



## *Blue Mountain Kāhui Ako*

*Working together to develop pathways and release the potential of our 21st Century confident, connected, innovative learners.*

A Kāhui Ako or Community of Learning (CoL) is a group of education and training providers working together to help learners achieve their full potential. Kāhui Ako can include early childhood centres, kōhanga reo, schools, kura and post-secondary institutions. CoL's, in their simplest form, are a group of schools cooperating to lift the achievement of all the students across all the schools in the group. They were first announced by Prime Minister John Key in January 2014 under the 'Investing in Educational Success' initiative. The teachers professional body's along with the teacher unions and the government spent the next 12 or so months working on the parameters of the IES Policy. The first CoL's were formed in Term 4, 2015.

Blue Mountain College, Heriot School, KidzWay ELC, Tapanui School, Waikaka School and Waikoiko School formally joined together as a Kāhui Ako (CoL) at the end of 2016, signing a Memorandum of Understanding. The respective Boards of these six learning centres have now appointed their leader.

Antony Criglington, Principal of Tapanui School has been appointed foundation leader for the Blue Mountain Kāhui Ako (CoL). Antony will lead the CoL through its next phase of identifying learning challenges across the community and appointing some staff to work across the schools to raise student achievement.

Each Community of Learning | Kāhui Ako sets shared goals, or achievement challenges based on the particular needs of its learners. We will now work together over the next few months shaping these by looking at data and priorities for learners across our six schools and centres. Once the achievement challenges are approved by the Ministry of Education other positions within the CoL can be appointed.

Research shows that quality teaching has the biggest influence on whether learners succeed. IES and subsequently CoL's have been designed with this in mind and is intended to help raise achievement by:

- Improving teaching practice across New Zealand
- Enabling kaiako and teachers to work together and benefit from each other's knowledge and experience
- Helping all learners benefit from the skills and knowledge of great kaiako and teachers from across a group of education providers (early childhood education services me ngā kōhanga reo, school, kura and post-secondary)
- Helping educators and training providers work together so it's easier for learners to move through the education system.

Finally it is important that each school community understands that Antony's new role is designed around leadership of the collective goals of the CoL's. He will work closely with the Boards and Principals of all six learning centres. While the CoL formation requires us to think differently and interact collaboratively, the day to day running and unique flavour of each school is maintained by the Principal, Staff, Students and Board of that school or learning centre.

We will continue to update you as the working of the Kāhui Ako unfolds and the challenges are identified.

### From your Principals:

Mrs Lindy Cavanagh-Monagan / Mr Colin McHutchon / Mrs Denise Sanne / Mr Antony Criglington / Ms Bronwyn McCall / Mrs Lynne Hall