

# Our History: 1991

In 1991, student numbers at Whitireia continued to rise with 747 EFTs and the introduction of international enrolments.

Over the years, international enrolments at Whitireia would continue to grow and become a significant area of attention, ultimately leading to the international-focused Auckland campus in 2002. The year also saw the introduction of still more programmes to the burgeoning portfolio, with new offerings in performing arts, professional cookery, automotive engineering, computing as well as a postgraduate certificate in psychiatric care and a New Zealand Nanny Certificate.



*Turoa Royal, Farib Sos and Deirdre Dale with Japanese agents in the mid-1990s.*

The nascent Whitireia Performing Arts programme hit the ground running following advertisements in local promises that emphasised a core approach and philosophy that would persist through the years: "modern dance technique, composition, choreography... exploration in both contemporary and traditional forms, with special emphasis on the culture and dance forms of the Māori and Pacific Islands." By the end of the year, the programme was establishing what would be a long relationship with local communities when they performed as part of the Mana Artfest to mark the opening of the cultural centre

on Norrie Street that included the Page 90 art gallery space and the recently relocated Porirua Public Library.

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### **In the news**



*Tourism and hospitality student Aaron Poutu serves a prawn entree at Whitireia restaurant The Estuary.*

### **Eatery provides food and training**

*Evening Post 11.06.1991, by Rob Olsen, Porirua reporter*

A new building, which houses the trade certificate cookery course, the tourism and hospitality course and the restaurant, was opened in March. The new facility meant that the syllabus for the two courses could be greatly expanded says supervisor Kristina Caskey. The training was previously carried out in a small classroom. "We used to cater for 20 people, now we can cope with 48," Ms Caskey said.

Open to the public for lunch every Monday, the restaurant has proved popular with many groups including Lions clubs, small social groups and staff. Although it was a training institution and couldn't operate commercially, the polytechnic was looking to extend the restaurant's opening hours, Ms Caskey said.

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### **New centre displays diversity of art, craft and culture**

*Evening Post 07.11.1991, by Rob Olsen, Porirua reporter*

Art, craft and culture now have a permanent home in Porirua with the opening of the city's long-awaited cultural centre. There had been a demand for the centre since the 1980s, Mana community arts officer David Naylor said. The development "is a very positive thing for a city with positive people."

The Norrie Street building houses the city's relocated library and genealogical research centre, the Page 90 art gallery, space for the performing arts, and offices. Room for an arts and craft and coffee shop has also been allocated and there are plans for a 500-seat theatre.

To celebrate this week's opening, a two-week Mana Artfest has begun, featuring about 120 local artists and craft people. Poets and writers, such as Patricia Grace, will give readings. Jazz, choral singing, and classical music and dance will be performed. Leading New Zealand artist Robyn Kahukiwa will show her work alongside that of Rob Taylor, Elinor Ginn and others.



*The Whitireia Performing Arts Company perform at the grand opening of the cultural centre.*

# Our History: 1992

In 1992, provisions in the government's budget that allowed an additional 300 students to be accepted into study and Whitireia turned seven.

Whitireia staff celebrated the seventh birthday with a karaoke evening. Seven cakes for the seven years were created, six circular treats decorated with the polytechnic logo and a singular seventh one in the shape of the number seven.



*Seven birthday cakes for a seventh birthday.*

## **Te Wānanga Māori**

Māori studies had always had a significant place at Whitireia, dating back to the first days of Parumoana Community College in 1986. This was solidified in 1992 when Tauhu Mitai-Ngatai was employed and tasked with creating a specific Māori faculty. At the time, the nascent faculty consisted of a small number of courses and tutors who had energy and commitment but less management and planning skills. Tauhu Mitai-Ngatai, therefore, saw it as important not to begin by creating new programmes of study but instead focus on the structure of the department and the establishment of a philosophy. Staff development was a priority in the first year, with staff meeting over ten weeks to work on their understanding of te Tiriti o Waitangi and to strengthen their spiritual and philosophical base.

"This is a decolonisation programme," said Tauhu Mitai-Ngatai. "People get frightened of the word 'decolonisation,' but it is all structured towards a positive outcome. We are saying to people 'Get serious about your future. Get serious about breaking the cycles of poverty, or alcoholism, or whatever it is that has held you down. Get serious about education. About the Treaty. And about what partnership means to Māori."



*Tauhu Mitai-Ngatai talks to a journalist during Ma Whero Ma Pango Ma Tea in 1995.*



The business plan for Te Wānanga Māori was intended to follow a traditional approach, with staff taking their lead from how the old people used to approach such issues. The logo developed for Te Wānanga Māori expressed many of these ideas, featuring a tree flanked by

tupuna rooted in the earth, supporting an overarching kōtuku representing the connection with God, Io Matua Kore. The growth cycle of the tree provided a map of the student's journey, being comprised of Nga Pu (the seed), Nga Weu (growth, the hairs develop from the seeds), Nga More (the maturing of the roots), Nga Rito (the groundbreaking as the idea newly emerges), Nga Taketake (the growth of the trunk, the goal), Nga Pukenga (the first brand, the strategy), Nga Wānanga (the branches spreading as new ideas form), Nga Taura (the leaves, ideas diversify), and finally Nga Tauira (the fruit of results). Then the fruit falls to the ground and feeds the new seeds.

In a profile of the faculty in *Manu Korero* it was noted that while Te Wānanga Māori had a cultural base, it reflected the aspirations of many people who worked at Whitireia, both Māori and non-Māori, to work in a non-hierarchical non-competitive way, and to provide programmes that took into account the whole person. "Whitireia has provided a culturally supportive environment in which the faculty can grow, and the support of Ngāti Toa has also been important to this growth," said Tauhu Mitai-Ngatai.



*Lucy Steel, head of Te Wānanga Māori in the late 1990s, with a painting of the faculty logo.*

Te Wānanga Māori would grow over the years, whilst always maintaining its historical core programmes of education in Te Reo and Māori arts. The first-degree option for the faculty was introduced in 2009 with the Bachelor of Nursing Māori, while in 2013, in partnership with the Faculty of Arts, a Toi Poutama specialisation of the Bachelor of Applied Arts was created.



*A whakairo student from Te Wānanga Māori in the mid-1990s.*

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## **In the news**

### **Whitireia bids for 300 more places**

***Te Awa-iti 16.07.1992***

Whitireia Polytechnic plans to take on 300 more students in 1993. The Government's Budget includes provision for 7500 more tertiary places. Whitireia director, Turoa Royal, says the Polytechnic hopes to claim 300 of those and divide them between the Polytechnic's Porirua and Kāpiti bases. The Polytechnic currently has just over 800 students.

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### **Students take out city council mural contract**

***Te Awa-iti 11.06.1992***

The work of four Whitireia Polytechnic design students will be unveiled with the opening of the new Porirua City Council chambers later this month. Ernest Sami, Eric Ngan, Wi Taepa and Tracey Huxford are all in their fourth year of design studies. They were commissioned to design two large murals and window decorations for the new chambers' reception area. The project is due to be finished by June 19.

The students based their design on the idea of the evolution of Porirua as a community and used shapes and patterns from all cultures in the city. Triangles, which are used in the art of all cultures, represent Porirua's houses in the mural. Other symbols incorporated into the designs are the kowhaiwhai pattern which means caring and the Celtic triad which means unity and eternity.

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**Art inspired by heritage****Contact 29.07.1992**

Jack Kirifi, James Molnar, and Jonathan Pahetogia are among those exhibiting in *Origins*, the annual exhibition of work by Whitireia Polytechnic art students.

Origins, now in its third year, is a programme of art and cultural studies, including language, that is unique to the polytechnic's art school. All artwork, by both staff and students, is based on ancestral heritage. Sixty-five staff and students were represented in an exhibition; this year's show is characterised by larger than life painting and craft works appropriate for the immense space of Page 90 Artspace where the exhibition runs until August 14.

Most of the students in the exhibition are from the Porirua, Kāpiti Coast area with some places far beyond the Kapi-Mana area. The spread in locations, the growth in quality work and the commitment to the Origins programme is drawing a high-standard of applications to the art school, says Anne Philbin, programme manager for arts at Whitireia. Now bursting at the seams, the school is adding four new buildings to allow early applications and acceptance for local students.



*Jack Kirifi, James Molnar and Jonathan Pahetogia.*

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## **Whitireia to take more students**

***Te Awa-iti 05.11.1992***

It was great news all round for Whitireia Community Polytechnic in November 1992. Whitireia was told it could take on an extra 200 students in 1993, as well as more tutors and courses. The polytechnic was granted enough government funding to accommodate a 17% boost in student numbers. This is the largest increase offered to a Wellington tertiary institution. Polytechnic director Turoa Royal saw it as fantastic news. The increase meant more tutors, buildings, and the introduction of several new courses. Popular courses such as computer studies, business and tourism received more resources.

# Our History: 1993

Growth in both staff and students continued at Whitireia in 1993, a year which also saw the birth of full-time creative writing and publishing programmes.



*Whitireia Porirua Staff in the early nineties, with Turoa Royal front row centre, flanked by Deirdre Dale and Val Collins.*

## Artists in residence

As part of its emphasis on cultural art practice, the art department at Whitireia played host to two artists in residence in 1993, both from Ireland. Sculptor Marian O'Donnell arrived first, followed by painter Hugh McCormick. With the assistance of students, Marian O'Donnell built a stone sculpture called *Ceide Beag* ('small place of assembly') outside the Visual Arts department, creating a European counterpart to the marae space already there, and the Pacific-styled file that would be built the following year. The earthwork adopted the shape of a type of 2000-year-old Celtic jewellery, rendered large on the landscape in hard Plimmerton stone, and united with the earth by having its sloping edges sown in lawn grass. Bronze pieces on the steps leading to *Ceide Beag* were the work of Visual Arts students, each reflecting their culture. On one of them, students Whare McColl Baxter and James Harcourt combined their respective Māori and Celtic inspired imagery.



*Opening of Marian O'Donnell's Ceide Beag, attended by arts staff and students, Turoa Royal, Deirdre Dale, Ihakara Arthur and others.*

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## **In the news**

### **Polytechnic offers full and part-time study** ***Kapi Mana 19.01.1993***

Continuing with education at Whitireia Community Polytechnic this year can involve study on a wide range of short part-time courses or the possibility of full or part-time study towards a longer nationally recognised certificate.

For 1993 the programme of short courses specifically for women has been expanded (appropriately for Women's Suffrage Year). Looking Ahead is a course for women thinking about their future. The course includes assessing skills, organising time, setting goals, improving study skills, becoming familiar with computers, further education and voluntary work. Other courses for women include Creativity and Challenge, a course combining art and outdoor pursuits with Plimmerton artist Val Griffith-Jones; Videotaping Skills for Women, with filmmaker Gaylene Preston; Women's Lives, a writing/reading course with Frances Cherry; as well as other alternatives such as Computer Confidence for Women.

New full-time study opportunities this year include the museum/gallery foundation course focusing on the care and presentation of local taonga or artefacts; and a publishing course in conjunction with Daphne Brasell Press Associates.

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**Assembled in stone**

***The Dominion 11.03.1993***

Back in Ireland in the weeks preceding St Patrick's Day, sculptor Marian O'Donnell would have been roped in to help design and build the floats that are a feature of every village parade. Artist in residence at Porirua's Whitireia Community Polytechnic, Ms O'Donnell has been engaged in a very different work, a *Ceide Beag* (small place of assembly), an earthwork construction modelled on ancient field systems discovered in her home county Mayo.

The basic image of the Whitireia quadrangle piece is of a 2000-year-old type of Celtic jewellery. The structure is pierced together with hard Plimmerton stone. To unite with the surroundings, the sloping circumference will be sown in the lawn; the design of bronze pieces above facing steps will reflect the culture of the local polytechnic students.



*Marian O'Donnell working on the earthwork at the Whitireia art department, 1993.*

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**Irish artist in residence**

***Evening Post 05.07.1993, by Georgina Bailey, Porirua reporter***

A man who describes himself as one of Ireland's major artists has arrived at Porirua's Whitireia Community Polytechnic. Hugh McCormick, 49, is one of two Irish artists in residence who will be at the community polytechnic this year.

McCormick will look at the possibility of affiliation between the polytechnic and the Galway Regional Technical Colleges. Arts programme manager Anne Philbin said this could result in student exchanges by 1994. This would allow students of Celtic origins to study close to Connemara, where Gaelic is the first language.

McCormick and artist Marian O'Donnell, who arrives next month, have been brought to Whitireia to assist the School of Arts' Origins programme. Ms Philbin said the programme focused on authentic Māori, Samoan and Gaelic language studies.

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**Culinary skills tested and proven**

***Kapi Mana 12.10.1993***

The taste of victory at the Montana Culinary Arts Festival is still sweet for three Whitireia Community Polytechnic students. It was the first time the local polytechnic had entered the festival's student team of the year competition and only a couple of points separated the locals from Hutt Valley Polytech's winning team. Whitireia programme manager Selwyn Thomson said he knew Tim Sisarich, Barton Bromley and James Rangihaeata would do well and was thrilled with the end result.

There were 26 Whitireia students taking part in different festival events. Whitireia, which sent a smaller team to last year's event, won a total of 22 medals through team and individual efforts.

# Our History: 1994

Growth at Whitireia continued in 1994 with total EFTs rising to 1112, and with 97 full-time and 181 part-time tutors teaching around 50 full-time programmes.

Amongst these programmes were some new additions: an introduction to journalism, an advanced certificate in business computing, a certificate in family daycare and a diploma in early childhood group care and education. The most significant programme change, though, was the evolution of the three-year nursing diploma into a full degree.

## **The launch of the first Whitireia degree**

By 1993, over 1000 students were studying across more than 50 programmes at Whitireia, but the institution was yet to offer a degree-level option in any subject area. This all changed, however, in 1994 after the proposed Bachelor of Nursing received full accreditation from NZQA and the institution's first-degree students were enrolled.

Nursing had been taught at Whitireia via a three-year diploma since the establishment of the polytechnic in 1986, however, it was widely acknowledged that the quality of work produced by the diploma students was already of a degree standard. In 1990, Whitireia joined a consortium of nursing schools working on developing a degree course, but after 18 months it was decided to go it alone and approval was sought for an autonomous course.

The development of the degree course curriculum, in consultation with NZQA, was extensive and lengthy, but by 1994 Whitireia was able to enrol students in the three year Bachelor of Nursing. The new programme was designed to be unique in a number of ways, including the fostering of a close tutor-student relationship so as to model nurse-client relations, as well as a learning focus on both clinical knowledge and community need.

The first cohort of Whitireia degree students graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing three years later on 23 May 1997. Around 380 people attended the ceremony at Te Akapuanga Hall in Porirua, including visitors from Japan and Tonga. To mark the occasion, students from the Craft Design programme designed special academic regalia for the graduands to wear.

Acting chief executive Val Collins said the new programme had enabled the students to reach their goals more efficiently and to develop excellent general knowledge in nursing. "Whitireia is very proud of its first-degree programme and the success of these students," she noted.

The Bachelor of Nursing programme would go from strength to strength, producing work-ready graduates who are highly regarded in the industry year after year. In 2004 and 2009 respectively, Whitireia would also add Nursing Pacific and Nursing Māori streams to the

programme to equip students with the additional and specific skills necessary to help address comparatively poor health outcomes amongst Pasifika and Māori populations.

### **Opening of the music building**

Seven years after its creation, the Whitireia Music programme was rewarded with its first purpose-built building. Renamed the Turoa Royal Music Centre on the retirement of the chief executive in 1996, the new building contained band rehearsal/workshop rooms, recording studios, MIDI studio, individual and small group practice rooms, and large teaching spaces. Described as a "fantastic and unique music resource" by programme manager George Packard, the building allowed students to develop into such areas as recording, MIDI technology, band management and jingle and film score writing.

Completed in April, the building was opened on 24 August by singer Annie Crummer, followed in the evening by a concert in the form of the musical *Thawango* at Mitsubishi Motors, Todd Park.



*An aerial view of the Porirua campus from 1994-1995 showing the new music building on the left, Marian O'Donnell's stone works outside the visual arts department, and a space in the centre of the site where Te Rito Poipoiā - the Student Services Building would open in 1995.*

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## **In the news**

### **Licensing Trust student support scheme**

***Kapi Mana 1994***

More than 20 Porirua based students have been given financial assistance to enable them to continue with their educational pursuits. Twenty-two students this year were beneficiaries of the Porirua Licensing Trust Whitireia Community Polytechnics Scholarship Trust which was established in 1987 to commemorate the Trust's 30 years of operation in the district.

The Porirua Licensing Trust put in a total of \$40,000 to get the scheme underway and this was increased by \$10,000 last year when Countdown Supermarket got behind the project. Some of the students are those with young families who are returning to the workforce and needed a refresher course. Through a variety of circumstances, others have had a change in direction with their career and need to learn new skills. Others are commencing training for the first time.

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### **Whitireia expanding to Kāpiti**

***Porirua News 20.04.1994***

Whitireia Community Polytechnic Council has agreed to buy 15 acres of land for a campus in Kāpiti. The land is owned by Garton Holdings Ltd and negotiations are underway with stage one of the campus expected to be opened in February 1995. The polytechnic will initially purchase five acres with the option of purchasing a further 10 acres written into the contract. The new campus entrance will be at Milne Drive, near the airfield.

Stage one will allow 200 full-time students enrolled in a range of programmes including business studies, computing, travel and tourism, nanny training, Māori studies and craft design. Whitireia is finalising arrangements with Massey University to offer the first year of a degree in Business Studies at the Kāpiti campus.

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### **Whitireia Polytechnic celebrates opening of new music building**

***Contact 18.08.1994***

Singer Annie Crummer heads for Whitireia Polytechnic on August 24 to open a purpose-built building for the rock and pop musicians course.

Hard on the heels of the official opening comes a concert, a musical Thawango, at Mitsubishi Motors at 7 pm to which everyone is invited. Those to play include the band South Side of Bombay which did the music for the film *Once Were Warriors*. Three of the band members are ex-students of the Whitireia course; one band member is a current student.

Completed in April this year, the new building contains band rehearsal/workshop rooms, recording studios, MIDI studio, individual and small group practice rooms, and large

teaching spaces. This allows students to develop into such areas as recording, MIDI technology, band management and jingle and film score writing.

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**Dancers head for Malaysia**  
*Porirua News 20.04.1994*

Ten Whitireia dance students have been chosen to perform in Kuala Lumpur in May. They are (back row) Ngapoko Karati, Thomas Kiwi, Trayna Teneti (non-travelling reserve), Kahikatoa Matea, Ioane Leota, Trudie Reive, Fiona Collins and John Taufao (front row) Nga Rota, Vailoa Morelli and faculty member Neil Ieremia. The company will perform at the Hilton Hotel during the New Zealand Food Fair. The group performed there last year at an Education Conference. Such was the popularity of the dance company, tutor Gaylene Sciascia has been told the manager of the Hilton said "no Whitireia, no food fair."

The dancers have a tough schedule, with two performances per night, day shows at Malaysian educational facilities, the possibility of promotional work for Tradenz, who helped organise the Food Fair and midnight jazz/funk contemporary shows at the Hilton nightclub. "While we are away, the rest of the students and Te Taumata members will be performing at the Beacons of Hope concert in Wellington. About 10,000 people are expected to attend so it's a big engagement for the students," says Ms Sciascia.



*At the back, Ngapoko Karati, Thomas Kiwi, Trayna Teneti, Kahikatoa Matea, Ioane Leota,*

*Trudie Reive, Fiona Collins, John Taufao. At the front, Nga Rota and Vailoa Morelli, along with faculty member Neil Ieremia who a year later would form Black Grace.*



*Whitireia Diploma graduate Solomon Daniel.*

***Artists of the future on the show  
Kapi Mana 15.11.1994***

Work by some of the most talented emerging artists in the region will be on display at PAGE90 Artspace in Porirua from 18 November to 15 December. The artists exhibiting in the show, called *Last Impression*, are the graduates from the Art and Craft Design programme at Whitireia Community Polytechnic.

Eight of the artists have completed the National Diploma in Craft Design after a course of studies lasting up to four years. Following them, another 19 students have met the

requirements for a National Certificate in Craft Design which represents up to three years' study and practice.

Many of the works are domestic in scale and concept, while others are suitable for public spaces such as corporate offices and schools. Designs used by the artists draw upon Māori, Pacific Islands and European, particularly Celtic, traditions.

*Last Impressions* is the second public display of the work of Whitireia art students to be seen at PAGE90 this year. The first, the *Origins* exhibition in July, attracted record numbers of viewers and sales. Doubtless, the new show will be just as popular and exciting. Bob Cater, the Manager of the Whitireia Centre of Learning for the Arts, admits to having had a sneak preview of some of the work. "People who saw the *Origins* show thought its quality was amazingly high," he said, "but I am sure they will be even more amazed by the progress so many of these artists have shown in the few months since then."

# Our History: 1995

1995 was a year of significant development for both Whitireia and Porirua, with a new student centre at the Porirua campus and work beginning on the Kāpiti campus at Lindale, while in Porirua City the famed canopies were completed and opened with a large celebration.

Between 1990 and 1994, the Whitireia roll almost doubled and student common facilities were beginning to bulge at the seams. To accommodate the exponentially increasing student numbers, a new \$1million, 825sqm student services building was constructed at the Whitireia campus in Porirua.

## **Te Rito Poipoiā**

Te Rito Poipoiā – ‘the place of nurturing for the extended family’ – was officially opened by Governor-General Dame Sylvia Cartwright on 9 March 1995, with the occasion attracting a strong attendance from local communities and officialdom. It began with a karanga by students from Performing Arts and the Faculty of Māori Development and included a tree-planting ceremony, followed, as was the style of the time, with an ecumenical service led by the Reverend Don Borrie, with a prayer by Tino Meleisea and readings by Stephen Mahy and Kay Stevens. Wellington community newspaper *Contact* ran a double-page feature on the new building and local businesses involved in its construction included advertisements congratulating Whitireia.



*Tree planting at the opening of Te Rito Poipoiā by Angela Russell and Marion Bradshaw, assisted by kaumātua Ihakara Arthur.*

The building was at least six times the size of the previous facilities and brought all the student services together under one roof. It housed student association offices, catering facilities and a large cafeteria, a shop offering stationery and textbooks, health and counselling areas, two meeting rooms, a student common room and quiet room, student exchange for textbooks and other essentials, and toilet blocks.



*The southern entrance to Te Rito Poipoia, Student Services Building, Porirua campus.*

"The development looks to the future," said student association manager Karen Ross. "It's a real commitment by the polytechnic to the welfare of students."

The architect for the project, Bruce Warden, said the aim of the development was to create a comfortable and spacious student activity centre while keeping cost in mind. The building design was based on two enlarged classroom blocks, with a peaked foyer joining the two together to form an L-shape that curved around a central amphitheatre-type courtyard; an area that would later become known as the Atrium when space was redesigned in 2008.

Thanks to a grant given to the Student Association by the National Bank, Whitireia third-year visual arts diploma students were commissioned to create all of the original artwork in the foyer, including a large sculptural centrepiece by Brian Campbell, a carving by Hawaikirangi Stewart, and kites designed by Bev Joan that were suspended from the vaulted ceiling.



*Kites designed by visual arts student Bev Joan in Te Rito Poipoiā.*

### **Lindale campus gets underway**

Another area of growth for Whitireia in the early 1990s was the Kāpiti Coast. It had been acknowledged as early as 1986 that Whitireia should have a presence on the Kāpiti Coast, with then-Minister of Education Russell Marshall providing a directive to the original polytechnic council that its catchment area extends from Tawa in the south to Waikanae in the north. From 1988, a number of Whitireia courses were offered at various locations in Kāpiti, with the most significant being in 1990 when two offices in the old Lucas Print building in the Te Roto Drive industrial complex became home to a full-time office assistant course and an evening accounting module. But it was not until 1992 that the development of a comprehensive educational facility in the area was seriously considered.

A feasibility study in 1993 clearly identified the need for a new campus, with the existing Kāpiti facilities fast approaching capacity and demand in the area continuing to grow. Subsequently, Whitireia began a planning process that led to the purchase of a ten-acre block at Lindale, just north of Paraparaumu.

"The choice of land proved difficult," said then chair of the Whitireia Council, Margaret Faulkner. "We got quite a way down the line in 1994 with a chosen site, and then discovered at the resource consents hearing that we were right on a flight pathway. That was a great disappointment to us... We then selected the Lindale site, amid some opposition. There

were some people who felt we had bought a 'pig in a poke' because the area was very peaty and seemed unsuitable for permanent buildings."



*An artist render of the proposed campus at Lindale.*

Despite the initial misgivings, the development eventually received the support of the Mayor, the Kāpiti Enterprise Trust and the local community. An initial building programme got underway and in July, the site was blessed by kaumātua and kuia from Whakarongotai Marae with four mauri stones placed at its four corners. The stones, two from Kāpiti Island and two from the Waikanae river, were brought to the site, blessed, and given to chief executive Turoa Royal and three Ati Awa kaumātua, Ake Taiaki, Tuki Takiwa and Robert Ngaia. Turoa Royal and the three kaumātua each placed one of the stones, accompanied by prayer and singing. The four stones represented taura (the students), wānanga (house of learning), te kiki oranga (the top) and te keke oraro (the bottom). Kaumatua Paul Ropata mixed soil from Whakarongotai Marae with earth from the site of the first building to be erected, and the ceremony concluded with speeches from council representatives Tino Meleisea, Rev Don Borrie, and deputy chief executive Deirdre Dale.



*Whitireia staff at Whakarongotai Marae with members of Te Atiawa ki Kāpiti for lunch and informal discussion following the blessing of the land and mauri stones for the first Kāpiti campus at Lindale.*

On 25 September, the first concrete was poured in a ceremony at the Lindale site and full construction began. Staff from Whitireia and the Kāpiti Coast District Council attended and the honour of shovelling in the first pour went to Whitireia Council Chair Margaret Faulkner. Also in attendance was deputy chief executive Deirdre Dale, Vicky Russell (Computers) and Hone Davis (Māori studies) amongst others.



*Deputy chief executive Deirdre Dale, Vicky Russell, Hone Davis and Margaret Faulkner.*

When the Kāpiti campus officially opened ahead of the 1996 intake it was marketed as being "situated in a park-like environment, surrounded by rolling hills," and offering "excellent learning facilities, including modern computer suites, library and an up-to-date, well-equipped training kitchen." Kāpiti would have over 200 enrolments in the first year of the new campus, with a total of 176 EFTS (equivalent full-time students). The new facility provided some parallel courses to those offered at the Porirua campus, but others were unique to Kāpiti - including Adventure Tourism and the Toi Whakaata (Māori Video and TV production) programme. The campus at Lindale would remain the base for Whitireia course offerings on the Kāpiti Coast until 2012 when a new campus was opened on Kāpiti Road in Paraparaumu.



*Lindale campus staff with Turoa Royal and Deirdre Dale, 1996.*

### **Celebrating Te Reo**

On 27 October a major celebration of Te Reo Māori occurred at the Porirua campus with staff, students, and guests attending a day-long event called Ma Whero Ma Pango Ma Tea ('for red, for black, for white'). "Red signifies chiefs or chiefliness, black signifies the whole iwi and white signifies the importance of learning and higher learning and the Tohunga or that special person," said Tauhu Mitai-Ngatai, the director of Te Wānanga Māori.

Guests, including activist Tame Iti and renowned Ngāti Awa kuia (and te Taniwha o Te Reo) Mīria Simpson, were welcomed on to Whitireia with performances by Te Tohu Mutunga Kore students. After the pōwhiri, a replica of Te Tiriti o Waitangi bearing the signatures of Ngāti Toa chiefs was unveiled in the main administration foyer by kaumatua Ihakara Arthur and Mīria Simpson.



*Mīria Simpson unveils the Tiriti display watched by Tauhu Mitai-Ngatai, director of Te Wānanga Māori.*

Following refreshments in the administration block, there was a presentation to the polytechnic of a taonga of harakeke by weaver Tangi Robinson, while a copy of Mīria Simpson's book, *Ngā Tohu o Te Tiriti: Making a Mark*, was also gifted.



*Turoa Royal and Mīria Simpson with a copy of her book Ngā Tohu o Te Tiriti: Making a Mark.*

Crowds in the central courtyard were entertained into the lunch hour with performances from Whitireia performing arts students, Whitireia music students, and Ngāti Toa School's kapa haka group (whose number included at least one future Whitireia student).



*Performing Arts at Ma Whero Ma Pango Ma Tea.*

### **Whitireia arts in Porirua**

In 1995, some of the various art disciplines at Whitireia played a significant role in the cultural life of the wider Porirua area. Visual Arts students Andrew Simpson, Kyleigh Adrian, Charlotte Morse, Paula Garratt, James Harcourt, Bev Joan and Jenny Walters were tasked with designing the interior and exterior of City Cafe and Bar, a venture by the Porirua Licensing Trust in Lydney Place. Pacific and environmental themes connected to Porirua harbour abounded, with a floor design that depicted the Porirua harbour, Pacific ceiling and surface designs, and tattoo motifs and woven copper panels, with jarrah timber. Other areas incorporate rock drawings and tattoo designs, repeated as a sandblasted version in the bar mirror of the rock drawing. Most striking of all were the three 2 metre high totems at the front of the building, featuring nailed copper designs and rounded stones mounted on metal rods.



*The opening of the City Cafe and Bar with Whitireia students and Porirua Licensing Trust representative. From left to right: Tony Hawkins, James Harcourt, Jenny Walters, Charlotte Morse, Kyleigh Adrian, Porirua Licensing Trust representative, and Andrew Simpson.*

Another area of redevelopment in Porirua city was a feature that would come to be known as the canopies, a covered walkway connecting Selby Place, Cobham Court and Hartham Place. These were completed in October 1995 and a large cultural event was held to celebrate their official opening. The culture was also a theme of the spaces beneath the canopies with work from several artists taking up residence in its shade, including pieces by Whitireia tutors past and present: Rangi Kipa (whakairo), Anneke Borren (pottery), and Michel Tuffery, whose corned-beef tin bull was eventually relocated to Pātaka.



*Piri Ferris of the Whitireia Dance Company performing at the opening of the canopies in Porirua.*

Amongst the performers at the opening of the canopies, and stealing the show no doubt, were two groups of Whitireia performers: then-current Performing Arts students, and the Whitireia Dance Company, made up of past Performing Arts graduates. Later in the year, both groups of Whitireia Performing Arts would team up again when the Whitireia Dance Company performed as guests at the student's graduation session at Page 90 from 14-17 November.

Meanwhile, the Visual Arts students who had created the designs for the City Cafe and Bar had their own end of year finale when they and other students from the seventeen-strong diploma class, as well as a selection from the National Certificate in Craft Design and Art Foundation programme, exhibited in *Grad U Art* at Page 90.

Bob Carter, manager of the arts faculty, described the exhibition of bone, stone, wood, clay, mixed media, carving, jewellery and painting, as multicultural, exciting, energetic and vibrant. He also reminder readers of local papers that many of the works were for sale and it was a chance to acquire work by soon to be well regarded national and international artists.

Visual Arts programme manager Prue Townsend spoke highly of the work and its creators: "We think that several of the current crop of students have both the skills and the attitude needed to become successful artists or craftspeople."

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## **In the news**

### **Polytech gets law centre go-ahead** ***Kapi Mana 03.1995, by Ruth Berry***

Whitireia Community Polytechnic has been given the go-ahead to establish a new community law centre in Porirua. It will be based at the Community Services Centre in Pember House, said Legal Services Board executive director, Dave Smith. A three-person trust with one polytech and two other community representatives will run the centre and oversee Whitireia's daily management of it, he said.

Whitireia law tutor centre manager, Bill Bevan, was still awaiting official confirmation of the decision when Kapi-Mana News talked to him on March 1995 but said he was pleased to hear the project was going ahead. The two other representatives included someone appointed by the board and someone appointed by both the board and the polytech - a representative from Ngāti Toa.

A community liaison group will be set up to advise the trust and the polytech has been contracted to provide the services.

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### **NZ artist wins world competition** ***Dominion 03.1995***

Wellington artist Leigh Anderton has been selected to travel to the United States as the winner of international competition. Anderton is the first New Zealander to be an award winner in the Mid-America Arts Alliance International Competition for Visual Arts. She will take up the 30 days travelling and 45 days in residence at a university in mid-1996.

A graduate of Whitireia Community Polytechnic's diploma in craft design last year, Anderton's work has encouraged viewer participation. "Rather than just walk in, look at a painting, and move on, people can actually manoeuvre the work and make changes."

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**Te Rito Poipoia - student services building opens**  
**Contact 09.03.1995**

The much-awaited new student facilities building at Whitireia Community Polytechnic was officially opened today. Guest of honour, the Honourable Dame Silvia Cartwright, DBE, opened the building following a traditional karanga and karakia.

Guests at the opening included representatives from local colleges and businesses plus members of Whitireia Polytechnic Council, staff and Student Association past and present.

The opening was the culmination of much hard work by polytechnic staff, student association, architects Bruce Warden, and contractors.



*Karen Leatham, student association manager Karen Ross and architect Bruce Warden 1995.*

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*Tony Hawkins and James Harcourt working on one of the totem poles.*

**Multi-cultural flavour for a city bar**  
***Kapi Mana 04.04.1995, by Ruth Berry***

Whitireia Community Polytechnic students are hard at work on designs for the new city centre restaurant and bar which had been given the final go-ahead. The Porirua Licensing Trust development will cost about \$400,000. Porirua City Council granted consent for the Lydney Place project. The contract had been let to Wellington firm McGuinness L T Ltd. Plans for the premises, built in the building which housed the former TAB and Prestons Butchery, had been extended to include a next-door jewellery shop. The project was expected to be finished by the end of May 1995.

Students James Harcourt and Tony Hawkins are pictured working on one of the three totem poles, designed by fellow student Paula Garratt, which sits outside the 370 square metre building.

The copper pieces will adorn the poles in a tattoo design, which will also feature inside the bar. Huge seven-metre sails will hang across the ceiling, over the floor which will be created to resemble the shape of Porirua Harbour. Woodcuts based on cave painting motifs will be set into tabletops.

The aim of the project being completed by the polytechnic's national diploma in craft design course is to incorporate aspects of many cultures - a reflection of the multicultural nature of the city.

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### **International performing arts festival planned for Whitireia in 1997**

***Porirua News 26.04.1995***

Porirua will become the focus for performing artists from across the Pacific and Asia in 1997. Whitireia Polytechnic has initiated a plan to host an Asia Pacific Youth Performing Arts Festival in September 1997.

Organising Committee chairman Don Borrie says the groundwork for the festival had been laid by the extensive series of international performance by the Whitireia Performing Arts Group over the last four years. The group had performed in Switzerland, France, North Korea, Malaysia and China among others. This June and July they will further extend their overseas experience with trips to three international folk festivals in Germany and Slovenia.



*From left to right, Kevin Hodges (Tenor Sax), Maaka McGregor (Drums), Damon Grant (Alto Sax), Anne Pritchard (Keyboards), Brent Thompson (Bass), Joe Fa'amaoni (Lead Guitar), David Fiu (Trumpet).*

### **The local band hits the big time**

***Porirua News 17.05.1995***

Titahi Bay band Southside of Bombay is releasing a new single called *Umbadada* which they hope will go gold following their song *What's the time, Mr Wolf*. The second best-selling NZ single for 1994, *What's the time, Mr Wolf* is currently being released as a single in Australia, Europe and the USA in conjunction with the *Once Were Warriors* soundtrack.

Both the artwork and the accompanying video feature Porirua talent. Cover work is by Porirua artist James Molnar and the video showcases students from Whitireia Polytechnic and people from the streets of Wellington singing *Umbadada*.

To celebrate the release, a gig is being held at Antipodes on the corner of Cuban and Vivian Streets on Friday, May 19. Entertainment will include The Chemistry Boys (9.30 pm), In the Whare (10.15 pm) followed by Southside of Bombay (11.00 pm).

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### **Student artists create unique space**

***Community News 21.06.1995***

Seven Whitireia Community Polytechnic art students will have a lot to be proud of when the City Cafe and Bar opens to the public tomorrow at 10 am. Andrew Simpson, Kyleigh Adrian, Charlotte Morse, Paula Garratt, James Harcourt, Bev Joan and Jenny Walters designed the interior of Porirua's latest cafe/bar.

The work includes a floor design depicting the Porirua harbour Pacific flavour ceiling and surface designs. A tattoo motif and woven copper panels, with jarrah timber uprights, create a Pacific Island nautical theme for the bar and other decors. The spirits rail incorporates rock drawings and tattoo designs, and the bar mirror features a sandblasted version of the rock drawing. Similar design aspects are repeated in the food service area. The outdoor bar has three 2m high totems with inlaid copper decoration, surrounded by steel fern fronds.

Each table has different woodcut designs photographed and processed onto its top. Large sails in a parchment colour, hanging from the ceiling, are placed to lead through to other parts of the bar. Students have also hand textured the back walls and the front wall in the dining area. Even the doors have copper push plates with a striking copper etched design made by the students.

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### **Whitireia continues to grow**

***Kapi Mana 13.06.1995***

Whitireia Community Polytechnic has had a 78 per cent growth in the number of tertiary places funded by the Ministry of Education during the past four years. Commenting on the polytechnic's annual report, chief executive Turoa Royal said the number of tertiary places generally funded by the ministry between 1991 and 1995 had only risen by 22.6 per cent. There were a number of reasons for the huge growth of Whitireia. Polytechnics which

achieved their student target each year were more often given increased funding the following year. Every year Whitireia has exceeded the targets negotiated with the Ministry of Education.



*Whitireia Performing Arts students Kava Vulu and Kitiana Taipapa in Cook Island costume.*

## **Whitireia - top performers overseas**

***Kapi Mana 21.06.1995***

The Whitireia Performing Arts Class is leaving tomorrow on a month-long tour to represent New Zealand and Porirua at folk festivals in Germany, Slovenia and Nishio. The 36 member group, which includes 30 students, will perform a full Cook Island, Māori and Samoan repertoire at three five day folklore festivals in Schessel and Shlitz in Germany and in Maribor, Slovenia, formerly Czechoslovakia.

These annual festivals are attended by countries from all over the world. New Zealand groups were always in high demand and the festival organisers, The Cultural Organisation of International Folk Loric Festivals, were very keen to have the Whitireia group attend. As well as performances, students will be involved in workshops where people from other countries can learn poi, drum dance and haka. They will also be taught about the meaning of dance movements and the cultural stories behind them.

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## **Cultural show-case**

***Kapi Mana 31.10.1995***

Several thousand people crammed into Porirua's city centre on Saturday for the official opening of the \$4 million covered walkways. The day-long event turned out to be a show-case of cultures, song and dance involving a diverse range of acts that included the Whitireia Performing Arts group, Latin American Band Solatino, Japanese Taiko Drummers, Māori cultural group Tamatea, Sam Manzanza, women's vocal group Faultline, the Titahi Bay Intermediate cultural group, various Pacific Island groups, pipe bands and Homer Simpson.

Markets, buskers and street theatre also featured. Festivities kicked off at 10 am with an official opening by Mayor John Burke.



*Whitireia Performing Arts students perform at the opening of the canopies.*

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**Te Reo Māori celebrated**  
***Kapi Mana 7.11.95, by Linda Davies***

Music, song and dance rocked the very foundations of Whitireia Polytechnic recently as staff, students, and guests celebrated Te Reo Māori. Ma Whero Ma Pango Ma Tea Day (for red, for black, for white) was the name given to the day of celebration.

"Red signifies chiefs or chiefliness, black signifies the whole iwi and white signifies the importance of learning and higher learning and the Tohunga or that special person," said Tauhu Mitai-Ngatai, the director of the Māori faculty.

The unveiling, in the main administration foyer, of Te Tiriti O Waitangi which bears the signatures of Ngāti Toa chiefs was a highlight of the day. Another was the presentation to the polytechnic of a Taonga made from harakeke - a fibre incorporating paua shells - made by Tangi Robinson. A book, *Nga Tohu o Te Tiriti: Making a Mark* by Mīria Simpson was also presented. Ngāti Toa School kapa haka group entertained the crowds into the lunch hour giving a memorable well-received performance.



*Tangi Robinson presents her taonga made from harakeke to Tauhu Mitai-Ngatai from Whitireia.*

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### **Spiritual works**

***Porirua News, 1995***

Whitireia Polytechnic's new student services centre has gained a feeling of spirituality with the erection of artworks commissioned for the foyer. The works, completed by students of the polytechnic, were blessed by Whitireia kaumatua Ihakara Arthur, in a ceremony recently. He is pictured (far left) with the students responsible for the three works (left to right) Hawaikirangi Stewart, Brian Campbell and Bev Joan. They are standing in front of Campbell's work "Sculptures," which represents different generations of people and races and is based on the concepts: welcome, family and shelter.



*Kaumātua Ihakara Arthur with Hawaikirangi Stewart, Brian Campbell and Bev Joan.*

# Our History: 1996

1996 was a significant year for Whitireia, marking the end of the institution's first decade, and the establishment of the first permanent campus in Kāpiti.

But the year also saw the departure of Turoa Royal, who retired after ten years as principal, director and chief executive. In a decade, Whitireia had grown to such an extent that around 1500 full-time students (and as many part-time students) were now enrolled, and the polytechnic had become an integral part of Porirua City. Deputy Chief Executive Officer Deirdre Dale noted that the growth had exceeded all expectations, adding that it had grown faster than any other New Zealand polytechnic over the same period and that Whitireia had "remained accessible to people from all walks of life, served the needs of this community, and the success rates have been high."



*Whitireia staff from around 1996.*

## **The end of an era**

During the planning of the Whitireia ten-year celebrations, Turoa Royal came to the realisation that the anniversary would not only mark the end of one chapter and the start of another for the polytechnic but would do the same for him personally. He had been the institution's founding principal, a position later re-titled chief executive officer, taking the helm of what was then Parumoana Community College in 1986. Of Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Raukawa descent, he took up the role at the urging of Education Minister Russell Marshall, leaving behind his job as principal of Wellington High School, where he had turned 'a wilted totara' into 'growing totara with green leaves and strong branches.'

As the first Māori chief executive of a polytechnic, he had guided Whitireia through a period of incredible growth and change, taking the institution from 140 students in 1986 to around 3000 in 1996. In addition to the 3000 total students, Whitireia was now also home to 362 employees, including 109 full-time and 115 part-time tutors, and 138 management and

support staff, making it the biggest employer in Porirua. Turoa Royal's philosophy had been to ensure Whitireia did things "differently but well," and at his farewell, Porirua MP Graham Kelly claimed that his approach provided "a lesson for us all."



*Turoa Royal showing his hands-on approach with the Whitireia tractor.*

Founding Whitireia Council chair Tino Meleisea said Turoa Royal had made Whitireia "the best thing that's ever happened in the region," and noted that there would be "a big hole left when he goes." However, it was Turoa Royal's belief that chief executives of government departments or educational institutions should not stay too long in the job. "In my view, we have completed a particular goal that we set ourselves ten years ago," he said. "Some very exciting things have happened here... Many of the structures and systems are in place and it's time to bring new energy, ideas and visions to the polytechnic."

Turoa Royal's retirement was not the only significant departure of 1996 with Tino Meleisea also stepping down as council chair and being replaced by Margaret Faulkner. He was officially farewelled in a ceremony in March 1997, held in the recently opened fale in the Visual Arts department, where Whitireia staff gifted him a painting by student Levi Salamasina-Mapiva, and the Samoan community gave him fine mats.



*Deirdre Dale jokes with Tino Meleisia as he is gifted a Levi Salamasina-Mapiva painting from Whitireia staff.*

Reflecting years later on the crucial role that Tino Meleisea had played during the first decade of Whitireia, Turoa Royal said: "Tino was a man of humility and yet of stature... He had a number of leadership qualities, the source of which was his work experience and his belief in the need for the polytechnic to exhibit and reflect the multicultural nature of the community. As chair of the council, he encouraged us to greet each other in the different languages used in the community. Those greetings are still prominent and still used."



*Tino Meleisia being presented with fine mats as a farewell gift from the Samoan community.*  
**Celebrating ten years of Whitireia**

Celebrations for the tenth anniversary featured a number of events, including a six-part Summer Lecture Series called 'One National, Two Partners, Many Peoples,' featuring guest speakers Dr Pauline Kingi, Professor Ranginui Walker, Sir Kenneth Keith of the Law Commission, Professor Joan Metge, and Le Mamea Sefulu Ioane.

As the conclusion to the series, a political forum saw MPs Winston Peters (NZ First party leader), David Caygill (Labour party deputy leader), John Luxton (Minister for Māori Affairs), Clive Mathewson (United NZ party leader) and Jim Anderton (Alliance party leader) gather to discuss the Treaty. The celebrations also saw the opening of the Kāpiti campus at Lindale, the launch of the Friends of Whitireia Association, and the release of the book *Whitireia Conversations: Our First Ten Years*.

The celebrations concluded on Saturday 16 March with a dinner at Mitsubishi Motors, Todd Park, to which members of the public were invited to attend for a small fee. Entertainment was provided by guest speaker, poet Sam Hunt, and Whitireia Performing Arts students.



*Bob Cater (head of the Whitireia School of Arts) and Jenny Brash (Northern Ward councillor).*



*Turoa Royal speaks as Tino Meleisea and Margaret Faulkner cut the somewhat humble tenth birthday cake.*

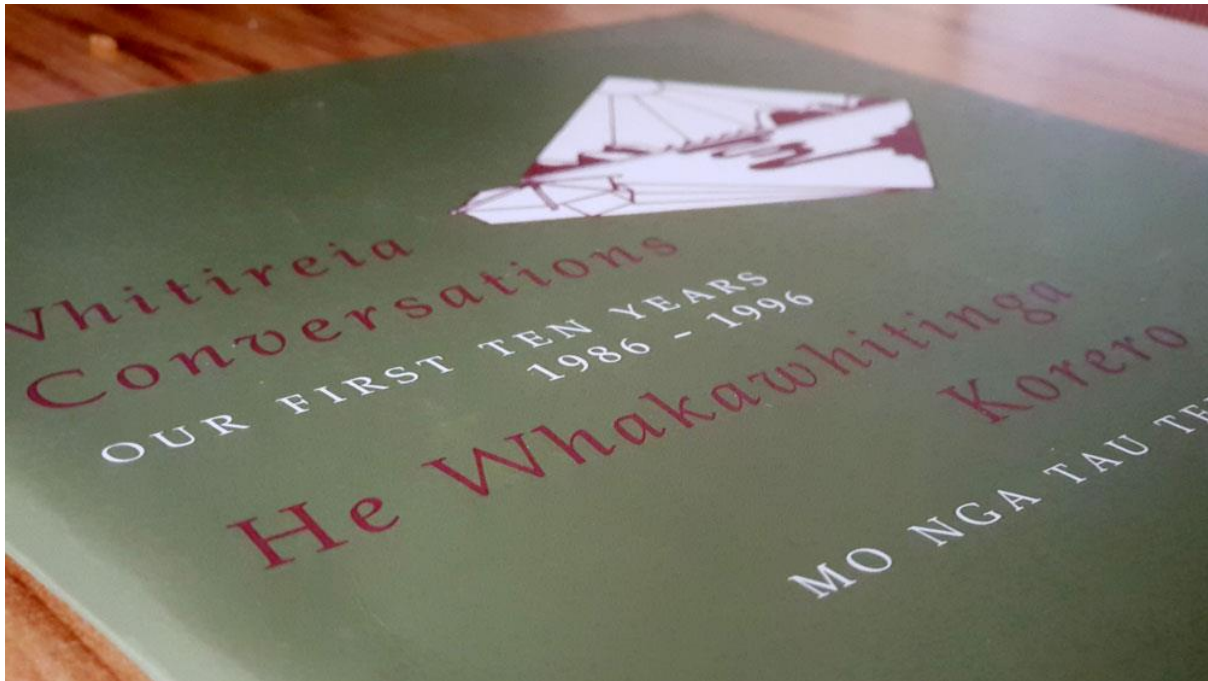


*Performing Arts students entertain the guests at the tenth birthday dinner.*

### **Whitireia Conversations**

A permanent record of the first ten years of Whitireia was provided by the book *Whitireia Conversations: Our First Ten Years 1986 - 1996*. Subtitled *He Whakawawhitinga Korero, Mo Nga Tau Tekau*, it was compiled and edited by Adrienne Jansen and Tracey Scadden and brought together recollections by Whitireia staff and students, recorded by the students of the Creative Writing programme. The book divided itself and the story of Whitireia into three parts: *Nga Pu... The Roots*, *Nga Taketake... The Trunk and the Branches*, and *Nga Hua... The Next Season's Fruit*.

In the penultimate entry, Turoa Royal discussed what he imagined and hoped for Whitireia in the future: "I hope that the polytechnic will always maintain the view that education is not just about knowledge, but that it is about the relationship between the individual and the community. It must maintain and encourage the full potential of the individual, and yet at the same time encourage citizenship and participation in the community."



*The cover of Whitireia Conversations: Our First Ten Years 1986 – 1996.*

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## **In the news**

### **Elders bless new campus**

***Kapiti Mail 25.01.1996, by Amanda Weatherley***

Te Kura Matatini O Whitireia also known as Whitireia Community Polytechnic had its new campus at Lindale blessed by the elders of the tangata whenua, Te Atiawa Ki Whakarongotai, at an early Saturday morning ceremony. Whitireia chief executive officer Turoa K Royal (Ngāti Raukawa/Ngāti Toa Rangatira) familiarised the local elders with the different sections of the almost finished structure. The walls reverberated with karakia as the kaumātuas, led by Ihakara Arthur, weaved through the building.

The blessing seals the preconstruction ceremony conducted in the middle of last year which covered the laying of four foundation stones. A group photo commemorating that occasion was placed in the reception room.

Official luminaries at this function included Mayor Brett Amblet, MPs Roger Sowry and Judy Keall, as well as councillors Diana Ammundsen and Kathy Spiers.

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### **Art and the elements on Waitangi Day festival**

***Kapi Mana 30.01.1996***

A challenge has been thrown at a group of Whitireia Art Graduates to create works symbolic of the elements of the Waitangi Day Festival at Aotea Lagoon. Using a variety of mediums, these interpretations will be viewed as "artworks in progress" in their completion stages on the day.

Erueti Tutaki, Hui Whiu and Tony Hawkins are carving manuka totem poles representative of earth, wind and fire. Kyleigh Adrian and Paula Garratt have combined their off-beat talent to create a floating sculpture for the lagoon.

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*Helen Gardiner.*

**Cambodia benefits from kiwi teaching skills**  
**Contact 08.02.1996, by Amanda Weatherley**

Four local polytechnic tutors are making an impact in the third world country of Cambodia by training some of its people in basic maths, tourism and hospitality.

Whitireia Polytechnic tutors Helen Gardiner, Cambodian born Farib Sos, Jean James and Johan Derkx are being funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in conjunction with Polytechnics International New Zealand, to train some of Cambodia's nursing and hospitality tutors.

Helen and Farib recently visited Phnom Penh, a city of about one million people on the banks of the Mekong River, and taught ten nursing tutors from throughout Cambodia basic maths and tutor training techniques.

Helen Gardiner, office systems and travel manager, is set to return to Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh next month for ten days with Man Hau Lieu, a Cambodian born tutor at Auckland Institute of Technology.

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### **Harvard graduate to help celebrate the 10th birthday of Whitireia**

***Kapi Mana 20.02.1996***

Harvard graduate, Pauline Kingi was one of the many eminent speakers who helped Whitireia Polytechnic celebrate its 10th birthday. She spoke on the question of celebrating cultural differences at the polytech this Friday as part of a summer lecture series entitled "One Nation, Two Partners, Many People".

Ms Kingi holds an LLB, Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma of Criminology. She completed postgraduate studies at Harvard in International Law and Business. She was the chairperson of the Auckland Institute of Technology and the chairperson of the NZ Council of Health Care Standard in 1996. Directorships include Moana Fishing Company, Te Kupenga Fisheries Confederation and the Aotea Entertainment Centre.

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### **Polytech to lose its Royalty**

***Porirua News 28.02.1996***

Whitireia Community Polytechnic's first chief executive, Turoa Royal announced that he is to retire after 10 years heading the institution. Mr Royal said that with the 10-year celebrations of Whitireia Polytechnic occurring in March he decided it was time to reassess his position as Chief Executive.

"I believe chief executives of Government departments or educational institutions should not stay too long in the job. Many of the structures and systems are in place and it's time to bring new energy, ideas and visions to the polytechnic.

Mr Royal said the 10 year celebrations: with the opening of the Kapiti campus by the Minister of Education Lockwood Smith on March 16 1996; the establishment of friends of Whitireia; the summer lecture series entitled One Nation, Two Partners, Many People- featuring many eminent speakers; the publication of Whitireia Conversations and other celebratory events; seemed like the appropriate time to retire.

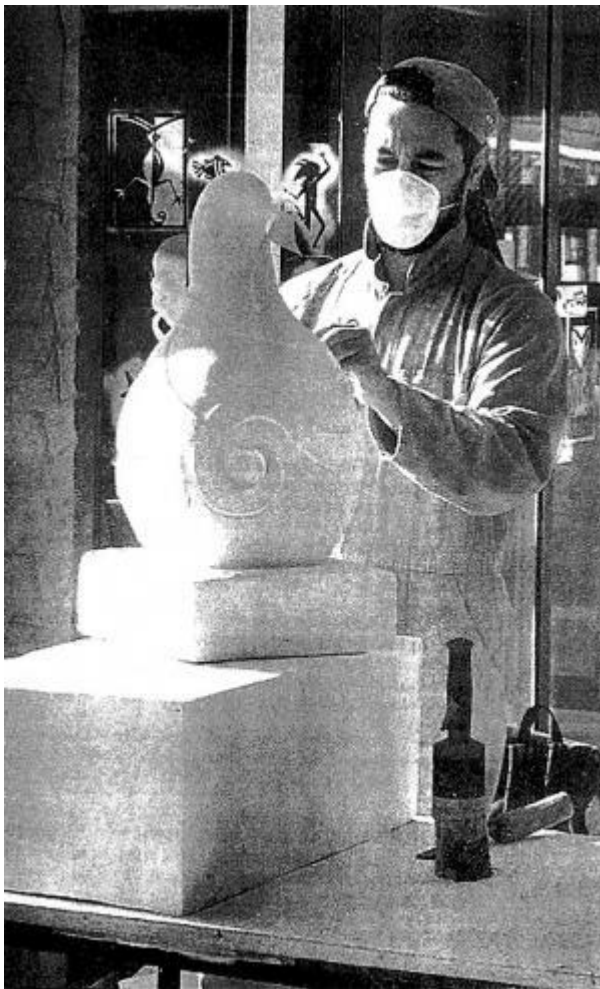
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### **Whitireia Performing Arts off to the Solomon Islands**

***Kapiti Observer 24.06.1996***

Eleven first-year students of Whitireia Performing Arts leave for the Solomon Islands this week to perform as part of official Independence celebrations from the 25 June to 9 July. Invited by the Consul General of the Solomon Islands, the group will preview their performance at a premiere of the Whitireia Performing Arts explosive season of new works, Whitireia Trenz, at Page 90 Artspace on 24 June.

The students follow in the Whitireia tradition to perform on the international stage. Company members and students of the Performing Arts course at Whitireia Community Polytechnic have been invited to open the NZ Education Fair in Kuala Lumpur for the fourth year in a row. A group of 14 dancers will also perform in Mexico at the International Cervantino Festival for the Arts in October. Three Whitireia graduates are guest choreographers, Ioane Leota (Samoa), Sam Samuels (Cook Islands) and Te Aukura "Chuck" Upu (Cook Islands).



*Craft design student Sidi Reihana works on an Oamaru-stone sculpture.*

### **Students unveil their origins**

***Dominion 8.06.1996***

Whitireia Community Polytechnic's Art and Craft Design department will shortly open its annual *Origins* exhibition at Page 90 Artspace on June 27.

This year's exhibition, subtitled *Natural Order*, will again display work resulting from students' research into their family backgrounds, legends and culture.

The Origins project is part of the curriculum for the National Diploma in Craft Design offered by the department. It reflects the department's philosophy of focusing on "who we were to find out who we are or will be."

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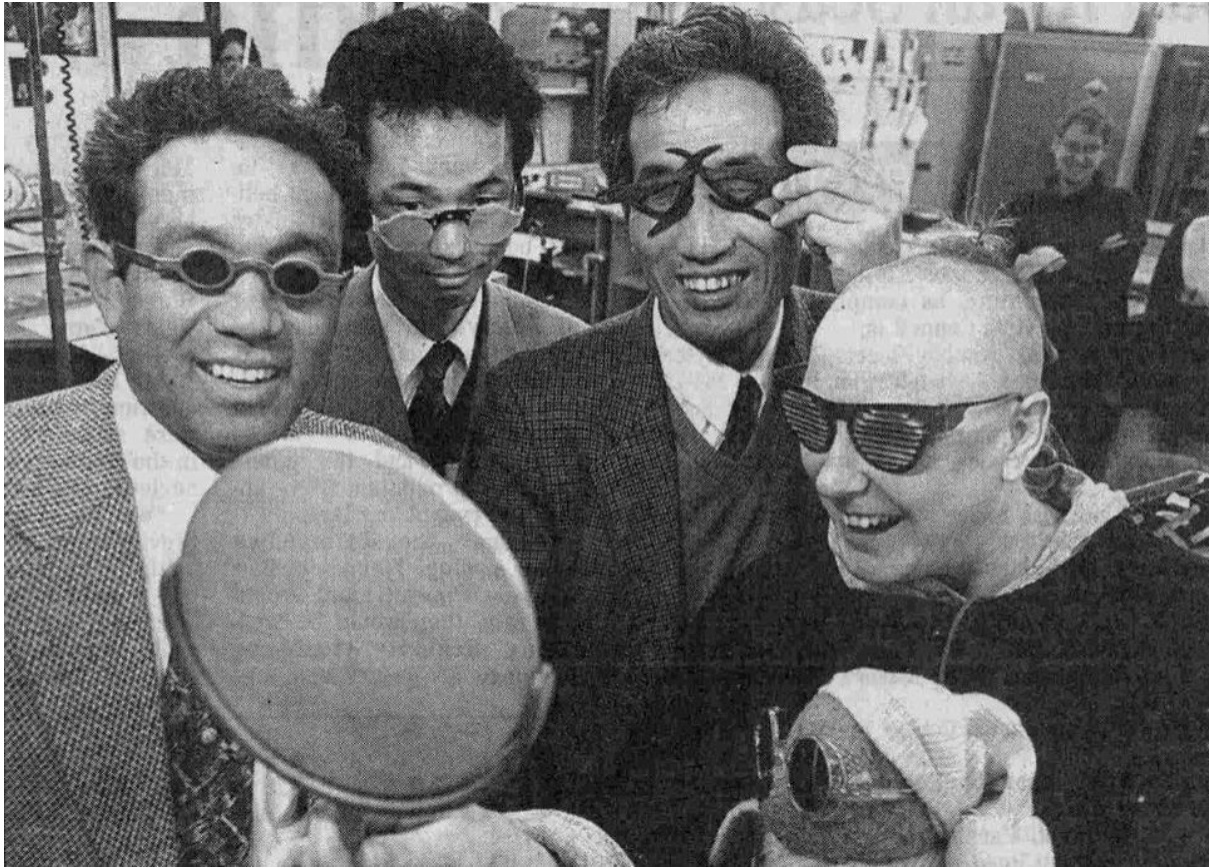
### **Art breaks down the barriers**

***Evening Post 20.06.1996***

Art was the common language when three Japanese artists met Whitireia Community Polytechnic students this week. A potter, stone sculptor and glass craftsman were among 18 members of the Nishio International Exchange Association which visited Porirua for three days. Nishio is Porirua's sister city.

The group toured the polytechnic's mastercraft workshops, which covered creative eyewear, paper arts and book illustration - taught by guest artists from New Zealand and the Philippines.

The visitors were presented with a bone carving and flax screen made by Whitireia art tutors Owen Mapp and Prue Townsend. Mr Mapp has worked with Japan's Prince Takamado, making the sculptured toggles which are worn on the belt of kimonos. He has exhibited his work in Britain, the United State and Japan.



*Eye Opener - Visiting artists, from left, Katsuyoshi Naito, Kazuhiko Kamiya and Koji Emoto, check out the latest artistic eyewear with Whitireia student Kristelle Plimmer.*

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**Whitireia students score high in the hospitality stakes**  
***Kapi Mana 27.08.1996***

Whitireia Community Polytechnic students returned from the hospitality industry's national awards held recently with a medal tally to be proud of.

They came back from the Logan Campbell Centre in Auckland with two gold medals, one silver and five bronze after competing against the country's best hospitality industry students and professionals. The locals won a medal in every category in which they were entered at the National Salon Culinary Catering Competition. Arya Armitage won gold for her flower arrangements and a bronze for an imaginative table setting. Rochelle Fischer received gold for napkin folding and silver for table service.

Whitireia tutor Sonya Martin described it as an "incredibly tough competition."

Representing Whitireia were seven tutors, six team members and 12 supporters. Preparation began in April this year when the team was selected. "It was quite a laborious effort to get to go in the first place, they had to compete against each other," says Ms Martin.

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## **New CEO for Whitireia Polytechnic**

***Porirua News 25.09.1996***

Whitireia Community Polytechnic Council has announced the appointment of Deirdre Dale as the polytechnic's new chief executive. Mrs Dale was previously deputy chief executive at the polytechnic and worked in a variety of management and teaching roles in tertiary education and training.

Mrs Dale says she is very fortunate to be taking up this position at a time when Whitireia is still growing and is increasingly recognised as a highly successful organisation where staff go the extra mile to assist students.

"The demand for what Whitireia has to offer is shown by the fact that, unlike many other tertiary institutions, our 1996 EFTS target of student enrolments has already been exceeded and we will continue to grow to meet that student demand just as rapidly as the Government is willing to fund us," she says.

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## **Families share in nursing celebrations**

***The Whitireia Times 10.1996, by Alexander Moloney***

The son of Margaret Southwick, the Head of the Nursing Centre of Learning at Whitireia, was among the graduating 1993-95 Nursing class.

Matthew Southwick was one of the class of thirty-six who passed and attended the ceremony at Todd Park. The celebrations were shared by the families of the graduates with one of the families performing a haka, and some other families performing waiata to show how they felt. The importance of the family was emphasised by Turoa Royal, then Whitireia chief executive.

Turoa Royal, who was speaking at his last Nursing graduation ceremony, said: "The success rate of the Nursing Centre of Learning was high because of the partnership between students, family and the tutors."

Eteise Iaone, speaking on behalf of the students, was full of praise for her tutors and the polytechnic and said there was a "great sense of acceptance" from them since her first day on the programme. She said the high success rate was due to "hard work and perseverance" on the part of students and tutors alike.

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## **First Polytechnic plan for Pacific Islands training**

***The Whitireia Times 10.1996, by Clare Fussell***

Whitireia could be the first polytechnic in New Zealand to be able to offer early childhood education training for Pacific Island trainees with classes planned to start next year. It will also be the first programme of its kind in the Wellington area. The Pacific Islands Early Childhood Committee of Aotearoa has designed the programme to enable Pacific Islands early childhood education workers to gain culturally-relevant qualifications.

Programme manager Kaye Jujnovich said that while workers in other early childhood areas, including kohanga reo, could be trained and qualified to Ministry of Education standards, there was nothing so far for Pacific Islands workers who wished to work with young Pacific Islands children.

"This venture is exciting because the initiative came from the Pacific Islands' community themselves, from their desire to look after their young people," said Kaye. "It recognises the young peoples' need to know who they are, to grow to be mentally-well, healthy adults."

The PIECCA programme includes seven Pacific cultures and has Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu community input. While much of the formal training will be offered in English, students will attend tutorials using their own language and assignments may also be completed in their chosen tongue.

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### **Students design a unique fale**

***The Whitireia Times 10.1996, by Shelley Plowman***

A unique Pacific Island Fale, or house, has been designed and built at Whitireia. Students on the Craft and Design Diploma Programme's final year were commissioned to create the design for the Polytechnic.

A courtyard area adjoining the Art Department buildings was enclosed by glass doors which are engraved with designs by the students. The theme of these is followed around the internal walls in a frieze of prints. There are three main pillars and each has hemp rope coiled around it. One pillar has fifteen strands representing the fifteen Cook Islands. Another has thirteen strands representing the number of students in the Craft Design Diploma's third-year class. The third pillar has seven strands depicting the seven canoes which carried the people who first populated New Zealand.

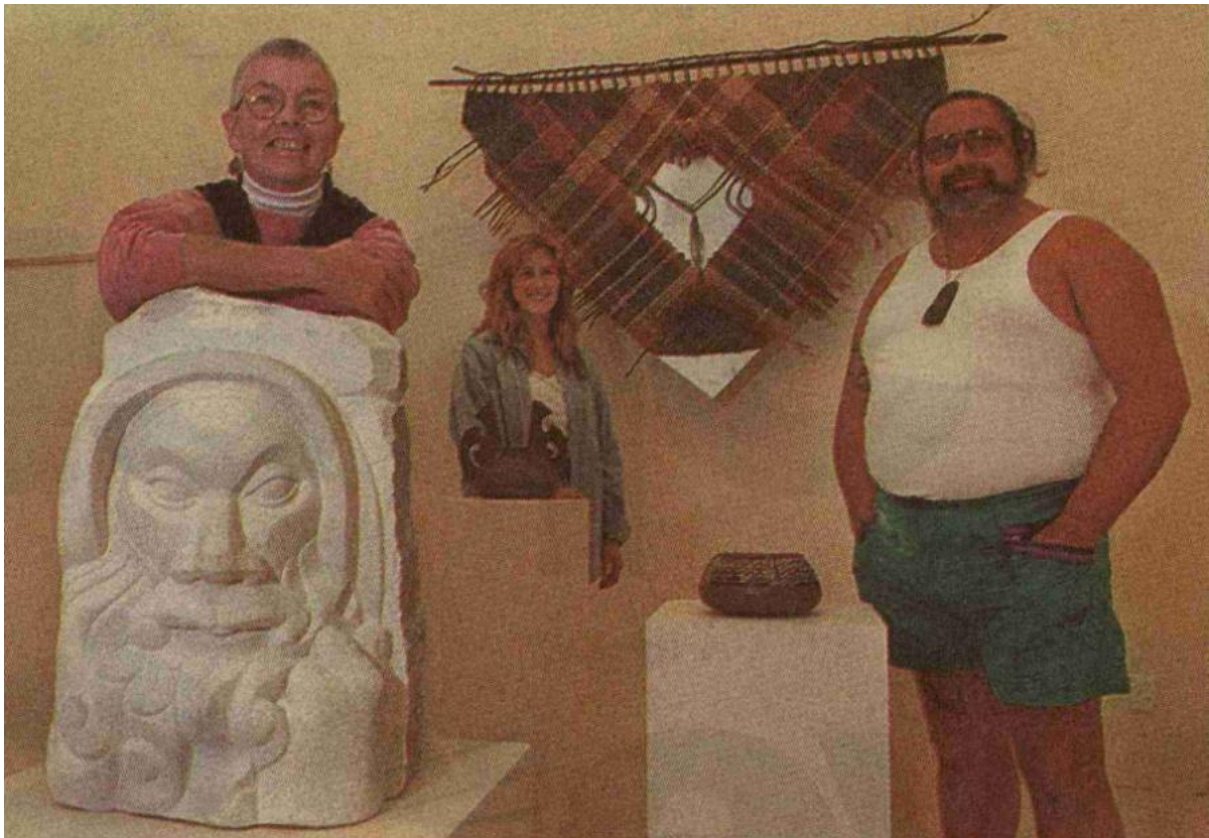
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### **Reunion to explore the past**

***Evening Post 14.10.96***

Exploring their past and themselves is the focus of a Page 90 exhibition by Whitireia Polytechnic's first arts graduates and the Craft Design Diploma's founding tutor, Anne Philbin. Tracey Huxford, Eric Ngan, Ernest Sami and Wi Taepa graduated in 1992 from the four-year course started by Anne. The five decided to come together for an exhibition entitled Eye on the Land. Since graduating, Tracey and Eric have taught art at the polytechnic while Wi teaches ceramics and mixed media there. After nearly nine years at Whitireia Polytechnic, Anne is now Northland Polytechnic's visual arts programme leader.

The exhibition shows the diverse cultural backgrounds of the group and in some cases, their perceptions of themselves through their art. Wi's "low tech" pots have allowed him the freedom to escape from the regulations of traditional Māori art, but they still display Māori designs from carving, weaving and other art forms. Tracey also explores her Māori ancestry with boldly coloured flax kites which represent strength and look down on the earth "where we as a group have come from and where we are going."



*Anne Philbin, Tracey Huxford and Wi Taepa.*

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### **Musicians to showcase their talents**

***Kapi Mana 05.11.1996***

Third-year music students at Whitireia Polytechnic will put their talents to the test by staging a concert this month. But it's no ordinary gig. As part of their end of year assessments, students are required to organise the venue and the equipment as well as promote and perform. Four bands will play a range of material including reggae, rock, pop, jazz and blues at Page 90 on Tuesday, November 12. The concert starts at 7 pm and admission is by gold coin.



*Band members Marty (guitar), George (drums), Gloria (bass), Vicky (keyboards), Joe (guitar/vocals), Susan (vocals).*

## Our History: 1997

In 1997, student numbers at Whitireia rose to a total of 1602 EFTs, with the still relatively new Kāpiti campus contributing a significant 197 of them.

On departing Whitireia in 1996, founding chief executive Turoa Royal spoke of how many of the structures and systems were in place and that it was now "time to bring new energy, ideas and visions to the polytechnic." This fresh blood would come in the form of Deirdre Dale, who was quickly appointed to succeed Turoa Royal. Deirdre Dale had previously been the deputy chief executive at Whitireia and had worked in a variety of management and teaching roles in tertiary education and training. She stated that she felt very fortunate to be taking up the position at a time when Whitireia was still growing and was increasingly recognised as a highly successful organisation where staff went the extra mile to assist students.



*Deirdre Dale.*

Reflecting on her time at Whitireia, Deirdre Dale remarked that when she became chief executive, she wanted to maintain the important things that had already been established. "The first of these was the commitment to every individual's right to an education that enabled them to develop their unique abilities fully – to have their fair share of the education cake." This commitment was expressed through Whitireia values, in particular,

the importance of individual cultural identity. "These ideas and practices were embedded in staff induction, tutor training, and other staff development activities. We measured our success by the success of all of our students."

Under Deirdre Dale, Whitireia would experience a remarkable evolution, being led by her through a period of major expansion that would see the polytechnic grow and change whilst remaining true to those values she held to be fundamental. Student numbers increased, as did the polytechnic's reach as it became both a national and international player. Foreign delegations became a regular sight at Whitireia, with memorandums of understanding and other agreements being signed and relationships established.

### **First Bachelor of Nursing graduation**

Dierdre Dale's first year as chief executive coincided with the first-degree graduation at Whitireia, as Bachelor of Nursing students completed a journey begun in 1995. The ceremony was held at Te Akapuanga Hall in Cannons Creek, with guests visiting from as far away as Tonga and Japan. "Whitireia is very proud of its first-degree programme and of the success of these students," said Val Collins, acting chief executive.

### **Visual Arts mark ten years**



*Caroline Beaufort drying a woodblock print as a student.*

A year after Whitireia as an institution had marked its first decade, the Visual Arts department celebrated its own tenth birthday with an exhibition at Page 90. *Te Tipu Hua o nga Tau Tekau - The Seedlings of These Ten Years* featured the work of 48 graduates, with a display of the divergent way in which the lessons learnt at Whitireia had evolved over the years in the forms of furniture, fashion, jewellery, ceramics, weaving, painting and printmaking.

One of the graduates with work on display was Billie Mutton, who studied on the Diploma in Craft Design in 1992 (later returning to complete the Bachelor of Applied Arts when it was introduced), and who created elegantly-conceived body adornment. Titahi Bay sculptor Marie Parata-Munroe presented her work *A Haven for Spiders*, a giant bird skull carved in Oamaru stone, while two of the earliest students, James Molnar and Wi Taepa, showed work as now nationally-recognised artists. Aimee McLeod was one of four foundation National Certificate in Craft Design students showing work in *Te Tipu Hua o nga Tau Tekau* and it was noted that it was her passion for clay that had led the art department to invest in ceramic equipment. The paintings of 1996 National Diploma in Craft design graduate Caroline Beaufort reflected time spent in Samoa during the South Pacific Festival of the Arts, and Pacific themes were also a concern of 1995 graduate Leanna Leiataua, who not only displayed a large Siapo-themed painting but contributed the tenth-anniversary cake, adorned with tropical flowers.

The Pacific-themed cake was cut at the opening of the exhibition by programme founder Anne Philbin and then-current head of department Rozel Pharazyn. Reflecting on the nature of visual arts at Whitireia, Rozel Pharazyn spoke of how the programme had always been about providing options to students. "What we are trying to do is open doors on that vast body of knowledge that is right for each individual. Then students can choose which one to walk through." Director of Porirua Museum of Arts and Cultures, David Hyams, described the work in the exhibition as "quite stunning."



*Whitireia Craft Design students in the mid-1990s: Moses, Huey and Upoko.*

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## In the news

### **Childhood education course has Pacific focus**

***The Dominion 28.01.1997***

People fluent in Pacific Island languages and wanting to work in early childcare have a new opportunity at Whitireia Community Polytechnic in Porirua in 1997. On offer for the first time was the Diploma in Pacific Islands Early Childhood Education, a two-year course for people wanting to work in a Pacific Island language context.

In the past, such centres had been hampered by lack of funding, says Whitireia Centre of Learning manager, Kaye Jujnovich. To get funding they needed to be licensed and to be licensed they needed to employ qualified staff. Traditionally there had been a shortage of qualified staff with Pacific Island language skills. The Whitireia course is the first of its kind offered in Wellington.



*Final-year student Kylie Fyfe works on her wood sculpture titled Spinster.*

**Craft design students exhibit in Waikanae**  
***Evening Post 19.09.1997***

Craft design students from Whitireia Polytechnic in Porirua are at the Mahara Gallery in Waikanae this week to open the first exhibition they have held on the Kāpiti Coast. The exhibition, titled 33 Across, will be on at the gallery from today until October 25. An opening function was held last night. Final year students have curated the exhibition. Ceramics, prints, carving, painting, drawings, jewellery and works in fibre, fabric and mixed media are on show, and many are for sale.

The title was inspired by a crossword clue and refers to the number of students involved in the exhibition and the fact that the works in the show are from across a range of media and levels in the art department.

Department head Rozel Pharazyn says this exhibition is an answer to requests from local art teachers to show the work of the department on the Kāpiti Coast as well as in Porirua. "It's

an opportunity for secondary school students on the coast to see what sort of work our students do. Some students have done art at school but many of our most successful students have done design technology studies in school, and go on to widely varied and interesting careers, including work in museums and galleries and the film and television industry.

The students recently completed Mastercrafts, five weeks of intensive week-long workshops. Guest tutors included Fred Graham, mixed media artists Debra Bustin and Donna Demente-Ogilvie, and jewellers Tania Patterson and Sally Laing. Some works at the Mahara Gallery are the result of these Mastercrafts workshops.

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### **Teachers to train in Porirua**

***Evening Post 25.09.1997***

Porirua and Kāpiti Coast residents training as secondary school teachers can do so closer to home. Whitireia Community Polytechnic is now accredited to train people to teach at the secondary level. The one-year programme is expected to start in November.

Whitireia chief executive Deirdre Dale says the polytechnic received strong support from Porirua and Kāpiti schools for its training application. "There is a growing trend to offer training close to where people live. This helps to reduce the cost of study. Our programme will train teachers to work in multicultural schools. Most schools have numbers of students for whom English is a second language. Whitireia is well placed to provide teachers with the skills they need to work with students from different cultures."

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### **Nurses graduate**

***Pacific Network Newspaper 06.1997, by Teremoana Tekeu***

On May 23, Whitireia Polytechnic held their first 1997 Bachelor of Nursing Graduation Ceremony at Te Akapuanga Hall. There were four Pacific Island students that graduated from the Nursing programme, Ngaretta Strong, Liku Hingano, Eunice Leota and Tolly Snelgar. "Whitireia is very proud of its first-degree programme and of the success of these students," says Val Collins, acting chief executive.

The event had a good core of people, including visitors from Japan and Tonga, with an overall outcome of 380 people. To mark the day, three Pacific Island art students from the polytech had designed graduation gowns for the occasion and graduations to follow. The new outlook of the course has enabled students to reach their goals more efficiently and to help develop general knowledge in nursing.

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### **Whitireia students display work in Wellington**

***Kapi-Mana 25.11.1997***

Whitireia Art and Craft programme students will exhibit their Graduation and Origins work in Wellington this year instead of at Page 90. The Porirua Gallery, which Whitireia students and staff helped to establish in 1990, closes for rebuilding this month.

Students graduating from all levels of the four year Art and Craft programme have named their show, *A History of the Future*. This is to reflect a unique marriage of traditional skills and historical reflection with contemporary issues and design challenges. Works exhibited range from finely crafted jewellery to stone carving and photography to woven rugs. First and second-year students have interpreted issues from their Origins studies in products as diverse as perspex rings containing images of steak, and woodcuts prints about Rarotongan and Kwakful legends. At the senior level, Nestor Opetai, Lloyd Toia and Levi Salamasina Mapiva's widely different painted works speak with energy and control of personal issues with universal caste to them - youth and identity, love and grief.

The Atrium of Wellington City Council's Municipal Office is the venue for the show, which will be displayed on furniture lent by the Wellington City Gallery and opened by its director Paula Savage.

# Our History: 1998

Students numbers continued to grow in 1998 with a 13% increase to 1807 total EFTs studying across 56 full-time programmes.

## A new chair for the Whitireia council



*Chris Kirk-Burnnand.*

Chris Kirk-Burnnand became the third chair of the Whitireia council as Margaret Faulkner retired from the lead role but continued on as deputy chair. Chris Kirk-Burnnand had been a member of the council for two years, including time spent just prior as deputy, and he brought with him substantial successful business experience to the new role. This focus was clear when he reflected years later on his time spent on the council, with financial gains being for the good of students. "We had a feeling that we should be able to offer the students the same level of facilities as was available at the best universities or polytechnics... Through the years I was on the board, we had a clear focus on ensuring that we had a healthy surplus each year so that we could reinvest in facilities to upgrade and improve the organisation."

During Chris Kirk-Burnnand's tenure, this approach was evident, with the \$35 million campus redevelopment of the Porirua campus being approved by council in 2003, leading to a decade-long programme of building and renovation. He would continue as chair until 2004 when he retired from the role and was replaced by Dennis Sharman.

## **Midland Park campus**

In partnership with Maxim Recruitment Agency, Whitireia established its first campus in Wellington in 1998. The Midland Park campus was based on Level 4 of the Ernst Plischke-designed Massey House, on the corner of Johnson Street and Lambton Quay, and initially provided a range of training qualifications from the School of Office Systems and Tourism. Options were available in business administration, industry customised training and open learning, which later broadened to variously include publishing, call centre training, outdoor leadership, and desktop publishing.

The Midland Park campus would continue as a rather low-key presence for Whitireia in Wellington until 2008 and 2009 when two considerably more prominent locations opened in the central city: the Wellington campus in Cuba Mall, followed the next year by the Wellington Performance Centre in Vivian Street.



*A class at the Midland Park campus.*

## **Pride of the Polytechnic Day**

In an initiative created by Youth Affairs minister Deborah Morris, the Whitireia student association invited the community to attend Pride of the Polytechnic Day beneath the canopies in Porirua city and at the Porirua campus on Friday, 1 May. Aimed to boost the

employment prospects of students by showcasing their skills, the day began with an opening ceremony beneath the canopies and included shows by eight bands from the music department, cultural performances by students from both the performing arts and English and as Second Language programmes, while nursing students gave free "warrants of fitness" and horticulture students planted shrubs donated by the Porirua City Council. Meanwhile, at the Porirua campus, a hangi was laid for lunch and a basketball competition was held in the afternoon.



*Whitireia music students, band 2b: Teakura Ariki Chuck Upu, Nicky Petty, Dan McGruer (later of Kora). Not in picture: Wade Sharp (guitar), Abby Kawai (vocals), Andy Mac (drums).*

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## **In the news**

### **Dance company's home secure *Kapi Mana 1998***

Whitireia Performing Arts Dance Company has moved into its new home and members are elated with it even if construction work is still going on around them.

The dance company's new base is in Porirua's \$5 million-plus museum and art gallery, which is still about six months from completion. Fears were held that the dance company would be permanently left without a home when their old studio was shut down at the end of last year to make way for the redevelopment. Company manager Gaylene Sciscia says to be part of the redevelopment puts the group into the heart of the city.

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**Whitireia students get a geographical history lesson**

***Kapi Mana 20.01.1998***

Ngāti Toa kaumatua Ihakara Arthur explains local Māori history to students from the top of Whitireia Mountain overlooking Cook Strait. From the vantage point at the top of Whitireia, Mr Arthur pointed out historical landmarks. He said that Te Rauparaha used Cook Strait so many times he referred to it as "his river."

Te Tohu Mutunga Kore (The Never-Ending Gift) students from Whitireia Community Polytechnic attended a day and night history hui at Takapūwāhia Marae. After the pōwhiri Ngāti Toa's Jeanette Katene gave a talk on the concepts and meanings of the artwork inside Whare Tupuna which covers all walls, the ceiling and support beams.

Following the field trip to Whitireia Mountain, Ngāti Toa executive director Matiu Rei discussed iwi history from the landing at Kawhia in the upper North Island, the migration to the Wellington region and settlement at Elsdon.

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**Whitireia art students win logo competition**

***Kapi Mana 16.06.1998, by Cecelia De Souza***

Annabelle Buick, a final year Arts Diploma student at Whitireia Community Polytechnic, has won a competition to design a new logo for the Porirua Community Arts Council. She received \$200 for her winning design. The arts council got about 30 entries, many of which were of a high standard.

The flowing lines of the logo reflect brushwork, dance movement and seascape.

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**Treaty commemorations held on the summit of Mt Whitireia**

***Kapi Mana 30.07.1998, by Jen Mitchell***

About 60 people braved cold winds on the summit of Mt. Whitireia last Friday to commemorate Maori chief Te Rauparaha signing the Treaty of Waitangi 158 years ago.

Mt. Whitireia was the nearest point to where Te Rauparaha signed the treaty on a ship anchored off the coast. It was the second time his signature was added to the document on behalf of Ngati Toa, recognition by the Crown of his importance.

The dawn ceremony, organised by Whitireia Polytechnic's Treaty of Waitangi Unit was attended by the Porirua Mayor John Burke, deputy mayor Jasmine Underhill, several other city councillors and senior management staff, members of Ngāti Toa and polytechnic students. Mr Burke said he was thrilled at the number of people who attended the commemoration and hopes to develop future acknowledgement of the day as it is the anniversary of the treaty being signed in Porirua.

Following a breakfast hosted by the polytechnic, council staff attended an informal workshop dealing with Treaty of Waitangi management. Bob Cater, co-convener of the polytechnic's treat unit, said: "One of the reasons why we try to commemorate this is to make people aware that the signing took place here." This is the third year the treat unity has held treaty commemorations, part of the polytechnic's ongoing commitment to meeting its treaty obligations.

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**New initiatives and 1999 programmes at Whitireia**  
***Porirua News 14.10.1998***

Whitireia Community Polytechnic has continued to grow rapidly since it was established in 1986. This year, student enrolment has continued to increase, both domestically and nationally.

This growth is due to the polytechnic's commitment to providing a wide range of vocational and non-vocational courses, which meet the needs of its communities. Further initiatives are planned for 1999.

One of the initiatives is a partnership between Whitireia and Maxim Recruitment Agency resulting in the creation of a new campus at the corner of Johnson Street and Lambton Quay in Wellington's city centre, named Midland Park campus. The new campus provides a range of training qualifications for those who wish to upskill and gain experience without leaving the city centre.

The School of Office Systems and Tourism is currently offering Business Administration Computer Applications, Industry Customised Training and Open Learning on this new campus.

New programmes on offer in 1999 include the Outdoor Leadership Diploma, Māori Business Administration, National Certificate in Retailing (Level 3) and a National Certificate in Mental Health Support Work.

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**Kirk-Burnnand to chair Whitireia council**  
***Kapi Mana 15.12.1998***

Pauatahanui resident and Johnsonville businessperson Chris Kirk-Burnnand have been selected chairperson of the Whitireia Community Polytechnic Council.

Mr Kirk-Burnnand has been a member of the council for two years, most recently as deputy chairperson, and brings substantial successful business experience to his new role, said polytechnic chief executive Deirdre Dale.

The previous chairperson Margaret Faulkner, who has 12 years' experience with the council, continues as deputy chairperson.

# Our History: 1999

In 1999, with the millennium approaching, Whitireia provided assistance to small businesses uncertain about the effects of the Y2K bug, while a former Whitireia music student rode to fame and glory as one-fifth of True Bliss.

## Recognition for Ihakara Arthur

Founding Whitireia kaumātua Ihakara (Ken) Arthur was recognised for his services to the community when he became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZOM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours.



*Ihakara Arthur (centre) with Miria Simpson and Te Reo tutor Haimona Samuels in 1995.*

## Bachelor of Information Technology

Another degree was added to the list of Whitireia programmes with the launch in October of the Bachelor of Information Technology, ready for students in 2000. The degree had four main areas of study: software development, information systems, computer hardware and communications. It was based on the Bachelor of Information Technology taught at the Central Institute of Technology in Upper Hutt, who in turn was one of five polytechnics that had taught the programme originally developed by Waikato Polytechnic.

School of Computing head, Trish Brimblecombe, said that the degree had been developed to meet the demands of employers, as well as both domestic and international students. With a business focus and a high practical component, the degree was to focus on producing graduates who were either work-ready or had the academic base to continue into postgraduate study.



*Whitireia Council chair Chris Kirk-Burnnand at the launch of the Bachelor of Information Technology.*

The degree marked a significant development for the teaching of computing at Whitireia which ten years prior had begun with fifteen students on a twelve-week course, and now had a student body of 250 students studying across two campuses, with intakes in February and July.

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## **In the news**

### **Whitireia grows up *Not referenced 1999***

Whitireia is one of the fastest-growing tertiary institutions in New Zealand. This year it has expanded beyond the Porirua and Kāpiti campuses to include Wainuiomata and Midland Park in central Wellington.

The polytech focuses on national qualifications and careers with a future. Every course has, at its core, an industry advisory group to provide advice and ensure that all courses lead to jobs.

The eight new courses planned for next year include:

- A Bachelor of Information Technology
- National Diploma in Journalism
- Diploma in Outdoor Leadership
- Certificate in Electrical Engineering
- Diploma in Sport and Coaching
- Catering qualifications to London City and Guilds standards
- Certificate in Trade Skills
- Advanced Certificate in landscaping and Horticulture

Whitireia also offers course choices ranging from the Bachelor of Nursing to business and management diplomas. In the arts, Whitireia has a reputation for crafts design, Māori art, performance and rock music courses or alternatively, training for a career in adventure tourism, publishing or video production.



*New Whitireia Polytechnic journalism coordinator Jeremy Rose talks with his predecessor Geoff Baylis.*

**New journalism tutor for Whitireia**  
***Porirua News 03.02.1999***

Jeremy Rose, a City Voice founder and former arts editor, is moving from the coal face to the chalkface. He has become Whitireia Polytechnic's new journalism programme co-ordinator, replacing former Dominion and Listener editor Geoff Baylis.

He will be responsible for teaching and administration of the polytechnic's journalism programme. Teaching is not entirely new to him. "I've run an Access pre journalism course, which had everyone from drops outs to MA graduates on it."

Now Mr Rose's attentions are directed towards matters closer to home - the 18 aspiring journalists who begin their training in less than three weeks. Mr Rose has a simple goal for this year's students. "I'd like to give people a thorough grounding in the basics of journalism, so they are able to work in the media industry."

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### **Polytechnic referendum delayed**

***Porirua News 03.02.1999***

The referendum on whether membership of Whitireia Polytechnic students' association should be voluntary or compulsory has been delayed.

This follows an agreement between student president Wiremu Bayliss and polytechnic chief executive Deirdre Dale. Ms Dale says the polytechnic council and the students' association have always enjoyed a positive relationship, working together to ensure the best services for students. "We have valued the work of the students' association over the years and we want to make certain those services continue for the benefit of students," says Ms Dale.

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### **Kupe's anchor in "its proper place"**

***Kapi Mana 02.03.1999***

A copy of Kupe's anchor stone was laid in Whitireia Park at a ceremony on February 16 1999. Ngāti Toa Kaumatua Ken Arthur said a karakia (blessing) over Maungaroa (Kupe's anchor stone). Whitireia Park Board member Makere Reneti said she was happy the stone was close to the original site: "It's in its proper place."

The ceremony was attended by Whitireia Park Board members, representatives from the conservation department and Titahi Bay residents. Ms Reneti said; "It was a spiritual meeting. It was rather moving, simple, but very moving."

The original stone rests at Te Papa in Wellington.

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### **Styles in contrast at Whitireia artists' exhibition**

***Kapi Mana 09.23.1999***

European meets Maori and steel contrasts against clay in an exhibition of former and current Whitireia Community Polytechnic artists' work. Pacific and European cultures including Fijian, Western Samoan, Maori, Scots, Irish and English are represented in artworks on display.

Exhibitors include Ngahuaia Tawhai who developed her talent while painting at Arohata Women's Prison, Caroline Beaufort, Susan Searreal, Sandra Tuara, Lindsay Jarvis who

expresses in clay her parents' experiences inside bomb shelters during air raids on England, Michael Dunkerton whose sculptures consider the arrival of Europeans to New Zealand, Sidi Reihana, Nestor Hoiaapata and Clive Puna whose work includes contemporary steel sculpture.

Works range from wood, metal and clay sculptures and wall hangings to paintings and handmade paper works and explore cultural identity and inner spirituality.

Whakahokiki te Wairua, a travelling exhibition, is currently on display at Petone's Community Farsite Gallery and will move to the X-Factory Gallery on Queens Wharf, Wellington, in March.

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### **Membership stays compulsory**

***Porirua News 28.04.1999, by Colin Patterson***

Students at Whitireia Community Polytechnic voted to retain the compulsory membership of their students' association. Student association vice-president Michael Dunkerton said students voted decisively – by 290 votes to 81 – in the recent referendum to retain the status quo.

The referenda, required by legislation passed by Parliament last year, give students the option of making association membership voluntary.

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### **Former Whitireia student finds True Bliss**

***Kapi Mana 18.05.1999, story by Toni Barlow***

Former Whitireia Polytechnic student, Joe Cotton, one of the five girls chosen to form the pop group True Bliss, suddenly found herself in the national spotlight. An Auckland radio station poll voted Joe as the favourite of the five girls. Despite Joe's now busy and mostly out-of-town schedule, she still makes an effort to pop into the store when she's down from Auckland.

Joe attended the three-year rock music course at Whitireia Polytechnic. Programme manager of the course Manny Abraham says: "We are really excited one of our students has broken through the threshold."

Joe went into the course with a talented voice and has gained a lot of experience from singing in bars around Wellington, he says.

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### **Recognition for kaumatua**

***Porirua News 16.06.1999***

"If you can be a servant of the people, you are very lucky," says Elsdon resident Ken Arthur. Mr Arthur's service to his people was rewarded with a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZOM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Mr Arthur, of Ngāti Toa and Te Atiawa descent, has been a kaumatua and adviser to a number of organisations over the last 30 years, including the Royal New Zealand Police College, Porirua City Council and Whitireia Polytechnic. He says the role of kaumatua is to provide advice on tikanga (language) and kawa (protocol), as well as to speak for his iwi on the marae.

Mr Arthur has come a long way since he was given to grandparents to look after. "They told me of the importance of serving your people," says Mr Arthur. Born and raised in Taranaki, Mr Arthur has lived in Porirua for the last 45 years. Modest about his achievements, Mr Arthur says he was unsure about accepting the honour when he was first approached.

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**Business with Maori links**  
***Porirua News 21.07.1999***

A new Whitireia Polytechnic course aims to build links between Māori and the business world. Over 20 students will begin the Paerangatiratanga (Māori Business Administration) programme for the new semester.

Whitireia Te Wānanga Māori staff member Whiti Makowharemahihi says the course is designed to fill a need within the community. Mrs Makowharemahihi says there is a "huge gap" between the numbers of Māori and non-Māori managers in the workforce. Mrs Makowharemahihi says the first instalment of students will study Te Reo and Tikanga Māori, the Treaty of Waitangi, office and management issues within a Māori perspective.

The second stage of the programme was to commence next year, she says.

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**Untitled**  
***Kapiti Observer 13.09.1999***

"It's a story about life. It has no title," says Apirana Taylor putting up this piece at an exhibition of works by the Whitireia Saturday Morning Life Drawing Group. The works are on display in Coastlands.

The class is rotated through a 10-week module with the group meeting every morning at Whitireia Polytechnic. Those interested can pay a one-off \$26 for each class or pay a lump sum for the whole course with a choice of staggering attendance over two or more modules.

Apirana who is also a poet, writer and actor have been granted a Creative New Zealand grant of \$15,000 to write a novel. A book of his plays has just been published.



*Apirana Taylor with his untitled work.*

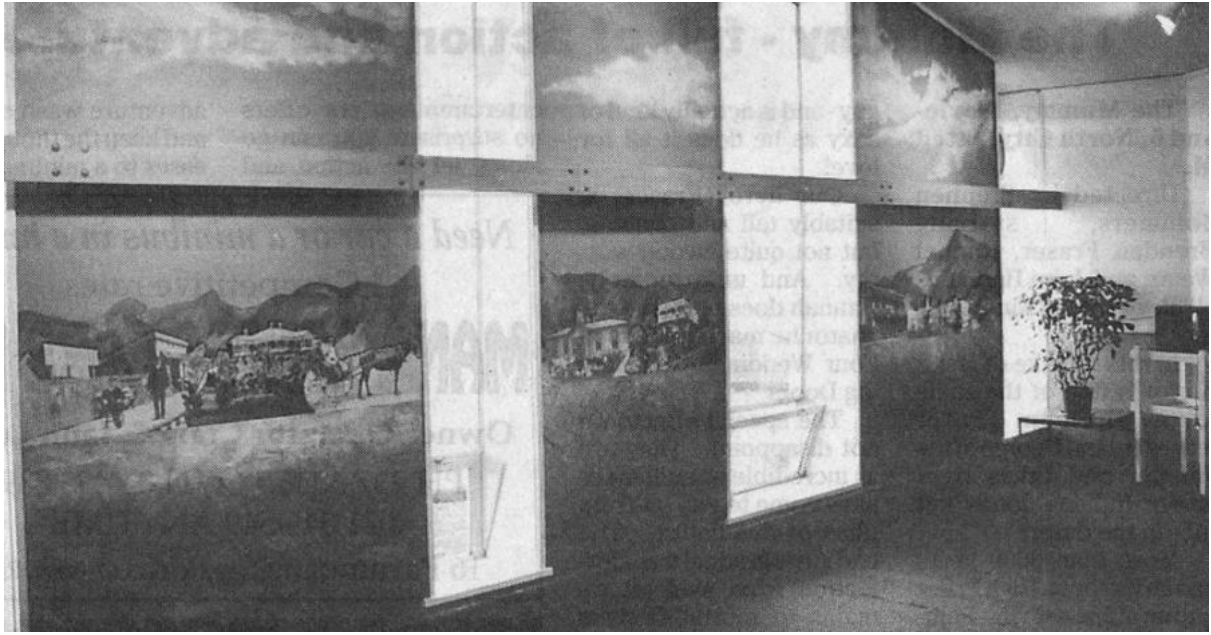
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### **Students brighten up Kemp's walls**

***Kapi Mana 21.09.1999***

A mural depicting locals scenes was recently installed at Kemp Home Hospital in Titahi Bay. This work is part of the students' commission programme, undertaken by level seven graduate students at Whitireia Community Polytechnic.

The student's brief was to beautify the dining room and bring the outdoors indoors for elderly residents. It takes the form of a collage using old photographs and drawings of the bay area to re-create scenes of a bygone era. Fishing nets in the lower, carved section of the mural reflect the lifestyle of the area. Whitireia (Mount Cooper) and the other hills in Whitireia Park contrast with the seascape. Paint supplies for the mural were kindly donated by local company P & Z Decorating Centre of Lyttelton Avenue.



*The mural in Kemp Home Hospital, Titahi Bay.*

# Our History: 2000

## In the news

### **Polytech sets up pilot call centre course**

*Not referenced 2000, by Richard Trow*

Porirua's Whitireia Community Polytechnic set up New Zealand's first call centre training course in 2000.

For a fee of \$1000, students learnt about customer service and gained communications, computing and selling skills in the polytechnic's simulated business centre, the polytechnic's head of information systems Helen Gardiner said. Learning to manage time and stress also became planks of the course. And students got a taste of the "burgeoning" industry for one of the course's 12 weeks by shadowing operators in working call centres.

The course, a pilot, was set up jointly by the polytechnic, the Auckland-based Electrotechnology Training Institute and heavy-duty users of call centres such as the Bank of New Zealand, New Zealand Post and Telecom.

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### **Local polytechnic bucks national trend**

*The Evening Post 11.02.2000, by Phil Hamilton, the Education reporter*

Whitireia Community Polytechnic continues to buck the national trend by continuing to increase student numbers and in 2000 was the biggest polytechnic in Wellington.

The merger between Wellington Polytechnic and Massey University left the way clear for Whitireia to become the largest locally, with full-time student numbers expected to get close to 2000 in the year 2000.

Chief executive Deidre Dale said the merger had also resulted in the Porirua-based polytechnic picking up two extra courses that Massey no longer wanted to teach – sign making and an electrical course. New courses being offered were journalism, information technology and catering.

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### **Nursing way to a new future**

*Whitireia Times 08.03.2000*

Last year they could not get enough, now they are overflowing. Whitireia Community Polytechnic's Bachelor of Nursing programme has accepted 90 students into the first year of its three-year course - 20 more than they were anticipating. School for Nursing and Health head Jan Pearson says they are coping with the unexpected influx. She says one priority is to find extra space and that means negotiating with other tutors who have more suitable rooms.

Mrs Pearson says she is unsure why the nursing course has suddenly become popular. "We are hearing from clinical areas out there that our students are excellent performers in the workplace. They have good communication and nursing skills. Our graduates are getting jobs based on their performance."



*First-year Bachelor of Nursing students Lesley Dick, Fred Tipa, Tupuna Vaea, Megan O'Donnell and Zep Cole.*

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### **New classroom advances horticulture course**

***Kapi Mana 28.03.2000***

A new horticulture classroom has sprung up below Camp Elsdon, the culmination of two years' effort by tutor Tony Tomlin, the Whitireia students and camp staff.

The classroom, an extension of Whitireia Polytechnic, was originally suggested by students who wanted to continue with an advanced certificate after completing the one year National Certificate in Horticulture.

Mr Tomlin says it will enable him to give students more practical skills in hard landscaping such as site surveying, construction and native plant propagation. He is also eager to introduce components of conservation and ecology. He said he has verbal authority from Porirua City Council to take plants and seedlings from the reserve for propagation, tying in with regeneration plans for Colonial Knob.

Students have already begun landscaping the site at the start of 2000, and Mr Tomlin plans to grow native trees which can then be labelled and used as an educational resource for the many school groups which visit Camp Elsdon.

The classroom was blessed by camp manager Gary Cooper at an opening ceremony attended by camp staff as well as Whitireia students and representatives. Past chair Claire Clark cut the ribbon, saying she had been waiting a long time for the honour.



*Andy Tauafiafi with the woodcut plates for Freedom.*

### **Double winner**

***Kapi Mana 11.07.2000***

Whitireia Polytechnic art student Andy Tauafiafi got a double surprise with the success of his framed woodcut *Freedom* at the Millennium Youth Art Awards. The 23-year-old artist received one of the two premier awards, getting \$1000, but the unexpected bonus came when he was told his winning woodcut would be on its way to Brunei. That's where this year's Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation summit is being held, and Tauafiafi's winning piece will be included in an APEC youth art exhibition.

Mr Tauafiafi said when he entered the competition organised by the Academy of Fine Arts, there was no mention of a special award involving APEC. "It was a big surprise to know I'd

be representing New Zealand. The cash prize was a big shock, and the APEC award just topped it off. I didn't expect to get anything," he said.

Residing in Newlands, Mr Tauafiafi is in his third year of study at Whitireia. Next year he plans to either undertake the advanced programme or try to make a living as an artist. He said his art has been strongly influenced by his studies, and that tutor Michel Tuffery had shown him a lot about the business side of art.

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### **Attractive yet cost-effective**

*Horowhenua Weekly News 18.10.2000, by Sam Griffin*

More attractive yet cost-effective... That's what the Domestic Marketing team at Whitireia Polytechnic has achieved with the production of its new-look brochures and prospectus.



*Janis Howarth has the brochures in hand.*

The 29 different brochures which will appear throughout the polytech, secondary schools and at information centres by the end of this month, are more comprehensive, easier to read and cheaper to produce says marketing manager Alan Lough.

They have been launched in conjunction with the new signage designed to attract people and give Whitireia a more effective image.

The new brochures and prospectus have already proved successful from a financial point of view with large savings being made. "Every dollar we save on printing brochures can be spent somewhere else on student activities," says Alan Lough

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## **Diversity celebrated**

***The Dominion 28.11.2000***

Graduating students of Whitireia Community Polytechnic's art, craft and design course are celebrating their diverse cultural backgrounds in an exhibition at Porirua's Pataka gallery.

The exhibition - *Koiri: Breath of Life* - features design and artwork, from paintings and prints to carvings, jewellery and works on paper and fabric.

Showing alongside the graduates' works is an exhibition by junior-level students in the same programme.

*Koiri: Breath of Life* runs till January.