

**Waimea Community of Learners**  
**Waimea Kāhui Ako**

**June 2018 update**  
**(for BOTs, staff and communities)**

***Our Themes***

Building relationships, Well-being, Culturally Responsive Practice, Transitions, Digital Fluency

***Our Achievement Challenges***

1. To improve achievement in writing for boys in Years 1-10
2. To reduce the gap between the achievement of males and females at NCEA Years 11-13
3. To improve the educational outcomes for Māori students in Years 1-13

**What have we been doing? Read on...**

**Kāhui Ako Learning Week**

**Please note in your diary – Week 6, Term 3, 27-31 August.** All our Kāhui Ako schools have agreed to take part in the Waimea Kāhui Ako Learning Week. This means all schools have agreed to cancel after school meetings that week to allow teachers to attend Professional Learning and Development workshops organised around our Kāhui Ako themes. A range of workshops will be offered, and teachers will choose which one they want to attend. Eager beavers may be able to attend more than one workshop during the week. Within school lead teachers will ask staff for ideas for workshops that they would value highly. The programme of workshops will be posted early in term three.

**Combined Board of Trustees meeting**

During the Kāhui Ako learning week we plan to invite board of trustees members to a combined board evening where we will share our journey so far and discuss activities and ideas for the future. This will be a good opportunity for boards to engage with the Kāhui Ako and meet others doing the same role across our twelve schools

**Leadership Activity**

John attended a seminar in Auckland with Pasi Sahlberg, Finnish educator and policy leader, who talked about lessons for us from Finland's education system. John also visited two progressive Auckland schools, Hobsonville Point Primary and Secondary Schools. Peter is attending a Kāhui Ako leaders' meeting in Motueka this week, with leaders from a wide range of Kāhui Ako from throughout the country.

**Across-school Lead Teachers**

Our across school team continues to meet weekly and are developing their allocated themes. Current work on the themes includes:

Building Relationships (Andrew Ricciardi): A group of Waimea College business studies students is available to visit schools with a message around well-being and some Mind Detox merchandise to raise funds for the NZ Mental Health Foundation. First up visit is on Friday 6 July at WIS.

Culturally Responsive Practice (Sarah Rankin): We are currently collecting contact information from each school of staff responsible for/interested in culturally responsive practice, kapa haka etc. From

this a hui will be arranged for these staff to connect to establish collaboration in this area. The response so far has been really positive.

Well-being (Gus Shirley): Schools are encouraged to look at the NZCER Wellbeing in Schools survey early next term to contribute to a set of baseline data around well-being across our kāhui ako. I have met with Michelle Cliffe (GP) to discuss wellbeing from her point of view.

Transitions (Glenda Earle): I met with Fiona (Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour) and Gwen (Ministry Of Education Early Childhood Education) this week regarding surveys and data collection around transitions. Thanks to staff who have contributed to this information. I am liaising with Craig Vercoe (Nelson Tasman Kindergarten Association) about attending the ECE network meeting early next term to share outcomes and identify next steps around transitions. We will aim to hold a joint ECE / NE teachers meeting next term based on themes / next steps. See link (to come) to themes identified / questions raised from information collated.

Digital Fluency (Janine Higgins): I have been collating Y6/7 transition survey results for Glenda, managing the logo competitions and developing the Kāhui Ako website.

### **Within School Lead Teachers**

Across Schools lead teachers held a workshop for all within school lead teachers on Monday 18 June 3.30-4.30pm at Garin College library. At the workshop the within school lead teachers shared progress on their inquiry projects and discussed the challenges and opportunities of their roles. Each across school lead teacher now has a 'go to' group of within school leads that they liaise with and support. Thanks to Garin College for hosting this event.

### **Centrally funded PLD**

Nick Major has begun working with the across school lead teachers on a coaching and mentoring programme, involving both group and individual sessions. We will expand his work to include within school lead teachers and hopefully some middle management people.

We await confirmation about our participation in the Poutama Pounamu programme.

### **Leadership Recruitment**

The request for expressions of interest from principals and senior leaders has not been successful. A common theme for principals not applying for the leadership role is the workload of running both a Kāhui Ako and their school. This is a common challenge among most Kāhui Ako as they seek to replace leadership. We are considering alternative leadership models, in discussion with local MOE, School Trustees Association and Charles Newton (MOE- appointed independent advisor for Kāhui Ako). Any variation to our current leadership model will need to be supported by our local Director of Education before it will be considered by the Secretary for Education.

### **Financial**

As at 13/06/2018 the balance of the combined Kāhui Ako funds remains at \$15, 982 This funding is held by Waimea College on behalf of the Kāhui Ako.

### **Kāhui Ako Website**

A reminder that our Waimea Kāhui Ako website contains lots of useful information and is regularly updated. It includes all of the monthly newsletters to our stakeholders. Thanks to Janine Higgins for creating and managing the site [www.waimeacol.org](http://www.waimeacol.org).

Thanks for your commitment to supporting the achievement of our students across the Waimea Kāhui Ako. ***Principals, please ensure this update is circulated as widely as possible.***

Please contact us at any time for more information.



John Armstrong [principal@henley.school.nz](mailto:principal@henley.school.nz)

Peter Verstappen: [peter.verstappen@wakefield.school.nz](mailto:peter.verstappen@wakefield.school.nz)

