

Our History: 2001

In the news

Whitireia Community Polytechnic's future looking bright

Kapi Mana 24.04.2001

While some polytechnics around the country might be struggling financially and other institutions merged or closed, the future looks bright for Whitireia Community Polytechnic. That's according to its latest annual report which shows enrolments are up 20 per cent on this time last year and there's money in the bank.

Now in its 16th year, the polytechnic has its main campus in Porirua City as well as campuses on the Kapiti Coast and in Wellington City. Enrolments have increased annually for the past 10 years and equivalent full-time students now number almost 2000, says Whitireia chief executive Deirdre Dale.

The polytechnic ended the 2000 year with a cash operating surplus of \$376,000, its 10th annual surplus in a row.

New Writing tutor multiskilled

Porirua News 02.05.2001

Whitireia Community Polytechnic's new writing programme coordinator says her position is a chance to bring her many skills together in the one job. Pip Byrne, who started as coordinator this year, says her new job involves skills in administration, writing and being an understanding manager of writers, as well as tutoring.

Ms Byrne will be taking classes in the first-year writing course and tutoring in the Required Reading part of the new Level 3 course for the Advanced Diploma in Applied Arts (Writing). She will supervise students through a course of reading and analysing the sorts of books they are writing for their major project. Several children's novels, a collection of short stories and a non-fiction book are among the publications being produced by this year's students.

Ms Byrne's skills have been honed during a career in writing and the theatre. Trained as a journalist, she worked in the Radio New Zealand newsroom before studying drama at the New Zealand Drama School, Toi Whakaari, then worked as a professional actor at Centrepoint Theatre in Palmerston North.

Trish, Head of School, MA, on the way to a PhD, and camel driver extraordinaire

Whitby News No 197 09.2001, by Linda Baylis

When Trish Brimblecombe started working as a part-time technician at Whitireia Polytechnic 16 years ago she had no idea that it would lead to her completing a Master's

degree in Communications, enrolling in a PhD, being part of Government 'think tanks' on the role of technology in tertiary education, presenting at international conferences, regularly attending technology sector seminars in Auckland and Wellington, working as an industry consultant, or becoming a full member of the New Zealand Computer Society.

Trish was the Head of School of Computing for seven years and as she said: "three months is a long time in computing." So it was a hectic seven years during which she had had to keep on top of her academic qualifications and industry knowledge and ensure that her staff were doing the same.

Trish completed her Master's Degree in 1999, which included research into the Wellington Business Clusters Project, looking at the significance of information technology-related development. Apart from the polytechnic job she worked at Innovation & Systems, Wellington on contract, which she said kept her grounded in reality and helped her reflect at the polytechnic on what was happening in the industry. Her role was to facilitate software and mobile internet clusters in Wellington. It provided pathways for companies to get advice on various tertiary courses and enabled her to give students feedback on what employers expected.



Trish Brimblecombe, camel driver extraordinaire.

Our History: 2002

With 3,048 EFTs and 98 full-time programmes, Whitireia continued to excel in 2002, creating a \$4.1 million surplus and receiving an A rating for financial management and performance from the Tertiary Advisory Monitoring Unit .

Auckland campus

The Whitireia Auckland campus was established in 2002 with a focus on providing academic programmes to speakers of English as a second language. The campus initially offered the New Zealand Diploma in Business and English language programmes and had 200 international students enrolled by the end of the year.

By the end of 2010, the campus had over 1200 students enrolled in a wide range of programmes of international relevance drawn from the Whitireia programme portfolio. These included the Bachelor of Applied Business Studies with five optional majors, the Bachelor in Information Technology with two optional majors, and Diplomas in Hospitality Management, Business, Information Technology and Early Childhood Education with programmes in Professional Cookery and International Tourism scheduled to start in September 2011.



Auckland campus in 2005.

Whitireia is the second largest provider of international education amongst the ITPs in New Zealand and, in addition to students based in New Zealand, has over 600 students studying with partner institutions and Universities in other countries. Students have one of the highest success rates across all ITPs, sitting above ITPs benchmarks. This success is based on the tailoring of delivery to meet the specific needs of international students with small class sizes (average of 18), embedded English language programmes, a full-time study centre and pastoral care staff with multiple languages and a deep understanding of the cultures of our international students.

In 2011, the campus at 450 Queen Street increased to double its size and was fully renovated to accommodate up to 2000 students.



Interior of Auckland campus in 2005.

In the news

Whitireia Polytech bursting at the seams

Evening Post 16.03.2002, by Colin Patterson, the Porirua reporter

Whitireia Community Polytechnic is set to expand in 2002 – both upwards and outwards. Enrolments at the Porirua polytechnic increased by 70 per cent in six years which has put pressure on buildings and facilities. Chief executive Deirdre Dale said the institution consulted community stakeholders, including staff, students and tangata whenua Ngāti Toa, on how it could develop its Porirua campus.

Among the proposals was one to close Wi Neera Drive, which runs between the polytechnic and Porirua Harbour at the northern end of the city centre, so the institution could build

closer to the foreshore. Ms Dale said the polytechnic was not committed to that proposal but had discussed its implications, especially for traffic and public access to the foreshore, with council officers. Ms Dale said the polytechnic would only decide what proposal to proceed with once it had evaluated feedback for the community.

However, additional space in some form was needed. That could mean going up, though only several floors. The campus is on reclaimed land and is almost entirely single-storey. Ms Dale said the land's reclaimed status ruled out tower blocks. The polytechnic was established in 1986 and had grown in an ad-hoc manner since.

Farewell performance

Contact 25.04.2002

A 35-strong dance troupe from the Whitireia Performing Arts group leaves shortly for dance festivals in Europe. The group will give 30 performances in just 20 days at seven festivals in Belgium and Northern France. The group is giving a farewell concert on Anzac Day, 7:30 pm at Pataka, Porirua's Museum Of Arts & Cultures. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Also performing at the concerts are two of last year's graduates, Waiana Karepa and Fati Tagatam who are leaving New Zealand to take up permanent positions with the Drums of Polynesia Dance Company in Miami.



On tour: Christine Tuifao, Frank Kalolo, Waiana Karepa and Fati Tagata in Barcelona.

Finding herself in a camera

Kāpiti Observer 27.04.2002 by K Gurunathan

Being a stranger in a strange land helped Japanese Mizuho Nishioka understand the universal language of loneliness - and empathy that won the Mel Philips Photo School

student first and third placing at the recent YWCA Women's Photography Competition. "When I first came I was very very lonely. Being a minority I looked for others the same as me," says Mizuho, who was given a camera as a child.

Why did this Tokyo lass choose to study in Kāpiti New Zealand? "I found the school through the internet. It was the only one starting a course in July last year. I am very lucky as it has been a very good choice."

Mel Philips who runs the school with Marie-Jean Mills and in partnership with Whitireia Community Polytechnic, says since the school has been advertised on the internet they have also had students from Hong Kong, Chile and North America. What's the future for Mizuho when the course finishes at the end of next month? "The school has given me knowledge and confidence. I would like some working experience in photography in this country," she says.



Mizuho Nishioka finds strength in weakness.

Our History: 2003

The number of students and programmes at Whitireia made a significant leap in 2003, with 4022 total EFTs studying across 108 full-time programmes.

In concert with the growth in student numbers, a long-awaited redevelopment plan for the Porirua campus was announced, with \$35 million proposed for a decade-long programme of new buildings, staggered into four stages. Council chair Chris Kirk-Burnnand said that the intention of the plan was to provide tertiary facilities of the same standards that students would expect elsewhere. "We're going to try and condense the campus, bring the buildings closer together, and provide more cover for students when it's wet."

At this early stage, the plan included the relocation of Te Onepu restaurant, the building of a new student services block (including a new library), the addition of a second story to the administration building, and a new auditorium. The plans and the rate of progress changed over the decade-long project, with Te Onepu staying where it was, the administration building remaining single-storied (albeit with some internal changes, including the relocation of Information & Enrolment into the Russell Marshall wing previously occupied by the library), and the old auditorium being remodelled, rather than replaced, when it became part of the Te Whare o Wikitoria Tehuruhuru Katene Whatu building. The proposed student services block and the new library did eventuate, though, and the construction of this would get underway in 2004, opening as the Athfield Architects-designed Te Kete Wānanga in 2005.

The first stage of the redevelopment plan began with the construction of the Athfield Architects-designed Business & Computing Centre, a \$6.6 million classroom block created to house business and information technology programmes.



Artist's impression of the Business & Computing Centre.

Several prefabricated buildings surrounding the courtyard of Te Rito Poipoiā were removed to make way for the new building, and in so doing began a move to open up the siloed squares of prefabs that had populated the campus since its early years. Deirdre Dale broke ground with members of Arrow International and work began on modernising the campus.



Deirdre Dale breaking ground for the Business & Computing Centre.

Iti Rearea

One change at the Porirua campus that was independent of the campus redevelopment plan was the renaming and renovation of the home of Te Wānanga Māori. In honour of kaumātua Ihakara Arthur, the building was renamed Iti Rearea, based on a whakatauaākī he frequently quoted: *Iti rearea teitei, kahikatea ka taea* ('Even though you are a small bird, you are still able to reach a pinnacle'). A tomokanga was added to the exterior of the building, with additional pou bordering the pebble-lined entrance.



The blessing of Iti Rearea, led by Wiremu Katene, Hekenukumai Busby and Karewa Arthur.

The building was blessed in a ceremony attended by several important visitors, including Ngāti Toa kaumātua Karewa Arthur, who led the blessing, founding Whitireia council member Taukiri Thomason, and master carver Hekenukumai Busby.



Staff and guests gather for the blessing of Iti Rearea.

In 2012, Te Wānanga Māori would relocate into the Business & Computing Centre to make way for the expanded Wikitoria Katene building. The tomokanga was moved to above an entrance facing the Atrium and unveiled in a blessing on 22 July, while other pou were incorporated elsewhere in the building.



Hekenukumai Busby greets Taukiri Thomason .

In the news

Polytechnic eyes \$35 million upgrade

Kapi Mana 08.04.2003

A \$35 million redevelopment proposal that will bring Whitireia Community Polytechnic's facilities into the 21st Century has been agreed to in principle by its council.

The project would see a four-stage upgrade over 10 years, that would include the relocation of the Estuary restaurant, a student services block including a new library, a second story added to the administration block, and a new auditorium.

Council chairperson, Chris Kirk-Burnnand said it was all very exciting, but there was still a long way to go before anything became definite. A business case was to be prepared by the polytechnic, then approval to be sought from the Ministry of Education and the Treasury Department, before final approval from Parliament.

The fastest-growing polytechnic in New Zealand, Whitireia had been considering redevelopment proposals for some time. The redevelopment would not have seen any land sold, an option that was presented in an unsuccessful proposal to the council last year.

Whitireia booms

Porirua News 20.08.2003, by Simon Smith

Whitireia Community Polytechnic had 22 per cent more students in 2003 than in 2002 and was the fastest-growing tertiary provider in the country at the time.

It continued its phenomenal effective full-time student growth of the past few years, chief executive Deirdre Dale says. "We were at least one of the fastest, if not the fastest-growing polytechnic in the country in 2002/3." But she expected the present rate will not continue, even though the effective full-time student growth was 23 per cent in 2002 and 26 per cent in 2001. "Growth for its own sake was not a good thing, but the growth reflected the high regard of the polytechnics reputation."

"A lot of it was international students, but also it was the new programmes catering for different needs," Ms Dale said.

The polytechnic had more than 3700 effective full-time students in 2003.



Vaune Mason and her Cathedral.

Tasty gems of design
Hutt News 14.10.2003

Everybody needs a little sanctuary and Whitireia Community Polytechnic student Vaune Mason has hers wrapped around her finger. Her sterling silver ring 'Cathedral' is just one of many creations by Diploma and Advanced Diploma jewellery design and visual arts students in *Tasty* - an exhibition running in Wellington City from 20 October.

Vaune says there is a strong architectural theme to her work, and it came from "an idea about the sanctuary, a place to be."

'Cathedral' was her term's work towards a Diploma of Jewellery Design, and the funky 'tower rings' have just kept on coming.

As well as exhibiting a collection of new works, *Tasty* will also be an introduction for most of the artists.

The cornerstone of the Whitireia courses is jewellery connoisseur Peter Deckers, who has worked in the contemporary jewellery field for over 20 years.

Tasty, Quoil Gallery, 149 Willis St, 20 October to 8 November.

Building Redevelopment
Under Construction @ Whitireia, 29.11.2003

Work on the new business centre is progressing with noticeable changes occurring every day.



1. A temporary road is created to allow access onto the construction site.



2. Essential drainage works in the foundations of the new building gets underway.



3. With drainage complete, shingle back-fill is laid to create a platform for the new building.



4. With formwork and reinforcing steel put in place the building floor is ready for concreting.

Over the next few months, staff and students will see significant progress as the new two-storey building takes shape and form. Design work is nearing completion and the project team are focusing on the finer details such as landscaping, artwork and interior finishes.

Our History: 2004

Exponential growth continued at Whitireia in 2004, with 4,569 total EFTs, 128 full-time programmes, 340 staff, and a \$6.5 million surplus from a total annual operating revenue of \$44 million.

Opening of Ūmanga Pakihi me te Hangarau Rorohiko, the Business & Computing Centre

The first stage of the Porirua campus redevelopment plan reached its conclusion with the opening of the Business & Computing Centre, Ūmanga Pakihi me te Hangarau Rorohiko, on 14 April by the Right Honourable Margaret Wilson. The first two-story building on campus, the Business & Computing Centre was designed to house the business and information technology programmes, and would later provide administrative space for the Faculty of Trades and Services, and a new home for Te Wānanga Māori. The build also included a redesign of the space around Te Rito Poipoiā with the creation of a new glazed shelter over a third of the courtyard, connecting the new building with the existing student services building.



The completed Business and Computing Centre with landscaping still a work in progress.

A central feature of the Business & Computing Centre was artwork, with several pieces installed for permanent display as part of the opening. A carving by Tuakana Holmes, which was unveiled by chief executive Deirdre Dale, greeted visitors at the northernmost entrance to the building, while in the central foyer still hangs a large triptych by James Molnar.



Unveiling by Deirdre Dale of the carving by Tuakana Holmes.

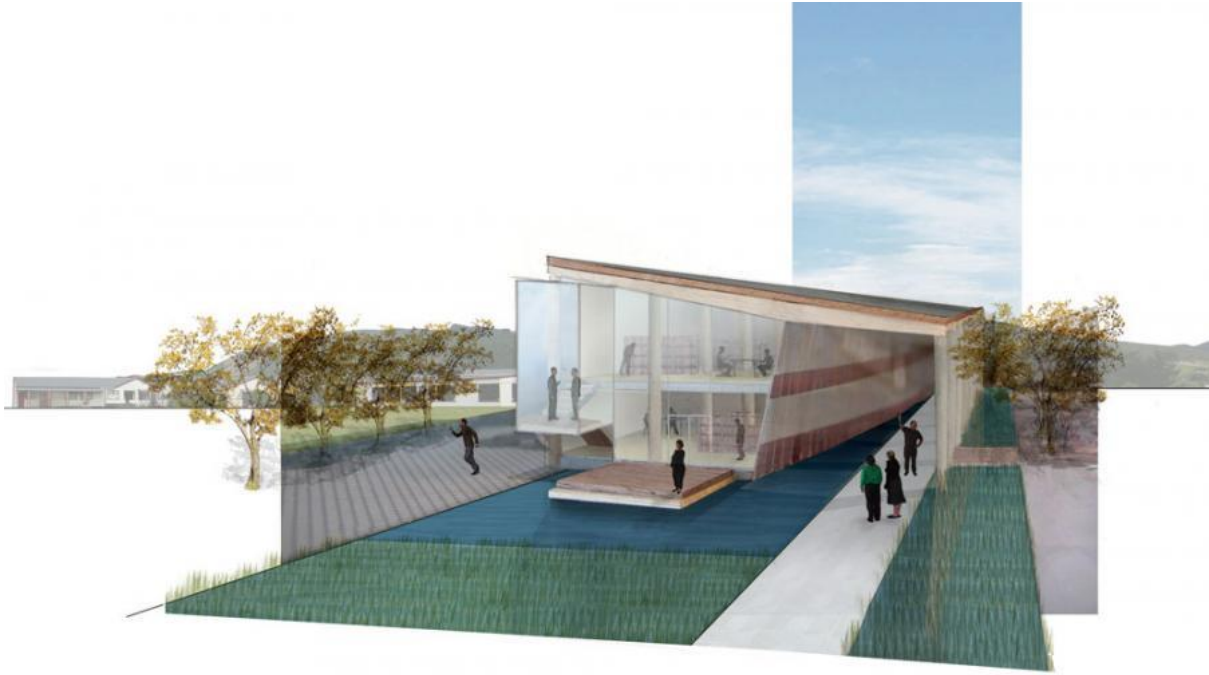
Dotted along the main hallway are display cases within which jewellery students, amongst others, have often exhibited small scale works over the years. To mark the opening, this ability to display artwork was put to good use with the hosting of *Flashpoint*, a retrospective of Whitireia visual arts graduate work displayed throughout the new building.



The foyer of the Business and Computing Centre during the opening of the building with the triptych by James Molnar on permanent display.

Work begins on Te Kete Wānanga

With Ūmanga Pakihi me te Hangarau Rorohiko completed, work began on the next stage of the Porirua campus redevelopment plan: Te Kete Wānanga. Designed by Athfield Architects, the building would provide a new home for learning services as well as the Porirua campus library, which since 1989 had been housed in the increasingly-cramped Russell Marshall wing of the Administration Building.



Perspective rendering of Te Kete Wānanga.

The building was designed to symbolise a waka and its shed, with a curved wall and continuous roof sheltering the vessel of knowledge, while a moat surrounded both, flowing into a repo or swamp, planted with reeds, which filtered the water before it reaches the harbour.



Various side renders of Te Kete Wānanga: southern profile (top), northern profile (middle) and northern profile with a cross-section view.

Farewell to Chris, hello to Dennis



Dennis Sharman.

Chris Kirk-Burnnand stood down as chair of the Whitireia council after six years in the role and a total of eight years on the council. Reflecting on his time as chair he spoke of the ethos of Whitireia: "We saw Whitireia as a centre of achievement for local people, meaning that we were very much focused on that. In our society today there's an attitude about equality of opportunity, but equality of opportunity is actually only opening a door, whereas what we were working on was trying to achieve equality of results... I don't ever remember walking away from there without people's stories touching my heart. That's why I felt lucky to be involved there."

Chris Kirk-Burnnand was replaced as chair by Dennis Sharman, whose appointment was announced in August of that year, with Suzanne Snively becoming deputy chair. Reflecting on his predecessor in that year's annual report, Dennis Sharman said: "Chris has always been extremely passionate about Whitireia and its success. Through his role as Council Chair, he guided the polytechnic through some of the most significant changes to happen in the tertiary sector."

Dennis Sharman brought with him a background in computer engineering and business and would hold the role until 2010 when ministerial appointment Roger Sowry became chair.

In the news

Last concert before taking it to the world

Kapiti Observer 15.06.2004

Stunning cultural performance group, Whitireia Performing Arts, will present two concerts next week before embarking on an international tour. The group, nominees for 2004 regional business awards, is a unique school within Whitireia Community Polytech's faculty of arts and communication.

The performance previews the show they will tour at international festivals in Canada, Belgium, Holland and the UK, says faculty manager Tim Renner. "This is a unique, dynamic, contemporary cultural experience of Aotearoa/New Zealand, by an award-winning group from Porirua."

The Farewell Celebration Concert includes guest artist, and 2003 graduate, Falani Kalolo, who recently returned from a study and performance season in the United States after winning a Creative New Zealand grant. The concert will be held at Pataka, June 24 and 25 at 7.30 pm.



Third-year students Tipene Wade, Alfie Collier, Hemi Whanga, Byron Taufai and Brandon Laulu.

Whitireia eyes town centre space to handle anticipated roll growth

Kapiti Observer 17.06.2004

Whitireia Polytechnic says an anticipated roll growth of more than 550 per cent have it looking at how it can best expand.

Management confirmed its interest in moving its Lindale campus to the council-owned 18-hectare Paraparaumu Civic Centre block. "We have indicated to Kāpiti Coast District Council our keenness to explore the possibility provided there is fiscal compatibility," said its chief executive Deirdre Dale to media.

She said Whitireia was planning to expand its services at the 10-acre Lindale campus but other options could be considered. Ms Dale said the ideas were first mooted at the last town centre design workshop held as part of the Community Plan process late last year. She said preliminary designs which included the gallery, arts centre and the polytechnic had been drawn up as part of the exercise.

If the proposal was successful the move would have been a return to the original wish of the polytechnic. In 1995 Whitireia wanted to site its Kāpiti campus in the town centre zone. "Planning for the town centre was however not ready. Unable to wait we sited it at Lindale," she said.

Whitireia owned its present Lindale site. Ms Dale said if the move was finalised it would mean a combination of relocating some of the current buildings and building new ones.

The chairperson calls it a day

Porirua City News 23.06.2004, by Peter Gibson

Prominent businessman and community leader, Chris Kirk-Burnnand is standing down as chairperson of Whitireia Community Polytechnic's governing council. Whitireia has been one of Mr Kirk-Burnnand's passions for eight years. He was appointed to the Whitireia council in 1996, quickly became deputy chair, and then chairperson in 1998.

Mr Kirk-Burnnand says he is sad to be leaving, but he was instrumental in setting up an eight-year time limit for council members in the first place. To him, polytechnics are vital because they teach vocational skills. With Whitireia, there is an added social benefit, as a significant number of students come from outside the educational mainstream. These are "second-chance students", in many cases welfare dependants, who, through learning, become providers instead.

In the eight years of Mr Kirk-Burnnand's involvement, Whitireia has exploded in size. Over 17,000 people studied one or more courses in 2003. This was equivalent to 4000 full-time students, up from about 1300 in 1996. It has annual revenues of \$45 million and was the second biggest employer in Porirua after the city council. In addition to the parent campus at Porirua, there are now facilities at Paraparaumu, on Lambton Quay, and in central Auckland. Whitireia is a flexible institution and copes with a broad range of students.

Student wins Dowse design award for wearing her art with honour

Kapi-Mana 13.07.2004

Quirky artwork celebrating the achievements of New Zealand women has won Whitireia Community Polytechnic student Lindsay Park a coveted Friends of the Dowse Award. She was one of only two students in the country who were awarded the \$500 merit prize. Her collection of medals *Is it all an act?* depicts important moments for women in New Zealand.

Her jewellery entry was developed through Origins, the flagship programme of the visual art department at Whitireia, where students take a deep look into their background.

As a mature student, Park was involved in the art world for many years before deciding to become an artist. In the late 1980s she ran a contemporary gallery in Wellington, 33 1/3 Gallery, which gave some of her tutors, including current jewellery tutor Peter Deckers, their first exhibition in New Zealand - well before they started teaching.



Lindsay Park's medals from the Is it all an act? Series.

Whitireia names a new chair
Kapi-Mana 17.08.2004

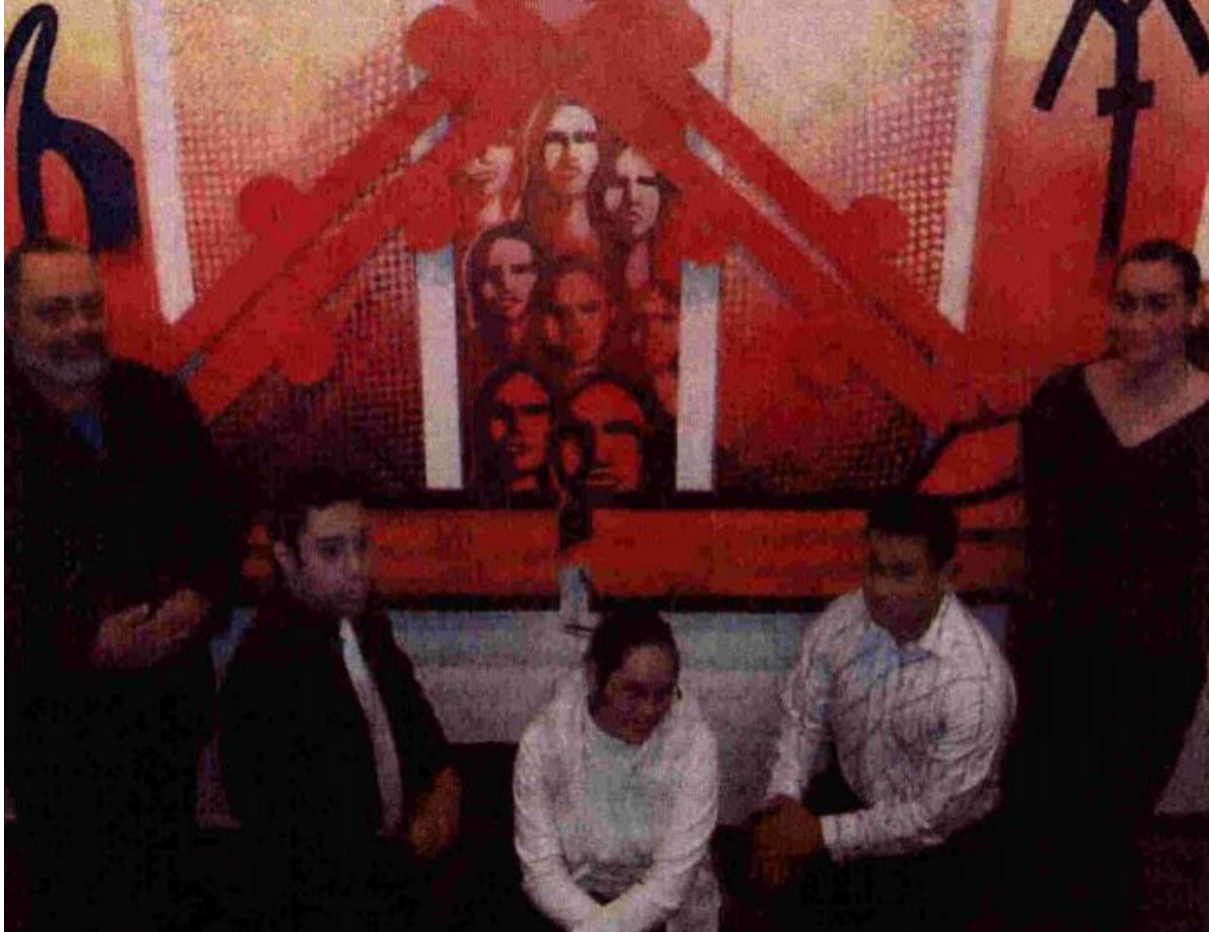
Whitireia Community Polytechnic has appointed Dennis Sharman as the new chairperson of its council. The Tawa resident and founder of Sharman Consulting Ltd replaces Chris Kirk-Burnnand, who has retired after eight years on the council. Whitireia Polytechnic anticipated a roll growth of more than 550 per cent and was looking at how it could best expand in 2004.

10 years' service celebrated in artwork
Kapi-Mana 19.10.2004

An artwork by Whitireia Community Polytechnic students, reflecting the essence of the Porirua Community Services Centre, was recently unveiled in Pember House. Called *Te Kotahitanga - Porirua*, the carved, painted and woven work encompasses "community groups working together."

Five panels represent ethnic groups from five continents - the middle one depicting their unique cultural features. Two woven panels show the combining of cultures, skills and knowledge which are supported by an ability to strive for achievement and success, as depicted by the outer panels. The colours are also significant: red for the blood running

through all people's veins, pink for European cultures, brown for dark-skinned ones, purple for the darkness that inhibits achievement and white for hope and peace - the light at the end of the tunnel.



Tutor and artist Wi Taepa and visual arts students Tamariki Ferguson, Ana Maea Chitara Whangapirita, Cameron Brockie and Tupe Rodgers with their work commissioned by the centre to celebrate ten years' service to the city.

Our History: 2005

The perpetual growth of the early 2000s began to level off in 2005 due to a number of factors, including relatively full employment and changes in the government funding of Adult and Community Education.

Buoyed by earlier growth, 2005 was the year that Whitireia gained a new award-winning building but also prepared to say goodbye to its second chief executive.

Te Kete Wānanga



Karewa Arthur at the blessing of Te Kete Wānanga.

The second stage of the Porirua campus redevelopment project was completed in 2005 when the \$7.5 million Te Kete Wānanga came in under budget, entirely funded by the previous year's operating surplus. The building was blessed in a whakanoa on 21 April by Ngāti Toa, led by kaumātua Karewa Arthur, in preparation for its official opening by Prime Minister Helen Clark a month later on 26 May.

The building provided a new home for a number of services, including the library, known as Te Wakahuia, on both floors, Learning Skills in the offices of the outrigger section of the

building's lower floor, and the Online Learning and Quality Development Centres on the second level.

Designed with curved wall and a continuous roof to symbolise a waka shed, the building is surrounded with a moat which flows into a repo or swamp, planted with reeds, which filters the water before it reaches the harbour. Inside, exposed concrete walls are used to moderate internal temperatures, are part of a passive ventilation system which allows for fresh air rather than air conditioning, while furnishings and the colour scheme reflect the exterior landscape and plantings.

For the opening, Prime Minister Helen Clark was welcomed by a karanga performed by the Ngāti Toa with putatara blown by Whitireia Performing Arts students. Accompanied by Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, chief executive Deirdre Dale and council chair Dennis Sharman, she entered a packed building filled with Whitireia staff and members of the community.



Prime Minister Helen Clark arriving at the Porirua campus for the opening of Te Kete Wānanga, with Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, chief executive Deirdre Dale and council chair Dennis Sharman.

The Prime Minister spoke to the importance of the new building and its library. "The main focus of the Learning Centre is the new library. I am someone who is very passionate about libraries and books. I believe libraries are one of the most important facilities any

educational institution at any level can offer its students, whether we're talking about our kindies, our schools, or anywhere in tertiary education."



Prime Minister Helen Clark speaks at the opening of Wikitoria Katene.

Te Kete Wānanga would go on to receive a number of awards from the New Zealand Institute of Architects, including the NZIA Resene Local Award for Architecture, the NZIA Wellington Branch Metro Glasstech Awards for Architecture 2005, and the NZIA Resene Colour Award. The landscaping around the building, designed by Wraight and Associates, also received an award in the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architect's 2006 Pride of Place Landscape Awards. The award summary described how: "the masterplan for Whitireia reverses the previous 'landscaping' approach on the site – using plants to screen nondescript buildings in different styles – by re-exposing the buildings and instead of developing strong axes and re-establishing a sort of wetland metaphor on the site. Buildings and associated boardwalk accessways now sit alongside sunken plantings of massed wetland species that echo site history."



Te Kete Wānanga western end at night.

Deirdre Dale announces her retirement

Just as her predecessor, Turoa Royal, had bid farewell to Whitireia after ten years at the helm, so Deirdre Dale announced her retirement in 2005, leaving the following year after a decade as chief executive, and after a total of sixteen years at the institution. Council chair Dennis Sharman remarked that "Deirdre's contribution to Whitireia and the wider tertiary sector has been significant. Deirdre has done a superb job and we wish her well for the future."

Deirdre Dale spoke to *Porirua City News* about her time at Whitireia and said that "The most satisfying part for me is seeing what it meant to people for realising their hopes, their dreams, their future. It can make a life-changing difference."



Deirdre Dale at the controls of Whitireia for ten years.

In the news

Whitireia polytech's muddy site will be 'fabulous' library *Kapi Mana 11.01.2005, by Rebecca Stevenson*

It may look more like a dirty swimming pool at the moment. But at the beginning of February students at Whitireia Community Polytechnic will be utilising all this new multipurpose building has to offer.

Housing the library and student services, the Athfield Architects-designed building will have its official opening in April. Marketing manager Alan Lough said it has cost about \$7.5 million to build. Section one will be finished in time for the first term. "I think it is fabulous. It's different, and it will look wonderful and appropriate, pointing out to the harbour."

A profusion of experiences reflected in mixed media *Kapi Mana 11.01.2005 by Moana Kousal*

Pro: fusion brings together work by Whitireia Community Polytechnic students who are completing a National Diploma in Visual Arts and the Advanced National Diploma in Visual Arts. It continues the tradition of 'Origins', a programme in which first and second-year visual art students study and research how personal identity impacts on their art. The title *Pro: fusion* reflects and celebrates the diversity of the students, who bring their individual cultural, spiritual and life experiences to their art.

Visitors to *Pro: fusion* will find works made using both traditional and experimental media, including printmaking, carving, clay, metalwork, painting, installation and fibre - on various surfaces, in individual styles.

Accompanying the exhibition is a yearbook with artists' statements and a page from student workbooks, illustrating their progression of ideas. There is also a continuous video presentation in which students discuss their work.

Pro: fusion runs at Pataka until February 6.



Prime Minister to open a new centre
Porirua City News 25.05.2005

Whitireia Community Polytechnic is combining an opening with an open day and a free show as closing on Thursday, May 26.

Prime Minister Helen Clark will start the day by officially opening the new Learning Centre at the Porirua campus. This building houses a number of functions at the heart of good student learning.

As well as the upgraded library, the Learning Skills Centre is housed in the building. This centre helps students develop the skills they need to study successfully. The high success rate of Whitireia students, in both finishing and graduating from courses, is due in part to this innovative learning skills centre.

It is also home for the Online Learning Centre, which is the hub of all the courses offered 'online' via the internet, and last but not least is the Quality Development Centre which ensures all programmes and courses offered at Whitireia are academically approved and recognised by the community as quality offerings.

Improved safety access to the campus.

Kapiti News 01.06.2005

Roading authority Transit has created a new intersection after safety concerns over access to the campus and the Lindale Complex.

Whitireia Independent Student Association president Greg Henderson said it had taken a long time for the intersection to be built but it meant people wouldn't have to tackle the dangerous State Highway 1 turn-off to get in and out of the campus, he said. The ceremony, on Monday, involved staff and students from the campus as well as a number of geese who took an interest.

Prime Minister visits Porirua

Porirua City News 01.06.2005

Prime Minister Helen Clark opened the new building, Te Kete Wānanga at the Whitireia Polytechnic open day last Thursday. Te Kete Wānanga is the online learning centre and home to both the upgraded library and the learning skills centre. Both Porirua and Kāpiti campuses were open to the public during the day, with people at the Porirua campus treated to a special performance by Che-Fu in the early evening.

Dale moves on from Whitireia

Kapi Mana 28.12.2005

Whitireia Community Polytechnic chief executive Deirdre Dale has resigned from the top job. Ms Dale has been chief executive of the polytechnic for nine years and says it seemed the right time to move on when she announced her retirement earlier this month. "I did try to retire a year ago but the council asked me to stay for a bit longer."

Ms Dale came to the polytechnic in 1989 as deputy chief executive, and then led Whitireia through a period of major expansion.

She says it was "very sad" to leave Whitireia and she is planning on staying in Plimmerton but is unsure what she would end up doing in the future.

As for the highlights of her time at Whitireia? There are too many to mention – but "the highlights always seem to be the ones that have just happened." The growth of the polytechnic to a standing of national significance is one thing she is proud of, and the Pacific culture at Whitireia, she says.

Whitireia Council chairperson Dennis Sharman said Ms Dale would be greatly missed by the students and staff who have benefited from her time at Whitireia.

Our history: 2006

In 2006, never one to miss a party, Whitireia celebrated its twentieth birthday in May, farewelled Deirdre Dale in August, and in September welcomed a new chief executive.

Twenty years young and a farewell to Deirdre Dale

On 26 May, Whitireia marked the completion of its second decade with a Pasifika-flavoured celebration in Te Kete Wānanga, a building that perfectly encapsulated the evolving Whitireia as a contemporary institution conscious of its past and guiding principles. Entertainment for the 500 guests was spread throughout the building on three different stages: a jazz band performed on stage three, a brass band with a guitar on stage one, and an acapella group on stage two, while performing arts students past and present performed Māori, Samoa and Cook Island repertoire across all three. Visual arts were represented too, with images projected on the sidewall, featuring the work of students Aidan Griffin, Natasha Millar, Jude Perry, Spring Rees, Michael Schlup and Kathryn Yeats. The event was described by coordinator Tim Renner as a very Whitireia-appropriate "cultural fusion" in the food as well as the entertainment.

To permanently commemorate the polytechnic's 20th birthday, a large contingent of the 500 staff employed at Whitireia assembled for a group photograph at the Porirua campus on Friday 19 May. The resulting panoramic shot captured a vast panoply of faces, some old, some new, outside the Business and Computing Centre with Te Kete Wānanga in the background.



Whitireia staff 2006.

Later in the year, Te Kete Wānanga was the location for another event when the polytechnic farewelled chief executive Deirdre Dale. Her time at Whitireia was celebrated on Thursday 31 August by polytechnic staff, and representatives of Porirua City, Ngāti Toa, and Pacific Island communities, along with MP for Mana, Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, and Porirua Mayor Jenny Brash.



The farewell cake for Deirdre Dale, our kete mātāuranga.

Whitireia Council chair Dennis Sharman paid tribute to Deirdre's commitment to Whitireia and to education within the community. "Student numbers and revenues are measures that the tertiary sector uses to indicate the success of an institution and, while I agree that they are important, these are only a small measure of Deirdre's contribution to Whitireia and to the communities that she has served over the years. Deirdre knows that we as an organisation have a social responsibility to help the communities because she knows that if you can breathe life and heart into a community then the community can grow."

Whitireia music students performed jazz, catering students prepared and served cocktails and cookery programme manager Nige Cox made a celebratory cake featuring woven harakeke icing and the three past logos of Whitireia. At an earlier staff event, Deirdre Dale was presented with a whale ivory brooch created by jewellery artist and tutor Owen Mapp, and flowers, which she described as "more beautiful than my wedding bouquet," from floristry tutor Megan Parker.

Don Campbell

In 2006, Whitireia welcomed its third chief executive, Don Campbell, who had spent the previous six years as the head of Tai Poutini Polytechnic on the West Coast. He was chosen from among 48 applicants, and Whitireia Council chair Dennis Sharman spoke to his talents, remarking that he would bring a wealth of expertise to Whitireia Community Polytechnic. "He has a proven track record of sound financial management and strong student growth at Tai Poutini and has demonstrated the ability to establish strategic partnerships with the local community... The tertiary sector will continue to undergo major change over the next few years. Don's appointment at Whitireia will ensure that we are well-positioned to provide an excellent vocational education for our students and to continue to make a significant contribution to the communities that we serve."

Don Campbell would spend nine years as Whitireia chief executive, continuing many of the developments begun by his predecessor, Deirdre Dale. He succeeded in growing the

institution, both in size, quality and reputation, and it was under his stewardship that key developments, including the growth of Whitireia in Kāpiti and Wellington, and the continued redevelopment of the Porirua campus, took flight.



Chief executive Don Campbell in 2010.

Performing Arts, breaking dance boundaries

It was another busy year for Performing Arts at Whitireia, with students performing at the 20th birthday celebration in Te Kete Wānanga, before heading off on their annual international tour. This year the destination was North America and the students held their farewell shows at the Hosanna Fellowship Centre in Cannons Creek, where they welcomed Sam Fuataga as a special guest artist. Sam Fuataga was an early student of the Performing Arts programme who, with Neil Ieremia, was a founding member of dance company Black Grace. Performing Arts would return to the Hosanna Fellowship Centre in November for another season, this time presenting almost entirely new work in graduate shows.

Whitireia Performing Arts "Breaking Dance Boundaries" Farewell and Celebration Show

JULY 6TH – JULY 7TH



Guest Artists:

Sam Fuataga - FOUNDED MEMBER OF 'BLACK GRACE'

Whitireia Soul - A CAPELLA

A UNIQUE, DYNAMIC CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL EXPERIENCE.

Venue:

Hosanna Fellowship Centre
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Cannons Creek

Date: July 6th – July 7th

Time: 7pm

Admission: Adults \$10 • Children \$5 • Door Sales only

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Performing Arts advertisement for farewell shows.

In the news

Back with a Berklee attitude

Kapi Mana 04.01.2006, by Rebecca Stevenson

Coming home was quite a culture shock for Andy Mauafua. The Whitireia Community Polytechnic lecturer and musician fulfilled a dream he had had since age 16 when he

attended the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, the USA in July of 2005. It was such a life-changing experience and the guitarist was still in somewhat of a daze and was working through the changes he would now make to his life.

"I learned heaps, and it was a lot to take in but when I came back everything has come back to me in my notes."

Mauafua went to Berklee to train with the best musicians from around the globe, and to be taught from top performers who had become internationally successful. While he expected to be pushed professionally, what was unexpected was the personal journey he also undertook.

"One of the great things about the course was just learning about the music industry and how to make a career out of it. They show you all the possibilities and talk about the importance of improving life skills and making sure you are making ethical judgements – they helped us out as a whole."

The course itself was days of practising, playing, studying and talking to the tutors and other students. Most of all, he says he learned never to lower his standards and to always strive for the best – an attitude he is now taking back to his students. Now it is crucial to him that other Pacific Islanders see what they can achieve. "Some of them think they are disadvantaged in some way, I just want them to know we can do things. I pushed myself on. I didn't want to be left behind."

Andy Mauafua is looking forward to returning to Boston someday in the future.

Waka design wins national award

Kapi Mana 06.06.2006, by Rebecca Stevenson

Whitireia Community Polytechnic's Te Kete Wānanga had garnered a national architecture award. The building, which houses both the polytechnic's library and learning centre, won a New Zealand Institute of Architects Resene Award for Architecture on May 27, 2006.

The building is modelled on a wharewaka, used for housing canoes. It's curved like a waka and is bordered by a pond, planted out with reeds, which leads into a native wetland. Designed by Athfield Architects, it is a fusion of Athfield's signature industrial look and the warmth of the natural surroundings, says Whitireia library manager Heather Bradley.

She says the two-storey library complex is fabulous to work in as the extensive use of glass makes it light and cosy, but most importantly it embraces the spectacular view over the Porirua Harbour.

New Whitireia boss comes with Southland credentials

Kapi Mana 13.06.2006, by Sean Gillespie

Whitireia Community Polytechnic has lured the head of one of the South Island's most successful polytechs to be its new boss. Don Campbell, head of Tai Poutini Polytechnic in Greymouth, took up the job of chief executive to replace Deirdre Dale.

Mr Campbell is well-known in the South Island for introducing a no-fees policy at Tai Poutini's Greymouth campus in 2005 and continuing the year with a \$4.2 million surplus. He says it was too early to say whether such a policy could be implemented at Whitireia, but was interested in what the community sees as a good idea.

"My preference is to make tertiary education more affordable and accessible, but you still have to make sure the polytechnic remains viable as a business."

Whitireia Council chairman Dennis Sharman says Mr Campbell's comprehensive knowledge of the tertiary sector and his strategic understanding of the key issues are significant factors in his appointment. "My preference is to make tertiary education more affordable and accessible, but when it comes down to it you still have to make sure the polytechnic remains viable as a business."

Originally from Dunedin, he was in Northland for 22 years and had lived on the West Coast for six years. He is married with three children – two daughters and a son – as well as two grandchildren, who live in Titahi Bay. His wife, Liz, is a professional counsellor working in child and adolescent mental health in Greymouth.

At Whitireia, Mr Campbell takes responsibility for a polytechnic that has experienced rapid growth. It had more than 500 staff and 7185 Kiwi and international students at campuses in Porirua, Kāpiti, Wellington and Auckland in 2006.

Happy birthday

City Life News 31.05.2006, by Andrew Bonallack

Whitireia Community Polytechnic showed off the creme of its student talent at its 20th-anniversary party last Friday evening, held in their library Te Kete Wānanga. Current and returning performing arts students entertained up to 500 invited guests with Pacific Island dance and song; catering students prepared and served whole spit-roasted pigs, and hospitality students kept the food and drink flowing amongst the guests.

Whitireia programme manager for performing arts Gaylene Sciascia says it was a wonderful night. "It's nice to pause for a moment and celebrate these things. A lot of staff have been here from the start - it's been a real journey."

Porirua city councillor Naureen Palmer says she could remember the Whitireia of "a few prefabs" 20 years ago. "I haven't been here for untold years - I walked in tonight and wow!"



Whitireia Performing Arts students perform at the 20th birthday celebration.

Whitireia Polytechnic Chief Executive farewelled

Dominion Post 02.09.2006

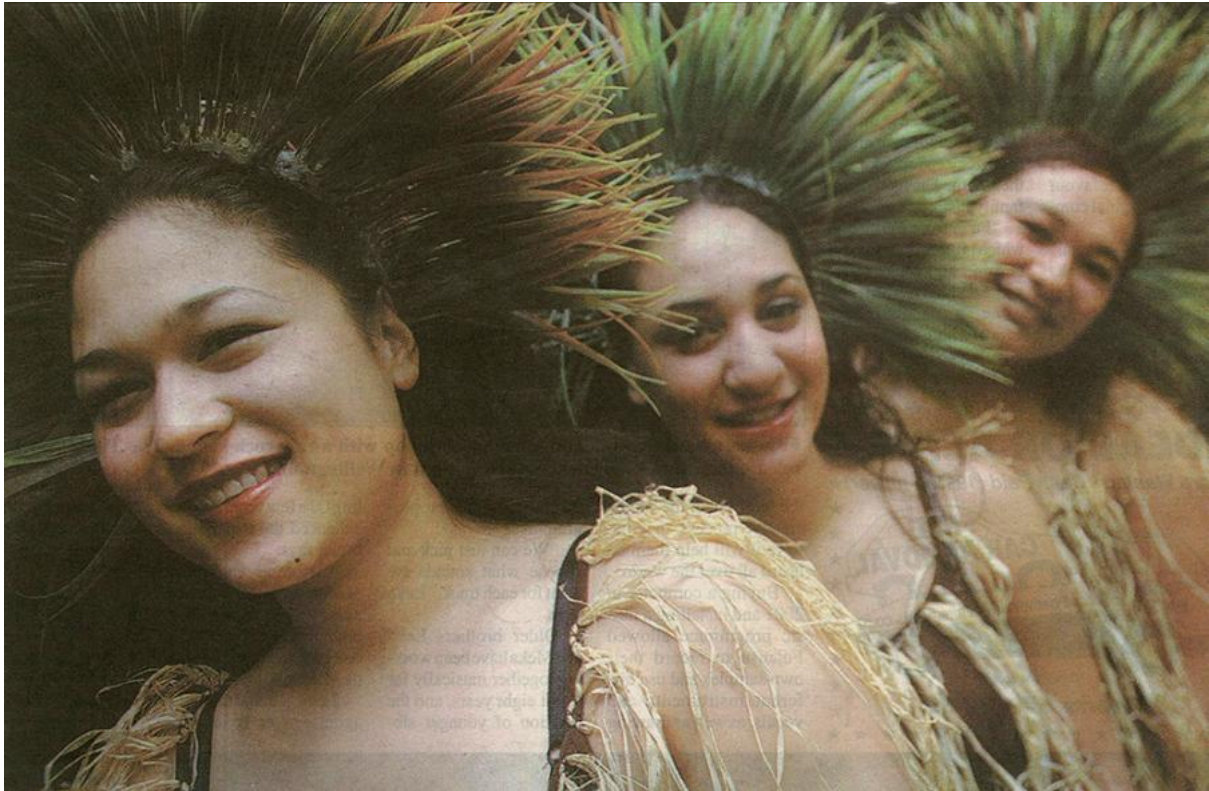
It's farewell to Whitireia Polytechnic chief executive Deirdre Dale, who stood down from the top job after more than 16 years with the tertiary institution. And she was sent off in style in September 2006 with Whitireia music students performing a jazz selection in her honour and catering students preparing and serving cocktails. At an earlier function, floristry tutor, Megan Parker presented her with flowers which Ms Dale says were "more beautiful than her wedding bouquet."

Graduates to shine at Whitireia finale

Kapi Mana 21.11.2006, by Rebecca Stevenson

Fresh faces and costumes await those who get along and see Whitireia Performing Arts' Graduation Show for 2006. Uplifting, contemporary theatre is being showcased from today, with afternoon and evening performances being held at Hosanna Fellowship Church until December 2.

Recently back from a successful international tour in America, Whitireia graduating students are promising an exciting, original experience with an almost entirely new show.



Acting up at hip hop high

Kapi Mana 12.12.2006, by Kate Bleasdale

The acting was something Vanepale Sopoega had never done professionally until a couple of months ago. Hip hop dancing wasn't really his forte either.

However, the Pukerua Bay resident and former performing arts student of Whitireia Community Polytechnic managed to land the role of hip hop-dancing Hone Kingi in TV2's series, *Karaoke High*, set to air while *Shortland Street* took a break over the summer of 2006.

"It was hard out," Vane says about going for the audition with classmate Halaifonua Finau. "I'd never been to Avalon before ... we kept seeing random famous people walk past."

Both auditioned for the role of Hone, which Vane managed to get, while Halaifonua was given the role of Matu Johnson, another hip hop student. Because he'd never done a proper audition before, Vane says he took it "as more of a laugh" rather than a serious opportunity but it paid off for him then came the hard part – learning hip hop dancing. Although he had an advanced diploma in the more traditional Haka, Vane says learning the hip hop technique was "pretty tricky" and is proud to say all the dancing is done by him, with no doubles.

Our History: 2007

The Whitireia campus redevelopment plan resumed in 2007, with several projects getting underway, ensuring that the following year would be a veritable year-long season of openings.

In August, the ground was broken on the site for what was then referred to as the HEdSS (Health, Education and Social Sciences) building and work swiftly began.



Don Campbell and staff at the groundbreaking for Wikitoria Katene on 28 August 2007, with the original lecture theatre behind them.

Construction would continue on the building into the new year and ten months later it was officially opened by Prime Minister Helen Clark on Wednesday 18 June 2008.



Artist impression of the new health building.

A royal visit

Tongan Princess Salote Mafile'ō Pilolevu Tuita visited to open a new student hostel for Tongan students at Whitireia. Tongan students and some of the city's 2500 Tongan residents were among 200 people who turned out for a pōwhiri at Ngāti Toa's Takapūwāhia Marae, the formal opening of the new hostel, and a hākari (feast) which served traditional hangi and Tongan raw fish.



Princess Salote Mafile'o Pilolevu Tuita welcomed to Takapūwāhia Marae.

In the news

Top photographer

Kapiti Observer, 18.01.2007

A week at one of America's most prestigious schools of photography has fired up a Whitireia graduate photographer towards her goal of working in the fashion industry. Kate McPherson was in the first intake of students to enrol in the Whitireia Practical Certificate of Photography in 2000 and go through the second course, the Certificate in Advanced Photography, in 2001. Both courses were offered in association with the Photo School in Paraparaumu. On graduating she worked as an assistant to a photographer, before starting her own business in 2002.

Last year she won a scholarship from the New Zealand Institute of Professional Photographers to study for a week at the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California. McPherson said she had a pressure cooker week with Jason Madara, based in San Francisco. "As a person, he was inspiring," she said.

Polytech expands to meet the growing demand for trades

Kapi-Mana News, 01.05.2007, by Kate Bleasdale

The first physical step towards Whitireia Community Polytechnic's new automotive training building was made last week when chief executive Don Campbell turned the first sod. As

part of extending the Industry Training Centre on Mohuia Crescent, the automotive building will be moved from its current position on Prosser Street to a purpose-built facility.

Faculty of Service Industries and Trades dean Stephen Wickens said by having all of the trades on offer at the one place, the polytechnic could provide students with more services.

Trades have been a growth area for the polytechnic over the last few years. We provide people with the necessary skills that will make them attractive for apprenticeships. Mr Wickens said in 2001 they had 15 students signed up for the automotive course. This year they have over 70.

The new building will be paid for by the sale of the Prosser Street property.



Takirangi Smith.

Whakairo tutor brings taonga to Native America
Kapi-Mana News, 24.04.2007

Whitireia master Māori carver Takirangi Smith will spend the next three months working with Native American artists at a Washington university.

Chosen for excellence in whakairo (Māori carving) by Te Waka Toi, the Māori Arts Board of Creative New Zealand, Mr Smith will be in Washington until June.

Mr Smith is the whakairo tutor at Whitireia Community Polytechnic in Porirua. In September last year, he led a team of carvers who made five metre-high gateways for the Montana

World of Wearable Art Awards Shows. The design was a fusion of Māori motifs and contemporary materials.

Over recent years the Whitireia course has gone from strength to strength. Mr Smith sees the difference between whakairo and other art forms as being about whakapapa.

Top Journalist to head Journalism school at Whitireia
E-News, August 2007

Jim Tucker, one of New Zealand's best-known journalism educators and media commentators, is to head the Whitireia journalism school in Porirua. He brings outstanding skills and reputation both as a journalist and educator and will bring a leading edge to our journalism programmes. Several new developments in our journalism offerings will be announced over the next period of time under Jim's leadership.

Jim says he welcomes the chance to move back to teaching. Teaching the next generation is my first love and I'm looking forward to the possibilities Whitireia offers." Jim has 42 years' experience as a journalist, editor, journalism lecturer and education administrator and is editor/author of the two basic journalism training textbooks used throughout New Zealand.

Our History: 2008

2008 was a year of openings for Whitireia with the introduction of several new buildings and spaces at the Porirua campus, as well as a renewed campus for trades at Mohuia Crescent in Elsdon.

The year began with students arriving at a Porirua campus in flux, and with progress on the new Atrium underway, pōwhiri was instead held in the main carpark, as construction on the Wikitoria Katene building continued in earnest behind the seated manuhiri.



New students arrive for semester one pōwhiri 2008.

Arts Centre building



Ambassador Bienvenido Te Jano speaks at the opening of the C400 arts building.

In May, part of the Whitireia arts faculty took up residence in a new location at the Porirua campus. The building on the corner of Wi Neera Drive and Tutu Place had been formerly occupied until 2005 by the Mana Education Trust, and now became home to the art faculty's music programmes, as well as senior academic staff and administrators. To mark the opening of the new building an event was held, highlighting recent artistic endeavours in the Philippines by Whitireia arts staff and students.

The building was officially opened by Philippine Ambassador to New Zealand, Bienvenido Te Jano, who spoke of the profound effect that the Whitireia fashion, music, artwork and jewellery had had on the Philippines' creative community. Porirua Mayor Jenny Brash also spoke to the value of the Whitireia arts programme, saying "It's a terrific resource for the huge amount of talent in this city and plays an important part in our development."

Edited excerpts of the Manila fashion show were screened, followed by performances from DJ Raw, Creative Writing tutor Hinemoana Baker, and Whitireia Performing Arts students. As the centrepiece of the evening's entertainment, contemporary dance tutor Cathy Livermore performed a work based around the poem *Rain* by Hone Tuwhare, wearing a voluminous dress created by textile students and with musical accompaniment by Hinemoana Baker.

Opening of Te Whare o Wikitoria Tehuruhuru Katene Whatu

The flagship of the campus redevelopment programme for 2008 was a new Athfield Architects-designed building for the nursing and teaching programmes. The building had been referred to during a lengthy planning period with the rather less than poetic working title of the HEdSS (Health, Education and Social Sciences) building. But on completion, the decision was made to officially name it Te Whare o Wikitoria Tehuruhuru Katene Whatu, or Wikitoria Katene for short, in honour of a widely respected Ngāti Toa nurse, affectionately known as Aunty Wiki. In the submission to the council in which her name was suggested, it was noted that Wikitoria Katene had been "a courageous and brave woman who ventured out into the world and made a difference to the lives of many people. Her spirit and courage reflect the wairua of her people (Ngāti Toa) and her caring, unselfish nature and willingness to work within the community reflects the Whitireia values of manaakitanga and partnership."

Te Whare o Wikitoria Tehuruhuru Katene Whatu incorporated and renovated the existing lecture theatre that had been on site since 1992 and provided classrooms, offices and meeting rooms, with a low carbon footprint and environmentally sustainable features.

The building was opened by Prime Minister Helen Clark on Wednesday 18 June, with Whitireia staff and Performing Arts students welcoming her to Porirua campus with a waiata. After speeches within the new building to assembled staff, members of the Katene family and other representatives of Ngāti Toa, the Prime Minister unveiled a plaque and portrait of the building's namesake to open the building, before watching a final performance from Whitireia Performing Arts students beneath a gloaming sky and going on a tour of the facilities.



Prime Minister Helen Clark arrives at the Porirua campus and watches a waita by Whitireia staff and students.

The opening of Te Whare o Wikitoria Tehuruhuru Katene Whatu coincided with the introduction of the Bachelor of Nursing Māori which was first announced by chief executive Don Campbell at an earlier blessing of the building by Ngāti Toa in May of that year.



Te Whare o Wikitoria Tehuruhuru Katene Whatu at night.

Five years after its opening, Te Whare o Wikitoria Tehuruhuru Katene Whatu was temporarily handed over to Maycroft Construction in a morning ceremony on Monday, 17 September 2012, as it became incorporated into a new health building then under construction. On completion in 2013, the larger building took the name of its smaller predecessor, becoming Wikitoria Katene, and the portrait of Aunty Wiki originally unveiled by Prime Minister Helen Clark was moved into its new home.

Industry Training Centre

A renovated and renamed Industry Training Centre at Mohuia Crescent was opened on 9 July by Tertiary Education Minister Pete Hodgson, accompanied by Associate Economic Development Minister and MP for Mana Luamanuvao Winnie Laban.

"This building will assist in training our carpenters, plumbers, gasfitters, drain-layers, roofers, road transport operators, electrical and automotive engineers of the future - people who are vital for sustaining New Zealand's economy," Pete Hodgson said.

He acknowledged that Whitireia was already known for its strong links to the Porirua community and having listened carefully to the skill needs of business and the wider community, had committed to increasing its focus on trades training.



Hon. Chris Finlayson speaking at the December opening of the Atrium at the Porirua campus.

In the Atrium

The year at Whitireia concluded with a series of events within the newly completed Atrium at Porirua campus. The Atrium was purpose-built to provide a sheltered communal area with enough space to cater for large groups and provide an appealing outdoors area for students and staff to share. It incorporated the existing cafeteria and Te Rito Poipoiā – the student services building, with a state of the art inflated roof made from the same materials used in the Water Cube (Beijing National Aquatics Center) at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The Atrium was opened on 19 December by Hon. Chris Finlayson, Minister of Arts Culture and Heritage and Attorney General, and was followed by the traditional Whitireia staff Christmas function. Hon. Chris Finlayson spoke of maintaining close ties with Whitireia Community Polytechnic after a long period of involvement that began with political debates early in his career. He also committed to working alongside Mayor Jenny Brash and local MP Winnie Laban to ensure the needs of the community and polytechnic would be met in the New Year. Hekia Parata, Mayor Jenny Brash and Russell Marshall were among the special guests at the opening. A number of staff turned up to the event, happy to celebrate recent campus developments. "It was great to have lots of people turn up for the opening," said Natalie Manos from the Marketing and Communications team. "You can see the Atrium is going to be put to good use in the future and is a valuable new development for the Polytechnic."

The opening was followed by the annual staff Christmas function. With carol singers, awards for the recent staff walkathon, best silly head-dress, spot prizes and plenty to eat and drink, it was a fine way to end a successful year. "Everyone had a ball and the food was great," said Jo Prestwood, Whitireia Events Co-ordinator.

The Atrium was used four days prior to its official opening to host 2,000 students and invited guests in two graduation ceremonies, marking the first time that programmes from all Whitireia faculties had graduated in a single day. Students from the Arts and Communications Faculty and the Service Industries and Trades Faculty graduated at the ceremony at 10 am, while the 4 pm ceremony saw the turn of students from Health, Education and Social Sciences and Te Wānanga Māori.



Suzanne Snively (Whitireia Council member 2002 – 2013) and Don Campbell (chief executive) lead the procession of guests and senior staff into graduation in the Atrium.

The combined graduation allowed us "to celebrate in the best way possible by acknowledging and rewarding our students for their success" said chief executive Don Campbell. "This also allows us to really live our vision which is to lead and illuminate our communities."



Performing Arts students perform at graduation in the Atrium.

In the news

Cuba Street a perfect fit for Whitireia ***Kapi Mana News, 29.01.2008***

Whitireia Community Polytechnic is taking a considerable stake in the Wellington city education market, having acquired a prime space in Cuba Mall. The move is an attempt to target students markets, to enable the development of purpose-built flexible teaching spaces and resources within the ongoing alignment of qualifications to the needs of employers and industry.

Voted 'world's seventh funkier street' by internet travel writers, Cuba Street is a strong fit for the profile of Whitireia programmes in Wellington says its chief operating officer Pat Stuart. "We felt that it would give us a great location that matches the suite of communication programmes we offer in journalism and publishing."

Opening next month, the new location (above Olive cafe, near the bucket fountain) is far more suitable than the existing Wellington city location, says Ms Stuart.

Students crank it up for NZ Music ***Kapi Mana 13.05.2008***

Music student Liang Liang was one of many who took to the stage at Whitireia Polytechnic's recent music gig *Crank It Up*. Held on May 5 to celebrate New Zealand Music Month, the gig

saw performances from the polytechnic's foundation and Bachelor of Applied Arts (Music) students, with many taking the opportunity to show off their own songs and compositions.

Whitireia Bachelor of Applied Arts (Music) programme leader Dan Adams says he is hoping to hold similar gigs in the future as they encourage more students to create their own work. "It's a perfect opportunity for the students to follow their hearts and go with it, sometimes music isn't about writing it down but more just creating it and letting it out," he says.

Makeover makes Whitireia world-class

The Dominion Post, 05.06.2008

A multi-million dollar makeover of Whitireia Community Polytechnic, built on the shores of Porirua Harbour, is creating a world-class facility, says chief executive Don Campbell. As he surveys the building work and looks out across the harbour, he is clearly pleased with the progress. "This is the best site for a campus in the country."



Whitireia Community Polytechnic Chief Executive Don Campbell checks out the multi-million dollar building projects transforming the Porirua City campus.

And it's just getting better, with a long-term \$25 million building programme nearly completed. This month a new \$5 million health, education and social services building at the Porirua campus will be opened by Government, next month the polytechnic's revamped Trades Training Centre in Elsdon and its new Wellington Cuba Mall campus will be officially opened, and work is well underway on a massive covered atrium at the heart of the Porirua campus. "If you want world-class tertiary education you can't be operating out of temporary prefabricated buildings," says Mr Campbell.

The new health, education and social services building has been designed by Athfield Architects, who were responsible for the award-winning Te Kete Wānanga library and learning centre. It is to be named Wikitoria Te Huru Katene Whatu, after the Porirua nurse who served in World War Two and then returned home to work to rehabilitate injured soldiers. Her work was recognised with a Queen Service Medal and a military award for commendable service.

The building, which links to a state of the art lecture theatre, has a low carbon footprint and incorporates many environmentally sustainable features. It will house classrooms, staff offices, meeting rooms and administration services, as well as the polytechnic's nursing, paramedic, early childhood, and community and social work degree courses. It is due to be formally opened on June 18 by Prime Minister Helen Clark.

The commanding building is right at the Whitireia entrance in Porirua and work has included modifications to that entrance with extensive landscaping. "We've uplifted and upgraded the whole entry to campus," says Mr Campbell. "I think everyone feels proud when they're being educated in good quality surroundings... Here is an educational institution of the highest standing and Porirua deserves it."

Our History: 2009

It was a year of firsts for arts degree programmes offered at Whitireia in 2009, with the first students graduating from the Bachelor of Applied Arts, and the performing arts specialisation moving into Wellington.

Graduation at Te Rauparaha Arena

In what would come to be an ongoing tradition, the year's major graduation was held at the then recently opened Te Rauparaha Arena in Porirua. Nearly 300 students graduated, including the first students to complete the three years Bachelor of Applied Arts with specialisations in creative writing, music, performing arts and visual arts and design.

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



Graduates in Te Rauparaha Arena.

National list MP Hekia Parata was the speaker for the ceremony and was joined by other guests, including Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Laban MP, Open Polytechnic chair Douglas Langford, chair of the Education Forum Russell Marshall, Grant Klinkum from the Tertiary Education Commission, the executive director of the Porirua Chamber Simon Calvert, chief

executive of Wellington Free Ambulance Alan O'Beirne, Graeme Hansen of the Tawa Community Board, and the deputy principal of Tawa College Geoff O'Halloran.

Performing Arts moves to the Wellington Performing Arts Centre

2009 was also a year that saw a farewell to locations that had served their occupants well as the Whitireia performing arts and stage and screen arts programmes moved from Porirua into the Wellington Performing Arts Centre. Whitireia had bought the Wellington Performing Arts Centre in December of the previous year, acquiring both the building at 36 Vivian Street and the centre's suite of accredited programmes, which were now offered from a new PTE company, Whitireia New Zealand Limited. This allowed Whitireia to broaden its range of performance programmes, adding options in commercial dance and musical theatre. Established in Newtown in 1987 under the leadership of Jenny and Jim Stevenson, the Wellington Performing Arts Centre had grown to become one of the largest providers of community-level performing arts education centres in New Zealand, offering certificate and diploma courses in performing arts, acting, dance and singing.

Although never permanently based at the Porirua campus, both the performing arts and stage and screen arts programmes had, prior to the move, always been located in Porirua. For most of its life, the Whitireia cultural performing arts programme had been run from studio space at Pātaka, and its predecessor Page 90, while the stage and screen arts programmes, operating as the New Zealand College of Performing Arts, had made its home in facilities in the grounds of Keneperu Hospital.



Stage and Screen Arts programme leader Richard Finn packing before the move to Wellington.

Alan Palmer was appointed to manage the new incarnation of the Performing Arts Centre, as well as the existing Whitireia campus in Cuba Mall. He spoke to the vision for the new performing arts campus, noting that "the resources Whitireia brings to the arts centre is going to add a new dimension. Whitireia benefits by bringing students into the heart of the theatre district, close to city amenities. We can make great use of dedicated studio space and all students in the Wellington Performing Arts Centre will be able to use the Cuba campus resources like computer suites. My aim is to build on the great legacy that Jenny and Jim leave to create the Wellington Performing Arts Centre as a centre of excellence for all Performing Arts in New Zealand."



The Wellington Performance Centre on Vivian Street.

The renamed Whitireia Performing Arts Centre would be home to Whitireia performance programmes for only two years, and in 2011 they would all relocate almost directly across the road to a new site at 25 Vivian Street, opening on 9 June as the Whitireia Performance Centre. The performance programmes would remain at the Whitireia Performance Centre until 2018 when they relocated once more into the purpose-built environs of Te Kāhui Auaha on the corner of Dixon Street and Cuba Mall.

Paramedic Learning Centre

In March, Prime Minister John Key opened a new Paramedic Learning Centre at the Porirua campus. After offering the Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic) at Whitireia for five years, the programme had grown considerably in size and the need for a dedicated laboratory and learning space was realised with the new Learning Centre which was developed by refitting existing prefabricated buildings.

"The degree has an excellent reputation," said programme leader Mary Manderson. "The numbers of enrolments grow each year and we have reached the point where we need dedicated facilities."

The Paramedic Learning Centre would be the home for the paramedic programme until the opening of Wikitoria Katene in 2013 when all Whitireia health programmes moved into its state-of-the-art facilities.



Prime Minister John Key cuts the ribbon to open the Paramedic Learning Centre.

Performing Arts went to Spain

On their regular international peregrination, Whitireia Performing Arts went to Spain for 2009, performing at various folk festivals in Segovia, Burgos and in Portugalete in the Basque country. During the trip, the students engaged in a range of different activities, from street parades to workshops and midnight performances.

"We have been doing this trip for fifteen years now," said Tuaine Robati, the Artistic Director for Performing Arts. "It is a great opportunity for all of us. The festivals are all about bringing the 'world' to the towns and the students take great pride in representing New Zealand internationally."

"Performing every day, sharing our stories and inspiring people through interaction is one of the best experiences," said second-year Bachelor of Applied Arts (Performing Arts) student Evan Fuimaono.



Performing Arts students in Spain in 2009.

In the news

Acting students on the move ***The Wellingtonian 05.02.2009***

After 18 years of entertaining the Porirua community, Whitireia performing arts students are looking forward to working in a new studio in central Wellington. Bachelor of Applied Arts students and staff are moving to the Wellington Performing Arts Centre, which Whitireia bought last month. Acting programme manager Mary-Rose Royal says that even though the move will increase the school's presence in the city, they hope to retain their links with Porirua.

The Bachelor of Applied Arts (Performing Arts) is the only kind of its course and includes the study of Samoan, Cook Islands, Māori and contemporary New Zealand dance.

Degree's aim: nurse Maori back to health ***Newswire 26.02.2009***

A new degree for Māori nurses is aimed at boosting a health workforce struggling to provide effective care for some of New Zealand's sickest people. The three-year programme targets

students with Māori ancestry (whakapapa), or some language skills (te reo), and is due to start in July at Whitireia Community Polytechnic in Porirua.

Head of Nursing Studies, Dr Margaret Southwick, has family links with Tuvalu. She has run the successful Pacific programme in nursing for the past five years, together with the mainstream nursing degree. She says adding the new degree seeks to tackle a long history of poor statistics for Maori in New Zealand.

“Our current workforce, for a variety of reasons, doesn’t seem to be able to address Maori people’s health needs,” she says. “We believe that developing a nursing workforce that is more closely identified with their own community can perhaps be a contribution to turning some of those health statistics around.”

A major difference of the course will be having a Maori perspective featuring ideas of whanau (family) and wairua (spirituality) as a starting point and then incorporating nursing science and knowledge. Graduates will be registered by the Nursing Council in the same way as other nurses but their journey to that point is different, says Dr Southwick. “The students will still need to meet the requirements of being a registered nurse.”

\$3m to Porirua arts centre

Kapi-Mana News 08.09.2009

A world-class performing arts centre in Porirua is 'halfway there' thanks to a \$3 million commitment towards its construction from the Whitireia Community Polytechnic Council. The funding matches the amount already committed by Porirua City Council, meaning almost half of the estimated \$13.5m cost to build the centre is spoken for. The Whitireia council also matched PCC's allocation of \$100,000-a-year towards operating costs for the facility's first five years.

A council-polytech partnership to build a performance centre was first mooted in 2004, when PCC pulled the plug on a \$25m sports and arts centre combo due to its impact on rates, and instead progressed the recreation centre redevelopment.

The Trust is comprised of a partnership between PCC, Whitireia, Ngati Toa Rangatira and Porirua Community Arts Council.

The polytechnic will use the centre for its performing arts and music programmes, and graduations, but it is expected to be managed by the Trust as a community resource and used for activities such as amateur theatre and school performances. The complex will be purpose-built to accommodate world-class acts and the design future-proofed for further expansion as needs and funds allow. Though dependent on funding, Ms Dale says "if everything goes wonderfully", the centre could be ready by 2012.



Next big thing: Senior visual arts and design students from Whitireia Community Polytechnic (from left) Kym Bourke, Chris Apisai, Lisa-Jane Myres and Rochelle Maroon-Neale.

Art students have given their time to shine

Kapi Mana 01.12.2009 by Esther Lauaki

A group of students are hoping to be the next "big thing" on the local art scene. Budding artists will get their time in the limelight at Pataka Museum and Gallery through the *Purapura Whetu: Myriad of Stars* exhibition. It is a display of Whitireia Community Polytechnic Visual Arts and Design students' final year's work, including printmaking, painting, photography, bone carving and jewellery.

Whitireia programme manager for visual arts, Rudy Whitehead-Lopez says he's excited about the show. "There's some fabulous work on the show. Our jewellery is something that usually shines and this year is no exception. We have more painters than we've seen in

previous years and that's something we're trying to build on." He says it is also the first time the exhibition has featured work by digital design students.

Senior student Anna Nelson says *Purapura Whetu: Myriad of Stars* is a vibrant collection of diverse and dynamic works. "These artworks are the culmination of a year of experimentation and hard work by degree students in their second and third years. It's a good opportunity for anyone interested in art to see what's on offer."

Our History: 2010

2010 was a record year for enrolments at Whitireia with domestic enrolments having to be curtailed from July in order to meet the Tertiary Education Commission's imposed cap.

In the news

Porirua runway rookies thread together fashions for cancer fundraiser *Kapi-Mana News 18.05.2010, by Kris Dando*

Fifteen Whitireia Community Polytechnic Bachelor of Applied Arts (Visual Art) students - 13 of whom are in their first year of study will display their designs in the big finale of a fashion show at Pataka this Saturday. The event is being held by the Rotary Club of Sundown to raise money for the Child Cancer Foundation and includes designer fashions from Tutina Pasene, Robyn Mathieson and Alexandra Owen.

Whitireia Visual Arts tutor Deb Donnelly says she had no reservations about signing the first years up to the show after they received the invitation to take part. "There have been a few intensive sessions to get everything up and running, and it's a steep learning curve, but this is a great opportunity and these guys have got the talent. It is a big ask but other parts of the polytech - like the music to go along with what we're doing, and the filming - have been really supportive, it's been great."



Kerry Reddy left, and Michelle Whale with examples of what they will be showing off in the fashion showcase this Saturday. Ms Whale didn't want too much of what she has created on camera, preferring it to be unveiled on the big night.

Whitireia top of the class

Kapi-Mana News 14.09.2010

Whitireia New Zealand has placed in the top third of polytechnics for student course completion rates, according to a Tertiary Education Commission report released last week. The commission undertook a comparative study on the performance of New Zealand polytechnics, evaluating the success of students.

"There have been consistent high success rates at Whitireia over many years," said chief executive Don Campbell. "Our success is built on long term connections to industry and employers." He says Whitireia successfully gets many students into "real careers."

Whitireia is also a national leader in post-graduate health specialist courses. Meanwhile, an independent review of Whitireia in the national external evaluation has found the effectiveness of teaching and the outcomes for learners and key stakeholders like industry and employers to be excellent.

Whitireia finds its Supergroove

Kapi-Mana News 14.09.2010

Kiwi music identities Karl Steven and Warren Maxwell will join Whitireia School of Music students at Wellington Town Hall next week. Each year Whitireia music students put together a live show. This year's event, Whitireia Up Front, will be a full-fledged rock concert and won't be lacking for star power. Karl Steven enjoyed success as the lanky, energetic frontman for Supergroove, and Warren Maxwell is known for his work with Trinity Roots, Fat Freddy's Drop and Little Bushman.

Stevens said it was a privilege to have the opportunity to work with young talent and help shape their music performance. Warren said the future of music in Aotearoa lies with these young musicians. "We're going to have some fun both on and off the stage."

Breaking bone tradition

Kapiti Observer 22.11.2010, by Tasha Black

Jewellery made by Whitireia students went under the hammer on Thursday night - auctioned off by National Radio presenter Kim Hill. The fifth annual auction included pieces by contemporary designers Peter Deckers, Matthew McIntyre Wilson, Mel Young and Owen Mapp, as well as original works by students. Held at Wellington's Mighty Mighty bar, the auction was run by Whitireia Bachelor of Applied Arts students and showcased contemporary original jewellery.

Sam Kelly, 24, from Paekakariki, had one piece on auction and it sold for \$270. Kelly makes jewellery from bone but said she wants to move away from the cultural and historical uses of bone and push the ways in which it can be used rather than carving it. Kelly has won a place at Talente, an international exhibition held in Germany in March. "My tutor likens it to

the Oscars of jewellery... it's pretty mindblowing." At just 24 years old, Kelly says she is the baby of the exhibition and was one of five New Zealand designers chosen.

Fashion label local affair

Kapi-Mana News 23.11.2010, by Kris Dando



Irene van Dyk at Whitireia. Photo by Patrycja Szwarczynska.

A new fashion label involving the talents of Whitireia Community Polytechnic arts students, the labours of Porirua businesses and celebrity models Irene van Dyk and Frankie Stevens had its unveiling last week. For more than a year, Sharon Woodhouse, sales and account manager for local business Classic Embroidery, wanted to see a contemporary fashion label established in the city. Collaborating with her mentor Cathy Roa, Whitireia arts tutor Deb Donnelly and her Bachelor of Applied Arts students, has seen the concept materialise.

Though starting up the venture has had its share of hard work and headaches, Ms Woodhouse said it was all worth it to see the prototype designs modelled by van Dyk for a photoshoot at Whitireia last week. "After [Irene and Frankie] came on board, they came to Whitireia and the students found out their likes and dislikes and what they wanted in clothes that they would wear. We had to keep away from sports, as someone like Irene has contracts with big companies to wear their gear, so we're mostly talking about casual clothing, evening wear, that sort of thing."

Ms Donnelly says the students were able to bring their own flair and inspiration to the table but had "the wants of the clients" in their minds at all times. Eight students were involved and did the work as part of the textiles section of their studies. More types of clothing and more celebrity models are being lined up before the fashion label is officially named and launched next year.