



TAUTAI O LE MOANA

WAYFINDERS OF THE OCEAN
NZPPA



JULY NEWSLETTER 2024

Kia orana koutou Katoatoa,

Wishing you all a well earned break over the next two weeks and PLEASE take time for yourself to really rest!

It's been a very busy term with lots of outstanding things happening across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Hope you enjoy reading some of the mahi ToLM has been doing across the motu and beyond. Look forward to catching up next term. We're all looking forward to the ToLM study tours taking place in August 2024.

Meitaki ma'ata

Helen





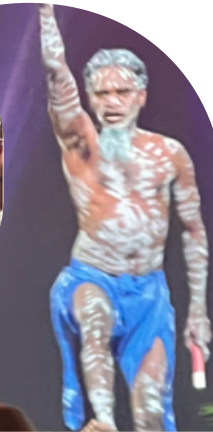
WHATS ON TOP

HO'OULU LAHUI – REGENERATING OCEANIA 13TH FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS & CULTURE HAWAII 2024

Attending FestPac 24 was an absolutely amazing experience. FestPac is dedicated to the preservation, revitalisation and celebration of cultural and artistic expressions from across Oceania. FestPac provides attendees with a broad range of experiences: a revival of traditions old and new with opportunities to listen, engage in discussion, explore traditions and participate in the many arts, crafts and navigation skills on offer.

The ocean connects all of us – it does not divide us and what we saw, heard, engaged in and experienced – was real cultural connection. Over 2,200 delegates representing 27 Pacific Nations with accompanying heads of state and traditional leaders attended the festival. We were able to experience live cultural performance, story telling, visual arts, as well as opportunities to delve into critical issues including climate change, sustainability and indigenous approaches to the future.

The goal of FestPac is to strengthen the physical and cultural resilience of Pacific Islanders and communities by cultivating connections to share culture and practices, learn and grow, adapt to changing climate, contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage and foster a sense of identity and unity among the Pacific Region.



Key takeaways:

- Strengthen our understanding of our ancestors
- Recognise that it's not about surviving the education system but to revitalising it so that our past is truly valued.
- Understand where we come from, know our strengths and seek success through our culture
- Indigenous knowledge surpasses the science of today

The next FestPac is in 4 years. Keep tuned for this incredible experience

NZSTA CONFERENCE

Jerry Leaupepe recently had the opportunity to attend the 34th Annual NZSTA Conference held in Wellington from June 6-9, 2024. The theme this year was "Being the change we want for today and tomorrow", building on last year's focus on re-setting the education agenda. The conference aimed to equip and inspire school board members to excel in their crucial governance role.

The NZSTA Conference offered an enriching learning and networking opportunity. Tautai O Le Moana made a positive impact through our exhibition and resource launch. The insights gained will help inform our ongoing work to empower Pasifika students, families and communities to actively engage in education.





NATIONAL EDUCATION SUMMIT 2024 IN MELBOURNE

On June 14-15, 2024, Jerry Leaupepe attended the National Education Summit held in Melbourne, Australia. This annual event provides a platform for professional development and networking opportunities for K-12 educators across the country. The summit featured conferences, workshops, and interactive seminars delivered by experts and thought leaders in the education sector.

One of the most successful items from our exhibition was the Talanoa language games. Many educators found these resources highly useful and expressed interest in incorporating them into their classrooms.

While the National Education Summit in Melbourne provided some valuable insights, it is clear that a more targeted approach is needed to identify and support schools with significant Pasifika student populations. By prioritizing direct engagement with schools, leveraging Pasifika support networks, developing targeted proposals, and exploring alternative outreach methods, we can better position our organization to make a meaningful impact on the educational outcomes of Pasifika students in Australia.

LALAGA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

The Lalaga Leadership Development Program has been making significant strides in empowering emerging school leaders across New Zealand, with a particular focus on Pasifika heritage. In Term 1, participants delved into the importance of identity, cultural competence, and conflict resolution. They engaged in deep reflections on their personal histories and cultural backgrounds, which helped to ground their 'why' for leadership. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many leaders feeling more confident in their identity and more capable in their leadership roles. Several participants have already begun implementing these insights within their own schools, fostering a more inclusive and understanding environment among their staff.

In Term 2, the program shifted its focus to the concept of Va Fealoa'i – the relational spaces that are integral to Pasifika leadership. Through engaging discussions and interactive activities, participants explored how to integrate this cultural concept into their professional practice. They compared it with the Leadership Capabilities Framework and discussed the challenges and opportunities of bridging Pasifika and non-Pasifika perspectives.

This term also included practical sessions on finance and staffing, providing participants with essential administrative skills. The depth of learning and the practical applications discussed have been instrumental in shaping a holistic leadership approach, blending cultural values with effective educational practices.

TAPASĀ

In April and May we introduced or refreshed Tapasā in schools in Tamaki Makaurau and Te Whanga-nui-a-tara. Kaiako were asked to think about Tapasā goals for their class, team or kura and how it linked to their PGCs.





TAUTAI UPDATE

WELLINGTON TAUTAI 2024

This term Karl Vasau has been blessed to have been able to personally visit all the 2024 Wellington and Levin Schools and Talanoa face to face with the Tautai. It was an honour for him to be shown around the schools and connect with you and your staff on a deeper level.

While visiting schools I was also able to provide a Carrying the Tapa workshop for Tautai and their staff and a huge thank you to the schools that hosted our gatherings.



TALANOA VISITS AND CARRYING THE TAPA WORKSHOP

On Monday 17 June Karl Vasau travelled with Helen to Wellington and visited 3 of our Tautai in their schools for their face to face Talanoa sessions. Amazing schools and we were made to feel very welcome. Then at 3:30pm we put on "Carrying the Tapa" PLD session at Naenae Intermediate for St Bernadettes, St Claudines, St Therasas and NIS.



TAMAKI TAUTAI 2022

Gathering at Rosebank School

It was another great gathering of our Auckland 2022 Cohort on Wednesday 5 June and we were beautifully hosted by Paul at Rosebank School. We were welcomed in a Pōwhiri by their Maori Unit and then entertained by their Samoan and Niuean Bilingual Units. The Talanoa as a group today was around what's on top and also looking forward to the Study Tours. This was followed by an amazing kai. Thank you for hosting Paul ... Looking forward to our Term 3 Gathering at Takapuna Normal Intermediate hosted by Zane.



TAUTAI UPDATE

TAMAKI TAUTAI 2023

Our second cluster fono was held at Hobsonville School. Tautai shared how they were actioning their Pasifika plans.

CNW TAMAKI TAUTAI 2024

Great to meet Tautai at their schools and in our first Cluster fono this term. We are exploring aspects of the Falefa'atufugaga framework. Michele Miller at St Joseph's School opened their fale with a picnic for aiga this term. She is pictured with her staff and the Board.

PGC AND CIRCLES OF PRACTICE 2024

We have two PGC groups running this year in Tamaki Makaurau. Tumuaki are in groups of four and are using the Wayfinding Framework to record their inquiries.



Here are two of our **2020** and **2021** Tautai in their 275 Mangere community meeting whānau and gathering attendance data. Michelle Fepulea'i is in one of our PGC groups.



BLENHEIM 2024

Connecting with Tautai in Blenheim was a heartwarming and awesome learning experience. Brigid Comers at St Mary's Te Kura o Hato Mere and Nicky Cameron Dunn at Bohally Intermediate shared exciting strategic directions through a Pasifika lens with thoughtful and pretty powerful planning linking APPE, Falefa'atufugaga and the Wayfinder Frame. Bridget shared experiences of connecting meaningfully with her community. This is a real strength. At the end of last year, just a few weeks after Bridget arrived a student approached her to ask whether a Tupenu could be part of the school uniform. He put his request in writing and they now have prototypes with the Tupenu now being offered. Great to see that students truly do have voice "Who's going to be the CEO of our Tupenu company" and the marketing strategy? Once we get the go ahead I see some great learning opportunities in terms of the marketing, ordering, quality, costings etc so am keen to get them developing it through to it being integrated into the uniform choices ... Go Bridget!!!

At Bohally Intermediate I had the pleasure of meeting a group of confident, engaging, culturally strong and successful Pacific students. Friendship, language and connection were really important to them. All have big dreams for their future. Keep an eye on them they are dynamic and are 'going places'.





TAUTAI UPDATE

SOUTH ISLAND TAUTAI 2024

Geoff Siave – It was wonderful to be hosted for the South Island Tautai 2024 term two fono at Te Waka Unua School in Christchurch. Janeane Reid pointed out the fale which is being built on site by a pair of Samoan builders from Auckland who are supporting schools to have structures such as small fale – faleo'o – built onsite. Part of the kaupapa is that cultural learning and observance are key. Local carvers are involved and the Pasifika community are invited to support the mahi.

For space I'm sharing just one point which resonated with me from each Tautai. Andrew Leverton from Allenton School, Ashburton – Attendance issues: Many Some Ashburton families who are reliant on renting are highly transient and tend to change schools whenever they move, in spite of still having short travel to any school in Ashburton.

At Ashburton Borough teachers focus on "come as you are".

Hilary Boyce says they are not letting concern about lateness or lack of uniform, or anything get in the way of unfailing warmth in the welcome to school. Attendance has improved markedly.

Tim Kuipers of Ashburton Christian School – on sabbatical– Tim talked about the significance and relevance of faith beliefs in Te Ao Māori, and through other cultures feel acceptance and welcomeness? Is our curriculum for them? Analogy of "Lord of the Rings"; How could a study of this book be interpreted



or imagined through a (for instance) Pasifika lens? How might a group of Pasifika boys react in the "marooned-on-an-island context? How can we build relevance and inclusiveness in our curriculum? Eg. Rongoa Māori? At Whitau School (Amy Collins Acting Principal) – A teacher (Samoan heritage) was previously a teacher aide – Building capable Pasifika personnel is one of the key goals of the Pasifika Education Plan). Oceanview Heights (Sandi Abel) has an active Pasifika group – including parents – and benefits from ex-pupils asking to join or support the current pupils. She's greatly looking forward to the Study Tour to Samoa. At Bradford School in Dunedin good attendance at Pasifika fono may well be due to the phone calls to parents by Tautai Emma Knopp. Fantastic catering by a family run Samoan food business helps too! They're certainly getting buy-in; A Cook Island family is doing an Umu for Cook Island Language Week.

Scot Kinley from Bromley School – Chch – has been greatly impacted personally by the learning in Paihia– especially around much of the settlement and treaty history; Convinced that we need to teach this to promote understanding and "unity in our diversity". Renee Brown: "Stories are data with soul"

Janeane Reid – Te Waka Unua – Chch, said their hall flag display has been hugely popular – appoint of pride for many children. Current Samoan language class teacher is a BT. It's an exciting journey for her as well as the children and families involved.

Gretchen Smith (Tautai '23) – Huarahi Linwood Ave, Chch shared much of the same as everyone else – but an extra year down the track. A key person is a former Board member who – wanting to have more direct influence – is now in "Friends" of the school and is coming up with new ways of supporting the school and Pasifika in particular.

The afterglow and beautiful kai and chill before the journey back to school – a five minute trip for the Chch Tautai, 90km for Andrew, Tim and Hilary, 165km for Sandi, and a 360km flight for Emma.





2024 TAUTAI TESTIMONIALS

Richard Bennett - Principal of Helensville School

Tautai o le Moana PLD Impact

The impact of my PLD journey so far with Tautai o le Moana has been significant. The support from my mentor, Sepora Mauigoo, has enabled me to move a lot more confidently into the Pasifika cultural space that I am needing to with my school community. This has covered several areas, of note has been with staff on how to improve their cultural competencies when working with Pasifika students, and how this can directly relate to improving their awareness and interactions with this demographic, which ultimately enriches their classroom programs and improves student outcomes. The guidance and advice from my mentor on Pasifika issues, as well as issues related to my leadership journey as a whole as a beginning principal, have been priceless. The wisdom and experience shared not only by my mentor, but by other Tautai o le Moana facilitators, especially on how to deal with a range of challenges and issues in education has been amazing. I am very thankful for being able to join this special PLD program / opportunity and hope this program continues as this is what all principals should have the opportunity to experience and be a part of.



Jennifer Ioannou

Strengthening my leadership capabilities to improve outcomes for Pasifika learners is a focus of mine as Principal of St Brigid's.



The Residential in February was a powerful experience and words cannot express how much I felt, saw and learnt. The facilitators' generosity, energy, alofa and tautua to support myself and other tautai in very important mahi to deepen our knowledge and understanding of Pasifika identity, language and culture was valued and appreciated. During learning and discussion at the Residential (as well as following sessions with my Wellington facilitator, Karl), sharing and experiencing first-hand the Pasifika values and culture, reinforced for me how important strengthening my own understanding of the cultures of my students and their aiga was. Focusing on who they are, where they come from, what they need to be known and successful is always front of mind for me. I feel so grateful for my Tautai o le Moana journey.

MAURĪ MEKE: A GUIDE TO SELF-CHECK-IN

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it's easy to lose track of the quality of our relationships and personal well-being. Taking a moment to check in on yourself can make a world of difference. Here are some key areas to consider:

Relationships: The Heart of Your Well-being

Influential Relationships Outside of Work

- Evaluate Your Top 3 Relationships: How are they doing? Are they supportive, loving, and fulfilling?
- What Do They Need from You? Perhaps more quality time, better communication, or simply more appreciation.
- What Do You Need from Them? Reflect on your own needs—whether it's support, understanding, or companionship.

Influential Relationships at Work

- Assess Your Top 2 Relationships: How do these relationships impact your work life and overall happiness?
- What Do They Need from You? Maybe they need more collaboration, feedback, or trust.
- What Do You Need from Them? Think about whether you need more respect, recognition, or teamwork.

Reconnecting with Nature: Your Place of Creation

When was the last time you spent time in nature—whether by the ocean, in the mountains, or in the forest? These environments can be incredibly rejuvenating. Plan a visit soon to recharge your spirit and reconnect with the natural world.

Sleep: The Foundation of Health

How is the quality of your sleep? Aim for 7–9 hours of restful sleep each night. Good sleep is crucial for your physical health, mental clarity, and emotional stability.

Activities That Replenish Your Emotional Tank

When was the last time you engaged in an activity that fuels your emotional well-being? Whether it's sex, paddling, or another passion, make time for what brings you joy and energy.

Final Thoughts

Taking regular self-inventory can significantly improve your overall well-being. By checking in on your relationships, reconnecting with nature, ensuring quality sleep, and engaging in fulfilling activities, you can maintain a balanced and vibrant life.

Stay mindful and Mauri Ora, Crew! 🌱

