

Alumni Newsletter February 2011

Tena koutou



On behalf of all Awhina whānau, our deepest sympathies to those who have lost loved ones in the terrible events and our best hopes for everyone living through these tragic times. Your countless acts of kindness, courage and great strength witnessed daily on our television screens are a credit to all New Zealand and together we will all help rebuild your beautiful home. Like the magnificent Cathedral that symbolises the city you will endure these dark times and stand one day stronger and even more spectacular than before. Kia kaha Christchurch, arohanui nā Āwhina whānau.

Āwhina whānau first published paper!

The alumni congratulates all the hard work that has gone into Āwhina whānau publishing their first academic paper. If you have an interest in education then the paper certainly makes for an interesting read. The paper calls for academic institutions to be culturally aware of students from ethnic minorities and stresses that institutions need to provide a learning environment that fosters and celebrates indigenous cultural identities like Māori and Pasifika rather than alienating them. Survey evidence suggests Āwhina whānau through its kaupapa approach based on togetherness, reciprocity, and aspiration for academic achievement provides the cultural environment many institutions fail to provide. An example of the “Āwhina effect” as the author’s call it is that degree completions and postgraduate enrolment in science and design has increased significantly from “84 Maori-Pacific science degree completions, of which 26 were at postgraduate level” from 1999-2003, to “234 [Maori-Pacific] science degree completions of which 60 had been at postgraduate level” from 2007-2009 (Wilson et al. 2011).



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 Ropu Awhina Alumni” in Facebook.

Careers evening 2011

Following on from the positive feedback from last years careers evening the Āwhina alumni plan to hold another careers evening later in the year, the alumni will keep whānau members updated of future developments regarding this exciting event.



What's the purpose of the Āwhina alumni?

Some of you may be wondering what is the purpose of the Āwhina alumni. I know I've asked this question myself. The alumni exists to provide a bridge from the end of tertiary studies to the workforce for our Awhina whānau members. Alumni have valuable skills they can pass on to whānau members and the alumni aims to actively seek opportunities to provide pathways into the workforce where possible. Just like the mentoring at University helps create an environment of cultural awareness, acceptance and support the alumni can do the same when our whānau members finish their studies. We can only harvest what we put into it so the alumni needs you. The alumni is a great way to stay involved with the Āwhina whānau.

**Questions or comments on the newsletter?
Success stories or notices to add?
Send us an email at
teropuawhina.alumni@gmail.com
Na Te Ropu Awhina Team**

Te Rōpu Āwhina Website
Check out the whanau at:
www.vuw.ac.nz/science/awhina
for the latest Āwhina photos and
success stories!

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