

Te Rōpu Āwhina Alumni

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Alumni Newsletter May / June 2011

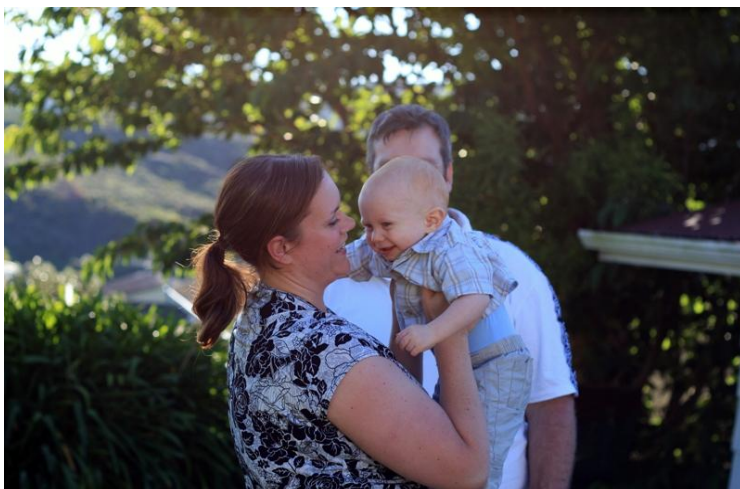
Kia ora koutou!

In this month's newsletter, we catch up with some of our alumni and hear what they've been up to since completing their degrees. We also let you know about some important and exciting Āwhina events that are happening in June and July, as well as later in the year.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Tanya

Since graduating in 2002 with a BSc, Tanya hasn't exactly gone the traditional science route! Tanya first worked as a team leader in a public library, then was an event coordinator with the Justice Department and from late 2006 until now has been working at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research in the Fundraising team. Tanya says that none of these jobs have been what you would think a science graduate would be doing, but the transferable skills learnt while getting her degree have easily lent themselves to these positions. In Feb 2010 Tanya had another life change by having her baby - Leo. She worked part time from home during Leo's first year but has been back at work four days per week since Feb 2011. Life at the moment with work and a toddler is quite crazy at times for Tanya but very rewarding.



Tanya and Leo



Tanya collecting for the Malaghan Institute's Annual Street Day.

With her work at the Malaghan Institute based at the Victoria University Campus, Tanya says it is good to be able to catch up with Āwhina happenings and have the occasional coffee with Liz!

Melanie

Since graduating with an MSc in Marine Biology in 2004, Melanie has been working in the environmental policy field. She has worked for the Ministry of Fisheries as a customary fisheries advisor; Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (in London) as a strategy advisor; and MAF Biosecurity as a policy analyst. Melanie is now working as a policy analyst at the Ministry for the Environment in the Climate Strategy team, which helps set the strategic direction towards a low carbon future.



Melanie says "I have a great view of the Beehive, which is always a helpful reminder of who I am advising!"

Te Raina

When Te Raina finished her studies she was employed (shortly after finishing) at Kāhui Tautoko Consultants as a project analyst. After six months Te Raina was promoted to consultant and worked with this organisation for 3 years. During this time she travelled extensively both nationally and internationally, going to places like Canada, America and the Pacific islands. Te Raina worked with First Nations Peoples, Māori and Pacific Island community groups conducting research and evaluation which was centred on community development and improving health outcomes. When Te Raina first left Kāhui Tautoko she was given a fixed term contract at Te Puni Kōkiri. Te Raina now works at Te Puni Kōkiri as Senior Advisor within the Programme Management team. Te Raina's thoughts on her current role? "It's great here! I still have lots of contact with community groups/organisations as well as still having a big input into Māori development".

Hautahi

Since leaving Vic in November last year, Hautahi has been working as a consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers. His major client has been Telecom where he has been helping with analysis around the ultrafast broadband scheme announced by government. Hautahi's background in science, particularly in maths, has been crucial to this work. Hautahi graduated this month and is looking forward to catching up with Āwhina folk, ahead of leaving NZ for the US next month. Hautahi has been offered a place in an economics PhD program at Cornell University in New York, which he'll be taking up in August. His focus will be on macroeconomics but he hasn't yet decided on a thesis topic. Hautahi is really looking forward to both the academic and life experience, and hopefully showing people what Āwhina is all about".

Danna

Danna did her PhD in psychology at Victoria University of Wellington, and is currently finishing up a Foundation for Research, Science, and Technology Postdoctoral Fellowship focussed on autism and learning. Danna is presenting the results of her research at the Association for Behavior Analysis International, in Denver, Colorado, this month. In July Danna will start teaching at the Centre for Defence and Security Studies, at Massey University.

Upcoming Te Rōpu Āwhina Whānau Events:

CybroSPACE Whānau in Science day 8th July 2011, Victoria University of Wellington

Following on from the highly successful 'CybroSPACE Journeys to Success Event' held at Te Rauparaha Arena in Porirua in 2010, and the 'Māori Whānau in Science Day', held at Parliament in 2008, Te Rōpu Āwhina Whānau and Te Puni Kōkiri will be holding the 'CybroSPACE Whānau in Science' day on campus on Friday, the 8th of July, for rangatahi and their whānau.

**DON'T FORGET
THE ĀWHINA
BIRTHDAY ON
THURSDAY, 21st
JULY!**

Careers Evening 2011

Āwhina Alumni held our first careers evening last year. We will be running a similar event later this year so keep an eye out in the newsletter or on your email for the date. We will be needing your involvement to inspire and signal to those whānau members who are yet to graduate, that there is a network of Alumni out there who can provide support and career advice.

"IF WE CAN DO IT, SO CAN YOU!"



Āwhina Alumni Facebook Page

If you haven't already joined, this is a great way to keep in touch with Āwhina alumni whānau members, go and add some friends and post some pictures of your travels and experiences. Search "Te Rōpu Āwhina Alumni" in Facebook.

Questions or comments on the newsletter? Success stories or notices to add?

Send us an email at:

teropuawhina.alumni@gmail.com

Nā Te Rōpu Āwhina Team

Te Rōpu Āwhina Website

Check out the whānau at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/science/awhina

for the latest Āwhina photos and success stories!
