Mihi

Ka hikitia o tätou kanohi ki te runga rawa, a, kia kakahutia tätou i tōnā korowai o te aroha, kia uru mai tōnā kowhiringa. Me te tangi anō, ki a rātou mā kua wheturangitia, a, moe mai rā i te moeroa o te rangata. Ka rere atu ai ngā mihi ki a tätou te hunga ora e whakatau ai i ngā āhuatanga a rātou mā. Ka rere hoki i te mihi nei ki a tätou e pūmau ana ki te kaupapa. Anō hoki, ko ngā mihi wairua whakarei ki te āhuatanga e tuituia i ngā whānau, me ngā hapu. Anō nei, ngā manaakitanga ki ngā kaiwhakarite e tū whakapiki i ngā moemoē i ngā āhuatanga. Anō hoki, ko ngā mihi wairua whakarei ki te āhuatanga e tuituia i ngā whānau, me ngā hapu.

This Tihi Komata newsletter informs Māori secondary school students about exciting events and upcoming opportunities at the University of Otago. It will give students an update on events enjoyed by Māori students in 2013, and will interest those students considering studying at Otago in 2014.

YEAR 10 MĀORI STUDENTS IN WELLINGTON AND CHRISTCHURCH

Kowhiringa Rā – Wellington and Christchurch

The Kowhiringa Rā (Subject Planning Day) is a one-day programme that helps Māori students to make informed decisions about the types of subjects they should be choosing at each level of their secondary schooling. More importantly, the programme provides students with the essential tools to choose subjects that are closely aligned with the potential careers students wish to pursue after they have completed secondary school.

The key principle of the Kowhiringa Rā programme is the way it connects Māori students with support and services at the University of Otago. Each programme involves current students at Otago, who motivate and encourage students to understand the importance of making appropriate subject choices at secondary school, and the value of tertiary education.

If you are a Year 10 Māori student who would benefit from more guidance in selecting your subjects from Year 11 to 13, the Kowhiringa Rā programme would be ideal for you. It will give you a greater understanding about how to plan your study pathway to meet your career aspirations.

The proposed date for the Christchurch programme will be 6 November, and the Wellington programme will follow on 12 November. If you would like to know more, please contact your Dean or Careers Adviser, who can get in contact with me to discuss this programme further with you.
The Hands-On Science (HOS) programme provides a friendly and interactive environment for students to consider studying Sciences at the University of Otago. The weeklong programme is offered in January of each year and encourages talented young students to consider Science as a professional career.

Throughout the week HOS students are divided into project groups and attend lectures and seminars which include: Biochemistry, Chemistry, Computer Science, Genetics, Geography, Geology, Health Sciences, Biology/Immunology, Human Nutrition, Information Science, Marine Science, Microbiology, Pathology, Pharmacy, Physical Education, Physics, Physiology, Psychology through to Zoology.

Every year, a select number of Year 11 Māori secondary school students are awarded Ngā Mahi-a-Ringa Pūtaiao (NMP) scholarships to attend the Hands-On Science programme. The NMP scholarships encourage more Māori students to develop a passion for studying Sciences at secondary school level. Those students who are interested must complete an application form and write an essay explaining how they would benefit from attending the programme. In addition, students must also display all-round academic ability with a particular focus on Science. In 2013, thirteen students received an NMP scholarship, which covered costs for flights, accommodation, meals, tours and entertainment.

The Hands-On Science programme is highly successful and students have the wonderful opportunity of meeting like-minded students from other secondary schools around New Zealand. So, if you are a Year 11 student (in 2013), of Māori descent, and have a passion for Science, please consider applying for a Ngā Mahi-a-Ringa Pūtaiao Scholarship for the 2014 programme. Scholarship applications will be available online in June 2013.

www.otago.ac.nz/prospectivestudents/maori/

Finding Your Place at Otago

On Campus Experience (OCE)

The On Campus Experience (OCE) is a sought after opportunity for Māori students to experience a snippet of what life is like as a student at the University of Otago. The four-day programme showcases academic divisions and departments, and gives students a feel for the Dunedin campus. Students will have the chance to ask departmental staff about entry requirements, subject specialisations and any other questions they may have about first year study. The university prides itself on providing sound academic support and pastoral care, so students will become familiar with the support services available to Māori students during their On Campus Experience.

Last year, sixteen students from secondary schools from around New Zealand were selected for the OCE programme and were hosted at Arana Residential College. Each year, students stay at a host Residential College every year and they will visit other Colleges to experience the similarities and differences between them. College life provides students with a network of potential friendship and study groups. By staying in a Residential College OCE students get to experience being semi-independent. The OCE programme is a great way for Māori students to think about how and where they wish to live while they study.

Other highlights of the OCE programme include visiting the well-utilized Ō Huka Matauraka (Māori Centre). Here OCE students are able to see for themselves the Māori students support centre that is so widely referred to over the programme. The Māori Centre is lead by ‘Aunty’ Pearl Matahiki, and follows traditional Māori customs of ‘manaakitanga’ (hospitality) through kai (lunch), and it provides an added assurance of support for OCE students.

Although the OCE focuses primarily on promoting the University, it also shows students other important features about Dunedin. The OCE students take an historical tour of Cadbury Chocolate Factory, visit the Marine Studies Centre at Portobello, journey up Signal Hill and get to climb the infamous Baldwin Street. In addition, OCE students may get a chance to experience fine dining at Dunedin’s well-known pizza restaurant, Filadelfios.

Overall, the On Campus Experience is a programme designed specifically to give Māori students the opportunity to experience student life in Dunedin. The programme is devoted to showcasing the University and the city of Dunedin to prospective Māori students.

This year, the OCE programme is being held from the 12-15 May 2013.

In order for you to be considered for the OCE programme, you must complete an application form, along with an essay introducing yourself, your preferred area of study, and reasons why you are interested in studying at Otago. All students must demonstrate academic ability overall and explain why they should be given first preference over other applicants.

Application forms for the On Campus Experience 2013 are available online: www.otago.ac.nz/prospectivestudents/ocene.html

Applications close: Friday 15 March 2013, 5pm

Māori Students Interested in the Health Industry

Tū Kahika

Tū Kahika is a University of Otago programme that supports Māori students who wish to achieve their goals of becoming a health professional. Students take part in a full-year (February to October) Health Sciences programme, run within the Foundation Year. The successful completion of the Tū Kahika programme provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to study with greater confidence at degree level and in particular, within the Health Sciences First Year programme at Otago. Students benefit from having guaranteed accommodation in a University of Otago Residential College, Foundation Studies tuition fees paid in full, $5,000 towards accommodation costs, additional tutorials in core science subjects,
career development, professional and cultural development, as well as pastoral and academic support throughout the year.

The Tū Kahika programme is for academically capable students with a passion for Māori health and the determination to succeed. If you are a Year 13 student, and you are passionate about a career in the health professions, please consider the Tū Kahika programme application date in late September.

Applications close: 30 September 2013 (places are limited).

For further information see our website: www.otago.ac.nz/tukahika/index.html

Contact:
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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF OTAGO MĀORI

Do you have any further comments about life as a student at University of Otago?
Yes, the Māori Liaison Officer (Ashley) told me everything I needed to know, when considering the University of Otago. There is always more to meet and you’ll make some life-long friends, as I have. Everyone makes friends everywhere in Dunedin. You meet people in lectures, sports and social events, residential colleges. It’s hard not to make friends everywhere in Dunedin. My residential college is where I met most of my close friends.

What made you consider the University of Otago?
Tauranga, but for the best really.

Is there any academic support for Māori students at the University of Otago?
The Māori Centre is always there to support you: extra tutorials and any kind of advice that you may need when you are away from home. They are especially helpful if you are homesick.

Is Dunedin a good place to gain independence? Definitely. Being on another island from my family totally forces me to be independent. I think if I didn’t move down here alone then I wouldn’t have gained my independence and in this process, you learn a lot about yourself.

What is one piece of advice you wish you had known before you came to the University of Otago? Pick your papers really well. You’ll be gutted if you don’t and find out you could have taken this really cool song writing paper.

Have you noticed any significant differences between Dunedin and your hometown? Yes, firstly the erratic weather patterns, the sea of students in Kathmandu/Fairydown jackets, and how everything is within walking distance. These three things are quite rare in Palmerston North.

Is there any significant differences between Dunedin and your hometown? Yes, firstly the erratic weather patterns, the sea of students in Kathmandu/Fairydown jackets, and how everything is within walking distance. These three things are quite rare in Palmerston North.

What would be your preferred career/profession? Medicine.

Is your study closely linked to this career/profession? A vocation year after completing medicine can lead me into Orthopaedic surgery.

What made you consider the University of Otago? Otago provides the best academic support services for Māori students.

Have you made many friends at the University and/or in Dunedin? Yes, you make friends everywhere in Dunedin. You meet people in lectures, sports and social events, residential colleges. It’s hard not to make friends elsewhere in Dunedin. My residential college is where I met most of my close friends.

Have you noticed any significant differences between Dunedin and your hometown? Dunedin is a completely different town to Tauranga, but for the best really.

Is there any academic support for Māori students at the University of Otago? The best tutorials you will ever get are at the Māori Centre. I never had any trouble with Chemistry 191 because of our great tutor Debbie, at the Māori Centre.

Is Dunedin a good place to gain independence? Definitely, you can’t really do anything but be independent.

What is one piece of advice you wish you had known before you came to the University of Otago? None, the Māori Liaison Officer (Ashley) told me everything I needed to know, when considering the University of Otago.

Do you have any further comments about life as a student at Otago? You’ll make friends.
What secondary school did you attend? Shirley Boys High School.

What would be your preferred career/profession? A doctor. I also have a particular interest in Paediatrics or ED, as a way to return the favour for those who helped me when I was sick, as a baby.

Is your study closely linked to this career/profession? Yes, Medicine will lead me into gaining my registration with the Medical Association, and eventually becoming a doctor.

What made you consider the University of Otago? For Medicine, my choices were between either Auckland or Dunedin. Being from Christchurch it was closer for me to travel, which meant I was able to stay closer to my family.

Have you made many friends at the University and/or in Dunedin? Too many to count! Spending the first year in a residential college, I have made so many friends from all over the country.

Have you noticed any significant differences between Dunedin and your hometown? Weather! Haha! Actually it’s much like home, not a huge place compared to Christchurch but still has the same homely feeling.

Is there any academic support for Māori students at the University of Otago? YES! Quite scary at first, to get involved, but now we’re such a tight knit group I’m always willing to meet new people and become part of the group. Te Roopū Māori, the Māori Health Workforce Development Unity (MHWDU), and Te Oranga are incredibly supportive of me as a Māori student.

Is Dunedin a good place to gain independence? Fantastic place! People at the Māori Centre are always there for you if you need help. Dunedin is a student-orientated city, so it’s a great place to learn to live on your own and meet heaps of different people and make lots of friends.

What is one piece of advice you wish you had known before you came to the University of Otago? Take each day as it comes. Every day is different, but be open to the unexpected. It’s Dunedin after all and us students can do crazy things. Also pack a lot of warm clothes!

Do you have any further comments about life as a student at Otago? Not really. Basically, just have a lot of fun being a student here. The atmosphere is awesome and makes it such a fun time!

Have you noticed any significant differences between Dunedin and your hometown? The differences between Dunedin and Rawene are huge but I couldn’t think of a better city to start the new chapter of my life in. Dunedin is such a student city and everything is here for us. For me there was also a significant difference in the size and the amount of people. My hometown has around 450 people in it and being in a city was quite daunting at first, but once you get used to it, it is amazing. Māori students are supported academically at the University of Otago through the Māori Centre’s tutorial programme.

Is your study closely linked to this career/profession? Yes, I am passionate about helping my community but also about connecting back to my Kai Tahu links, and the Māori Department has papers that allow me to do so.

What made you consider the University of Otago? I considered Otago for a number of reasons really. My mother is from here, and I wanted to connect back to my Kai Tahu side. Another reason is that the Māori Department suited my learning style and provided me with the support I needed with my shift from Te Tai Tokerau to Te Tai Tonga.

Have you made many friends at the University and/or in Dunedin? I have made so many friends at Otago. I have found and created a circle of friends that will be my friends for life. At the beginning I didn’t think it would be that easy to make friends, because I was only one of four from Northland College. However, I soon realised that everyone is on the same waka and that it is just as hard for them as it was for me. I met my friends through lots of different connections: from my College, from my tutorials, and from the Māori Centre and Te Roopū Māori (Otago Māori Student Association). The Māori community here in Dunedin really made settling in easy for me.

Is there any academic support for Māori students at the University of Otago? Our Māori Centre is second to none and if you have any problems they will do their best to make sure you are feeling comfortable and less stressed (especially at exam time). There is a programme that first year students can sign up for which sets you up with a mentor who will help you settle in, give you advice, and look out for you while you are here. The Māori Centre holds tutorials for your subjects so you are getting the most that you can out of your academic life here at the University of Otago. At high school, my biggest role models other than my beautiful parents and whānau would have to be my teachers. I was surrounded by those who believed in me and encouraged me every step of the way. I was very lucky that I had ongoing support from day one.

Is Dunedin a good place to gain independence? My independence has grown enormously here and I would say that without this step I wouldn’t be the person I am today. I am very much a whānau girl and moving away allowed me to make a name for myself not through my parents, whānau or teachers, but through me.

What is one piece of advice you wish you had known before you came to the University of Otago? The one piece of advice I wish I knew beforehand is that it gets so much easier. Once you create networks and friends, being away from home doesn’t feel like a chore, but more of a journey. One piece of advice I was given was that everyone is on the same waka as you. Even though I knew this, I still thought I was the only one. The University has given me so much over the last year. It has allowed me to create my own life and work towards a future I want helping my community. So many people have supported me and without them this journey would have been a lot more difficult.

Do you have any further comments about life as a student at Otago? Life at the University of Otago is amazing, and not to use a cliché or anything, but it is definitely my place in the world.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact:

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