

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

Greetings

from our Pou Whakahaere / Chief Executive



Tanya Anaha - Pou Whakahaere

Tēnā koutou katoa

Ngā mihi o Puanga! Greetings at this important time!

Puanga and Matariki are a time to reflect on the past year, to remember our loved ones, to prepare for the coming seasons, and to be thankful and celebrate.

To grow our resilience, we need to prepare and nurture ourselves and each other. This is especially important in challenging times!

At Why Ora we continually aspire to grow our cultural knowledge, to grow stronger in our identities, to be well in ourselves and be better at doing our mahi supporting others.

This year our kaiako are Keri Opai, Hokipera Ruakare-Papuni, and Rangimokai Knuckey. It is such a huge opportunity for our team to learn from these generous and gifted people.

We have also been busy lately with our Why Ora events preparation! Recently we completed our Rapuara Hauora (hauora career exposure sessions) in south and north Taranaki. A huge thank you to staff at Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora in Taranaki for your support.

In May we launched Te Puna Pūtaiao, a science engagement pilot programme for Y7 -Y8 taura in collaboration with Thom Adams (Venture Taranaki). Held at Manukorihi Intermediate, we also hope to extend to other schools in future. We are so excited about the taiohi potential it will untap!

Next up in July is our Rapuara Ako event which aims to encourage taiohi to think about education as a career. Then for our annual Pūtaiao event in August we have an amazing line up of speakers to inspire Y9 & Y10 taiohi with a passion for science and Mātauranga Māori. We will also be hosting Hui Whānau, where we bring our whānau together to connect, learn and celebrate their successes.

In this newsletter you can read about some of these activities along with other news!

Noho ora mai

Tanya Anaha
Pou Whakahaere

TŪHONONGA

Tūhononga means strengthening and bringing together (Tū is to strengthen, hononga is to bring or join together). We all need connections that can help us to grow, to know who we are, where we've come from and help us get where we are going!



Thom and Why Ora taiohi facilitators

A new partnership inspiring Yr 7 & 8 school students

In May we launched our new collaboration aimed at actively engaging intermediate school students in STEM (science, technology, engineering & maths).

Te Puna Pūtaiao is a partnership between Venture Taranaki, Why Ora and schools, led by Thom Adams, Science Educator/ Communicator, and Taranaki Curious Minds Co-ordinator, building on the success of our annual Pūataio event for Y9 and Y10 school students which has been running since 2016.

As it has been our aspiration to initiate a science academy for Y7 and Y8 taiohi for a long time we are very excited to be working together on this, and so grateful to Thom for making it happen!

Another thing we are excited about is that several of our registered taiohi from Waitara High School are joining in as assistant co-facilitators, to work with Thom to run the programme, thereby also growing the capacity of these taiohi.

Te Puna Pūataio aims to provide taiohi with a foundation for continued participation in STEM. It is also a space where students, identified by their teachers as having an aptitude for

curiosity, problem-solving, and scientific thinking, can find their passions.

The initial pilot programme will run weekly at Manukorihi Intermediate during Term Two. The plan is to extend it to other schools in future.

We want to continue to develop a community of taiohi in Taranaki, passionate about STEM and leading into a future potential STEM workforce. Many meaningful and rewarding careers in health and education require science as an entry point. So, it's hugely important to inspire our taiohi into an interest in STEM subjects, particularly science and mathematics.

"These students are, quite literally, the future of Taranaki and we want to create an environment where their potential for brilliance can be unleashed. The programme aims to capture the interest of curious, creative thinkers and create alternative pathways to authentically engage with STEM within their own cultural contexts. By constraining our model of what is considered 'gifted' in New Zealand we often fail to identify hidden abilities in science. This is something we want to change." Thom Adams

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Rapuara Hauora

A future health career awaits ahead for many of our secondary school whānau attending Rapuara Hauora!

Rapuara Hauora workshops are a great opportunity for Year 11 – 13 Taranaki taiohi to see health career pathways in action and look behind the scenes of hospital departments.

Taiohi get to explore future health career possibilities, make connections with health professionals and ask questions about their mahi. This year we held our workshops at Taranaki Base Hospital in March and in Te Hāwera at South Hospital in May.

211 tauira from 12 schools visited these various depts:

- Social Work
- Emergency Department
- Pharmacy
- Project Maunga
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Māori Health and Equity Services
- Oral Health
- Orthotics
- Surgery
- Child and Adolescence
- Medlab
- Midwifery



Dr Nigel Henderson, Spotswood College taiohi



Te Paepae o Aotea taiohi, Support staff and Why Ora Kaimahi



Te Paepae o Aotea taiohi - Oral Therapy Department

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A huge thank you to all staff at both hospitals for your support with Rapuara Hauora. We will be holding our Rapuara Ako (education careers exposure) workshops in July this year – date & location to be confirmed - so keep an eye out for more information about these!

Te Paepae o Aotea taiohi -
Emergency Department



Francis Douglas Memorial College
taiohi - Emergency Department



Spotswood College taiohi - Surgical Ward



Maataki Shadowing

Our Mātaiki career shadowing programme offers Y12 and Y13 taiohi an opportunity to engage in work experience placements in careers they hold a strong interest in.

Kiannah, a Y13 taiohi at Te Paepae o Aotea, has always wanted to become a nurse. In May Kiannah attended a Mātaiki shadowing placement in the Emergency Department at Te Hāwera hospital. **"It was an extremely fun day, I absolutely loved it, especially getting to do some hands-on work and seeing all the behind the scenes work that goes on in ED"** says Kiannah.

In February 2025 Kiannah plans to head to Blenheim to do her basic training, and then to train as an army medic in future. We are so excited for you and your future career Kiannah!



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C.O.A.C.H. (Creating Opportunities for a Career in Health)

COACH is a four-day programme held at Waipapa Marae, The University of Auckland for Y13 Māori students interested in a career in health, run by Whakapiki Ake.



Our Y13 whānau Macey and Tamara recently attended C.O.A.C.H.:

"Ever since M.A.S.H last year I have been excited to attend C.O.A.C.H as a Y13. My top takeaways from this kaupapa were new relationships; building new relationships is important to me as I feel a sense of comfort being surrounded by people who are striving for a health career, and also to feel unapologetically Māori. We were all being patient, open minded while being in a very open and safe space. This helped create the whānau bond we needed to feel comfortable."

Being on the marae added value to the program as we were able to learn not only about health, but the whenua we may one day be taura on. I went into C.O.A.C.H knowing I wanted to be a dermatologist, but after going through the kaupapa and being exposed to the other medical professions I am now considering becoming a General Practitioner."

Advice I would give taiohi wanting to step out of their comfort zone and take on opportunities as such would be, be yourself, don't be ashamed to be Māori, if I can do great things, you can too. I would like to give a mihi to Whakapiki Ake for helping create bonds that will last a life time, for the endless opportunities and memories created and being apart of my village of support" Tamara

"COACH gave me an opportunity to connect with like-minded people who share the same passion of pursuing a career in health. I was able to express who I truly am, "I'm proud to be Māori" and the vibes felt like a very inclusive space, we see each other as a whānau. We'd be singing in the hallways and have other taiohi come past and join in, it was a space we were able to connect on another level."

Another reason I loved C.O.A.C.H was because I learnt about Ōrākei Marae and the hītori behind it. Being in the van with other taiohi and building whakawhanaungatanga was a high!

This kaupapa opened my eyes to other health careers I want to look into. Heading into C.O.A.C.H I was set on becoming a neonatal nurse, we had a kōrero with a doctor and hearing what they had to say made me really think about becoming one. So now I am tossing between a neonatal nurse and a doctor. I'd like to thank Whakapiki Ake for opening such an amazing opportunity for taiohi Māori."

"This kaupapa allowed me to take advantage of every opportunity provided to me during my time in Tāmaki Makaurau." Macey

MANAAKITANGA

Our Manaakitanga means we genuinely nurture, encourage, respect and care for one another throughout our mahi, in whatever work we are doing.

Haere rā
KATIE

"I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you all and all our amazing taiohi!"



In May we farewelled our Kaiārahi Katie who has moved overseas to be near whānau.

Katie first began her hīkoi with Why Ora in 2015 as a taiohi from Manawa Tapu attending our Rapuara Hauora workshops at Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora Taranaki.

Having found a passion for working with youth Kaitie completed a Youthwork qualification while working with us and paving the way for our kaimahi working with taiohi not in education, training or employment. Many taiohi are now in meaningful careers with the manaaki she provided.

Katie you will always have a special place in our hearts at Why Ora - we wish you all the best!
Ngā mihi nui ki a koe!

We recently held a whanaungatanga event for taiohi enrolled in our Hoki Mai ki Why Ora initiative – this is our work with taiohi in the community (not directly through schools).

We planned this activity to give our taiohi a chance to meet, to make connections with us and each other, and to share kōrero about what kind of support they may need.

During the event our Kaiārahi headed out with our taiohi to play games and share kai – it was such a great time, we plan to get together again! We are currently in the process of confirming our programme for 2024-2025 and looking forward to sharing what we have planned for the year.

Whanaungatanga Event



UMANGA

A meaningful and rewarding career can change lives and change the future. There are so many possibilities and paths to take. Our career stories can help to show what is possible!



Danae Etches **Why Ora Advisor / Contractor**

Kia ora koutou, I'm Danae, an advisor/ contractor. I've been working with Why Ora six years now. I feel so lucky to be supporting Tanya, Board and Team on this important kaupapa, empowering whānau to flourish.

Ko wai au? Who am I? Where am I from? I am a first-generation Pākehā, Tangata Tiriti. My ancestors come from Europe and the United Kingdom. My drive and values come from my parents who were positive, caring people despite all the challenges in their lives.

Born in the 1920s, both lost parents at a young age. Dad's Mum died when he was a pre-schooler, and his father died a few years later in a farm accident. So, Dad was sent to boarding school as a child. It must have been so hard – but he got through it! He signed up to fight in WWII straight out of school and spent the war parachuting out of planes. If the jump didn't kill him, trees, bullets and tanks could. But somehow, he survived it, including Dunkirk! He was so tough!

Meanwhile Mum, grew up in London during "The Blitz," (1940-41). Bombs would rain down on the city each night. She once woke up to find their house left standing alone on the street corner! Her dad was a warden. Sadly, he went out one night, never to return. Her Mum was heartbroken. As a teen Mum loved science and worked in a lab. But when the war was over, my parents needed a new start and bought a "10-pound passage" to Aotearoa.

Arriving in Hastings, NZ was a huge culture shock, especially for Mum, who was from the East End of London. Dad was from rural Devon. But they both grew to love NZ, and never returned to UK.

My three older sisters and I were born here. Like a lot of ex-soldiers, I reckon Dad suffered from PTSD (undiagnosed). It affected his and our lives so much, but we thought that was 'normal'. One of Dad's grandfathers was a medical doctor, the other a scientist, but after the war Dad could not focus on study for a career. He had a lot of jobs. He worked as a boner at the meat works, and house painter at one stage. Mum worked in a cafeteria, and later at a paint and hardware shop and a wholesale goods store.

When I was 5 years old, in 1969 we moved to Parau in Tāmaki Makaurau. My parents bought 15 acres of land with two other families to live communally. I spent my childhood exploring bush streams and rockpools, listening to my transistor radio, our stereogram and watching our black & white TV.

I was a curious kid, I loved music, knowledge and learning about stuff like human behaviour, how nature worked, I was totally in awe of the universe!

At school I was called a "weirdo" because I lived on a commune – great fodder for bullies! I always felt a bit 'different', an outsider (and often still do).

Mum and Dad separated when I was a teenager. After leaving school I applied for so many jobs. I felt down, wondering if I would ever get one! Then, I had an idea! I liked the idea of working in a library, with all that knowledge, so I contacted the public library. Many months passed and I got an interview. I couldn't believe it when I got the job! I started library training and enrolled in university.

I'd begun a wonderful library career! It was never boring, setting up children's and youth programmes, driving mobile libraries, choosing thousands of books, CDs, organising poetry nights, workshops, festivals and book groups. Leading teams. Working with kuia and kaumātua, co-facilitating bicultural libraries wānanga, and a national Māori Subject Headings project. I started studying for an arts degree and switched to a Bachelor of Applied Science in Communication.

Having developed a lot of useful transferable skills, I left my library job to work as a self-employed contractor. I did things like co-writing the 2008 NPDC Liveable city award entries and working with TAFT as WOMAD NZ technical administrator, then started at TSB Community Trust (now known as Toi Foundation), as a funding, strategy and communication advisor, gaining more skills.

I met Tanya around 2010, when Why Ora was established, and started working together when I left employment to focus on contract and community work, mentoring and capacity development.

I greatly value working with all of the team at Why Ora and supporting their outstanding mahi empowering taiohi and whānau into rewarding careers, strengthening connections and equitable access to opportunities, which many whānau we work with may not otherwise have access to.

"My parents inspired me to have courage, to question the status quo, think outside the box, to face challenges, keep going, to care and always be thankful.

When I left school, I had no idea what I wanted to do.

Yet, I've built more than one meaningful career based on these values.

What I've learnt is that it takes trust and courage to take a different path, you won't always know where you're going, but that's fine!

***Keep an open mind and build up those useful skills, and step by step, you can create a useful and meaningful career you feel passionate about"* Danae**

2024 Funding partners and Supporters

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou!

Thank you to all our community and supporters - without your help we would not be here to support our whānau!



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Don't forget your Kaiārahi is here if you require tautoko