

# WHAKAORIORI KĀHUI AKO NEWSLETTER



**Whakaoriori  
Kāhui Ako**

VISION STATEMENT:  
We work together to ensure that all Whakaoriori students are successful and all ākonga will achieve to their potential.

## Lead Update: Janine Devenport



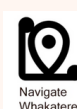
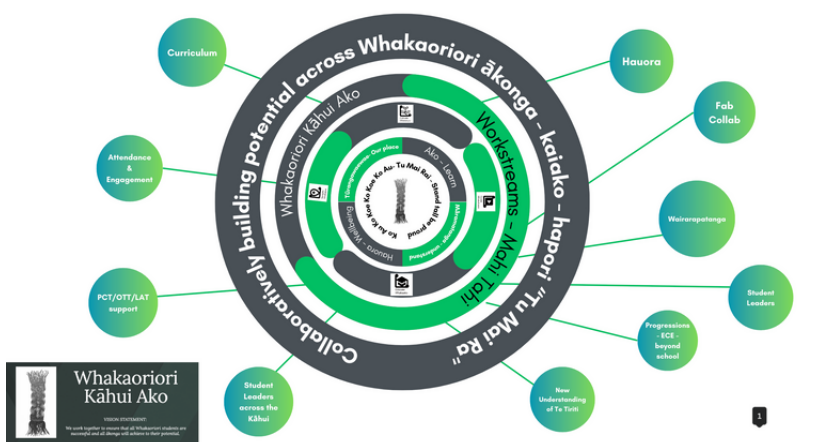
Kia Ora Koutou,

We are now in the depths of winter! Term 2 has seen me return to lead the Kāhui Ako by myself. Darren has begun his new role as CEO of REAP Wairarapa and we wish him all the best. This is my last year in this role and I have indicated to the Steering group that they will need to find two principals to do the Co- Lead role. I am excited to see who will take on this exciting role and where they will take it. There is so much happening in our workstreams and collaborations. The Wairarapatanga workstream are working with Riki Consulting and showing great gains against our Tu Mai Rā strategy. There is also an amazing opportunity for our Kaimahi Māori to complete the Te Ara Tawhaiwhai programme. What is that you say? Ask your Principal, Within School Lead or check out the Facebook page. This term we have gathered voice and data around Attendance and Engagement, we have had many Fab Collab sessions, PCT sessions and Hauora student leader sessions.

As a result of the Student Leader Te Tiriti courses we are supporting Year 12 and 13 students from across the Kāhui to connect and collaborate together. This is an outstanding offshoot of the work that has been done and a reflection that our mahi is now reaching more and more tamariki. Lennox Broderick is leading this charge with the support of our two Wairarapatanga Across School Leads - Amy and Lauren. Below is a graphic of all the mahi that we are currently working on - If you want to share any gems or fantastic things happening in your kura please get in touch.

**Nga mihi mahana,**

Janine



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Educate Whakaako



Curate Whakaheere

# Celebrating Hauora

## Room 8 and 9's Matariki Garden @ MPS

A few weeks ago, children had to design different shapes for our Matariki garden. Mrs Sala comes on Mondays for 'Garden to Table' and she gave us paper and we made up our designs. Matua Gene was the judge and Poraumati won with his star shape. We put bark in a circle and then we made a star shape inside with Mrs Sala. We covered the star shape with cardboard. With the watering cans we poured a little bit of water onto the cardboard. We put horse poo on top and we saw heaps of worms and some slaters. Over the horse poo, went topsoil, then pea straw. We have planted our garden with different vegetables so the food will be ready for Matariki. Now we have to water the garden and weed it. We have to wait for the vegetables to grow.

In Term 3 we are having a Matariki celebration at school and we will invite our whanau. We are going to cook and share the kai from our garden.

"It is fun looking after garden because we get to use the watering cans to water the vegetables." Ryan

"I like being outside and planting the vegetables. My favourite one to eat is lettuce," Charlotte.

## Room 9, Masterton Primary School





# Celebrating Hauora



MIS students had Laura Wood come in to talk to syndicates about vaping and the harmful effects that it has on the students' development. Over three workshops we learnt about the chemicals and toxins within the ingredients of vapes, how these can affect brain development and cause lung and heart damage. Students were also made aware of how youths are targeted with the marketing and design of vapes. Vaping is a growing problem in society and we hope with education this will prevent the temptation to start vaping or change their mindset.

Makoura College's first Wellbeing Pop-Up was held in the Student Centre. The topic was "Haircare". There were free samples available and a prize draw for a hair care pamper pack.. Makoura was supported by parent Nick Olliver who offered his barbering services to one lucky student.



The Coronation of King Charles II was commemorated at Hadlow on Monday 8th May. With the King being the Defender of the Faith, and Head of the Church it was important to signify the occasion with planting a Totara tree near an already established large Totara on the front field.

Hadlow children will be able to return in many years and make this connection to their whenua.

## Kotahitanga

### - From the Students for the Students

Lennox Broderick, a Yr 13 prefect at Rathkeale College, has created a student led group. The aim is to discuss opportunities, collaborations and events and it is a place where they can share ideas that are happening at each others schools. At their last hui they decided on their name "Kotahitanga".

The group meets once a month and there are representatives from most colleges in the Wairarapa which is great to see! At the next hui we hope to have student leaders from all colleges...watch this space.

Kotahitanga have 2 exciting collaborative ideas in the pipeline which will benefit all pupils.



# Tinui School Wellbeing

Tinui School and community got hit hard by Cyclone Gabrielle in February this year. All our school buildings flooded and have been unusable since. The school has been operating out of the nearby community hall, portacom and playgroup buildings. Several families have also lost their homes and many farms are severely damaged. The children have shown incredible resilience and strength. We have had incredible support from the Wairarapa schools and community and from further afield.

A stroke of luck meant that the funding for PDL with field-based STEM had already been secured prior to the floods. Just 7 days after the floods the school was open to students (albeit in the 'new' setting). Sam and Hari from Milky Way Kiwi arrived to provide some much needed distraction from the depressing state of our local environment and encouraged us to look at the stars. They worked alongside us, tolerating terrible internet, power cuts and fragile children.

Once things settled a little more we were privileged to host the famous Bugman, Ruud Kleinpaste, for several days. Ruud was saddened by the loss of our school and grounds. He worked tirelessly with us to develop plans for reclaiming, and improving, our outdoor environment. Inspirational field trips, exploring all sorts of insects, bringing new wetas into the school grounds and lots of planning has led to the goal that we will see Tinui School grounds looking better than ever. To keep the student wellbeing at optimum levels we continued with our field-based STEM with a visit from super forager Mike King, from Finders Eaters, who guided the children to making a Tinui foraged flavoured ice cream. Tinui School is still amidst the consequences of Cyclone Gabrielle, but with the amazing external support, the hard work of the staff and the exciting field-based STEM the students are showing wonderful engagement, learning, strength and delight.



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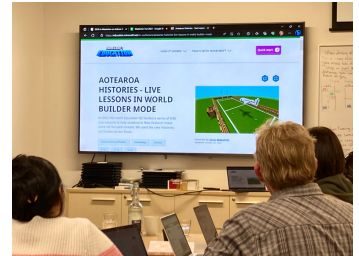


# Digital Storytelling

After seeing the fabulous Arnika McPhail present at last year's Primary Teacher Only Day we were keen to get Digital Storytelling Aotearoa back to Whakaoriori. Trudy Sears from REAP (amazing, all powerful and just get stuff done woman that she is) was thinking along the same lines and the ball got rolling. This term Wilj Sears from DSTA came up to run a number of sessions-Minecraft for teachers, a Minecraft competition for students as well as Digital Storytelling workshops aimed at both Primary and Secondary teachers. The feedback was really positive with one person saying, "Wilj's two sessions were some of the best PD that I have had in the last 5-6 years. It really filled my bucket. Inspiring and I am so looking forward to taking what I have learned back into the classroom."

If you would like to know more about Digital Storytelling have a look at [dsta.co.nz](http://dsta.co.nz) and hopefully we will see them again next year.

As always thanks to Trudy for all the mahi!



## Wairarapa GAP Year Initiative

This initiative is an action plan from WEDS - Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy (40 members, Natasha Kyd project coordinator)

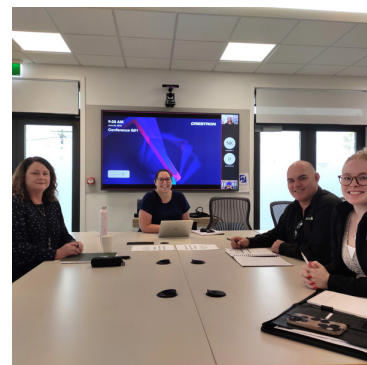
Working group - The Wairarapa Skills Leadership Group (14 members, Paul Southey chair) formed in 2018 as a collaborative approach dedicated to meeting the future workforce needs of the region. It provides advice and offers support for related projects in the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy. Their goal is to identify and better support ways of improving the skills of the workforce and ensuring that the region's needs are met.

Wairarapa GAP Year Initiative - For school leavers and young people who aren't sure what they want to do and older workers wanting a change.

**Aim** - Try a variety of jobs without committing. Short term employment 1 - 3 months. Possibly including classroom component through UCOL.

**Current plan** - to trial with a small cohort next year.

**Support** - endorsement from schools and participation in the initiative.



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# Matariki

Matariki is known as the Māori New Year in Te Ao Māori (the Māori world view).

Closely connected with the maramataka (the Māori lunar calendar), the reappearance of the Matariki stars in the early morning sky brings the past year to a close and marks the beginning of the new year.

Mātauranga Māori (ancestral knowledge and wisdom) is at the heart of celebrations of the Matariki public holiday and it will be a time for;

- Remembrance – Honouring those we have lost since the last rising of Matariki
- Celebrating the present – Gathering together to give thanks for what we have
- Looking to the future – Looking forward to the promise of a new year

Historically, the stars of Matariki were also closely tied to planting, harvesting and hunting. If the stars appeared clear and bright, it signified an abundant season ahead.

Matariki takes place in mid-winter from late May to early July. The dates vary according to tribes and geography. The first public holiday to celebrate Matariki was held in New Zealand on Friday 24 June, 2022. Matariki falls in the school holidays on Friday 14 July in 2023, marking the reappearance of the constellation. The best time to view the Matariki cluster is early morning, just before dawn.

## Celebrating Matariki

- Take time to remember loved ones who are no longer with us
- Give thanks for the year that has passed
- Cook a meal and offer it to Matariki
- Plan for the next year
- Spend time with family and friends
- Have a Matariki feast
- Plan what to grow in your garden and when to harvest
- Write down your goals & aspirations for the year

*Celebrate!*

**LIVING BY  
THE STARS®**



Riki



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# Wairarapatanga in Action


We are lucky to be the first Kāhui Ako that has this offered the Te Ara Tāwhaiwhai program, and it's exciting that it will be facilitated by Janelle and Nathan who we work closely with in our Wairarapatanga workstream.

This program is was developed to provide professional learning support for kaimahi Māori.

We are looking forward to this journey!

~ Te Ara Tāwhaiwhai ~

This program enables kaimahi Māori with the opportunity to connect in authentically Māori ways and according to tikanga Māori. They are empowered to strengthen their connection to their language, culture and identity by learning more about their culture and how this influences their practice and relationships. The programme provides a platform for participants to grow in their own Māoritanga and connect with each other to share practice and effective strategies for the work that they do.

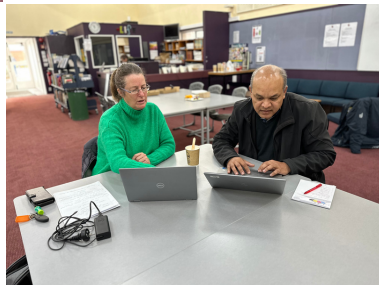


*If we want kaimahi Māori to lead and be successful as Māori, we need to invest in them and support them to be reindiginised.*



Information and registration form has been sent to Principals and teachers in the Wairarapatanga workstream.

Places are limited so make sure you don't miss out!



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Whakaoriori Student Hauora  
Leaders Hui



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Kāhui Ako

Six schools from secondary and primary schools sent their student Hauora Leaders to gather together for a hui on June 15th, 2023.

The goal of the hui was to connect student leaders across Whakaoriori schools, to open up more student voice and to continue to bring the topic of hauora into the community.

Students were given the opportunity to relax and get to know one another. The key questions that were put to the rangatahi were:

- What do schools do to support your wellbeing that you appreciate?
- What could schools do to further support your Hauora?
- What would benefit your students?
- What skills and strategies do you use for your Hauora?
- What do you perceive as being the biggest wellbeing challenges at your school?



A fabulous amount of data was collected and it was an empowering opportunity for students to get to know Hauora Leaders from other schools. Due to PPTA action, Year 12 & 13 Student Leaders were unavailable due to rostering home. The upside of this is that younger student reps will give us longevity over the next few years.



We also posed some wider questions:

- What could we do together to help Whakaoriori's wellbeing?
- What support do you need to make this happen?

This enabled us to put together a plan to go forward. What is clear is that our rangatahi want more agency and communication around their wellbeing as well as an opportunity to be part of community decision making.



*Hauora Workstream  
Whakaoriori Kāhui Ako*



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# Spot Light

## Makoura Early Learning Centre



Located at 29 Mākoura Road Masterton in a purpose built centre situated right next to Mākoura College. We are a mixed aged centre, where we strongly value high child/teacher ratio's. As a centre we are privileged to support 'Puawānanga'; Wairarapa's Young Parents, along with our extended Masterton community. We are a team of 10 kaiako with lots of diverse strengths and abilities. Who believe in fostering a child who is curious, competent and confident.

At Mākoura we have a spacious indoor and outdoor environment where tamariki lead their own learning and inquiry supported by kaiako who are passionate about extending and growing children's interests and abilities.

Our philosophy strongly focuses on relationships. We make opportunities daily to inform and be informed about our tamariki and their whānau. Knowing that powerful connections and learning happens when kaiako and whānau work together to provide quality outcomes for tamariki.

We value quality interactions with tamariki and encourage a disposition in tamariki to want to learn, question, take risks and ask why. Our kaiako provide a culture where whānau and their tamariki are in an environment where they feel supported and valued and are part of the curriculum process, with communication being open and friendly creating a centre space that feels like their extended whānau.

Here at Mākoura we celebrate the many different ways we can communicate with one another, integrating te reo and sign language into our daily routines and curriculum, embracing the beauty of these valuable tools for language development and inclusive learning.



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# Attendance and Engagement

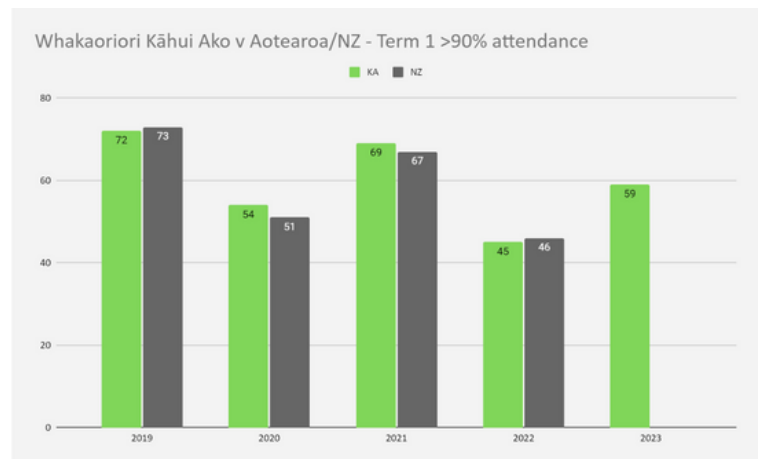
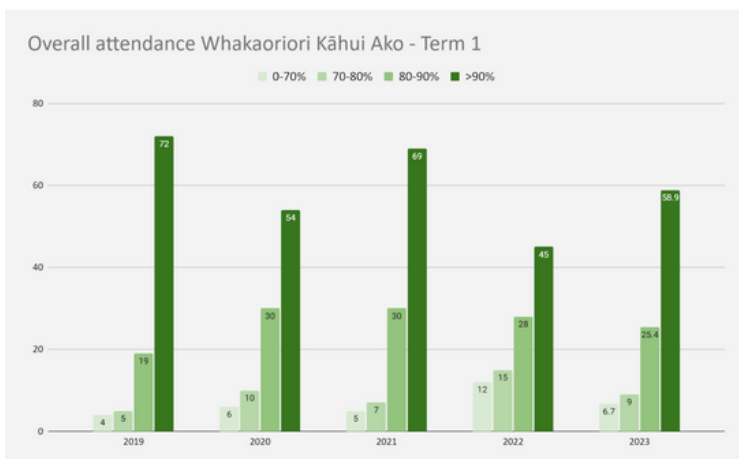
The graph illustrates the attendance rates for Whakaoriori Kāhui Ako for Term 1 from 2019 to 2023.

Regular attendance for Term 1 2022 is lower than it has been in Term 1 for the preceding three years. So what mostly influenced attendance for Term 1 2022?

- COVID-19 Omicron outbreak, the surge in the incidence of COVID19 in the community and higher levels of typical winter illness resulted in high levels of absences for both students and staff. Altogether, this has resulted in record high student absences coded as “short-term illness/medical reasons”.
- Increased absences due to parental/family concerns that attendance at school is unsafe because of the risk of contracting COVID-19.
- As well as the impacts of students staying home if they are close contacts or unwell, there may be impacts on parents of COVID fatigue and of attendance seeming less important.
- As a consequence of the change from the Alert Level system to the traffic light system, there was updated advice from MoE around the use of attendance codes for COVID-19 absences. Practically this meant that students not attending school due to parental/family concerns that attendance at school was unsafe, would have been counted as absent - unjustified (even in cases where the student may be learning at home)

*The graph illustrates the attendance rates for Whakaoriori Kāhui Ako v Aotearoa/New Zealand for Term 1 from 2019 to 2023.*

*We have experienced an increase in regular attendance for Term 1 2023. We will be able to make some comparisons between Whakaoriori Kāhui Ako and Aotearoa/NZ when the MoE releases their attendance report at the end of Term 2.*





# The Refresh of our Achievement Challenge

## Whakaoriori Kāhui Ako Learning Framework Revised

Tu Mai Ra - Stand tall and be Proud

### AKO:

We are inclusive and have high expectations for all. Learning is ongoing for our Kāhui Ako - akonga, kaiako, hapori. We honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi by developing mana honouring curriculum which enhances the potential of all

### MĀRAMATANGA:

We navigate knowledge with our heads and our heart. We have developed literacies across our curriculums and continue to progress within these. We are empowered to face challenges, solve problems individually and collaboratively.

**KO AU ko koe ko koe ko au:**  
**I will be me and proud of my heritage and identity. I will be courageous, confident and curious and collaborative. I will know that I have a support team that will help guide me to be successful in whatever I choose to do. I will feel connected to this place and I can communicate my learning**

### TURANGAWAEWAE:

We are the Kaitiaki and guardians of our community - our people our place and our stories. We honour Te Ao Māori and foster inclusive learning environments that are vibrant equitable and contribute to our community.

### HAUORA:

We have a collective responsibility to take care of our well-being and the well-being of others. We have a sense of belonging and support our people to be the best that they can be.

After gathering voice from educators, leaders, students and whānau we have been able to refresh our learning framework that sits at the front of our Achievement Challenge.

We are really proud of this work and how it now reflects the needs and strengths of our Kāhui Ako. Added to this are the new achievement challenge targets and the Wairarapatanga Strategic Plan.

### Our new 5 Goals, that will be from each of our work streams are:

1. To raise the attendance of all young people in Whakaoriori. We want 100% of our young people to attend school regularly.
2. To provide inclusive kura that explicitly teaches well-being strategies to young people so that they are able to feel good and function well.
3. To create and maintain Mana honouring kura and ECE across the Kāhui Ako.
4. Ensure Smooth transitions to ensure success and increase the amount of students who leave school and who are moving into education, employment and training.
5. To continue to empower our Kaiako so that our young people have the best teachers who ensure that our learners are successful in their learning journey pathway. They will meet the expectations of the New Zealand Curriculum.



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**As we weave our raranga**, we ensure the work we do is about what we can do together rather than all working individually. It's about building capacity and collaboration across education and our community, authentic engagement, mana acknowledging conversations, being agile and responsive, transformational rather than transactional, and building collective intelligence.

**Together we will:**

**Navigate:** research and investigate.

**Cultivate:** build capacity in educators and grow good practice.

**Curate:** gather and present resources to the Kāhui, Manaaki our GEMS!

**Educate:** measure and assess impact.

# Meeting Dates 2023

## Whakaoriori Kāhui Ako 2023 Hui Dates

Term	Kaitiaki Group (leaders)	WSL	ASL	AP / DP	PLD Opportunities and events
<b>ONE</b>	23 February 3.30 pm 23 March 3.30 pm	2 March 3.30 pm 30 March 1 - 4 pm	Every Thursday morning 9-11am	16 March 3.30pm	Mentor Workshop 1 March 9:30-2:30pm  Combined Primary TOD 6th April  ECE/New Entrants Transition Meeting - York Street Kindergarten, Weds 8 March, 4:30pm  PCT Workshop 29 March  Friday Week 7 - Wairarapatanga
<b>TWO</b>	25 May 3.30pm 29 June 3.30 pm	11 May 3.30 pm 15 June 1-4pm	Every Thursday morning 9-11am	1 June 3.30pm	PCT Kāhui Ako Whakaoriori/Wellbeing Workshops 12 May  ECE/New Entrants Transition meeting TBC  Friday Week 7 - Wairarapatanga
<b>THREE</b>	24 August 3.30pm 21 September 3.30pm	3 August 3.30pm 7 September 1-4 pm	Every Thursday morning 9-11am	7 September combined with WSL 3-4 pm	ECE/New Entrants Transition Meeting TBC  Friday Week 7 - Wairarapatanga
<b>FOUR</b>	26 October 3.30pm 23 November 3.30pm	2 November 3.30pm 30 November 1-4 pm	Every Thursday morning 9-11am	16 November 3.30pm	ECE/New Entrants Transition Meeting TBC  Friday Week 7 - Wairarapatanga

## TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

TERM 3/Week 1  
Wednesday 19th July  
4:30pm - 5:30pm  
@  
**Solway Primary School**

Come and learn about what makes Solway School special, along with how they support our tamariki and whānau with transitioning into their New Entrant space.

*Light refreshments provided*