

## New teacher for Raetihi

Raetihi school has employed Venus Ihakara to its teaching faculty after receiving feedback from parents wanting a bi-lingual class, with emphasis on nga tikanga o Ngati Uenuku (the customs of the Uenuku iwi).

“Venus is an experienced te reo rua (bilingual) teacher with a Master’s in Maori Education,” reports principal Nuku Wallace.

“Venus has a strong whakapapa to the area and is committed to achieving the targets of the unit.”

Venus has also tutored junior and senior kapa haka teams at the national level.

The school now boasts four fluent te reo Maori speaking teachers in the team.

“Our children only deserve the best, so we ensure we go through a very stringent employment process before making an appointment. To help our te reo rua students with their learning we have assigned every child in the unit with their own iPad,” said Mr Wallace.



Raetihi teacher Venus Ihakara with some of her new pupils. Photo supplied.

# Uenuku Panui

## Uenuku trust sets out communications initiative

He mamae aroha:

Tangi atu rā ngā tini aitua, koutou kua riro ki tua o Paerau e ngau kino nei e te mamae. Taku aroha noa i te murau o te tini, te wenerau o te mano. Moe mai i roto i ngā ringaringa o te Ariki, oti atu e.

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā kanohi ora o Uenuku koutou hoki ngā mātawaka e takahi nei i te whenua hei tutuki i ngā wawata o rātou mā.

Mauriora ki a tātou katoa!

Welcome to the first issue of the Uenuku Panui (bulletin), featuring information on current and new developments, updates on Treaty Settlements, events and interesting stories from within our boarders and beyond. This is an extremely positive opportunity for Uenuku Charitable Trust to provide a communication link with our Iwi members and the wider Community within the Ruapehu region.

If Uenuku members would like to contribute to next month’s panui:

- Email your content and photos if you have any to mahanga@uenuku.iwi.nz or you can contact me @ UCT office on 06-385-4900 and leave a message if unavailable or you can text me 027-243-3561 and I will call back its that simple

We have been provided space in the *Ruapehu Bulletin* to kick off our very first newsletter with the following issues being a one page spread only so therefore please be reminded whānau that if your piece is too wordy you may be asked to edit it. The editor will have final approval of the page layout so that everyone is given an

opportunity to have their piece published. Any excess stories will be left over until the following month.

We are looking at having our newsletter printed here every month. Once again this is a great opportunity to inform iwi members and the wider community of our achievements i.e.

- I hear we have some whānau members who have graduated this year – who are they? What did they graduate in?

- Marae fundraisers, Hapū updates, Marae hui etc.
- What’s happening in our education and health sectors.
- Celebrations of Uenuku and Ngāti Rangī high achievers in our communities and organisations.

Please be informed: any political or personal content that may put the UCT organisation at risk will not be accepted.

A reminder to everyone that UCT has an email broadcast. If you wish to subscribe with this broadcast just send an email to mahanga@uenuku.iwi.nz and type the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject box. Subscription is free and in exchange you will receive a wealth of information.

As we move forward we anticipate challenges, however, with the confidence and support of the Iwi and the wider community we will achieve our goals, guided by our values of Tika, Pono and Aroha.

Mauriora,

Mahanga Williams

Communications manager, Uenuku Charitable Trust, 027-243-3561. mahanga@uenuku.iwi.nz.

## Helping young people learn and achieve is tutor’s passion

BY MAHANGA WILLIAMS

“I thoroughly enjoy passing on knowledge and watching the children achieve and master new technologies and skills they never thought they would ever get a chance to learn,” says Kawana Wallace, who is inspiring Maori rangatahi with robotics and 3D design.

Raetihi Primary School is working its way to become an ICT school of excellence and a member of this award-winning team’s success is ICT instructor Kawana.

Talk to the 23-year-old about computer technology and you can feel the passion and enthusiasm he has for what is his way of life. This he also shares with his partner Tara, who he met in one of his classes at university. Together they have a nine-month-old daughter.

Kawana loves working in Raetihi, which reflects his strong whakapapa link—KoRuapehu te maunga, KoManganui-a-te-ao te awa, Ko Uenuku te iwi.

Kawana is humble in stating that he was not always passionate about education and that he was an under-achiever at high school, failing almost every class.

His inspiration to learn is attributed to his art class teacher, Mr Findly, who encouraged creativity and allowed him to explore many different methods of creative expression.

Kawana believes that computer programming can support the accelerated learning achievement of all students— and

having a nine-year-old student working at a Year 9 level exemplifies this.

This year he plans to take a team of boys and girls to the junior robotics competition in Whanganui, while his pupils will also be working to build bilingual education games for tablets and smartphones, and to create an interactive digital music room using Makey Makeys.

And every Wednesday during the school term, you will find Kawana facilitating the Computers In Homes programme, a basic computer course offered to parents and grandparents who can learn everything from writing a simple email to virus removal, using free digital universities and courses. This has been met with great enthusiasm and interest.

Kawana has also started an afternoon programme at Raetihi Primary School known as LEAP (Learning Extension Achievement Programme) where children are given extra tuition and extension in numeracy, literacy and computer programming. This programme is facilitated by his partner Tara.

He says that they, as a whānau, are building a strong future for themselves while sharing their knowledge with the community. And, along the way, he has made it his personal goal to inspire more Maori rangatahi into the fields of engineering and computer science.

Kawana, koia kei a koe!

This pūrongo is reprinted from the *Wanganui Chronicle*.



Kawana Wallace is loving passing on knowledge to pupils at Raetihi School.

## Time of the signs for school

It was time for signing at Raetihi School last week, when pupils were learning and using sign language in support of Sign Language Week and to raise awareness of New Zealand’s deaf community.

New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) is the natural language of deaf New Zealanders – it reflects the country’s culture and includes signs for Maori terminology and concepts unique to New Zealand. NZSL is used daily by more than 24,000 New Zealanders.

The school also acknowledged that sign language is an official New Zealand language and should be used when possible, whether speaking Maori or English.

Raetihi School’s pupils already use sign language when singing the National Anthem at weekly school assemblies.

Some classes are participating in the “learn seven signs in seven days” programme and are going to post clips of their favourite signs online as part of their support.

A Raetihi School Year 3 and 4 class shows off their favourite signs. Photo supplied.



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Ruapehu  
Bulletin is  
online each  
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