

# Our History: The Beginnings

The institution that would eventually become Whitireia grew out of a need to support the community of Porirua with options for education and upskilling as the employment prospects in the region began to change.

Throughout the 1960s and early 1970s, the people of Porirua were largely dependent on Todd Motors as a source of employment. As the plant began to run down in the late 1970s and early 1980s it became apparent that many in the community would need to reskill or upskill through education in order to find more stable work. While a number of employment-based and tertiary-level courses were offered across the Porirua region, the providers were ill-equipped for the demand in the area and most people had to travel to Wellington City or the Hutt Valley for further education and training.

The Minister of Education at the time, Russell Marshall, said it was "inadequate and unacceptable" that such a substantial Wellington community was "not being served on-site by an own-your-own, do-it-yourself, stand-alone facility."

A senior tutor from what was then Wellington Polytechnic compiled a case for a new tertiary institution in Porirua, and the report received widespread support. Proponents of the plan included Porirua mayor Whitford Brown, councillors Eric McKenzie and Ned Nathan, New Zealand Nurses' Association representative Margaret Faulkner, trade unionist Rob Campbell, John Tamahori from the Department of Māori Affairs, former Mana College principal Doug Day, Kāpiti councillor Mac Clunie, Tawa councillor Roy Mitchell, and Ngāti Toa kaumātua.

In May of 1985, Minister Marshall announced to a meeting of Porirua community leaders that a "community college" would open its doors in early 1986 on reclaimed land gifted by Ngāti Toa. A public meeting was then held, where the make-up of the college council was established. In September, Labour Department executive officer Tino Meleisa was elected to lead the council, the first Pacific Island chair of any tertiary sector council in New Zealand, while Wellington High School principal Turoa Royal, of Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Raukawa descent, was considered "a natural and inspired choice for foundation principal."



*Aerial view of Porirua from the 1960s, showing the harbour and beside it the reclaimed land upon which Whitireia would be built.*

### **Predecessors**

Prior to 1985, there were a number of smaller private training providers in the Porirua area, some of which were later absorbed into Parumoana Community Polytechnic/Whitireia. Two secretarial courses were taught in premises at Mana College, the Maraeroa Carving School run by Lou Keropa taught whakairo at Maraeroa Marae in Waitangirua, the Skills Centre on Prosser Street also provided training, and Champion House a statehouse at 200 Champion Street in Cannons Creek, taught work skills.

Since 1979 or 1980, Champion House had been an outpost of Wellington Polytechnic, running various pre-employment government initiatives: YPTP (Young Persons Training Programme), TOPS (Training Opportunities Programmes), STEPS (School-Leavers Employment Preparation Scheme), Access and WASS. Champion House communications tutor, George Packard, was just one of the Champion House staff to join Whitireia, and would later help found the music department.



*Students and staff at Champion House.*

Jan Walker, who would later become the director of the Whitireia Faculty of Business and Technology, recalls that there was little contact between the different providers: "In our secretarial course we used to have a tutor who came out on Thursday, and in the morning he taught life skills to the carving students at Maraeroa. In the afternoon he taught life and hobby skills to the secretarial students. Apart from that, there was no linkage between any of us. None whatsoever. We all operated in complete isolation."

*And so we completed  
The Circle of time  
The beginners, the starters  
The passers through  
The "Clay"  
The "Moulders"  
The Artists  
The forever people  
Who like the tide  
Go and then return  
And touch for just a time  
Champion House has been that  
The clay  
The mould. The moulder*

*The model. The artist  
And now it is in the Forever*

# Our History: 1986

Students proved eager to learn at Parumoana Community College with classes beginning a full month before the official opening on 15 March 1986 when over a thousand people met to celebrate the beginning of something truly significant for Porirua

With the incredibly short lead-in time before classes started in February, some of the furniture and equipment only arrived on the same day as the students, and in some cases, after classes had started. The college council, under the chairmanship of Tino Meleisea, and foundation principal Turoa Royal had worked incredibly hard in a very tight time-frame to ensure the college could start running classes in February, and staff and students were beginning to settle in by the date of the opening.



*Governor-General Paul Reeves welcomed to Parumoana Community College*

## **The Opening**

The opening began with Ngāti Toa kaumātua Wāra Katene conducting a dawn dedication ceremony and tapu lifting under, as Turoa Royal poetically described it, the diminishing brightness of Halley's Comet. The 250 people in attendance walked silently around and inside the existing buildings before a short breakfast and church service as the sun began to rise. The Governor-General, Sir Paul Reeves, and other visiting dignitaries and guests arrived at 10am, with the numbers in attendance swelling to 1200-1500 for the official ceremony. A welcome was provided by Mareaeroa Marae, with karanga by Harata Solomon and Taukiri Thomason, followed by speeches from Wāra Katene, Porirua mayor John Burke, council chair Tino Meleisea, and Education Minister Russell Marshall. Sir Paul spoke to the crowd

and said that he saw the college as a source of learning, adding that it would bring the community together. After his speech, the Governor-General unveiled a plaque carved by whakairo tutor Lou Kereopa, which represented the cultural values the college hoped to promote – excellence, endeavour, social concern, training and vocation. A tukutuku panel gifted to the college by Maraeroa Marae was also unveiled.

Mr Royal said that the opening heralded a new development in education in the Porirua basin and Kāpiti Coast, namely greater access to continuing education for the community. Following the formalities, guests were taken on a tour of the campus, before a celebration hākari was held and an afternoon of entertainment got underway. Various cultural groups performed, with Tongan, Cook Island, Tokelauan, Samoan, Dutch and Scottish country dancers taking to the stage, along with the Wellington High School rock band. The kai for the hākari spoke to the level of community involvement, with a hangi laid at Maraeroa Marae, while people from Takapūwāhia Marae, Pacific Island communities and local businesses peeled potatoes, sliced bread and brought vegetables from their own gardens. "The staff are still commenting with gratitude on the mountains of food that arrived by the trailer load," said Turoa Royal.



*Council members perform a waiata including Rev Geoffrey Walpole, Taukiri Thomason, Peggy Liddell, Patricia Grace, Jasmine Underhill, Richard Mayson, Anne MacGregor, Tino Meleisea, Turoa Royal, Ioane Teao.*

## Part-time community courses

In addition to programmes such as the flagship Diploma in Nursing, Parumoana emphasised the community college part of the name with a range of part-time community courses. While these included subjects that would eventually grow into full-fledged Whitireia programmes, some even attaining degree level, others never achieved this lofty goal. At the Porirua campus, five-week courses were offered in Microwave Cooking and the surprisingly popular Overcoming Shyness, which had both afternoon and evening sessions, while ten weeks could be spent learning Basic Gardening. Two long-standing Whitireia programmes, Journalism and Creative Writing, on the other hand, had their beginnings as Journalism for Beginners and both Beginning and Intermediate options in Creative Writing.

Due to limited space, some community courses were offered off-site at local schools and churches. Porirua College provided one popular location, with options in Basic Computer Skills (Appleworks), Introduction to Keyboarding Skills, Introduction to Drama, Improving Your Sewing Skills, Cook Islands Māori Language and Culture, Introductory Accounting, Intermediate Conversational Māori and the perennial favourite, Basic Gardening. The Titahi Bay Baptist Hall played host to Beginner Guitar (creche provided, it should be noted), while an Introduction to Māori Bone Carving was on offer at both Titahi Bay Intermediate School and Maraeroa Carving School in Waitangirua.



*Programme brochures from 1986*

## First Council

The first council for Parumoana Community Polytech illustrated the investment felt by many in the community for the new institution. Gerald Aitken, Regional Superintendent of Education, recalled that at a public meeting to establish the council, about fifty or sixty groups and individuals spoke: "I think it was one of the most exciting things I ever did as

Regional Superintendent, to get all those different people together, to make them feel they had an opportunity and a right to say what they wanted with this community college. And they all did."

The final council provided representation from the local councils of Porirua, Kāpiti and Tawa; Cook Island, Samoan and Tokelauan communities; Ngāti Toa and the Māori Women's Welfare League; Takapūwāhia, Maraeroa, Whakarongotai and Hongoeka marae; the local Nurses' Association and Hospital Board; secondary school boards from Porirua and Kāpiti; the Porirua Business Development Council and Employer's Association; along with Parumoana principal, staff and student representatives. Tino Meleisea, a Labour Department executive officer, was elected chair, with Richard Mayson as deputy.



*Parumoana Community Polytechnic Council 1985-1986. Third row: Jan Watkins, Ioane Semu Teao, Harry Walker, Neil McDonald, Roger Bradshaw, Noeline Bubendorfer. Second row: Diana Goss, Roy Mitchell, Ed Smith, H Solomon, Robert Jaquiere, Rev Geoffrey Walpole, Anne MacGregor. Front row: Margaret Faulkner, Jasmine Underhill, Tino Meleisea (council chair), Turoa Royal (principal), Taukiri Thomason, Peggy Liddel. Absent: Patricia Grace, Richard Mayson, David Oughton, Winham Hammond.*

## First graduation

At the end of its inaugural year, Parumoana Community College was able to celebrate its success with a graduation as the first students completed their courses and prepared to pursue careers or go on to further training. The graduation was combined with a dinner and dance event held at Todd Park on Friday 21 November. Graduates came from the Secretarial, Office Assistant and Refresher/Retraining classes of the Business Studies Department, the Foundation Course for health-related careers, and the Maraeroa Carving School, whose students had begun their two years of studies a year prior to the founding of the polytechnic. Guests of honour for the evening were the Speaker of the House the Hon. Dr Gerard Wall, the Hon. Margaret Shields (Minister of Customs), and the Hon. Russell Marshall (Minister of Education).

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## Foundation Year Staff

By the end of its inaugural year in 1986, Parumoana Community College had developed a significant foundation year staff that encompassed support areas, the two academic departments of Nursing and General Studies, as well as the outlier locations of Prosser Street, Champion Street in Cannons Creek, the Porirua Language Project and the Maraeroa Carving School. In his annual report to council from August of that year, council chair Tino Meleisea was able to report that 78 staff were employed, 73% female and 27% male, representing a number of ethnic groups: Māori, Pakeha, Tongan, Thai and Vietnamese.

<b>Principal</b>	Turoa Royal
<b>Deputy Principal</b>	Majorie Truong
<b>Administration</b>	
Noeline Bubendorfer	Registrar
Helen Aviss	Principal's secretary
Karen McCoy	Accounts
Elizabeth Mann	Deputy Registrar
Phil Shepherd	Property Assistant
Del Te Kiri	Administration Officer
Ema Yandall	Receptionist/telephonist/typist/Registrar
<b>Global</b>	
Sally Ansley	Student Counsellor
Stephen Carroll	Computer Manager
Elaine Needham	Student Nurse
Chanel White	Librarian
<b>General Studies</b>	

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Linda Baylis	Secretarial Studies Tutor
Alison Bell	Secretarial Studies Tutor
Stephen Bright	YPTP/TAPS Co-ordinator
Trish Brimblecombe	Secretarial Studies Tutor
Val Collins	Maori Liaison/Bridging Tutor
Sally Drewitt	Secretarial Studies Tutor
Valeti Finau	Pacific Island Liaison Tutor
Fay Harrison	Secretarial Studies Tutor
Dale Hartle	Secretarial Studies Tutor
Denise Joyce	HOD's Secretary
Piki Kereama	Maori Language Tutor
Anne MacGregor	
Barbara Marshall	Community Studies Co-ordinator
Rangi Nicholson	Maori Liaison Tutor
Anne Philbin	Art/Craft Course Supervisor
Mary Rose Royal	Bridging Course Supervisor/Tutor
Long Truong	Bridging Tutor
Jan Watkins	Course Supervisor - Secretarial Studies

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### **Nursing Studies Department**

Jeanette Page	Head of Department
Lisa Bergantino	Science Technician
Sue Jamieson	Nursing Tutor
Ed Smith	Nursing Tutor
Pene Smith	Nursing Tutor
Jean Sneddon	HOD's Secretary
Margaret Southwick	Nursing Tutor
Shirley Wilson	Nursing Tutor

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### **Prosser Street Staff**

Jenny Pender	Course Supervisor
John Callaghan	Metalwork/Welding Tutor
Jillian Humphries	Food Handling Tutor
Peter Robinson	Retailing/Carpentry Tutor
Fay Stradling	Typing/Office Assistants Tutor

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### **Champion Street Staff**

Roger Armstrong	English for Immigrants - Adult Retraining Programme
Garth Baker	Communications Skills
Simon Blackiston	Communications Skills
Felicity Newton	English for Immigrants - Adult Retraining Programme
Ngapera O'Carroll	Communications Skills
George Packard	Communications Skills

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### **Porirua Language Project**

Sue Elliott
Margaret Collinge

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## Maraeroa Carving School

Lou Kereopa

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### Cafeteria

Joan Solomon

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### Caretaking/Cleaning Staff

**Carl Hakaria**

**Robbie Kahukaka**

**Owen Mahoney**

Groundsman

Cleaner

Caretaker



*Early Whitireia Staff. Back row: unidentified, Shirley Wilson, Elizabeth Mann, Jean Sneddon, Ngapera O'Carroll, Julia Hennessy, Trish O'Keefe, Karen McCoy, Elaine Needham. Fourth row: Anne MacGregor, Margot Mains, Gael Mearns, Carl Hakaria, Dale Hartle, Sally Ansley, Fay Harrison, Stephen Carroll, Barbara Wesney, Jackie McKinlay, Chanel White, Jan Morrison, Ann Porteners, Irihapeti Ramsden, Fay Stradling. Third row: Valeti Finau, Val Collins, Garth Baker, Trish Brimblecombe, Peter Robinson, Owen Mahoney, Alison Bell, Eddie Smith, Roger Armstrong, Piki Kereama, Phil Shepherd, Rangi Nicholson, Terry Gardiner, Jimmy Wiki, John Hinton, unidentified, Ema Yandell. Second row: Lou Kereopa, Anne Philbin, Jan Watkins, Stephen Bright, Marjorie Truong, Turoa Royal, Noeline Bubendorfer, Thana na Nagara, Jeanette Page, Sue Elliot, Long Truong, Mary-Rose Royal, Helen Aviss. Front row: Barbara Marshall, Joan Solomon, Sue Jamieson, Denise Joyce, Ann Coleman,*

*unidentified, Pam Mason, Sarah Hardman, Del Te Kiri, Pene Smith, Jillian Humphries, unidentified.*

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## **In the news**

### **Turoa Royal comes home**

***The Evening Post 24.01.1986***

The days until the doors of Porirua's new community college, Parumoana swung open to the public are not long enough for Turoa Royal. There is much to do – meetings, organisation, paperwork. But through all the hustle and bustle, the sense of excitement and deep commitment to the success of Porirua's newest educational amenity is obvious. Turoa Royal, as principal of the new college, will soon be putting into practise ideas and suggestions which have been bounced around Porirua for more than 20 years. And the man who, as a child, wanted to emulate his father and become a dairy farmer, is relishing the thought.

"There is a concept in Maoridom where, if you have been helped in the past to develop your skills and qualifications, there comes a time in your life when you pay it back. And that is what I am doing."

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### **Te Manu Korero**

***Kapi Mana 28.01.1986***

Waitangirua Intermediate School's longest-serving teacher, Val Collins of Ranui Heights, has left to join the foundation staff of Parumoana Community College. She is to be a tutor on a course for people interested in a health-related career, and will also liaise between the college and Māori and Pacific Island people, finding out what they want and making them aware of what it could offer. A pakeha with a deep interest and involvement in all things Maori, she was raised in Wellington, trained as a teacher and after a period overseas, joined Maraeroa School when it opened in 1967.

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*New secretarial students, including Brenda Archibald, Michelle O'Sullivan and Monique Robbers*

**College open for business**  
***The Evening Post 10.02.1986***

Classes at Porirua's new Parumoana Community College began today as 60 secretarial students enrolled, met their tutors, and got to know each other. Included in the group of new students were Brenda Archibald, Michelle O'Sullivan and Monique Robbers.

Secretarial school supervisor Mrs Jan Watkins said the 60 students had enrolled for either one year of secretarial studies, an 18-week office assistant course, or a 16-week refresher-retraining course.

The college's 48-student nursing course begins tomorrow, and a foundation course which will prepare students for formal tertiary education starts next week. The college will be officially opened by the Governor-General, Sir Paul Reeves, on March 15.

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**Improving their English**  
***Kapi Mana 21.02.1986***

Thirteen Samoan people were improving their English skills under a Labour Department-funded scheme in Porirua. The ESL training assistance programme became part of the Parumoana Community College but is still based on Champion Street. Students usually come from any of the Pacific Islands as well as South-East Asia and Europe; this term, as a coincidence, they're all from Samoa. The 12-week course is designed to improve language skills to make job searching easier and will lead to the department's new Access programme.

The Samoan students have given their own name to their course: O Tama ma Teine Aoga ole Faauae o Parumoana Community College.

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**Governor-General Opens Porirua's newest college**  
*The Evening Post 15.03.1986*

Porirua's Parumoana Community College was officially opened by the Governor-General, Sir Paul Reeves, today.

The opening began with a dawn dedication ceremony and tapu lifting by local Ngati Toa elders. Sir Paul and Lady Reeves, and other dignitaries from outside the college's catchment – Waikanae to Tawa – received a traditional Māori welcome on to the Wineera Drive college site just after 10 am.

Sir Paul told the 500-strong audience that he hoped the college's facilities would soon look a bit used and perhaps a little dirty. "Not because people want to vandalise them, but because people are using them and because they see these buildings as a source of learning and a place where they can feel at rest." The college, Sir Paul said, could bring the community together. "Because when we talk about a community we talk about the things we have in common, from our heritages, cultures, experiences and needs."

After Sir Paul spoke a church service was held, with readings and hymns from the different cultures represented at the college. The Governor-General then unveiled a specially carved plaque, the work of carving instructor Lou Kereopa, which represented the cultural values the college wished to promote. They include excellence, endeavour, social concern, training and vocation.

Guests inspected the college and a celebration feast was held. It was to be followed by entertainment by 12 different groups from throughout Porirua.



*Turoa Royal with Theresa Stevens and Katrina Haenga*

## **Tukutuku panel for Parumoana**

***Kapi Mana 29.04.1986***

The people of Maraeroa Marae presented Parumoana Community College with a tukutuku panel whose meaning is “ability, strength and achievement”. It was made by trainees on the tukutuku weaving course run at the Marae under the Kokiri Basic Skills programme. It was presented on April 18, 1986, with a full-scale powhiri and blessed by Father Hemi Harwood.

Accepting the taonga, college principal Turoa Royal said the panel forged the relationship between the college and the marae and would enter college history as another link in the close tie shared by the two.

The tukutuku panel hangs outside Mr Royal's office at Parumoana Community College. With him are weaving course tutor-supervisor Theresa Stevens and trainee Katrina Haenga. Others on the course who helped in the work are Kim Wimutu and Sandra Coake, while Pauline Johnson drafted the pattern. The framing was the work of students at Maraeroa Carving School.

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## **Community College or Community Polytechnic**

***Te Awa Iti 04.05.1986 by Turoa Royal***

One issue that is exercising the minds of Parumoana Community College Council members is the question of the words “community college”. The Education Act of 1964 set up tertiary institutions and the Act refers to Technical Institutes, as if they were the same, and any difference was in the main by the way of emphasis, e.g. Community Colleges have intentionally built in more rural areas so they are expected to provide courses off-campus as well as on-site.

The Chairman of the Council, Mr Tino Meleisea, in his address at the opening ceremony, made the point that the words “community college” presented some confusion in the community. Some people believe that Parumoana Community College is an alternative secondary school and others have considered the college as a university under another name. He went further to suggest that a change in name may be necessary. He indicated in the same address that perhaps we should be called Parumoana Community Polytechnic. He believes that the word "community" should be kept as a method by which the College could be reminded continually of its special focus.

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## **First steps in being journalists**

***Kapi Mana 20.05.1986***

A five-day introductory course on journalism is being held at Parumoana Community College this week. Mr Philip Whaanga, the editor of the Tu Tangata magazine, is course supervisor. "I've done these courses before and found them more enjoyable than being an editor," he said.

The idea of the course is to introduce more Māori and Polynesians into journalism. Students will be taught the basic skills of journalism and be given the opportunity to see what it is like to work in a newspaper, on television or in a radio studio. Mr Whaanga said there was no trouble in filling the places for the course. There are 15 students aged between 17-40. Most are from Porirua but two are from Upper Hutt. He also said Parumoana Community College hopes to hold a full-time journalism course next year.

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### **Applicants sought for craft course**

***Kapi Mana 19.08.1986***

Polynesia will be the focus of a certificate in Crafts Design course at Parumoana Community College starting next February. The two-year course will be open to Polynesian students of all ages. Applications for the initial intake of 18 students are now being received.

"We are looking for talent, and a willingness to undertake a full-time course," says Anne Philbin, crafts development tutor. The course would tap the wealth of Polynesian talent in Porirua, she said and help students "become enriched in their culture." Apart from learning arts such as printmaking, weaving and bone, shell and wood carving, students will learn the Māori language and go on to learn other cultural aspects if they wish. Business management will also be part of the course, which teaches the art of money management.

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### **Civil Defence Course**

***Kapi Mana 10.06.1986***

Porirua Civil Defence held a one-day course for first-year nursing students at Parumoana College. Civil defence officer, Greg Crewley, said it was successful and would become an annual event for first-year students. Further contact with civil defence is a possibility for third-year students, of which there are of course none yet at the college.

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### **Link Courses for Secondary Schools**

***Te Awa Iti 12.11.1986***

In September of this year, the Government approved funding for the expansion of the Link Programmes to include Technical Institutes and Community colleges not as yet providing these programmes. Parumoana Community Polytechnic was one of the institutions granted funds to begin such courses working with students from the secondary schools within the Polytechnic catchment area. The aim of Link Programmes was to assist secondary school students in their transition from school to working life or further education, and also to provide alternative vocational study options in a tertiary environment.

As a beginning, Parumoana is running two three-day courses for fifth and sixth form pupils in Health Studies in November and December this year. The aim of this course is to become more familiar with the career options that exist in the health field. Students will be introduced to health careers such as nursing, occupational therapy, school dental nursing, and many other careers. There will be speakers from these professions, visits where

possible to see some of these workers at their jobs, and detailed information on qualifications needed to enter health professions, courses of study, costs, availability of bursaries, etc. The course will also be an introduction to Parumoana Community Polytechnic for these students, giving them a taste of polytechnic life in the hope that they will return to Parumoana as students in the future.



*Maraeroa Carving School graduates, from front to rear: Rangi Kipa (Waitara), Awatea Edwin (Timaru), Larry Paurini (Turangi), Mark Apanui (Gisborne), Peter Kautai (Rotorua), Manaia Mackie (Kaikoura) and Patrice Grace (Plimmerton)*

## **Graduation**

***Evening Post 24.11.1986***

Two years of carving tuition ended in Porirua on Friday when seven men graduated from the Maraeroa Carving School. The carvers from front to rear, are Rangi Kipa (Waitara), Awatea Edwin (Timaru), Larry Paurini (Turangi), Mark Apanui (Gisborne), Peter Kautai (Rotorua), Manaia Mackie (Kaikoura) and Patrice Grace (Plimmerton).

Carving tutor Lou Kereopa instructed the class, which is part of Parumoana Community Polytechnic but based at Maraeroa Marae. The course included instruction on business management and culture, as well as carving.

Several of the carvers hope to form a co-operative and work on new meetinghouses throughout the country.

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### **Tech course lauded**

***Evening Post 24.11.1986***

Parumoana Community Polytechnic's health science bridging course – the first of its kind in New Zealand – has been a great success, says supervisor Mary-Rose Royal. The bridging foundation course was introduced when the Porirua Polytechnic opened earlier this year, and the first-class graduated on Friday. Of 20 students, 14 had been accepted for health science courses throughout the country. Most will begin nursing training next year, some are to train as dental nurses and three as occupational therapists.

The course is aimed at helping people not meeting the criteria needed to enter other health training courses or establishments. It is full-time for one year, and the curriculum includes English, mathematics, chemistry, biology and related studies such as Taha Maori and computer studies. The course is funded by the Education Department, and this year's students were school leavers, most with three years secondary education, or people who had been working for a few years, Mrs Royal said.

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### **Parumoana Graduation Ceremony**

***Te Awa-iti 28.11.1986 by Val Collins***

Parumoana has completed its first year. The first students finished their courses and left to pursue their careers or to go on to further training. To celebrate the end of the successful first year, a Graduation Dine and Dance were held at Todd Park on Friday 21 November. Graduates receiving certificates came from the Secretarial, Office Assistant and Refresher/Retraining classes of the Business Studies Department for the Foundation Course for health-related Careers and the Maraeroa Carving school. Guests of honour for the evening were the Hon. Dr G. Wall, Speaker of the House, the Hon. Margaret Shields, Minister of Customs and the Hon. Russell Marshall, Minister of Education.

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### **Foundation year completed**

***Te Awa-iti 19.12.1986 by Turoa Royal***

Parumoana Community Polytechnic completed one year of operations. They experienced a very busy and hectic year setting up buildings, courses and staff appointments, furniture and equipment. The staff had to develop at the same time administrative systems that would enable the Polytechnic to function.

The Polytechnic has come a long way since December 1985 when the buildings on the main campus were represented by a few holes in the ground and a number of unclad wooden frames. Yet six weeks later the Nursing Department began teaching along with the Carving School, the Secretarial Studies, the Bridging Course, the Labour Department Training Assistance Programmes and the Community Classes.

# Our History: 1987

The year 1997 saw two major developments at Parumoana, with a name change and an expansion of programme offerings

The name change saw a refinement of the official name of the institution with the replacement of the word 'college' with 'polytechnic,' differentiating Parumoana from secondary schools and embracing what was becoming an increasingly popular nomenclature in the landscape of New Zealand tertiary education. The expansion of programmes included new options in horticulture, hospitality, and various arts and communication streams, while the secretarial offerings were extended to include the then-emerging technology of word processors.

## **The beginning of Arts at Whitireia**

As the portfolio of programmes offered by Parumoana began to grow beyond the two schools of Nursing and the broadly encompassing General Studies, what would eventually become an arts faculty had its beginning with fledgeling offerings in visual arts and music. Both these areas embraced the founding ethos and values of the polytechnic, making those ideas a key component of their teaching for decades to come.

## **Craft Design**

As early as 1985, visual arts education had been proposed as one of the potential offerings at the nascent institution, with the *Evening Post* reporting that at an early meeting, Education Department representative David Lawrence said a craft course was being considered, in addition to the primary nursing and bridging options. In 1986, the foundations were laid with a series of announcements in local media and the following year the programme was launched under the leadership of Anne Philbin. The Certificate in Craft Design incorporated much of the existing two-year whakairo programme run by the Maraeroa Carving School, including its focus on culture-based arts practice.

The Maraeroa Carving School, under the direction of Lou Kereopa, had been arguably the only source for tertiary level arts training in the Porirua area prior to the establishment of the craft design programme. Its incorporation into the polytechnic had enabled the institution to have arts graduates in its foundation year when whakairo students, who had started their studies two years prior, completed them under the banner of Parumoana. The carving school provided not only a curriculum and ethos for the arts programme but also a

template of interaction with local galleries and institutions. In 1982, students from Maraeroa created *Te Ngārara o Peketua*, an immense Ōamaru stone tuatara for the Porirua museum based in Takapūwāhia. Unveiled by the Hon. Manuera Benjamin Riwai Couch, then Minister of Māori Affairs, the tuatara would greet visitors to the Porirua Museum until the museum, and *Te Ngārara o Peketua* relocated to Pataka Art + Museum in 1998.



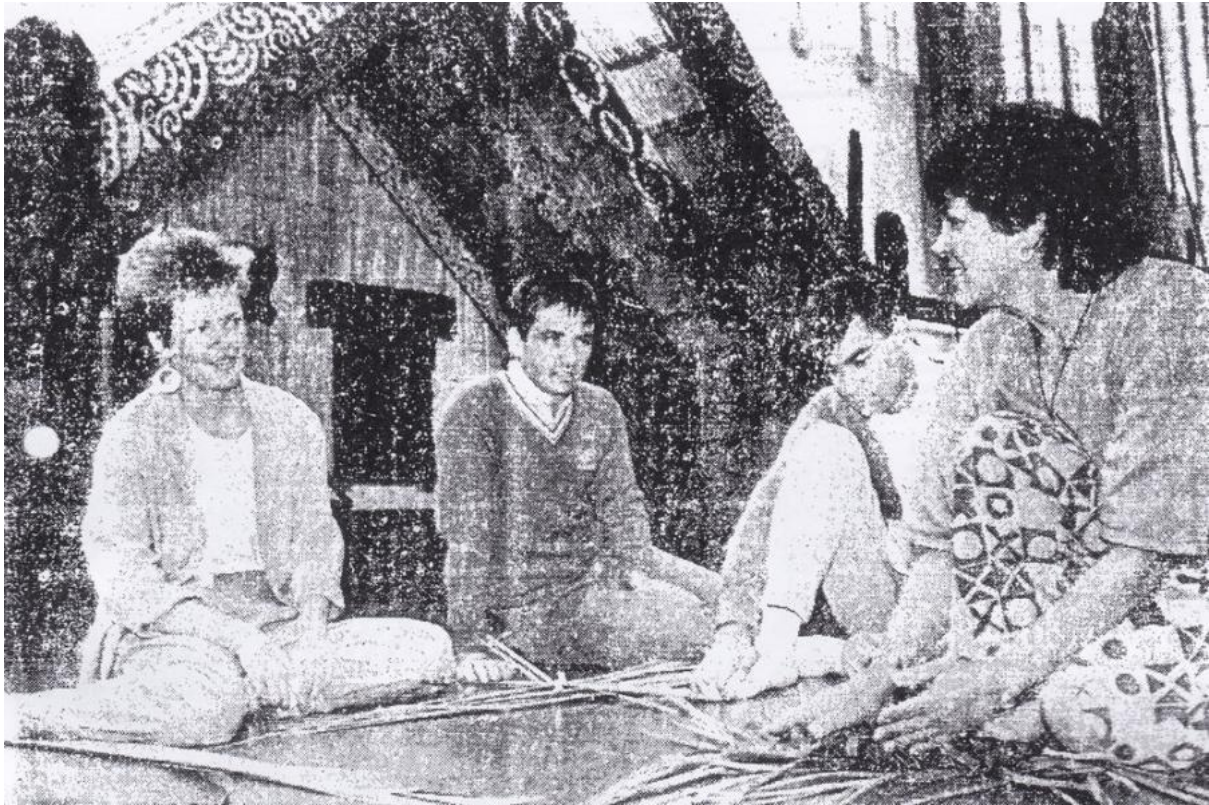
*Te Ngārara o Peketua at its current home, welcoming visitors to Pataka Art + Museum*

At its inception, the craft design programme provided a broad range of disciplines and media, with a carving of wood and bone, loom weaving, creative knitting, sculpting, applique, clay work, flax work, and jewellery-making with both silver, copper and found objects. The certificate also covered business management for artists and by May, students were already confident enough in their arts management skills to curate an exhibition at Porirua Museum. Mounted by students Bindie Reddin and Debbie Powell as part of a two-week work experience module, *Whakakai Koiwi* featured the work of local carvers Steve Myhre, Owen Mapp, Sam Kaio, Hemi Wiki and the Maraeroa Carving School. Owen Mapp would go on to teach bone carving at Parumoana later that year, the beginning of a longstanding tutorial position in the art department.



*Owen Mapp at the Whitireia arts department in the early 1990s*

The first eighteen students on the Certificate in Craft Design experienced a rather transient beginning to their studies, with little space available to them at the Porirua campus. Instead, they were immersed directly into the world of galleries and museums, with, in one case, harakeke being taught in morning classes by Erenora Puketapu-Hetet at the National Museum's whare runanga; before the students returned to the Porirua campus for afternoon drawing and design sessions. "We've had to tailor the programme for portability," said Anne Philbin, noting that the hardship had helped build a unique spirit amongst the students. She was also grateful for the museum's generosity, "the museum has been extremely flexible and good to us to let us use the whare and the museum facilities for such a long time."



*Renowned weaver Erenora Puketapu-Hetet (right) with craft design students Debbie Powell, Whare Apunui and Ese Motusaga at the National Museum in Wellington*

Later in the year, students from both the craft design certificate and Maraeroa Carving School combined forces for a three-week working hui. Aiming to change the appearance of the polytechnic, the hui saw the creation of flags, wall murals and two huge carvings, which were intended to be finished in time for the joint graduation of the two classes in 1988. Tutors Anne Philbin and Lou Kereopa were joined by artist-in-residence Michael Pearson, author of *Michael Pearson's Traditional Knitting: Aran, Fair Isle and Fisher Ganseys*, who directed the efforts and created a work of his own. Open days were also held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays when the community, school classes and other groups were welcomed to visit, and students were available to answer questions.

Reflecting on her time in the craft design programme, Bev Joan, a student from later in the 1990s, spoke of the enduring influence that programme leader Anne Philbin had had on the ethos of arts at Whitireia, and how her interpretation of the Whitireia philosophies had been central to what was created: "When Anne Philbin was setting up the Art Department in 1987 she had the idea that we look to our origins - from Māori, Pacific and Celtic perspectives. She left us the whānau concept. When we came here we were all family... We all draw from our origins, and it gives this place an identity."

## **Music**

In August, music also took its first tentative steps with the introduction of an 18-week, full-time foundation course intended to provide new and established musicians with skills to advance their careers. Tutor George Packard was enthusiastic about the course and saw it as a chance to explore direction, traditional roots and career options in the company of other working musicians. As with the strong cultural philosophy that underpinned the craft design certificate and guided it in subsequent years, the vision that the polytechnic had for the arts was clear in the introduction of the music programme. It was explicitly described to *Kapi Mana* as the first step towards the creation of a School of Music and Performance as part of an overall cultural commitment to Porirua and the Kāpiti Coast.

Like their cousins in the visual arts, space at the Porirua campus was limited for the nascent music programme and so tutors George Packard and Pati Umaga taught the first 15 students across the road at the Elsdon Pavilion. With only one actual room available, bass lessons were taught in the changing rooms. The music programme would grow exponentially over the years, expanding to a three-year programme and eventually become one of the specialisations of the Bachelor of Applied Arts. Issues with space would also be assuaged with an expanding collection of music-focused classrooms at the Porirua campus, including what would become known as the Turoa Royal Music Centre, which opened in 1994.

### **Beginnings of the library**



*Librarian Chanel White and Minister of Internal Affairs Peter Tapsell*

What would eventually become a symbol of the growth of Whitireia when Te Kete Wānanga opened in 2005 had considerably more humble beginnings as, like everything in the early years at Parumoana, a room in a prefabricated building. The library often welcomed gifts of

books to bolster its collection, as in March of 1987, when Minister of Internal Affairs Peter Tapsell presented nearly 100 books as a gift from the New Zealand Literary Fund.

The books were all recent entrants in book awards, including poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and production categories and were gratefully received by polytechnic librarian Chanel White. The minister said that he was heartened by the work done at the polytechnic, and particularly in the efforts being made to help those who had not succeeded at secondary school.

In 1988, the library would find more substantial lodgings when it moved into one of the wings of the new administration block and was officially named the Russell Marshall library. This would be the library's home for seventeen years, gradually outgrowing its location, until 2005 when as Te Wakahuia it became part of the Learning Centre Te Kete Wānanga.



*A glimpse of the Porirua campus library in its humble early years*

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## **In the news**

### **Community education**

***Kapi Mana 03.02.1987***

Community education activities expanded at a rapid pace during the polytechnic's first year. Over 100 courses and seminars were held in 1986, and 85 tutors taught more than 2500 hours. Student enrolments totalled over 1200. Work-related skills, promotion of cultural traditions, personal growth and development and leisure activities provided the major focus

for classes. Journalism for Beginners, Teeline Shorthand, Basic Computer Skills were examples of work-related courses. Two of those, Comprehensive First Aid and Basic Electrical Wiring, have nationally recognised certificates.

Māori cultural traditions were promoted with a large number of classes in language and crafts in response to demands from the community and government agencies. The recent establishment of the Pacific Islands Advisory Committee will ensure the further development of courses on the cultural traditions of these ethnic minorities in 1987.

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**Craft course underway**

***Kapi Mana 10.02.1987***

Students from Parumoana Polytechnic's new Crafts Design Certificate Course went to Wellington last Thursday to enrol as Crafts Council members.

Parumoana reports a full class with a waiting list for the course. The class is well balanced for age as well as sex and features a majority of Māori and Pacific Island artists. During orientation week, aspects of professionalism, learning techniques and cultural directions were explored, culminating in a day's visit to Wellington cultural institutions. This week the class begins extensive work at the National Museum in weaving with Erenora Puketapu-Hetet. Yesterday morning, students were at Waiwhetu Marae in Lower Hutt.

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**Parumoana opportunities expand**

***Te Awa-iti 20.02.198***

Crafts, tourism and landscaping are among the courses offered at Porirua's Parumoana Community Polytechnic this year. The crafting course incorporates the two-year Māori carving course previously housed at Waitangirua. Working with bone, stone and wood in both traditional and contemporary styles will be the first year for a two-year full-time crafts design certificate course. Fifteen have so far enrolled for the course, which also includes Māori language and business administration. Other skills offered included paintwork, pottery and jewellery making. In the second year, the students specialise in two crafts of their choice.

An eighteen-week course in basic horticulture and landscaping is designed for 15 more mature students, some of whom may move on from the now-defunct PEP schemes. The aim is to make them better able to compete on the open job market. The new tourism/hospitality course begins in April and runs for a year, teaching 15 students the basic skills of catering for tourists. The curriculum includes personal grooming and basic languages along with the skills for working in the tourist hotel business.

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**\$30 Thousand Licensing Trust Scholarship Fund**

***Te Awa-iti 10.04.1987***

The Porirua Licensing Trust has openly challenged other firms and organisations to participate in the recently set up Porirua Licensing Trust and Parumoana Community Polytechnic Scholarship Fund. The Fund, worth \$30,000 will be administered by a Trust which will include the General Manager of the PLT and two board members, Eric McKenzie and Barbara Brooks. Also included is Parumoana Polytechnic Director Turoa Royal and two unnamed Polytechnic officials.

The Fund is designed to give assistance to students or would-be students of the community polytechnic who are living within the Porirua basin and the area served by the Licensing Trust. Such budgeting assistance would be considered by application to the Trust Fund Board. Board Chairman Jim Gray told Te Awa-iti that the Licensing Trust "has always been keen to help where possible toward making available educational opportunities." He said this particular Scholarship Fund had been an ongoing project for over two years.

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### **Tourism industry training at Parumoana** ***Kapi Mana 07.04.1987***

Parumoana Community Polytechnic is running a course designed to give students basic training and understanding of the skills and knowledge required for employment in the hospitality industry. Subjects include basic training in food and wine service, housekeeping, food handling and people skills. Other topics to be included are office skills, computer awareness, communication skills and cultural aspects of tourism and hospitality.

The polytech hopes work experience in the industry will give students "hands-on" grounding in different avenues available in the industry. The course is also designed to help students wishing to go on to further training.

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### **Word processing skills course at Parumoana** ***Kapi Mana 07.04.1987***

Word processors are taking the business world by storm. The old days of plodding away on a typewriter, messy carbon copies, erasers, Twink and retypes are fast disappearing. With the coming of word processors, routine office procedures have been revolutionised. Typists are not all being replaced by the new technology but are still in demand. With the aid of a word processor, routine typing tasks are no longer dull, tedious or repetitive. Word processors can be used to produce perfect results of the same document an unlimited number of times or to update drafts until the final version is accepted without retyping the whole document.

Typist finds the conversion to a word processor a natural extension of their typing skills. With a minimum of training, they can learn the basic operation of a word processor and be on the way to becoming indispensable in the business world.

Parumoana Community Polytech has recognised the need to train people in word processing skills and runs day and evening classes for beginners and advanced students. It only takes a few hours and operators are on the way to being part of the exciting new technological revolution.

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**Media studies course at Parumoana**  
***Kapi Mana 24.11.1987***

A course in Media Studies starts at Parumoana Community College on February 15. It will cover writing news stories and features, taking photos, writing ads, interviewing on the college's lunchtime radio station, making radio commercials, and being a jock. Media Studies will give 18 students an opportunity to learn the skills necessary to run a lunchtime radio station and produce three issues of a local college magazine.

Tutor Adriann Smith has high hopes for the course. She says there is an upsurge of interest in local radio. Radio Ruatoria is on-air, Te Upoko o te Ika is gearing up for 10 months' broadcasting in the Wellington region next year, and two groups want to start a local station in the Hutt Valley. Radio New Zealand and private radio need staff; so do local and national papers. When they have completed the course, students will have skills to work in established radio and newspapers. They will have a portfolio of work including tapes of their radio station and issues of their own magazine to show to prospective employers.

Adriann Smith comes to Parumoana from Radio New Zealand where she has been a producer for Morning Report, an interviewer for National Morning and a documentary maker. Her work includes a series on protest - "Getting Involved - People, Power, Politics and Protest" and last year's anti-racism series "Beyond Guilt."

# Our History: 1988

The polytechnic continued to grow in 1988 with student numbers increased to over 300 full-time students, taught by 61 full-time teaching staff and over a hundred part-time tutors.

The Porirua campus was steadily evolving to meet the needs of increased students and increased offerings. There were now 28 classrooms, six specialised rooms for word-processing, typing or computing, three laboratories, a clerical school and a woodwork room.

Accounting for half the student population of the polytechnic, the nursing studies programme had 150 students, and their role as the senior students of the campus was confirmed at the end of the year when third-year students sat finals for the first time. A range of other programmes was introduced this year, including business refresher/retraining options, a bilingual word-processing and shorthand course, and media studies.



*Aerial view of the Porirua campus and the health block comprised of prefabs surrounding interior courtyards*

## Media Studies

Journalism, which had its origins in short community courses offered in 1986, came into its own in 1988 with the launch of a media studies programme under the aegis of journalist, producer and documentary maker Adriann Smith. The programme covered writing news stories and features, taking photos, writing ads, interviewing, and making radio commercials, with the student's work having a tangible output via a campus radio station and a three-issue of a college magazine. Over time, media students at Porirua would produce a number of publications including *Parumoana Press*, *Tech Talk* and the *Whitireia Times*.

Many of the broadcast media elements initiated by Adriann Smith and her programme are still a feature of training at Whitireia where they are included as part of the broader journalism curriculum, and in a more specialised manner within the programmes offered by the New Zealand Radio Training School, a private training establishment purchased by Whitireia New Zealand Limited. The print format of the *Parumoana Press*, *Tech Talk* and the *Whitireia Times* has given way to the news website [Newswire](#), and radio stations have also taken to the web.



*Media studies with Adriann Smith*

## Māori Language Week

In July, Parumoana celebrated Māori Language Week with a series of events, including a kaumātua hui. The hui provided the polytechnic with an opportunity to thank Ngāti Toa for their support over the previous three years.

Turoa Royal described the attendance of Ngāti Toa elders at the celebration as an example of the aroha between Parumoana and the people of Takapūwāhia Marae. He and Māori studies co-ordinator Rangi Nicholson acknowledged that the iwi had played a major part in the polytechnic from the start, providing the site with its name, while rangatira Wāra Katene had lifted the tapu so that the first building stage could begin. Since then, Ngāti Toa had always been there when the polytechnic needed support, said Turoa Royal, and in turn "Whenever anything happens at Takapūwāhia, people from the polytechnic go across and help." Polytechnic council member Taukiri Thomason spoke to this connection too, mentioning that each of the three local marae, Takapūwāhia, Maraeroa and Hongoeka, had their own representative on the council.

Presciently, Turoa Royal spoke of the need for Māori to train in the use of high technology. "Computers are a must," he said, looking to the many jobs that were beginning to open up in hi-tech and media fields for people who were fluent in Te Reo Māori. He also told those in attendance of the plans the polytechnic had for growth, including a centre of cultural studies to promote Maori and Pacific Island culture, setting up a radio station on campus, and the establishment of computer, performing arts and trades options.

### First visual arts graduate show



*Mahi-A-Ringa Exhibition poster*

The foundation graduates of the Parumoana Craft Design Certificate programme held the first of what would be many exhibitions for the Visual Arts department when they exhibited their work at the Villas Gallery in Kelburn.

Called *Mahi-A-Ringa*, the exhibition showcased the result of two years of intense study in craft, drawing, and design, and included work in bone, silver, paua, wood and fabric.

Ngāti Toa kaumātua Ihakara Arthur provided the blessing for the opening, with local media commenting on the diversity in age and ethnic background of the 18 students. There was an Australian former kindergarten teacher, a group of Samoan students who used the course to start the hard road towards fashion and textile design, and Sam Kaio, a carver in his 50s.

Beginning the programme at his age had been frightening at first, Sam Kaio said, noting the ages of his fellow students. "The youngest was 15, and the next in age to me was 32 years away," But, he reflected, "It has been good to mix with other students and craftspeople. My work has been recognised. I grew from a shy old man to a far too outspoken person."

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## **In the news**

### **University goes to Parumoana**

***Kapi Mana 19.01.1988***

In an innovative move, Victoria University will reach out into the community this year, holding Māori language courses for beginners at Parumoana Community Polytechnic. Two language courses will be offered for credit towards a BA or Diploma in Māoritanga on a trial basis. Classes will be held after 4 pm when classroom space is available and teachers and other mature students will be able to attend.

The establishment of classes at Parumoana is another way of bringing more people into the system, says Professor Hirini Mead, head of Māori Studies at Victoria University. "Many Māori are afraid of the institution of the university and regard it as the epitome of Pakehatanga. Some who would not be able to travel into Victoria to attend classes will be able to experience the demands of a university course in a more familiar environment, closer to their own work and homes."

Mr Turoa Royal, the principle of Parumoana Community Polytechnic, has welcomed the opportunity for people in the Porirua Basin to attend university courses in space that the college can provide. If other university departments are interested in a similar venture, he says, he would be interested discussing it with them.

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### **Māori language has depth**

***Contact 29.01.1988***

Māori language and culture course are an important feature of Parumoana Polytechnic in Porirua. The Māori Studies department at Parumoana is planning both part-time and block

courses this year covering beginners and intermediate level Māori communication, language, poetry and wood and bone carving for beginners. Formal oratory, Māori language for public servants and Māori language for teachers are also planned this year, depending on availability of staff and other resources.

Last year, 40 courses were held with 30 part-time tutors. A highlight was the involvement of 260 State Services Commission staff in an intensive Tikanga Māori course. The polytech also hosted 20 primary school teachers and tutors who stayed on a marae and spoke only Māori for four days. The immersion hui was part of a three-week pilot Māori language course for primary school teachers in the Wellington and Kāpiti Coast region. It is believed the total immersion approach can help teachers and others speak Māori confidently and fluently.

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### **Parumoana media class broadcasts its message**

***Contact 29.01.1988***

Parumoana Community Polytechnic's third year gets underway next month with the introduction of a new course in media studies. The polytechnic is calling for applicants for the course, which will give 18 students the chance to try their hand at the skills used in broadcasting and publishing.

Students will run a lunchtime radio station and produce three issues of a college magazine. Included in the studies is writing news stories and features, drawing cartoons, taking photographs, writing advertisements, interviewing and making radio commercials. The course tutor is Adriann Smith, formerly with Radio New Zealand.

Another new course being introduced this year is one leading to the New Zealand Certificate in Engineering. According to course tutor Van-Long Tuong, it is a "para-professional" qualification with five stages of the study. It is fulltime for one year and covers stages one and two of the certificate. After the first year, students have a choice of going on to stage three in the first half of the next year or working then returning in the second half.

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### **Funds for Polytech not meeting demand**

***Te Awa-iti 12.02.1988***

Parumoana Community Polytechnic enters its third year 'bulging' with people and plans. The carpark is overflowing, more classrooms are going up, the administration block is on the move again and the crèche is nearly ready.

The Polytech now caters for over 300 full-time students, compared to 73 two years ago. Full-time staff grew from 24 to 61. There were over 100 part-time tutors. Director, Turoa Royal, told *Te Awa-iti* he thought the rapid growth of the Polytech reflected the times. There are now 1600 unemployed as compared to 1100 in Porirua when the Polytech opened, two years ago. "Employers want workers with skills that can only be found at a Polytechnic." But funding he said "was not matching the expectations of people out there. We have had our reasonable share of resources thanks to the past Minister of Education," Mr Royal said, but

resources have to be shared with other Polytechs and Universities "which is nowhere near enough to fit the bill."

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### **Polytechnic offers bilingual typing course**

***Te Awa-iti 22.02.1988***

Fourteen Māori language speakers will soon have the opportunity to learn new typing and word processing skills. Parumoana Community Polytechnic in Porirua is offering an eighteen-week full-time Bilingual Typists Course began on Monday, 18 July 1988.

"This is the first time that a typing course for Māori language native speakers and second language learners has been held in Aotearoa," said Mrs Rehu Wieser, Course Tutor. "There is a real demand among Government Departments and other agencies for competent Māori language typists. Successful graduates could look forward to new and exciting careers," said Mrs Wieser. "Students will be prepared for the New Zealand Trade Certificate Board, Pitman and Parumoana Community Polytechnic examinations.

Two-thirds of the course will be divided between Typing, Word Processing, Dicta Typing, Communication English and General Business Procedures. One-third of the class time will be allocated to Māori language and cultural skills. The Tertiary Assistance Grant is available to those accepted on this course.

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### **Course provides bridge to challenging careers**

***Evening Post 29.02.1988, by Gita Parsot, Wellington East Girls' College***

Teachers, exercise books, homework - who wants them?

Julie Paterson and Pauline Paese do. They both completed the Bridging course at Parumoana Community Polytechnic last year and as a result, are now moving on to have interesting careers. Pauline has begun the three-year Occupational Therapy course at the Central Institute of Technology. Julie hopes to do nursing, and in the meantime she is building up her savings, working as a Receptionist at the Container Services Division. She moved from Gisborne for the Bridging course after hearing about it from her aunt. "I'd been trying to get into nursing for a year. My aunt here in Wellington rang me and told me about the course, so I came down straight away and got enrolled."

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### **Parumoana's health clinic service growing**

***Kapi Mana 03.05.1988***

In March last year, Parumoana nursing tutor, Elaine Needham and the Polytechnic council saw the need to set up a health clinic on campus for the students. A few students had no regular doctor either because they lived beyond Porirua or had not registered. Others had a family doctor but were away from home all day attending classes and could not get appointments to suit.

With the support of three local doctors, Elaine now sees students regularly and refers them on, if necessary. When not in the clinic, she visits classes, teaching and holding discussions on various subjects including mental and physical stress, sexually transmitted diseases, cancer prevention, family planning, alcohol and drug abuse, and dietary health. The service is being extended to include cervical smears, hepatitis B injections for all nursing students. and lunchtime classes to promote healthy diet and exercise.

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**Media tutor award finalist**

***Kapi Mana 19.04.1988***

A Parumoana media studies tutor, Adriann Smith, was one of three finalists for the 1988 Mobil Radio Awards. Her radio programme 'Nga Aureretanga O Parihaka' (The Groans of Parihaka) earned her second place in the Media Peace Awards and was a contender for Best Documentary or Spoken Feature.

Before joining the staff at Parumoana Polytech, Adriann spent 12 years as a journalist with Radio New Zealand. She was largely involved with current affairs and was also a producer of the Continuing Education Unit of Radio New Zealand.

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**Extra \$4000 for scholarship fund**

***Kapi Mana 26.04.1988***

The Porirua Licensing Trust gave a further \$4000 to Parumoana Community Polytechnic on top of the \$30,000 it gave previously to establish a scholarship fund. Chairman, Jim Gray, said over 30 applications had been received and nine scholarships awarded, averaging \$450 but granted according to need.

The trust gave \$40,000 in donations in 1987 including \$450 to the Little Sisters of the Assumption for conducting the Polynesian Centre for pre-schoolers in the mornings and senior citizens in the afternoons. It received over 30 applications for Ross Kelly Outward Bound scholarships to Anikawa. It selected two young people, Jacqueline Long, who attended Parumoana and Sarah de Lacey of Titahi Bay, to attend Outward Bound courses in 1988.

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**Parumoana childcare up and away**

***Te Awa-iti 06.05.1988***

It has taken five months to establish The Parumoana Community Polytechnic Childcare Centre, from the purchase of an old but homely house in Mungavin Avenue to relocating, refurbishing and staffing the crèche next to the Polytech. Thirty-two children can now be left happy and in good care while their parents attend courses. Much of the work both inside and outside was done and is still being completed by the students themselves and the whole setting has the makings of a true home away from home.

This week a meeting was held to set up a new committee to oversee the running of the crèche and ensure that parents take an active role in its development and administration. The committee will be made up of five elected centre parents, one student representative, one nominee from Parumoana Polytechnic Council, one polytechnic staff representative, co-opted membership as decided. As is required by the constitution. Members of the internal committee were: Julia Hennessy, Bill Beven, Tony Tomlin, Majorie Truong, Sally Ansley, Ed Smith, Margaret Collinge, Diana Goss, Barbara Marshall, Margaret Faulkner and Toby Faulkner.

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### **Launching Māori tourism association**

***Te Awa-iti 07.06.1988***

The Māori Tourism Association held its inaugural general meeting in Rotorua on Friday and Saturday. Early in 1988, a steering committee was brought together at a hui in Te Awamutu. The association's constitution was signed and an interim board formed. In partnership with the interim board, the Department of Māori Affairs and the New Zealand Tourist and Publicity Department organised the general meeting to be held this weekend.

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### **Office assistant trainees learn about travel**

***Kapi Mana 07.06.1988***

An Office Assistant Class at Parumoana Community Polytechnic studied a travel module under role skills tutor, Mrs Dale Hartle. The module enabled students to learn how to use the variety of travel facilities available from airlines in New Zealand. Topics discussed ranged from making reservations including accommodation and hiring rental cars to baggage, travel insurance, medical requirements and Customs.

Business facilities such as travel cards and couriers, preparation of executives' "trip folders", itineraries and appointment schedules were also discussed. This enabled students to arrange business trips for executives.

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### **Course to help the hard of hearing**

***Kapi Mana 28.06.1988***

A confident Communication Skills Class for people with hearing difficulties starts in Porirua on July 12, 1988, and runs for six weeks. Hearing Association tutor, Jeanette Anderson and Parumoana Polytechnic instructor Claire Woodman will hold two-hour classes.

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### **\$2.5 admin block for Parumoana**

***Kapi Mana 05.07.1988***

Work has started on a new administration and library block at Parumoana Community Polytechnic. Porirua MP, Graham Kelly, said the new block, planned by registered architects, T G Dykes and Associates of Wellington, is the first permanent facility for the polytechnic. It

will house all administration and management functions and include staff areas, common space, library and associated reference library areas, five classrooms and an audiovisual room.

"This is a most welcome addition to Parumoana and will be the first substantial building in the complex," said Mr Kelly. "It will be a visible sign of the permanence of the Polytechnic and is a continuation of the commitment by the Government to the educational facilities in Porirua," he said.

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### **Rapid student growth**

***Te Awa-iti 08.07.1988***

The growth in student numbers in polytechnics, expressed in full-time equivalent students, was 1768 students in 1985, 4101 students in 1986, and 3530 students in 1987. This is a total of 9399 additional full-time equivalent students over the past three years. A significant part of the increase came from people who would not have traditionally entered the tertiary sector. They include Access, Link, the Foundation, and the Employment Rich schemes.

*Te Awa-iti* understands that Parumoana Community Polytechnic full-time students have grown rapidly to 300 in a three year period. Some students are being turned away in the more popular courses such as business studies and nursing.

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### **Full-time ESL course starts at Parumoana**

***Kapi Mana 26.07.1988***

Parumoana Polytechnic's English as a Second Language unit started a full-time course to give people the confidence to do more training and get jobs by improving their English. Called A Foundation in English, the course teaches both English and computer and life skills. ESL class co-ordinator Margaret Collinge aimed to raise people's confidence by raising their level of English.

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### **Polytech crèche opened**

***Evening Post 16.08.1988***

The availability of good childcare was essential because children shaped the future, Kāpiti MP Margaret Shields said at the official opening of the Parumoana Community Polytechnic crèche at the weekend. Mrs Shields, who is also Minister of Women's Affairs, applauded the facility saying it would provide for mothers in a twofold way - enabling parents to attend the polytechnic knowing their children were well looked after, and allow other mothers time off from the demands of their children.

The crèche has been running since February. It has a roll of 39 children, with capacity for 24 at any one time. Porirua MP Graham Kelly, Mayor John Burke, Cr Geoff Walpole and Ngāti Toa elder Patarii Rei were also present.

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### **Radio station for festival**

***Kapi Mana 04.10.1988, story by Judi Ashley***

Porirua Basin residents from Tawa to Paremata were able to tune into their own community radio-waves. An application for a short-term broadcasting warrant was lodged with the Broadcasting Tribunal by Parumoana Polytech's Council, for eight days of air time from November 19-26, from 6-10 am and 4-8 pm daily.

The Polytech's Media Studies students ran the station, giving them practical experience in operating a radio station and completing their radio production module of the one-year media course. The AM station was called "Festival 1467" - because it was found at 1467 on the dial and coincides with Porirua's Festival Week.

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### **Governor visits Porirua**

***Te Awa-iti 11.11.1988***

The Governor-General, Sir Paul Reeves, and Lady Reeves were invited by the Porirua City Council to tour the city today. After morning tea at the Council Chamber with Porirua Mayor John Burke, Mrs Burke and Town Clerk John Seddon the couple were taken to view Access training courses in Kenepuru Drive.

After lunch, the Whitford Brown Community Workshop and Parumoana Community Polytechnic were visited before heading off to see the eastside of Porirua to see Cannons Creek School, Maraeroa Marae Carving School.

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### **Work by craft graduates on show**

***Kapi Mana 15.11.1988***

The first Craft Design Certificate graduates of Parumoana Polytechnic are exhibiting their work at the Villas Gallery in Kelburn. This week's exhibition shows the final products of two years of intense study in several craft media, drawing, and design. Parumoana is the last of 11 polytechnics in New Zealand to get the certificate course underway. Standards achieved at the small Porirua facilities are reaching the same height which has become the hallmark of similar craft courses.

Students in the graduating class represent a range of ages and ethnic backgrounds. Notable is a Māori carver in his 50s, an Australian ex-kindergarten teacher, and a group of Samoan descent who used the course to start the hard road towards fashion and textile design. The exhibition is an exciting display of a range of good quality craftwork in bone, silver, paua, wood and fabric. Several pieces are for sale.

Ngāti Toa kaumātua, Ken Arthur, joined the students to bless the opening last Sunday. The public is welcome to visit during regular gallery hours. Students are available at most times to discuss their experience.

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### **Years of bush work pay off as carver finds inspiration in wood**

***The Dominion 17.11.1988 by Cathie Bell***

Working in the bush for 37 years has given Sam Kaio a knowledge of wood and inspiration for his craft. Kaio is one of 18 graduates from the Craft Design Certificate course at Parumoana Community Polytechnic. He was 55, the next oldest student is 23.

Graduates of the two-year full-time course are exhibiting work at the Villas Gallery in Kelburn this week. Sam Kaio has always been a carver, but he says the Parumoana course helped him to discover the Māori aspects of his carving in bone and wood. He was interested in that part of his heritage but had done little Māori carving till the course. He has become known for his work in bone but preferred to work with wood. "I'm a bushman. I love the outdoor life. I lived in the bush all my life. I know the wood, the hardness, the softness, all its colours," he said.

Next year Kaio hopes to hold an exhibition in Auckland of his work in bone and paua. Most of those figures will be Māori representations of birds. Kaio will continue working part-time with the Maraeroa Marae school of carving.

Starting the polytechnic course at his age was frightening at first, Kaio said. "The youngest was 15, and the next in age to me was 32 years away," he said. "It has been good to mix with other students and craftspeople. My work has been recognised. I grew from a shy old man to a far too outspoken person."

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### **Won prize for communication**

***Te Awa-iti 09.12.1988***

Tina Callwood, a part-time student at Parumoana Polytechnic, has been awarded the Kirk Barclay prize for Business Communication. This is an annual prize of \$100 and a certificate which the Wellington firm of chartered accountants give to Polytechnic students engaged in studies leading to accountancy qualifications. Tina studied Business Communication and Accounting at Parumoana this year. She is working towards the National Certificate in Business Studies.

Ian Lothian, of Kirk Barclays, who presented the award, said his firm was aware of the need for accountants to be able to communicate clearly within their own organisation and with their clients. "We have to stop talking and writing to people in jargon and communicate so everyone can understand us," he said.

Certificates were presented by Deirdre Dale, newly appointed associate director of the polytechnic, and Diana Goss, representing the polytechnic council. Jan Watkins, head of the business studies department, said it was the fastest-growing department at Parumoana. It started three years ago with three tutors; next year there will be 13.

# Our History: 1989

It was a year of new things for the polytechnic in 1989, with a new name, a new associate director and a new building

## A new name

The year was a momentous one, marking a significant change as Parumoana Community Polytechnic became Whitireia Community Polytechnic. Early in the year, the council had made a recommendation to the Associate Minister of Education that the name is changed to Whitireia Community Polytechnic – Te Kura Matatini o Whitireia – and the change came into effect in September of that year. It was widely felt that the new name more accurately reflected the regional nature of the polytechnic and its aspiration 'to lead and illuminate our communities through tertiary education.'



*The main entrance sign at the Porirua campus*

## A new associate director



*Deirdre Dale, associate director*

In 1988 founding associate principal/director Marjorie Truong had been seconded to a Department of Education position and after a gap of six months, her replacement, Deirdre Dale, a former acting associate director and head of school at Wanganui Community College, was welcomed to the polytechnic. This was a significant appointment as she would go on to become the polytechnic's second chief executive eight years later when Turoa Royal retired.

Deirdre Dale was welcomed in early 1999 with a ceremony combining elements from several cultures. It was, she said, a ceremony that reflected "the enthusiasm and commitment of the college." She described how she had been attracted by the polytechnic's commitment to equity. "I like to see courses run which attract students who haven't had their share of the education cake," she said.

This philosophy, shared by both Deirdre Dale and the polytechnic, would prove to be fundamental throughout her tenure, first as associate director, and ultimately as a chief executive who oversaw tremendous growth for Whitireia and the opportunities it provided to students.

### **A new building**

By 1988, the polytechnic was bulging at the seams, with over 300 students and 160 staff using the Porirua campus. More temporary classrooms were being built to supplement the 28 already in use, and by July of that year, work was underway on the campus's first

permanent building. Opened in September 1989, the \$2.1 million block was designed by architects T.G. Dykes, and was created in the shape of two touching circles, one named after Governor-General Sir Paul Reeves and the other after former Education Minister Russell Marshall. The building would house the administration centre, a teachers' resource centre, and the Russell Marshall library.

"This is a most welcome addition," said Graham Kelly, MP for Porirua at the time. "It will be a visible sign of the permanence of the Polytechnic and is a continuation of the commitment by the government to the educational facilities in Porirua."



*The wing of the Administration Building at Porirua campus named after Governor-General Sir Paul Reeves*

Turoa Royal explained that the design of the building with its two touching circles was a specific reference to Pacific culture. "When you look at it, it's not a square building, it's round. We wanted to capture some of the building shapes of the Pacific and a lot of their important building shapes are round. The college needed to express the culture of the people around us."

The original administration centre, which had been one of the first prefabricated buildings completed in 1985, became offices for the health faculty until it was finally removed in 2011 to make way for the Wikitoria Katene building.



*Entrance to the administration building in 2002*

Tutors Owen Mapp, Michel Tuffery and Hemi Wiki carved a mural into one of the cinderblock walls of the Sir Paul Reeves wing of the new building. Called *Whakatupu: Growth: Tupu*, the artists described how the mural represented "growth within Whitireia Community Polytechnic and the Porirua community as a whole." They described how "The heart of this concept is represented by an embryo, is the beginning of life, with the roots below searching the soil, nurturing the tree of life above, growing with the mountain of this area, Whitireia. Our taniwha represents the people of this land, since past, though they remain as guardians, kaitiaki."



*Detail of Whakatupu: Growth: Tupu by Owen Mapp, Michel Tuffery and Hemi Wiki.*

The three tutors had sought through their carving to embellish the Whitireia campus and this was the first of many times that the artists of Whitireia would add to the mana and wairua of the campus with their work. This would come full circle in 2013 when James Molnar, who studied under Owen Mapp and Michel Tuffery, created many of the graphic elements used throughout the Wikitoria Katene building, with the chisel and hammer now replaced by computer-aided design and moulded concrete.

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## **In the news**

### **Deputy at Parumoana welcomed** ***Kapi Mana 24.01.1989***

Parumoana Community Polytechnic welcomed its new associate director Deirdre Dale with a Māori powhiri this morning.

Mrs Dale was acting associate director and HOD of technical and community studies at Wanganui Community College. She replaces Marjorie Truong who has transferred to a Department of Education position.

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### **Porirua's Polytechnic faces name change** ***Te Awa-iti 10.03.1989***

Parumoana Community Polytechnic are again faced with having to decide on a name change. At the Polytechnic Council meeting this week Ngāti Toa elders, Harata Solomon and Puoho Katene put their reasons for now calling the Polytechnic Whitireia. The name, although considered seriously in a long public debate, was not chosen when the Polytechnic first opened because the name Parumoana was recommended by the Takapūwāhia Marae Committee. The council accepted their opinion in good faith.

However, the two kaumatua present at this week's council meeting of the polytechnic explained that these Māori did not represent all the Iwi of the area or all functions of the committee. From the meeting held in the area at the time, it was felt a name "wider than the Tangata Whenua and encompassing all iwi and all marae the college covers" to be important. The naming came from the Marae Committee which ignored the findings of these meetings" Puoho Katene told the meeting.

Māori Women's Welfare League representative on the Council, Taukiri Thomason, said that everyone at the time had wanted Whitireia even though she seconded the motion in support of Whitireia. The appropriateness of the name Whitireia states a boundary about the iwi that lives down here. Culturally it means a great deal to us" Harata Solomon said. "The name Whitireia suggests a looking over the horizon to the light and glow of a new place of learning coming into our community. The literal, spiritual and cultural meaning is all-important to us."

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### **First graduates**

***Kapi Mana 11.04.1989***

Two Parumoana Community College business studies course graduates recently received the National Certificate in Business Studies. Lisa van Rijswijk and Patricia McBride-Wilson were presented with their certificates by Parumoana's associate director Dierdre Dale.

The course started two years ago with 14 entrants and three tutors. Initially, full-time, the NCB course became part-time last year. Some foundation students are still taking modules, course supervisor Jan Watkins said last week. When much is being made of funding cuts which have caused some Access courses to be dropped, she is delighted the business studies course has grown in popularity.

There are over 100 students in nine full-time courses this year, being taken by 11 full-time and 20 part-time tutors.

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### **Porirua's polytechnic undergoes name change**

***Source not known 09.1989***

Porirua's Parumoana Polytechnic was given a new name. From September 1989, the four-year-old institution was to be known as Whitireia Community Polytechnic.

Polytechnic Council chairman Tino Meleisea said the name change was first suggested by the area's tangata whenua, Ngati Toa, in 1988 and had been discussed at length since

then. Ngati Toa gave the polytechnic its first name in 1985 but Mr Meleisea mentioned kaumatua said Whitireia was a more appropriate name now because the regional nature of the name tied in with the polytechnic's responsibility to extend its services to locations as far away as Waikanae.

Whitireia is the Māori name for Mt Cooper in Titahi Bay and from the top, it is possible to see all of the polytechnic's area. The name means "onrushing brilliance from a luminous source; a source of light, or rays engulfing light."

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### **Boost for Whitireia Polytechnic**

***Evening Post 25.09.1989***

Part of the Whitireia Polytechnic's four-year battle for permanent buildings has been won, its first permanent building has officially opened. The polytechnic had taught its students in prefabricated buildings since it opened in 1986, said principal Turoa Royal.

The new building took a year to build and cost about \$2.1 million. It is in the shape of two touching circles, which house the administration centre, the library and a teachers' resource centre. One circle is named after Governor-General Sir Paul Reeves, the other after Pacific Island Affairs Minister Russell Marshall. Both were guests of honour at the opening ceremony.

Mr Royal said the polytechnic's next building priorities were a centre for its craft course, then a new building for tourism and hospitality courses. "It will depend on when money is available, and restructuring (of tertiary education) will affect this."