

EDUCATION FEATURE

bridging the gap



Agricultural careers launched in Rodney

A Masterton-based training provider Taratahi has stepped in to fill what it sees as a void in the agricultural sector in Rodney.

Chief executive officer Donovan Wearing says Taratahi specialises in agricultural training, offering courses that are practical and can lead to higher levels of study.

A graduation ceremony was held at Wenderholm last month for the first students to complete certificate courses in general farm skills and fencing.

Mr Donovan said the Rodney courses had gone well and further courses would be run this year.

“Most of the graduates are young Maori so we’re proud to be able to offer them these opportunities,” he said. “As well as the core course work, they pick-up a lot of general skills which will help them as employees once they are out in the workforce.”

His comments were echoed by WINZ area manager Auckland Peter Anderson, who also attended the graduation.

“The courses target young people who have few, if any, qualifications,” Mr Anderson said. “There haven’t been a lot of these types of course in Rodney to we’re very pleased to see how well this first group has gone.”



Above: Winner of the Taratahi Cup for best all round ability, recognising attitude, aptitude and practical skill, was Hetaraka Tarau-Panui. He is pictured with Taratahi chief executive Donovan Wearing.



Top right: Lawrence Dawson, of Wellsford, who finished school at Mahurangi College in 2009, says the course offered plenty of variety. “If you’re thinking of work in agriculture then I absolutely recommend it.”



Bottom right: Jamie Urumao, of Oruawhoro, is congratulated by his partner Leaniva and son Bastian. Jamie has secured fulltime employment as a result of being on the course. “I’d worked in the freezing works but didn’t want to go back there. I grew-up on a farm and liked the idea of being outside and always doing something different. The course was choice.”

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From left, Warkworth Primary School Kapa Haka students Harrison Pene, Mariana Woniana, Lily Anderson and Hannah Retimana get to know their new principal Cynthia Holden.

A matter of changing principals

Warkworth Primary School farewelled principal Barry Roberts last month and welcomed his replacement Cynthia Holden, the former principal of Aorangi School in Rotorua.

Mrs Holden was greeted with a powhiri lead by the school's kapa haka students followed by a whaikōrero – a formal welcome by Aorangi School's kaumatua John Marsh.

Originally from Tauranga, Mrs Holden was the third of seven children. She attended Green Park School, Tauranga Intermediate and then Taupo-nui-a-tia College.

She says she knew she wanted to be a teacher from the age of eight years. She completed her training in Hamilton and has more recently, finished her Masters thesis receiving first class honours.

Having been deputy principal for five years at Aorangi and principal for four years, Mrs Holden and her landscaper husband Bill, decided to move north to be closer to friends.

In her inaugural speech she thanked the kaumatua for bringing her to Warkworth.

"I come here with mixed emotions, sad to be leaving my whanau of Aorangi School but happy to start working with such a cohesive team at Warkworth Primary," she said.

"I am deeply committed to seeing the students of Warkworth Primary

excel in all areas of school life and look forward to meeting them all individually in due course."

School resumes on February 3.

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Mahurangi Technical Institute students find their latitude using noon sun sight at Anchor Bay during the ocean navigation course.

Winds of learning blow in

Three Cook Islanders made Warkworth their home while attending maritime courses at Mahurangi Technical Institute last year.

The three, Peia Patai, Nicholas Henry and Tetini Pekepo, were all from the vaka moana *Maru Maru Atua*, a 22-metre ocean-going double canoe built by Salthouse Marine. The three were upgrading navigational and sea safety qualifications ahead of a major ocean voyage planned for this year.

The voyage, which will be undertaken by a fleet of seven Pacific vaka, will set off from Tahiti in May, heading for the Marquesas and Hawaii and then to California. It is planned to sit out the cyclone season in Costa

Rica before heading west again and returning home via Coco Island and possibly Easter Island. The voyage will conclude when the fleet gathers for the Pacific Festival of Arts in the Solomon Islands in August 2012.

The voyage of the seven vaka is being used to raise awareness of noise pollution in oceans, believed to have a detrimental impact on migratory sea mammals. The concept for the voyage originated during the 2008 Pacific Festival of Arts, held in American Samoa.

During the voyage the vaka will be navigated by traditional means but to meet insurance compliance requirements the trio of navigators needed a qualification with international recognition. Mahurangi Technical Institute was able to provide this from their suite of Royal Yachting Association (RYA) courses which enjoy world wide recognition in both commercial and recreational spheres.

Before arriving in Warkworth, the three undertook a RYA offshore master's exam conducted by a Mahurangi RYA examiner. During their time at the Glenmore Rd campus, they studied practical sea survival, fire fighting and first aid and delved into the mysteries of spherical trigonometry as part of their celestial navigation course. They returned to Rarotonga ready to put their new knowledge and skills to use in preparing the vaka for its epic voyage.

Mahurangi Technical Institute's director Paul Decker said the "Raro boys" were a welcome addition to the student body.

"We wish them good fortune and fair winds for the adventure ahead," he said.

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From left, Wendy Palmer, Acacia Brown, Sebastian Kashammer, Danika Person, Gage Laughton and teacher Suzanne Lennon sample the strawberries.

Kindy nurtures new shoots

Grants totalling \$5000 have been turned into food at Wellsford Kindergarten.

A desire to encourage healthy eating habits and teach pupils about where food comes from has led to part of the kindergarten's grounds being used for growing fruit and vegetables over the last couple of years. The latest project has been to develop an area of previously unused, steep waste ground into an orchard.

Head teacher Wendy Palmer says that as well as helping plant and care for the gardens, the children raise plants and grow seed potatoes in buckets to take home to eat.

"We are looking forward to our first fruit from the orchard," she says.

The kindergarten, in Hazlemere Cres, received two grants from the former Rodney District Council, and one from the Waitemata District Health Board, under its HEHA (healthy eating healthy action) programme, with materials and labour for the orchard donated by Simon Pickstone and Jessica Groat.

"We are also grateful to Jo Wood, Nikki Humphrey, the Parent Whanau Support Group and the local community for help in obtaining money to buy 40 new chairs and a table."

The kindergarten reopens on January 24 and welcomes new enrolments.



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The popular course, which runs three times a year, was set up in response to demand from the industry for more quality trained crew members for the rapidly growing super yacht industry. According to the Nautilus UK (the

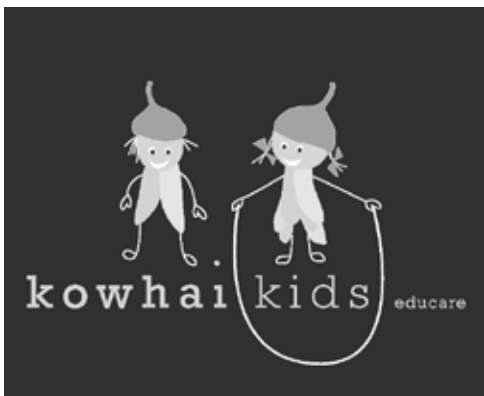
United Kingdoms union for maritime professionals), the super yacht sector is growing at a phenomenal rate – the number of super yachts currently afloat is around 10,500 vessels and more than 700 more are currently in production and are due to be delivered over the next few years. As a result demand for skilled crew members is also rising with the sector needed an estimated 3000 to 4000 newly qualified personnel each year. An average starting wage is about US\$2500 per month. And, of course, food and accommodation come with the job. As does the travel.

Super-yacht, international marine licences and aquaculture qualifications, plus RYA certificates and Maritime NZ licences make Mahurangi Technical Institute a specialist in the marine field. Info: www.mti.net.nz



COURSES FOR TERM ONE 2011 - WARKWORTH

- Living with Confidence** - Warkworth Tuesday 22nd February
6 weeks, 10am-12.30pm, \$25, Held at the Womens' Centre
 - Young Mothers Educational Programme** Monday 24th January
10am-12.30pm, No charge - A free parenting course specifically for young mothers under the age of 22 years.
 - Walking** Wednesdays & Fridays
Meet at the Women's Centre. Please register interest.
 - Improvisation, Movement & Film for Girls** Sat 26th Feb & Sat 5th March
For girls aged 8-12 yrs, 10am -3pm, \$65 - Participants will learn to write a script, perform and film during this 2 day workshop held in Leigh
 - Girls' Self Defence & Personal Safety** Saturday 5th March
One Day - 9.30am-4pm, \$30, (girls aged 13-18 yrs)
 - Anxiety Workshop** Thursday 3rd March, 4 weeks, 10am-12.30pm, \$32
 - Soft Stone Sculpture** One Day, Saturday 12th March
One Day - 12am- 5pm, \$55 plus materials \$15
 - Healthy Relationships - Orewa** Wed 23rd Feb, 6 weeks, 10am-12.30pm, \$25
 - Introduction To Painting** Sat 26th Feb & 5th March - 2 days, 10am-3pm, \$65
Held at Women's Centre Warkworth with Elena Nikolaeva'
 - Computer Courses Word/Filing** March 1st - 4 weeks, 2.30pm-4.30pm, \$95
- Please contact the Women's Centre to enrol **0800 237 674** or **425 7261**
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We have small friendly centres in Warkworth and Wellsford and are currently taking enrolments for 2011.

Check out www.kowhaikids.co.nz
or phone the Warkworth centre on **425 8730**
or the Wellsford centre on **423 8246**.

Childcare snapshot

A snapshot of the national childcare landscape by Statistics NZ shows that over half of pre-schoolers attended formal early childhood education (ECE) and care. Grandparents are the most common providers of informal care for both pre-schoolers and school-aged children. The survey also found that the parents of 25 percent of pre-schoolers at formal care for three or more hours per week accessed the Work and Income childcare subsidy.

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