



*Te
Whaioranga*

ePānui from PHARMAC's Te Whaioranga Māori Health Team

Connections with Māori on the rise

Our Te Whaioranga team place much value on developing relationships with Māori groups doing amazing work to make a difference in their communities. In this ePānui we profile some of those movers and shakers:

- Te Ropu Poa – Executive Manager, Te Hau Ora o Kaikohe, which is a member of Te Pū o Te Wheke Whānau Ora Collective
- Rauawaawa Kaumātua Charitable Trust in Hamilton
- Te Korowai Kaumātua o Hauraki in Hauraki
- Best Care (Whakapai Hauora) Charitable Trust in Palmerston North

We look forward to working more closely with other Māori groups. If your organisation is interested in working with us to achieve better health outcomes for Māori, please contact Awhimai Reynolds, Māori Health Manager, on awhimai.reynolds@pharmac.govt.nz

We also talked with tāne about their experience of getting their hearts checked at the recent Creekfest in Porirua.



Kaumātua get innovative

PHARMAC sponsors a number of Māori health initiatives throughout the country including several aimed at improving the wellbeing of kaumatuā run by Rauawaawa Kaumātua Charitable Trust, Te Korowai Kaumātua o Hauraki and Best Care (Whakapai Hauora) Charitable Trust. [Click here](#) to check out just some of the brilliant work they are doing.



Tāne Talk: Face to face, heart to heart

More than 100 Māori and Pasifika men got their hearts checked at the One Heart Many Lives tent we set up at the



Our Partners: Movers and shakers



Te Ropu Poa is charged with the job of transforming the appalling state of

health in one of the country's most financially strapped communities. But she is by no means a damsel in distress. Her attitude is simple: "just get the mahi done with what we have."

The 45-year-old daughter of the North (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Te Rino, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Kahu), is the Executive Manager at Te Hau Ora o Kaikohe – a Māori health provider delivering public health and early intervention programmes to whānau in and around Kaikohe.

The organisation is a member of the Whānau Ora collective Te Pū o Te Wheke which PHARMAC recently entered into a partnership agreement with.

The mother and grandmother has more than 15-years-experience in Māori health. She says her entry into the sector had humble beginnings as a youth worker at

Creekfest event in Porirua recently. We spoke with five of them about their experience of getting their hearts checked, the 'wake-up' calls many of them got and what changes they are going to make to enjoy their lives and their whānau for longer. [Click here](#) to check out their stories.



Wānanga injects new knowledge

He Rongoā Pai He Oranga Whānau is a free two day wānanga offered by PHARMAC on medicines information training including rongoā Māori for health professionals and community workers working alongside Māori whānau. We talk with one of the latest participants

Name: Kay Berryman

Occupation: Project Manager, Te Puna Oranga (Māori Health Service), Waikato District Health Board

Iwi: Maniapoto, Waikato-Tainui

"The wānanga was a great way to meet new people who work in health. We got to discuss relevant issues around how

Te Whānau o Waipareira Trust in West Auckland, so she is all too familiar with the needs of whānau on the ground.

When it comes to her community, she says the most serious health issues are cardiovascular disease, diabetes, rheumatic fever, obesity and poor oral health.

"If you walk around Kaikohe, you will see that most of the adults have missing or decaying teeth."

She says access to primary health care services is also an issue.

"Because we only have one medical centre here, and the number of GPs is scarce, we have to work extra hard on early intervention and prevention work.

"That means more work with whānau in schools along with building the knowledge and expertise of our staff is important."

The work to date that Te Ropu is most proud of in her Kaikohe role has been working with PHARMAC on the One Heart Many Lives campaign, He Rongoā Pai He Oranga Whānau wānanga as well as supporting one of the World Unicycle Champions to run a Unicycle programme with local children.

"We ran a heart tent at the recent Ngāpuhi Festival and almost 117 of our men got their hearts checked. These are men who would have never got their hearts assessed if it were not for the One Heart Many Lives campaign.

"The wānanga have also been great. They provided the opportunity for our kaimahi to be inspired and empowered by

Māori receive medicines, how Māori working at the frontline with our people view health, how to get information on medicines and more importantly what PHARMAC does as an organisation. As a project manager, there are many barriers that Māori face when accessing health services.

“We know the evidence proves this and it is not new for those who are working to make the system better for our people. He Rongoā Pai, He Oranga Whānau was an opportunity for us as Māori health workers, project managers, community workers to meet and talk about inequalities in all chronic illness areas (cardiovascular, diabetes, COPD, cancer) and how medicine can help our people with such diseases.”

For a schedule of the wānanga for 2012 and to register online go to

www.hrphow.co.nz

Māori clinicians (Drs Peter and David Jansen, Dr Lance O Sullivan and Leanne Te Karu).

“Kaimahi would never have the opportunity to engage with clinicians at this level and learn this type of knowledge.

“If our workers are empowered, then they are able to share that with the whānau they are working with.”

Te Ropu attributes her passion to her grandparents.

“I was raised by my grandparents who had strong Māori values and practiced whānau ora every day.”

Upcoming events

24-25 May

He Rongoā Pai He Oranga Whānau wānanga
Omapere Copthorne
HOKIANGA

20-21 June

He Rongoā Pai He Oranga Whānau wānanga
Te Mahurehure Marae Cultural Centre
PT CHEVALIER, AUCKLAND

27-28 June

He Rongoā Pai He Oranga Whānau wānanga
Takaparawha Marae
ORAKEI, AUCKLAND

[Click here to register for a HRPHOW wānanga](#)

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