



Tautai O Le Moana – 2024 Study Tours



Niue – Fakaaue Lahi

Niue connected principals and educational leaders to deepen their engagement with the Niuean education system, enhancing leadership capabilities and cultural understanding. The tour focused on building connections with educators, participating in workshops, and exploring cultural practices to inform leadership. Visits to Niue Primary, Niue College, along with the Education Conference, offered valuable insights into digital transformation and curriculum development. The experience highlighted the importance of integrating culturally responsive practices in New Zealand and opened doors for future collaborations. A truly humbling experience.



Samoa – Fa'afetai Lava

Our engagement with Samoa focused on enhancing leadership capabilities and improving outcomes for Pasifika learners. Principals visited schools such as Samoa Primary and Matāfutu Primary, immersing themselves in Samoan educational practices. The tour highlighted core values like service, respect, and community, clearly reflected in the disciplined and joyful behaviour of students. These experiences emphasized the importance of integrating Samoan cultural practices into New Zealand schools, strengthening connections with Pasifika learners, and promoting culturally sustainable practices across Aotearoa.



Tonga – Malo Aupito

Tonga offered a profound learning experience for 15 Tautai Principals from across New Zealand. The tour aimed to immerse us in Tonga's cultural environment, enhancing leadership and the implementation of culturally responsive pedagogies in our schools. Visits to six schools highlighted the deeply embedded values of service, relationships, and respect for language, culture, and identity. These values were especially evident in our interactions with the Ministry of Education team, which enriched our understanding of local practices. This experience has laid a solid foundation for improving outcomes for Pasifika learners in Aotearoa New Zealand.



NZPPA - ENGAGEMENT

Fraser High

Our visit to Fraser High School began with the Aiga Tasi Programme, where Pacific students are nurtured as future leaders. We were welcomed with a Cook Island Turou and Samoan Cava Ceremony, followed by inspiring cultural performances. Talanoa sessions further emphasized the strong connections and shared values within this unique environment. The Aiga Tasi Programme truly embodies the spirit of "One Family," and our visit marks the start of an ongoing relationship with Fraser High.



Waikato MOE

Our engagement with the Waikato Ministry of Education began with a warm welcome and powhiri at their Hamilton Office, followed by waiata and afternoon tea. Special thanks to Marcus Freke and his team for their hospitality. During our Talanoa session with Deputy Secretary Jocelyn Mikaere, we discussed key challenges, including staffing, special needs support, and funding. This meeting provided an important platform to voice concerns and strengthen collaboration.

Turangawaewae Marae

We begin by expressing our condolences for the passing of Kiingi Tūheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII. During our visit to Turangawaewae Marae for the Koroneihana celebrations, we participated in the Ecumenical service, where Archbishop Don Tamihere's sermon emphasized the power of identity. Touring the Marae and standing by the Waikato River deepened our appreciation for the place's significance. We concluded with a reflective Talanoa session at Hopin Stopin Cafe, focusing on the importance of connection and support among principals.



NZPPA Connect

Our new engagement structure, launched last term, is now fully underway. Members are organized by school type, with each group led by an executive member. Early feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many feeling more connected and empowered to share their experiences. This approach has helped foster a stronger sense of community and collaboration, ensuring that every voice is heard. As we continue, we are confident that this initiative will deepen our collective engagement and strengthen the association's ability to advocate effectively for all members.



Pasifika Advisor

We are thrilled to announce that **Banapa Avatea**, an exceptional educator and principal of Flat Bush Primary, will take on the role of 'Pasifika Advisor' for Auckland in 2025. His secondment will focus on supporting Pasifika Principals, playing a crucial role in strengthening leadership and services for the schools he will work with. Banapa's passion, experience, and dedication make him the perfect fit for this position. We are confident he will bring immense value to the role and wish him every success as he embarks on this important journey.

PEAK BODIES

During our recent Peak Bodies meeting, we addressed several pressing issues impacting the education sector. Key topics included the growing demand for early intervention services, with a significant rise in children presenting complex needs post-COVID. The challenge of workforce shortages, particularly for specialist roles like speech-language therapists, was acknowledged as an international issue requiring innovative solutions.

We also discussed the need for a collective response to alleviate pressure on schools and proposed models that incorporate wider expertise. Additionally, the importance of mental health services for students was emphasized, with calls for better coordination of support systems to address service gaps.

NEW PANEL INITIATIVES

Parehuia Enari – Te Rito is initiative is leading the way with a centralized system that will interact with current SMS in all schools. The aim is ensure that they information is then accessible for every student as they move/navigate through the schooling system.

Helen Varney – The Principals Development Map initiative is designing platforms that will school leaders with all available PD for themselves and staff into one central area.

Bert Iosia – The Teaching Council are looking to design a new framework that will extend on 'Our Code Our Standards' with the intention of promoting 'Inclusive' pedagogy and practices.

FAREWELL TO TANIA MACDONALD

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Tania for her incredible work and dedication to our association and the executive team. Her commitment to the education system is simply outstanding, and her positive impact will be felt for years to come. Tania has been a wonderful person to work with, and her contributions have been invaluable. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



NZPPA - PODCAST



We are thrilled to announce the launch of the NZPPA Podcast series, now available on Spotify. The podcast will feature stories, insights, and experiences from Pasifika principals and educators, offering valuable discussions on leadership, education, and culture. Tune in to stay connected and inspired.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/3001tiEpqIEGW4D8jzN4Rt>



W.E. CONTRACTORS

William Wolfgramm, owner of W.E. Contractors, is a proud Tongan with deep roots in South Auckland. Having attended local schools, William continues to give back to his community. As a former rugby league player who represented Tonga and coming from a sporting family, his discipline and drive are evident in his business.

With a strong track record in school projects, William's expertise has made W.E. Contractors a trusted name in the construction industry. His commitment to delivering high-quality, tailored solutions ensures that each project meets the unique needs of his clients while contributing to the growth of his local community. Check out their work on their website

<https://wecontractors.co.nz/>

