goals. The competencies, which are based on international research and practice, are grouped into three areas:

- developing self-awareness – competencies that enable young people to understand themselves and the influences on them
- exploring opportunities – competencies that enable young people to investigate opportunities in learning and work; and
- deciding and acting – competencies that enable young people to make and adjust their plans, to manage change and transition, and take appropriate action.

Why is Careers Education an integrated learning area?

Careers education is most effective when it is an integral part of school life. Having a whole-school integrated approach to careers education means that all staff recognise that careers education and guidance is a shared responsibility, and all staff members contribute to careers education within the school.

What is the place of Careers Education in Cook Islands Society?

Engaging with family and community in students' career education helps schools to create a wider school community prepared to work together to benefit both the community and students (for example, through work experience programmes). It fosters an environment of shared knowledge where complementary skills and understanding are developed, increases resources for and skills of students through extracurricular experiences and education outside the classroom (for

example, mentoring programmes), and provides a network for students to more easily find future employment and training.

When the MOE, school, parents and students work collaboratively, students are empowered to explore their potential and options, so that they can make well informed career plans and decisions.

How is Careers Education integrated across the Curriculum?

To support a whole-school integrated approach, schools need to have:

- careers representation in the structures and systems that are used to manage the career-related events in students' lives;
- ongoing promotion, communication and relationship-building to embed careers in the school's culture and encourage whole-school participation; and
- planned, sustainable development of integrated careers activities in the three career management competencies across curriculum areas and pastoral networks.

Conclusion:

Recent experience and anecdotal evidence shows that students who have benefitted from an education programme that includes careers education and guidance, are more likely to stay in school and then transition successfully into appropriate employment or further study. This is because they are equipped to make the links between what they learn at school and the world of work, having gained valuable skills and knowledge to help them make informed plans and decisions about their future careers. Therefore with the ever changing range of jobs and educational opportunities

EXPANDING HORIZONS AT CATE 2015

**ADVISOR JUNE HOSEA
RECENTLY ATTENDED THE CATE
CONFERENCE IN NZ. HERE SHE SHARES
HER EXPERIENCE**

What is CATE? The Careers and Transition Education Association (NZ Inc.) is a professional organisation for people such as Career Advisors, Career Counsellors and Career teachers – people who work in the area of careers and transition education at all levels of education. The main focus of CATE is on the career education of young people, and in helping them to transition successfully from secondary or tertiary level into the world of work, training or further education.

Every year members of CATE meet together to network, participate in workshops, listen to inspirational key note speakers, gather the latest resources from various tertiary training providers and employers around New Zealand who exhibit at the CATE Careers Expo, and in so doing stay current with what is happening in the world of work and transition education. CATE 2015 was held in the beautiful city of Palmerston North, which is the main city of the Manawatu-Wanganui region of the North Island of New Zealand. Over 600 career professionals from around New Zealand, and one from outside of the country – the Itinerant Career Counsellor for the Cook Islands Ministry of Education, June Hosea – gathered for the conference at the Awapuni Function Centre which is located at the Awapuni Racecourse.

The theme for this year's conference was Expanding Horizons. This theme encouraged conference delegates to focus on the question, "How do we prepare our country's most valuable asset, its youth, to be resourceful, think creatively, relish diversity and have strong entrepreneurial skills?"

Keynote speakers such as Cam Calkoen (Ambassador for YES and project manager for its Carabiner mentoring programme), Dr Paul Wood (director of Switch Coaching and Consulting and What's Your Prison?), Dr Steve Maharey (Vice-Chancellor of Massey University), Professor Claire Massey (Director of Agrifood Business – Massey University), Sian Jaque (highly sought-after executive coach, working worldwide with captains of industry, top sports stars, management teams and families in crisis) and Rod Oram (founding trustee of the Aotearoa New Zealand Foundation for Public Interest Journalism) inspired the delegates to continue the important work they are doing in helping our youth to attain excellence in all areas of their lives.

The workshops the ICC attended were very interesting and informative and covered topics such as:

Using neuroplasticity to access mindfulness and creativity (Taruni Falconer)

Embedding Employability: Delivery at tertiary (Deb Bell and Nadene McClay)

Digital tools and resources are revolutionising how youth consider their Next Step – play your part in driving innovation! (Tim Watts & Robert Milne)

The ICC also had the pleasure of meeting up with former Cook Islands MOE employees such as Mrs Margaret Marsters (Typing Teacher at Tereora College in the 1970s and wife of the late Aaron Marsters)



and Mrs Robyn Cannell (former Itinerant Career Counsellor) at the CATE Conference. These

two lovely ladies asked the current ICC to extend their greetings to all their former colleagues and students.

The ICC enjoyed CATE 2015 and is happy that she was able to fulfil the objectives of the professional development, which were to:

strengthen and extend her current network of career professionals within New Zealand,

gain new knowledge and skills which will enhance her existing knowledge and skills in the area of Careers Education and counselling, and

collect relevant career resources that can be utilised in the schools of the Cook Islands.

It is the opinion of the ICC that attending the annual CATE Conference is an awesome and invaluable professional development opportunity for all career pro-

SCHOOL	REVIEW DATES
Blackrock ECE	16 - 18 Feb
Imanuela Akatemala	29 Feb - 4 Mar
CITTI	15 - 17 Mar
Manihiki / Rakahanga	31 Mar - 12 Apr
Mitiaro School	9 - 13 May
Nukutere College	23 - 27 May
Araura College	13 - 17 Jun
Tekaaroa SDA	20 - 22 Jun
Vaitau School	23 - 24 Jun
Avarua School	11 - 15 Jul
St Joseph School	16 - 18 Aug
Enuamanu School	29 Aug - 2 Sep
Papaaroa SDA	13 - 15 Sep
Titikaveka College	26 - 30 Sep
Rutaki School	7 - 11 Nov
Apii Nikao	21 - 25 Nov

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

“Be really whole and all things will come to you.” – Lao Tzu

When we create space for all people to access their full potential beautiful things happen. Inclusive Education works to support systems and people to promote accessibility.

Why practice Inclusive Education? Inclusive Education is about being welcoming and accommodating to all students including those with impairment-related access needs. Creating classrooms where we can be all of ourselves and reach our full potential. All people have Inclusive Education needs just like all students have a different learning style. 1 in 4 people live with a disability, so If you don't live with a disability, someone you love does. When I talk of disability I also include people with lived experience of mental illness, addiction and recovery. Everyone benefits holistically when we include all.

Where do we begin our inclusion journey? Within ourselves. When we include all parts of ourselves we grow our ability to embrace and celebrate the similarities and differences we see in other people. Also, valuing diversity and creating space for on-going conversations around diversity is vital in the inclusion journey. It is not a straight road and we cannot go straight “there” – because there is no “there.. Inclusive Education is about sitting within a process of continual change. There is no room for black and white thinking – it is all grey in the Inclusion world. This is why the inclusion journey continues on with no end point.

We have significant policy and government acts that ensure equality must legally happen. This is important.. However, people don't like being told what they should do. We need to invite and offer people an opportunity to have conversations about what they really care about. People often care about what benefits themselves and their community – and Inclusive Education benefits both. We need to create coalitions of the willing and have fun!

Who does Inclusive Education work for? We serve the community, the education system, all students and students with disabilities. We currently carry a small caseload of students who require on-going specialist support.

Servant-hearted leadership is important in Inclusive Education. This means empowering those at the “coal-face”. In Inclusive Education this is our teacher aides. Training and support is important for everyone to do well. Those teacher aides who accepted the invitation this year to train, flourished and have achieved remarkable successes in their schools.

Inclusive Education has been here at the MOE for around 10 years and we've come a long way to accessing all our potential. It takes all of us to continue reaching further on our journey. How do we include? What do we do / say?

Let's access our full potential.

IMAGES FROM THE RECENT MEITAKI AWARDS

SPOTLIGHT
ON...

ARAURA COLLEGE

2015 has been a successful year. We welcomed three new staff – Clare Shill in the technology department and Caroline Davey and Oa Mati as teacher aides.

An Enviro Squad was established and together they have changed the way in which we deal with our waste, no longer burning and burying but recycling and reusing instead. They have become environmental legends across the Cook Islands and were the stars of lagoon day – gaining excellence for all that they entered into...also made a short video clip outlining seven ways to protect the environment – are developing a model that all schools can use

Senior student results this year have been outstanding. All of our current level two students and almost all level one students have successfully achieved their NCEA certificates.

This year we introduced two pathways - a non-academic pathway, catered for our students that are not intending to further their education at university or other educational institutes, this included practical hands-on subjects as well as a life skills type course.

The second pathway catered for more academic students who plan to extend their education, we offered courses via the correspondence school for subjects that we cannot offer due to not having the specialist subject teachers – this enabled students to travel along their chosen career path.

Students participated in the Cook Islands Maths competition and the students participated in the year 10 Enterprise Challenge both in Rarotonga, also went to expo and won the essay competition

Joshua Ioane represented Aitutaki at the Pacific Games winning Bronze in sailing, Rayman Kiria competed at International level in golf.

Formal dinner and dance for Y9 and 10

Celebrated culture by holding Araura College DOTY, Koni Raoni term one (raised over \$20,000) and traditional day (umu and traditional games)

Introduced Sustainable Communities (Terangi Tamati went to Korea and brought back ideas to introduce into classroom programmes)

Australian Maths Comp – producing not only credits and distinctions but also a prudence award

Science Challenge

Maths competition, spelling bee, writing competition

Go Green Day with BSP

Won Vaka Iti in Rarotonga

Just Play – for the PE dept

Looking ahead...offering Y13 to those that wish to stay on the island, introducing new course Environmental Education for Y12's as well as continuing with correspondence courses...Y7 and 8 will be in home rooms (like primary school with one main teacher) rather than have a variety of teachers – this we are hoping will help bring up the literacy and numeracy

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