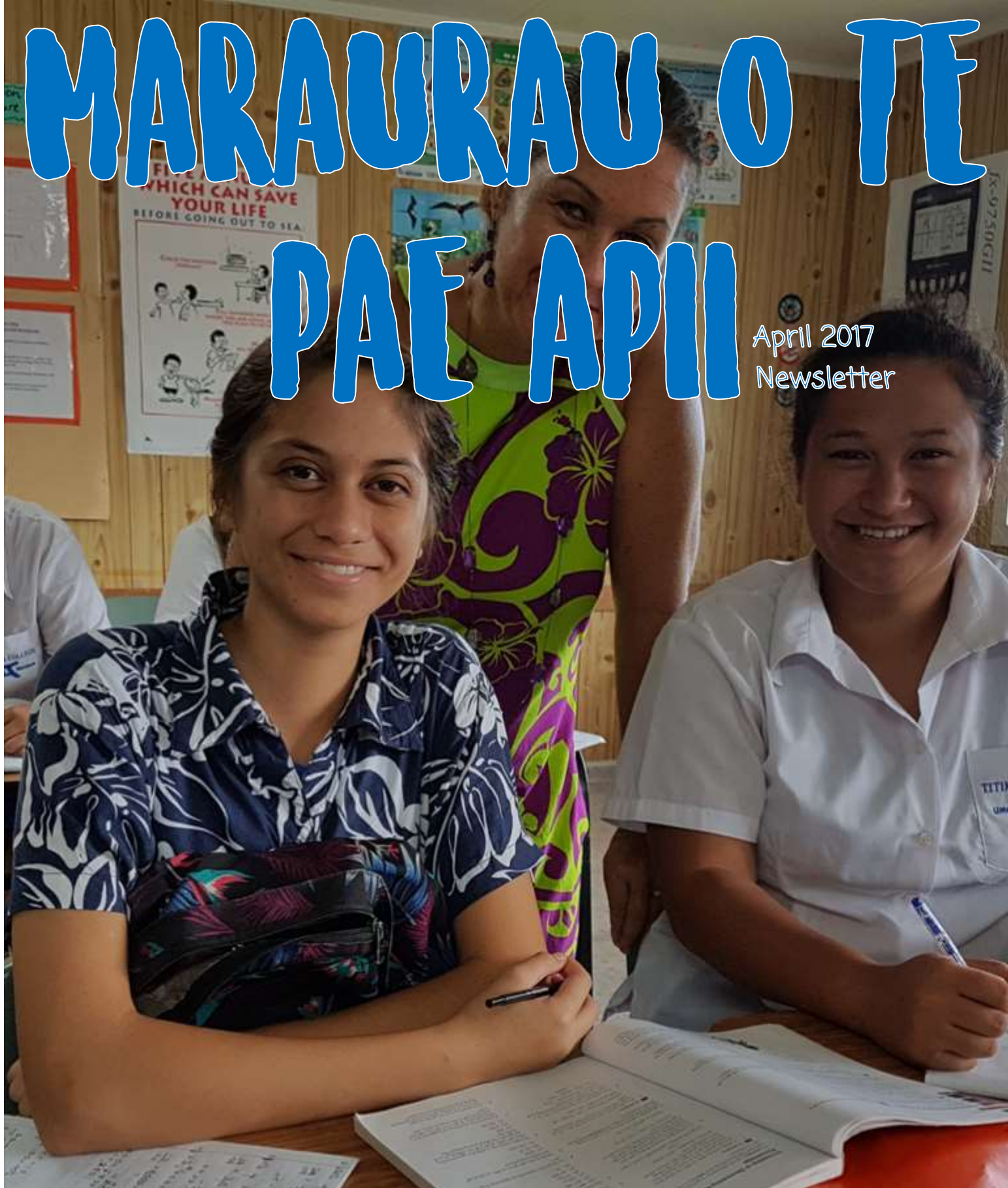


MARAURAU O TE PAE APII

April 2017
Newsletter



Proud to provide **UNLIMITED INTERNET** for all schools in the Cook Islands.

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Cook Islands

2017 UNESCO INTERNATIONAL DAYS



WORLD POETRY DAY - 21ST MARCH

The power of words, whether written or spoken,
We celebrate today, for the inner most thoughts and
feelings throughout time they've awoken.
Speak your truth and explore your mind,
Discover words of all feelings,
Whether beautiful or unkind.
On World Poetry Day we are thankful for many things,
For our words, for their rhythm,
And the knowledge each authors brings.
Poetry is more than words that do or do not rhyme,
Poetry is theatre, dance, music and all things arts in-
clined.
Do you remember the theatre, or recitals of dance and

spoken word?
The applause and the fulfilment, each in its own right
has incurred.
Today we say bring back the traditions, foster a love of
words, of dancing colours and all arts,
Support small publishers and raise the profile of what
they call an outdated art.
Today and every day hereafter, let us recognise the
opportunities poetry affords us,
An outlet for creative spirits, curious minds and a keeper
of history from those before us.
So grab a pen or a poem,
And let the wonderful world of words take over.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY - 2ND APRIL

The theme for this year was "Toward Autonomy and
Self-Determination." Locally, Autism Cook Islands is
leading the 'Light It Up Blue' campaign with support
from the Ministry's Inclusive Education (IE) Advisors, Eve
Reea and Kathryn Bradley.
The Ministry has sponsored some 'Light It Up Blue'
merchandise that was shared out to schools on Friday
31st March, the day World Autism Day is observed.

Some schools have accepted an invitation for speakers
from Autism Cook Islands to talk to their students about
what Autism is. There are competitions open to students
as well a family friendly information evening to wrap up
the month of April. Refer to the '**Light It Up Blue**' article
for more information on what is happening locally this
month.

WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY - 23RD APRIL

UNESCO specifically choose this date in remembrance of two historically significant authors of all time, William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes. In celebrating World Book and Copyright Day this year, UNESCO hopes to promote reading, publishing and the protection of copyright through a series of events they will be hosting.

If you want to learn more about the 2017 UNESCO International Days then head to their website www.un.org



Te Kaveinga Nui
National Sustainable
Development plan 2016-2020



8 Inclusive, equitable and
quality education and promote
life-long learning opportunities

ECE CONFERENCE

The Cook Islands 3rd Early Childhood Education Conference is happening this month from the 18th – 21st of April at the Takuvaine AOG Church.

The conference will have an emphasis on the importance of play learning, also known as learning through play, to a child's development.

When a child learns through play, they are developing social and cognitive skills while engaging in activities. Playing with a toy dinosaur may just look like fun at face value, but the child is learning hand eye coordination, cognitive skills, physical abilities and adding new words to their vocabulary. For Ministry ECE advisor Tania Akai, the conference is a chance to broaden people's understanding of play learning in an effort to change negative mind sets and to encourage teachers to be more interactive and

more innovative when planning activities for their students.

"Play learning gives the child a chance to learn at their own pace and allows them to be children," she said.

By age five, class time becomes less play learning and more constructive learning. Eventually the students are transitioned from being able to roam the class freely, to sitting at a desk and learn.

The conference will be open to the public, so anyone interested is welcome to come along. For more information contact Tania Akai at the Ministry of Education on 29357.



MAORI RESOURCE WORKSHOP

Last month a small team of primary school teachers joined the Ministry's Language and Culture Line Manager, Jane Taurarii, to develop classroom non-fiction resources that will support the Curriculum in Maori.

The workshop was held over four days at the Ministry office with a focus on creating Health and Science resources that relate to the Cook Islands. The initial goal was 10 books however by the end of the week the group had produced 12 books, an outcome Jane was pleased with.

This is the first time resources have been developed in Cook Islands Maori specifically for other curriculum areas and Jane is looking forward to adding more resources to primary teachers' toolboxes.



Front left Jane Taurarii with participants on the final day of the workshop.

LANGUAGE EXPERT GOES BACK TO SCHOOL



Maori language expert Ngavaevae Papatua, jumped at the opportunity to switch gears from teacher trainer to Maori teacher at Apii Enuamanu last week. Secondary Maori Advisor for the Ministry, Vae welcomed the chance to flex his teaching skills and model the strategies he would usually be teaching to teachers. Vae also took the opportunity to meet with parents to explain the NCEA Pacific Studies standard that is now being offered at the school for level 1, 2 and 3 students. Vae returned to Rarotonga on Wednesday 15th March and picked up where he left off, planning and preparing for the NCEA Maori Language workshop.

Vae is continuing to provide remote online support to Enuamanu students via email and Skype.



TECHNOLOGY PACKS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Front left Turoa Opo and Nic Stephany with some of the devices included in the technology packs.

Class time just got a little bit more interesting for some very lucky primary students! One of the 2017 National Focus Areas for the Ministry is IT integration. This is when teachers incorporate technology into their lessons to better a students learning. How a student uses the technology depends on the lesson content and simultaneously allows the student to also gain or improve computer and technology skills. To help get them set up with the hardware to enable IT integration, nine primary schools on Rarotonga have been lent technology packs for the year. This will allow Ministry advisors Nic and Cristina Stephany to see what technology and devices work best in Cook Islands classrooms. They are working with the schools to set up the packs and will continue to work closely with the teachers over the year, providing support where needed. Each pack includes a 49" TV, a shuttle computer, a digital media player/micro console, document camera and a wireless keyboard.

ITC COLLAB MEETING

Ministry advisors, Nick and Cristina Stephany, have created a platform where technology leaders from schools on Rarotonga can come together to pool their ideas and learn from each other with support from the advisors.

The monthly Information Communications Technology (ICT) collaboration meeting started in February. Last month the meeting was held on Tuesday 11th March at the Ministry office.

At each meeting a school representative presents a lesson, technique or project they have completed with their students using technology. Volunteer teachers share the challenges and successes they faced. Last month, Rachel Tetera, from Apii Arorangi presented a media unit where her students' task was to write, act and film a news piece. The group was also introduced to a free online resource, Padlet. Padlet acts as a virtual wall where users can create or join a conversation, similar to posting on a bulletin board, but on the internet. The intention at each meeting is to allow teachers to exchange their best

practices and present what they have done in the classroom using technology. Advisors also support teachers by showing something new at each meeting. This new thing can be a different way to use an app or the introduction of a new online resource.

By establishing a technology leader for each school, the advisors will be able to contact them directly to provide them with any IT updates for their school.

"The meetings have been very successful and we've had good discussions and collaboration amongst the teachers and principals," said Nick.

This month's meeting will be on Wednesday 12th April and will look at utilising computers offline including offline apps. Mark Harris from Apii Te Uki Ou will be presenting. This technology support also extends to the Pa Enea however they are not included in these sessions due to different needs based on resources and internet access. Instead the Pa Enea schools wanting to participate use online video chat services to have one-on-one sessions with Cristina and/or Nick.





CONGRATULATIONS

Over the last four years, 26 teachers have worked towards gaining their Post Graduate Diploma in Education while teaching.

In an effort to meet the minimum requirement for teacher registration here in the Cook Islands, the cohort have committed themselves to their studies with positive results.

Congratulations to Maria Sophi Tapita Aituru, Elizabeth Kapi, PaTapairu Tutai Julia Kata, Nora Kitai, Marianna Mataio, Elizabeth William Rikiau and Ngereteina Teiti who were awarded their degrees this month during a graduation ceremony at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Laucala campus in Fiji. Along with the newly graduated teachers, 12 of their peers will graduate and receive their diplomas next year from USP at a graduation ceremony here in Rarotonga.

The several remaining teachers are still on track to graduate in 2018 with their cohort once they have each successfully completed their respective final papers.

All but one of the teachers were funded in part or fully by the Ministry utilising the financial assistance that has been available to teachers since the Education Act was passed in 2012.

Training and Development Advisor, Ani Piri, is pleased with where the teachers are at with their studies and also proud of the commitment

each has made to continuing their education and ultimately fulfilling or in some cases surpassing, the minimum requirement for teacher registration.

“They made a lot of sacrifices to get to this point,” said Piri referring to the many holiday breaks given up by the teachers in order to attend classes at USP here on Rarotonga.

When the Education Act was passed and the teacher position description revised, all practicing teachers in the Cook Islands were required to have at least an undergraduate Degree. Teachers not meeting the minimum requirement were required to show the Ministry that they were actively studying towards a degree, to which the Ministry has offered financial assistance. Teachers who have chosen, for whatever reason, not to meet the minimum requirement are not eligible for the full registration and will instead have conditional registration that carries restrictions including limited subject or levels that can be taught or requiring supervision.

At present the Ministry is pleased with the proactive attitude displayed by teachers in utilising the assistance offered to successfully get their teachers registration.

NCEA Maori Language Workshop



Work on the 2017 NCEA Maori external exams took place last month lead by Secondary Maori Advisor, Ngavaevae Papatua. 10 NCEA level Maori teachers were invited to participate in the NCEA Maori Language Workshop from the 21st – 24th March at the Ministry office. By the end of the week samples of 2017 Maori exam for all NCEA levels were completed. The samples will need to be refined by Vae before being sent off to New Zealand for moderation. The last time this workshop was held was in 2016 where teachers collaborated to create one exam. This year however participants worked together to create two exams. To further support students, there is one main exam and a backup exam for students who are cleared to re-sit.

In future Vae hopes to have schools writing these exams internally with his support where they need.

The workshop also gave teachers the opportunity to share their views on the Cook Islands Maori Curriculum that is currently being revised by Vae and Primary Maori Advisor, Tutere Moetaua.

MINISTRY LIGHTS IT UP BLUE



If blue is your colour, then April is the month for you! Join local advocacy group, Autism Cook Islands, in spreading awareness about Autism. The 'Light It Up Blue' campaign has reached the shores of the Cook Islands. This is the first time we will join the global movement supporting Autism awareness. This year the United Nations sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day falls on Sunday 2nd April with the chosen theme being 'Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination.' In the United States researchers estimate that one in every 68 children lives with autism. Locally, Autism Cook Islands is leading the campaign with support from the Ministry's Inclusive Education (IE) Advisors, Eve Reea and Kathryn Bradley. The Ministry supports this initiative because it encourages awareness and understanding of people who are 'different, not less'. Stationary, wrist bands and t-shirts have been sponsored by the Ministry as well the backing of the IE advisors who have invited local schools to take part in the campaign. Schools have been encouraged to broaden their students understanding of Autism by having a 'Blue Day' with a speaker from the

advocacy group speaking to students. Schools can decide when they hold the 'Blue Day' with all proceeds from the usual gold coin donation going to the advocacy group. One school just couldn't wait till April to show their support and held their very own 'Blue Day' last month. Students and teachers at Apii Mauke got behind the cause, being blue for the day and donated the proceeds to Autism Cook Islands. Students with a talent for colouring or a penchant for selfies have an opportunity to put their particular talents to good use. Participating schools will run the colour competitions internally for various age groups. Details about the selfie competition have yet to be released so keep an eye out on the groups Facebook page for more information. Wrapping up the awareness month, Autism Cook Islands will be hosting a family friendly 'Light It Up Blue' evening and everyone is invited! On Friday 28th April starting at 6.30pm at the Punanganui playground there will be sausage sizzles, plenty of blue and lots of fun to be had. So whether it's wearing blue for the day or finding out how you can contribute to the

awareness conversation, get in the know this month. For more information on the above-mentioned activities please contact Autism Cook Islands President, Gloria Rarere, on 55976 or visit their Facebook page www.facebook.com/AutismCookIslands





NZQA REPRESENTATIVES ON ISLAND

Its review time for Cook Island schools delivering National Certificate of Education Achievement (NCEA) subjects. Over two weeks School Relationship Managers, Vivien Downes and Craig Ramsay, from the New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA), are conducting their annual Managing National Assessment visits to schools. The review is evidence based so they will be visiting schools around the Cook Islands conducting interviews and going over documentation the school will provide along with their own records.

Its purpose is to ensure schools are maintaining the proper standards required by NZQA that allows the schools to successfully administer NCEA exams and assessments. They will also be checking to see that any recommendations for change made after last year's audit have been implemented as well as introducing new areas of focus such as the external online moderation application that is yet to be officially launched. They will be running Professional Development sessions with the content specifically designed to meet the NCEA needs of each

school.

There will be a session solely for principal nominees at Rarotongan schools – this is a staff member nominated by the principal to be the administrator of the NZQA system for that school – on the morning of the final day of the audit. And to wrap everything up, they will meet with the Secretary of Education, Gail Townsend, and Distance Education Coordinator Liz Sosene, to provide them with feedback on the review, school visits and PD's before heading back to New Zealand the following morning.

MINISTRY SUPPORT FOR TEACHER AIDES

Inclusive Education Advisors, Kathryn Bradley and Eve Reea, continue to provide support to teacher aides around the Cook Islands. On Wednesday 1st March, the advisors invited all teacher aides on Rarotonga to step away from their chalk boards and alphabet soup for an afternoon to attend a training session here at the Ministry. They took the aides through a presentation they have been showing to schools around the Cook Islands and were later joined by the Ministry's Director of Human Resource Management, Tere Utanga. In addition to the presentation, they discussed the job description of an aide and identified what support was needed. Kathryn, who was impressed with the turnout,

hopes to make the meeting a regular occurrence where they can provide the support requested by the aides. Kathryn explains that the value of a teacher aide in the classroom is very great as they provide support to the qualified teacher taking the class. It's also a great way to get some experience working with children for those thinking of becoming a teacher. And just like qualified teachers and principals, there are opportunities available to up skill. Currently there are five teacher aides working towards completing their Certificate in Teacher Aiding through correspondence courses offered by the Ministry, in order to up skill and add increased value to their

role. This initiative is still in its trial period and pending its outcome, will hopefully grow to include a larger intake. But we need more! So if you or anyone you know has a passion for teaching, a love for learning and is searching for a potential career path, contact Mii Rongo at the Ministry office in Nikao to register your interest and find out what pathways are available to you.



Tere Utanga addressing a packed room of teacher aides during the session.



COOK ISLANDS Tertiary Training Institute



Have you always wanted to try something different but nothing really grasped your interest? Or are you wanting to add a new skill to your knowledge base but never seemed to find the time? Then it's time to make time at the Cook Islands Tertiary and Training Institute (CITTI). Whether you want to study full time or part time, take a short course or a gain a qualification for the working world, CITTI is the place for you. And the best part is, there are plenty of options to enable you to choose a course that caters to your schedule.

Run under the ever watchful eye of Director, Caroline Medway-Smith, CITTI has two campuses here on Rarotonga. Head of Faculty for the Trade School, located in Arorangi, is Ina George and in Ngatangia the

Hospitality Campus is run by Head of Faculty for Hospitality and Tourism, Sam Tomokino. Both campuses have an abundant array of courses to choose from, that run all year long. You don't have to look far to read all the positive feedback from students and the community on courses they have participated in. Mere Wise Lasaganibau who is part of the 2017 Front Line Management Class is grateful to CITTI,

“for the awesome opportunity to pursue my dreams,”

at the hospitality campus. Meanwhile Angaroa Williams from the trade school is helping students that are more inclined to working with

their hands rather than a text book, realise their potential through school programmes. Yes, the institute also works with schools to give students a taste of life in their preferred area of work - students at Tereora are gaining valuable work experience building tables and small shed units, while culinary curious students from Nukutere College and Titikaveka College are learning the secret to cooking the perfect lamb shank in a professional kitchen. While some courses did require enrolment by the end of last year, there are still plenty more courses available, so download your copy of the 2017 prospectus by visiting their Facebook page (search Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute) or simply call a campus to see what you can study in 2017.



SPOTLIGHT ON

OVAIA LIEW CITI TUTOR



Finding a decent cup of coffee is hard enough without having to make it yourself. So when you do find a gem of a barista on the island with talent for making that perfect latte to give you that much needed caffeine boost, it's highly likely they have been trained by none other than Ovaia Liew.

And anyone that subscribes to her Facebook updates will know she's also incredibly talented in the kitchen.

Ovaia is a hospitality tutor and café extraordinaire at the Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institutes hospitality campus. While she can make a cup of coffee that will make your soul sing, she also makes a mean cocktail which is another of her focuses as part of the Food and Beverage team at CITTI.

"It's going to be an awesome year," Ovaia says, with their intake of students for City &

Guilts qualifications having risen this year. The barista and bartending courses she delivers are accredited with City & Guilds, meaning qualifications are recognised worldwide.

For Ovaia that old saying to 'do what you love, and love what you do', could not be more true though she didn't start off where she has ended up. Initially training to become a travel agent gaining her Advance Diploma in Travel and Tourism at the New Zealand Academy for Travel and Tourism, she decided to head over the ditch to Australia for three years where she completed her Advanced Diploma in Hotel Management at The Blue Mountains Hotel Management School. Before joining the CITTI family, she was the Operations Manager for the Little Polynesian for two years.

Outside of teaching students, she is the treasurer of the Cook Islands Chef Association and a member of the Cook Islands La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs as the Echanson (Sommelier).

Throughout her two years sharing her knowledge at CITTI, Ovaia's proudest moments have been seeing her students achieve their goals and recognise their potential through her courses, and that hard work paying off in their professional lives.

"The Hospitality Industry is dynamic and without you (students) it would fall. However, there is more to the industry than getting paid - it's the professional opportunities that are always around the corner," Ovaia says sharing her words of advice she usually reserves for her students.

TUTOR UP SKILLS IN JAPAN

February was a particularly exciting month for Cook Islands Tertiary and Training Institute (CITTI) tutor Sarah Tonorio as she spent the month up-skilling in Japan. She attended the Knowledge and Co-Creation program (Group and Region Focus) in the Promotion of Non-Formal Education (NFE) from 1st-28th February, hosted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Non-formal education is all education offered by Governments or businesses that is not part of the government run formal education school system. NFE is an important aspect of the global life-long learning education policies and rights of individuals and is becoming increasingly important across the world. The aim of this program was to share some of the initiatives and best-practices that are being used in Japan. Japan has very high literacy rates and a well-developed education system in both formal and non-formal education. The Japanese Government, represented by JICA, chose to share its practices, theories and challenges with representatives from Haiti, Myanmar, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Cook Islands.

Sarah, who is a Literacy and Numeracy Support and Prison School tutor at CITTI, along with her colleagues had the opportunity to attend lectures, meet with Japanese experts

and go on fieldtrips to observe formal and non-formal education in Japan. The educational facilities they visited included community colleges, vocational training centres, elementary schools, special schools, after-school E-learning "Cram" Schools and the Ministries of Education and Labour.

"We travelled to the northern prefectures of Miyagi and Yamagata for a week. During these visits we had our own (country) research focus areas and at the end of the course developed an action plan to attempt to improve and grow non-formal education systems into our homelands," she said. "The Cook Island Government is actually doing more to promote and subsidise a life-long learner population than the Japanese Government are," she said in appreciation of the robust formal and non-formal education systems in the Cook Islands. Both education systems receive plenty of support from the Cook Islands government and the Ministry of Education. For non-formal education, there are plenty of opportunities through CITTI's hospitality and trade campuses as well as government scholarships and grants for continued education both in and out of country.

"We are such a sophisticated and developed country, that we are also working in rehabilitation through the Literacy and Numeracy

program being delivered at the Prison School, which is my particular area of work. It is a great achievement for such a small population and country," she said highlighting the challenges faced by the countries of her colleagues due to issues such as accessibility, religious and political conflict and funding restrictions.

Through the program she was able to identify some areas we can improve on such as the better of communication between all government departments and social services in identifying and assisting our out-of-school children and our at-risk youth, building and growing the relationship between businesses and CITTI to aid recruitment and internal up skilling pathways and finally by implementing literacy and numeracy E-learning programs for youth and life-long learners namely the Prison School Program and Pathways Awarua being introduced at CITTI.

She returned home with new ideas, a more informed outlook on her work and an enthusiasm to improve and grow the non-formal education being offered here in the Cook Islands. She also expressed huge gratitude to the Japanese Government and JICA, the Ministry of Education and the Senior Management Team of CITTI for enabling this professional development experience.