

Tūhononga : Manaakitanga : Umanga

Connections | Support | Careers

## Empowering Māori career and employment aspirations so that our whānau can flourish

# Kia Ora

from our Pou Whakahaere / Chief Executive

The recent weather events have been so hard for many in Aotearoa and our thoughts go out to all affected whānau during this time.

Such tough times show how important whānau and community connections are, the manaaki we can give each other and having access to the resources needed to recover.

Ngahuru (Autumn) is traditionally a time of harvesting the results of hard work. All of our whānau stories in this issue exemplify this theme, including:

Drew Davey joined us in 2016 as a secondary school taura. This year Drew started her medical career as a First year House Officer at Te Whatu Ora Taranaki. Sam George and Grace George also started at Te Whatu Ora in Hawkes Bay.

Denishea Karipa-Cribb began her journey with Why Ora in 2019 while at high school. Through a Why Ora Cadetship Denishea went on to become an executive assistant with Te Whatu Ora and is now an Executive Assistant and Board Secretary for an iwi organisation.

Season Blackburn-Kingi joined us for 10 weeks over the summer months as a research intern through the Pūhoro STEMM Academy. Season has now started on a Masters degree at Otago University.

We have been hearing a lot about the shortages of health and education practitioners. We have been doing our bit to contribute. Our Kaiārahi are currently promoting what we can do to assist Māori secondary school and Kura Kaupapa taura. Our aim is that all of the rangatahi we meet will go on to rewarding and meaningful careers; in health, education or other pathways of their choice.

We will strive to support our registered whānau on their career journeys!

Noho ora mai, Tanya Anaha - Pou Whakahaere (Chief Executive)



Tanya Anaha - Pou Whakahaere

## Why Ora promotion



Photo: Sacred Heart Girls' College taura

During our Why Ora promotion we give a presentation to secondary school taura to let them know who we are and what we can do to assist them on their journey. Check out some of our recent sessions on page 4 of this issue.

You will see a list of schools we've already attended, and will be attending, as well as which of our Kaiārahi will be there to support our registered taura in these schools.

# MANAAKITANGA

Whānau are at the core of what we do.  
Supporting and nurturing our whānau on their career journeys

## Congratulations Graduates - WITT Te Pūkenga

As part of our manaaki, we support our taiohi throughout their career journey. All the hard work and dedication these taiohi put in gets acknowledged at their graduations. Our Kaiārahi hugely appreciate being able to be a part of these milestones for our whānau. This year's WITT Te Pūkenga graduation was extra special due to it not being held in 2022.

Well done to our Nursing graduates Jody Timu-Kaea, Taylor Briggs, Aleesha Offen and Ash Harvey and to Sarah Te Awhe for completing her Certificate in in Study and Career Preparation Level 4. Sarah will be entering into Nursing at WITT Te Pūkenga in 2023.



Photo: Michelle Martin and WITT Te Pūkenga Graduates



Photo: WITT Te Pūkenga Graduation

## Whānau, at the core of what we do



Photo: Tanya, Drew and whānau, Michelle

A highly rewarding part of our mahi are the journeys we get to witness and be a part of.

In January our Pou Whakahaere Tanya and Kaiārahi Michelle attended the Whakatau for the new First Year Medical Graduates held at Te Whatu Ora - Taranaki. Drew Davey started as a First Year House Officer with her whānau by her side for her first day. Be sure to say Kia ora if you see Drew around Base Hospital!



Photo (2017): Sam George, Gracyn Meredith, Te Whatumanawa Ngatai Tangarua, Olivia Ratana, Grace George, Destiny Hodge-Paul, Drew Davey

Drew has been a part of Why Ora since 2016 while she was a student at New Plymouth Girls High School. In 2017 Olivia and Michelle (Why Ora) went to the University of Otago to tautoko some of our first year tertiary students including Drew.

We would also like to acknowledge Sam and Grace George starting out as First Year House Officers at Te Whatu Ora - Te Matau a Māui Hawke's Bay.



# TŪHONONGA

Tūhononga means to strengthen and bring together.

Why Ora works together with many organisations to support our whānau aspirations.

## Working together to grow the success of our taiohi

### Cultural Competency Training

Our Team were recently invited to join with Te Whatu Ora Taranaki kaimahi for their Marama Te Titiro - Cultivating Cultural Competency Training, held at Kairau Marae.

Marama Te Titiro training aims to build competency and cultural knowledge to uplift the skills and understanding of all kaimahi at Te Whatu Ora - Taranaki.

*"What I took away from the training was; We can come together from different areas of the health sector, with different ethnicities and backgrounds and recognise the inequities in the health sector. That is promising for the future of Why Ora taiohi who will be employed at Te Whatu Ora." - Rory Maxwell, Why Ora Kaiārahi*



### Rapid Recruitment Event

The Rapid Recruitment Event was held in New Plymouth on 22 February to give taiohi with the hope of being employed, an opportunity to speak and connect with 15+ employers.

Taiohi were expected to come prepared with their CVs and go through an interview process with the employers that they most had an interest in.

Two of our rangatahi who attended this event and were successful in gaining employment.

### Celebrating one year in our Tari



**Photo: Why Ora and Tupu Ā Nuku kaimahi (Liahna Smith, Rakaiao Nuri, Katie Walsh, Olivia Ratana, Lisa Holland, Sherrie Flanagan, Rory Maxwell, Michelle Martin, Season Blackburn-Kingi, Shannan Totorewa)**

In January we celebrated our first year in our Tari based at 46 King Street, New Plymouth along with Tupu ā nuku.

During this time the tari has seen a lot of growth of new kaimahi and our presence in the area has meant that whānau are curious to find out about Why Ora and our kaupapa.

The space allows more accessibility for taiohi and the support they require, such as a collaboration space, access to the internet and a hot kapu tī if needed.

We look forward to hosting others and making new connections in 2023!

# WHY ORA PROMOTION

## Our Kaimahi in Kura



**Michelle Martin**  
• Stratford High School  
• Taranaki Diocesan  
• Waitara High School

### Rory Maxwell

- New Plymouth Boys High School
- Francis Douglas Memorial College



### Liahna Smith

- New Plymouth Girls High
- Sacred Heart Girls' College
- Inglewood High School



### Graham Jones

- Patea Area School
- Te Paepae o Aotea



### Katie Walsh

- Spotswood College
- Opunake High School
- Coastal Taranaki



### Trent Hohaia

- Te Pi'ipi'inga Kakano Mai I Rangiatea
- Te Kura o Ngā Ruahine Rangī
- Te Kura Kaupapa Māori O Ngāti Ruanui



This term our Kaiārahi are back in all Taranaki secondary schools - reconnecting with taura Māori, and school staff!

During our Why Ora promotion we:

- share the kaupapa of Why Ora
- talk about what kinds of support we can offer
- share our many whānau success stories
- encourage taura to register with us!

If you are a Māori taura and missed one of our promotions ask at your kura office when we will be at your school – or message us through our Facebook page.



Schools we've visited to date:

Ōpunake High School, New Plymouth Girls High School, New Plymouth Boys High School, Inglewood High School, Te Paepae o Aotea, Coastal Taranaki School, Francis Douglas Memorial College, Patea Area School, Spotswood College, Sacred Heart Girls College, Stratford High School and Taranaki Diocesan

Schools we are visiting soon!

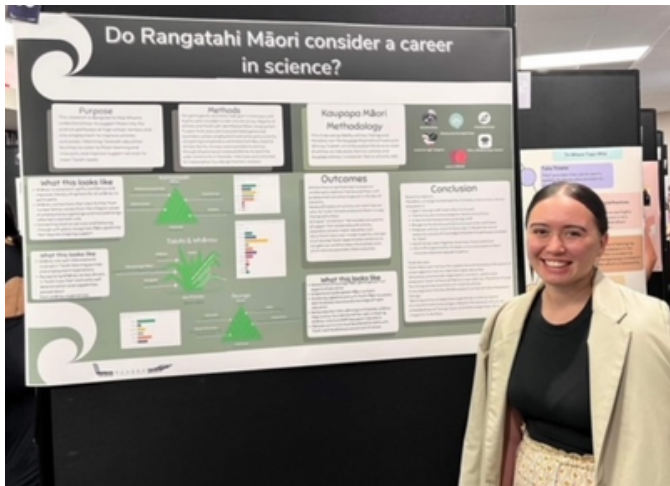
Te Pi'ipi'inga Kakano Mai I Rangiatea, Te Kura o Ngā Ruahine Rangī and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Ruanui.



# UMANGA

Assisting taiohi and whānau to explore and experience meaningful careers.  
Supporting our whānau on their career journeys – connecting to career pathways.

## Why Ora internship



Season Blackburn Kingi (nō Whaitara) recently completed an internship at Why Ora through the Pūhoro STEMM (Science, Tech, Engineering, Mathematics and Mātauranga) kaupapa. Season studied Health Science at Otago University and she had a desire to spend time home amongst her whānau, while developing her research skills, with a group that supported whānau Māori in Taranaki. An internship at Why Ora provided this opportunity!

Season worked with Why Ora for 10 weeks, researching the barriers that prevent taiohi Māori from pursuing science either in secondary or tertiary education or as a career.

Through her time at Why Ora Season was able to bring her unique experience as a wahine Māori, kura graduate, and research student to consider this question.

Season's outlook, having grown up firmly rooted in her whānau and in Te Ao Māori, gave her insights to the challenges that rangatahi māori face in STEMM. Why Ora were honoured to provide a firm foundation of relationships and connections across Taranaki to support Season's research.

Following her 10 week internship with us Season presented her findings at the Pūhoro Pō Whakanui in Palmerston North alongside her peers, she has since been accepted into her Masters program of study and has returned to Otago.

## From strength to strength

Denishea Karipa-Cribb  
Ngā Rauru Kiitahi, Ngāti Uenuku



Denishea joined our Why Ora whānau in 2019 as a student at Ōpunake High School.

Denishea had the potential to do great things from an early age. She had a passion for health, particularly for whānau Māori, and attended COACH (Creating Opportunities for a Career in Health) through Auckland University as a Year 13 student. Denishea then decided to get some life experience and continued to work while enjoying time with her whānau in Ōpunake, before attending university.

Why Ora then offered Denishea a cadetship at Te Whatu Ora - Taranaki as the Pia Pou Whakaturuki (Administrator) for the Te Pā Harakeke Team (Māori Health) a role which then transitioned into the Pou Whakaturuki (Executive Assistant) for the Chief of Māori Health and Equity. Denishea was going places!

After completing her cadetship at Te Whatu Ora - Taranaki Denishea embarked on a new journey at Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa, in a role as Poutaunaki Matua (Executive Assistant and Board Secretary) working alongside the respected Pouwhakahaere Dion Tuuta.

Denishea has gone from strength to strength. It is a pleasure to watch her flourish and we look forward to continuing to support her journey.



# Meet Our Team

## SHANNAN TOTOREWA

Ko tēnei waewae ōku  
Ko Taupiri tōku Mauaga  
Ko Waikato tōku Awa  
Ko Tainui tōku Waka  
Ko Ngāti Mahuta tōku Iwi  
Ko tēnei waewae ōku  
Ko ngā toroa e whitu ngā ōku Maunga  
Ko Wairoa tōku Awa  
Ko Takitimu tōku Waka  
Ko Ngāi Tahu matawhāiti tōku Iwi



*Role: Communications and Administration Assistant*

Born in Hamilton, starting early life in Wellington, Shannan's family moved to Christchurch, Invercargill and then resettled in Hamilton for her final High School years.

Shannan praises her mother for bringing up her whānau as a sole parent. "Mum was there everyday, she held my hand in the hard times and taught me how to achieve all my goals. By age 14 she had me reading books like 'Rich dad, Poor dad' and 'How to pay your mortgage off in 5 years' and I got my first job working at the local dairy scooping ice cream and bagging up lollies.

Once we moved to Hamilton I got a job at McDonalds and as my grandad got sick I took over his role at Pak n Save. I was so impressed by the leadership there, the owner at the time greeted me on my first day by name and joined me behind the counter serving and getting to know me. This was my first experience of leadership where I made a mental note of 'how I would want to lead'.

Through high school Shannan knew she had leadership skills and would be destined for a senior/management role.

Shannan had an interest in taking Te Reo Māori but was unable to study it as a school subject having not completed any previous credits.

She then took up Event Management and started a Gateway Course at a local Motel & Conference Centre.

After finishing School, Shannan worked two jobs and quickly thought "there has to be more to life than this?!"

Shannan was ready for bigger things and contacted her school careers advisor who reminded her of the 'spark' that the Hospitality industry, and Event Management gave her and encouraged her to attend a Pacific International Hotel Management School (PIHMS) Open Day.

Shannan drove from Hamilton to Taranaki with her mother to attend the open day and managed to make it back in time for her night shift at McDonalds! Over the weekend they made a plan, Shannan enrolled and began to save towards student life thinking the PIHMS full curriculum would make it hard for her to work part-time.

PIHMS took her to Sydney, back to Wellington and to Te Anau where she was able to meet and serve many different people and cultures. "Sydney was hard, the people, the city, but I was attracted by the big lights!."

Having Graduated Shannan started her mahi at Arborio in 2014 and was offered a management position. She enjoyed the fast-paced environment and the feeling of accomplishment by the end of the service, and thrived off the challenge.

"However, I eventually realised that with all the responsibility for others, my own growth was put on hold."



In 2022 with the birth of her son Malachi, Shannan realised that working in Hospitality no longer aligned with her aspirations and began looking at other options, joining Why Ora in November 2022.

"This role allows me to grow both as a mother but also in Te Ao Māori. If you asked what my 'why' is I would confidently reply Malachi my son. I wish to offer him every opportunity I can, and I believe that it starts in knowing who I am and what my whakapapa is."

Shannan has learned that it is ok to change your mind and to change your careers. While she had studied and worked hard to establish and grow herself within the hospitality industry the time came to pivot. "It's hard but I try to have a mindset that if things don't go to plan, it is an opportunity to learn and a chance to grow and improve."

"My 5-year plan is that I hope to have Malachi start at Montessori school, and be supporting his learning in every way I can. I love that Montessori will offer Malachi the chance to learn at his own pace while allowing him to be his whole self and explore what learning techniques work best for him. I often feel I don't use many of the skills I learnt at school. I value the learning in things that schools didn't teach back then, like riding bikes, exploring the world, growing vegetables, budgeting and other practical skills."

"I would love to have a greater knowledge of who I am, not having an opportunity to learn Te Reo Māori in high school created a sense of disconnection for me. Now that I am in and safe and supportive environment that supports my growth it will make it much easier and I'll have something to pass on to my whānau."

I didn't know it before but working for an organisation that helps people is so motivating! I enjoy coming to mahi every day. Our Taranaki taiohi are so incredible and deserve every opportunity and more. I hope that all of my learning and experiences I can share with others will help motivate them and that they reach their dreams. "Its ok to change direction if it feels right for you!"

## The beginning of a new journey

*Ko ngā pae tawhiti whaia kia tata, ko ngā pae tata whakamaua kia tina*  
*The potential for tomorrow, depends on what we do today*



Photo: L-R Jahnae Graham, Liahna Smith

Our kaimahi Liahna, Katie, Trent and Rory joined WITT Te Pūkenga in the pōwhiri for the new taura of 2023. Why Ora rangatahi Jahnae Graham, Ashlee Katipa & Pikikotuku (Piki) Davey are amongst the new March intake. Jahnae, Ashlee & Piki we wish you all the best for this exciting year ahead, congratulations on this new and exciting chapter!



Photo: L-R Liahna Smith, Pikikotuku Davey

# WHY ORA DASHBOARD

Jan - March 2023

**MANAAKI ORANGA**

**67**  
ENGAGEMENTS

Pastoral support given to all by our Kaiārahi this quarter

consist of interview coaching, applications, CV support etc

**Not in Employment, Education or Training**

**25**  
Registered

Employment **13** Education **2** Participating **11**

one person can have multiple outcomes

**1** Gained drivers license

**SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**228**

Tairua registered with Why Ora

92	Year 11
74	Year 12
62	Year 13

**TERTIARY**

**129**

Tairua registered with Why Ora

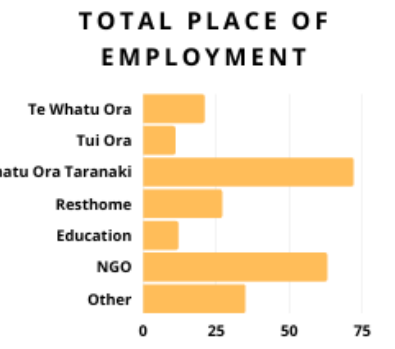
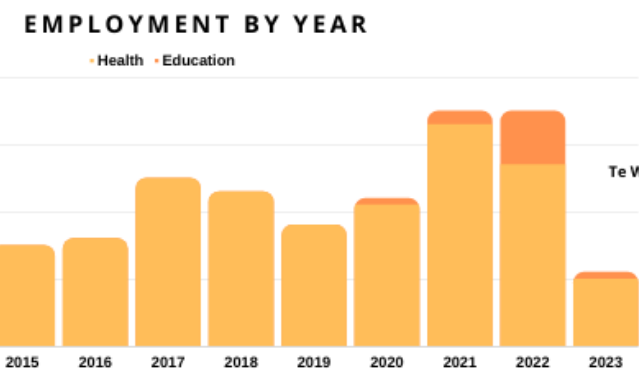
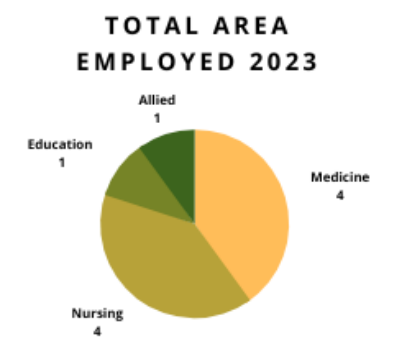
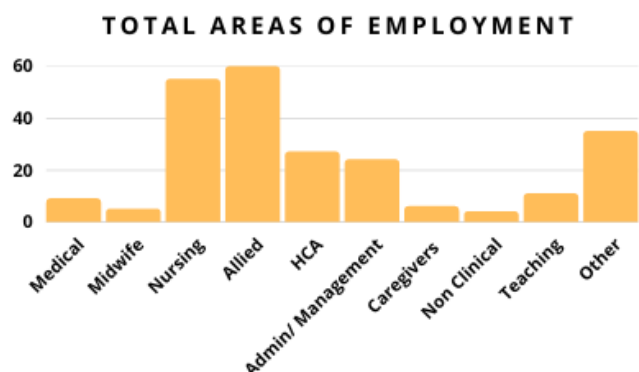
Health	Education	Other
60	19	50

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT DATA**

Registered with Why Ora and Employed in Health or Education

**241**

Health	Education	Other
194	12	35



## THANK YOU

Why Ora is very grateful for the contributions made by funders to support our kaupapa of empowering Māori career and employment aspirations so that our whānau can flourish.



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