

ALONE *we can do so* LITTLE;  
TOGETHER *we can do so* MUCH!  
- Helen Keller -

DECEMBER 2021 | CHRISTMAS EDITION

# Kia ora koutou, opening word from our ACES Manager, Karyl Puklowski

COVID-19 did present a challenge for students enrolled on Alternative Education and their whānau / families. ACES AE and students have travelled a roller-coaster that has achieved great heights (achievements with excellence) as well as lows as each person had to adjust to this new world we live in today. We are living through a "World Pandemic" and COVID-19 has touched each of us yet, together the ACES team has demonstrated the ability to adapt to meet the required changes and ensure students stay safe and are attending ACES AE.

My thanks must go to each person within the team of ACES. This includes the Attendance Service led by Irma Oberholzer with the AE Tutorial and Student Management teams. Together, each person brings their skills, life experiences, commitment and with this collective wisdom continues to guide (or assist) a student's educational journey.

ACES must thank our community (the services and agencies) who assist and strengthen our work. We look forward to your continued commitment. The community partners include:

- The Wreck Room
- Te Karanga Trust
- NHC (Health Services for AE)
- Richie Hardcore
- Crescendo Aotearoa Trust
- YouthTown
- Campus Connections
- Unitec and Service IQ
- Auckland Police Youth Aid and Youth Justice

To all our community partners, thank you and we look forward to further partnerships in 2022.

ACES AE also thanks each of the student's enrolling schools and it is exciting to know (despite the challenges this year) that some students are returning to mainstream in 2022.

Thank you Mount Albert Grammar School, the managing school for Auckland City alternative education and the attendance service and we are eternally grateful to have Patrick Drumm leading us with the support of Corey Todd to guide and seek solutions in ready for 2022.

To the students' whānau and families, thank you and please remember you are essential to our community and we are always grateful for your support as this strengthens your child's educational journey.

To the AE student who engaged online, or the student who continued to work on their Hard-Copy as well as students who returned in November. Congratulations! Your journey will be celebrated on our final day on Thursday 9 December 2021 with your Campus.

**Kia hora te marino  
Kia whakapapa  
Pounamu te moana  
Kia tere te kārahirohi  
i mua i tō huarahi**

**May peace be widespread,  
may the Sea glisten like  
greenstone,  
and may the shimmer of  
light guide you on your way.**

*Thank you, everyone and,  
Merry Christmas!*



## MOVING IN

# Student Support Team

We look forward to even bigger and better things

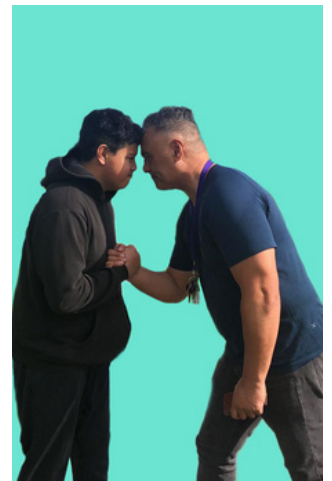
When new students are referred to ACES, our Student Support Team will first of all meet with the whanau to share our school's values and also provide an overview of our curriculum. The first meeting will either occur at the enrolling school, in the home or at our Campus. These meetings often evoke a gamut of emotions for the whanau creating a legitimate nervousness and apprehension about alternative education.

However, the strength of our Student Support Team is the ability to organically make a connection and build a rapport with the whanau face-to-face (kanohi ki te kanohi). It is usually during these times of whakawhanaungatanga (connection) that we see the personality and potential (hidden strengths) of the young person emerge that sometimes can be lost in the paperwork of the referral.

Earlier this year, my colleague Greg Davis (Student Support) visited a home. The young person was not home, so Greg introduced himself to the grandmother who was visibly distressed due to the feeling of a lack of support from agencies for her grandson who spent more time living at the homes of his mates than he did in his own whare.

For the next 2x hours, Greg simply sat and listened to the broken voice and aching heart of this grandmother. The reality is that this approach of just being there for the whanau attentively listening to their story is so natural for Greg ... and for the rest of our team. You can not help but walk away from any meeting with a new whanau vicariously carrying a portion of their burden and anxiety.

A few weeks later, Greg was invited to the Family Group Conference of this young man. Professionals who had been assigned to the young person a few months previously were all seated around the table in the hui. When all the introductions from the different agencies were completed, the same grandmother whom Greg had met in her home a few weeks earlier had her chance to speak ... and she said ... "I know Greg ... but all



you other people ... I have never met before!". People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

'HEART' is one of our core values ... and bringing hope and, if possible, healing to the heart of a new whanau is the energy force (mission) behind our mahi!

Take care and stay safe.

STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM



# ACES Maungarei



Frances Pupualii  
ACES Campus Leader

Hi everyone!

Wishing you  
all a very  
Merry  
Christmas  
and a festive  
season!



2021 has gone so fast, I can't believe it's December!

On behalf of ACES Maungarei we would like to say a massive thank you to our ACES whanau for your support and entrusting our staff to teach alternative education.

Each student is unique and we as a team have seen our Maungarei students achieve goals and also gain self-confidence at ACES.



Frances Pupualii

June Reti

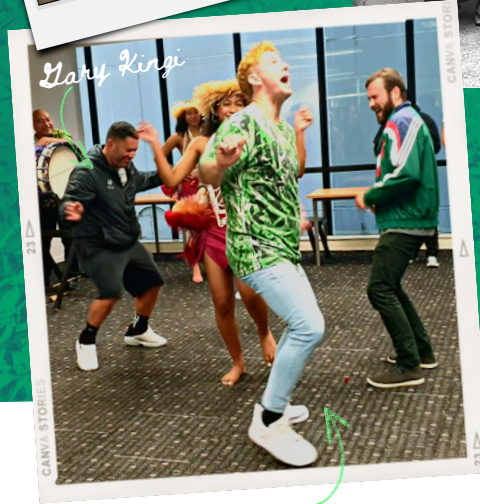




# A Special thank you

A special shout out to ACES Maungarei staff: Gary Kingi, Sam Paulin and June Reti. I am truly grateful to work with such an awesome team who carry leadership qualities and have a desire to work with youth. It is an absolute honour working with you all!

Quote by Phil Jackson below..



Sam Paulin



THE STRENGTH OF THE TEAM IS EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER.  
THE STRENGTH OF EACH MEMBER IS THE TEAM.



Hayward Butler  
ACES Student Mentor

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Zane Harding (left in photo above), for achieving 30 credits with the Gateway Programme.



In 2022 We say goodbye to Zoey Watene (left in photo above) who will be returning back to One Tree Hill College.



# Student Learning

ACES Maungarei provided hardcopy work and online learning for students working from home and also delivered lessons for those students who physically came to school to learn.



## Drivers License

Zane Harding and Levi Tawhiao have been studying hard toward their Learners Licence. Both students have shown dedication and determination throughout the process hoping to achieve their Learner Licence.

A huge thank you to Robbie Beswick, Farrelly Falwasser from ACES Maungawhau who planned and created a step-by-step process for our ACES students to study their Learner License.

Also thank you, June Reti, Gaz Kingi, and Sam Paulin for supporting and mentoring Zane and Levi with their work.



To the left, is a photo of ACES Maungawhau and Maungarei students learning their drivers license online.

## Tuhi Art project with Louise Stevenson

I'm a multi-disciplinary artist born in Honiara, Solomon Islands and based in Tāmaki Makaurau.

I've worked with young people teaching art for over twenty-five years including the Manukau School of Visual Arts, Elam School of Fine Arts and many community courses and workshops.

Facilitating the Young Creatives programme at Te Tuhi is a wonderful privilege. Introducing rangitahi to contemporary art and the impact it can present for self-expression and communication of concerns relevant for young people now is a special opportunity.

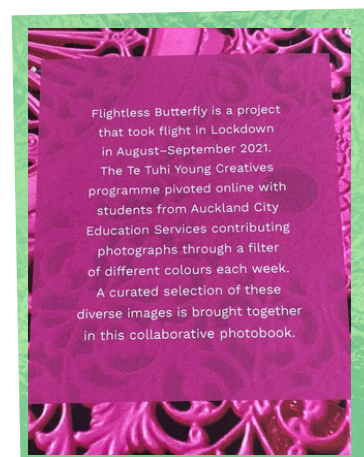
Working throughout the lockdown presented some real challenges and I feel so proud of the mahi all of the students achieved this year.



*Louise Stevenson*

Louise delivered the Flightless Butterfly project, below, during lockdown in August-September 2021.

The Tuhi Young creative programme pivoted online with students from ACES-Auckland City Education Services contributing photographs through a filter of different colours each week. A curated selection of these diverse images is brought together in a collaborative photobook.



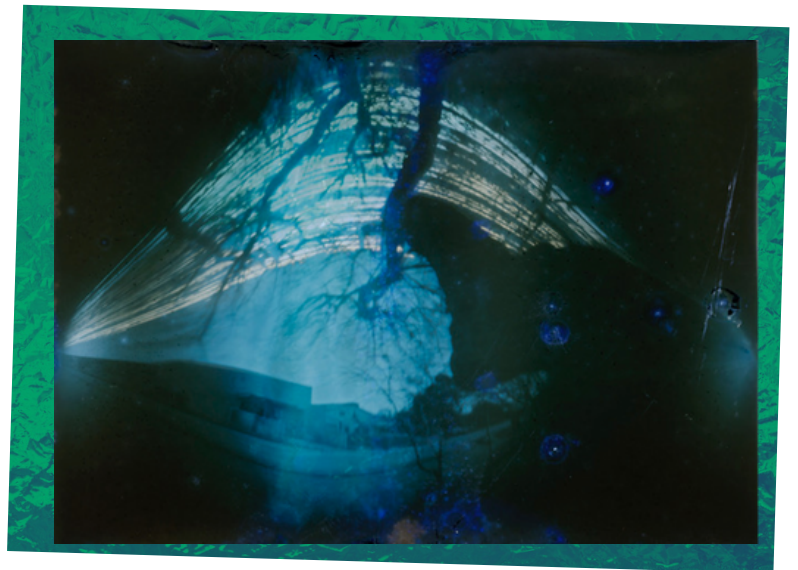


October – December,  
ACES Maungarei created  
new artwork by altering  
each photo with stickers.

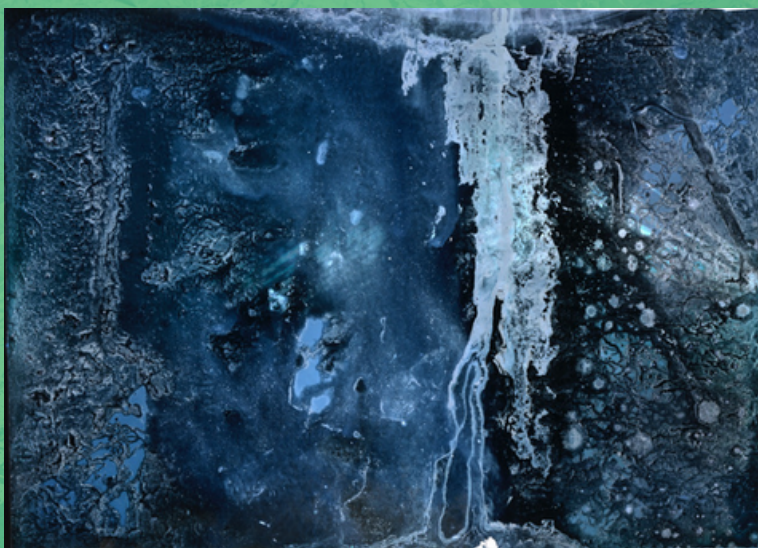


Postcards, student collages

Solargraph photo from Jenny Tomlin  
workshop, processed in term 4 after two  
months exposure to the sun (the white arcs  
show the sun moving across the sky  
every day during lockdown)



Solargraph photo from Jenny Tomlin workshop,  
processed in term 4 after two months exposure  
(this photo shows how condensation and fungus  
grew inside the can camera over two months, the  
sun arc is faintly showing in the background).



*Meri Kirihimete  
to you all!*

We look forward to even bigger and better things

# ACES Maungawhau



*Farrely Falwasser*  
ACES 21C Campus Leader

*Thelo Melisea*  
ACES Campus Leader

As I sit here and type up my reflections of 2021 with only two weeks of school left, I am humbled, proud, emotional, and excited about the future, all at the same time. We are living in a once-in-a-generation type of climate, where resilience and optimism are the key traits required to be a leader.

During this crazy year we have been challenged on multiple different fronts, new staff, covid lockdowns, etc but what I am so proud of most is that we as a Team have met all of these challenges head-on. Whether it be creating an engaging online programme, creative engagement tactics, or navigating our own mental wellbeing during a pandemic, we have all pushed through to the end of the year. My reflections will be built around the following simple themes.

*By Thelo Melisea*

“

...we have been challenged on multiple different fronts, new staff, covid lockdowns, etc., but what I am so proud of most is that we as a Team have met all of these challenges head-on.”

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## Gratitude (What I am most grateful for)

Team Maungawhau - my talented and hard-working team.

Farrely is our Maungawhau operations whiz who can juggle complex events, extreme floor pressure while staying calm and fully engaged with our Rangatahi. I've always appreciated her ability to be graceful when confronted with challenges. As my amazing 21C she has evolved into more of a co-leader, who helps lead our team and pursue excellence while staying aligned to the ACES values and vision. Thank you for leading so strong this year Faz, we are a better team because of you!





# The Team

I am grateful for Robbie who has done an incredible job crafting the Tuakana or school leavers toolkit programme for Maungawhau, so everything is one step up from last year.



*Robbie Beswick*  
ACES Tutor



Students now get a beautiful student folder on leaving and more importantly the majority of them have completed CVs, First Aid certificates and learners drivers license to fully kit out. This was one of Robbie's goals at the end of last year and was great to see his vision come into fruition.



*Te Aweawe Pūawa*  
ACES Tutor Mentor

Te Aweawe brings so much to our work starting with the integrity she has for making sure we are aligned to Kaupapa Maori principles, whether it be the small things like having the Maori word for items around Campus, integration of Te Reo maori into email and messenger comms, to incorporation of Maori terminology into our everyday operations and comms.

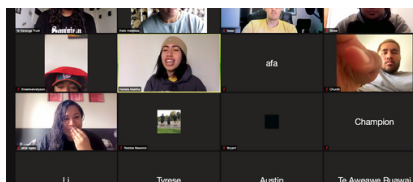
Te Aweawe also has pioneered our social justice programme as overseer in Term one and injected into our practice, a real connection to important current issues for rangatahi like kaitiakitanga and Awareness of social issues and history for both Maori and Pasifika. Ka mau te wehi!

## Highlights Support Team and Manager

New Superstar Eliza is our new Whanau and Taura connection heavy hitter. Eliza has set the standard high for how to engage and mentor students but moreover how to engage and get buy-in from Whanau for their student's Individual Education Plan. She is also a gifted administrator and event manager.



*Eliza Lepou*  
ACES Tutor



Eliza's work on the Combined Campus Amazing race took this critical whakawhanaungatanga event to the next level. Her classes project work on delivering a free meal evening for the homeless community at Crave Cafe was unforgettable, with one of our students' Tyrese, telling me he will "never forget serving others" from this evening. where Eliza really stood out was

during the Term 3 and 4 Lockdown. She drove high student engagement to the ACES Hub online programme and poured countless hours into connecting one on one with her Roopu class. This work has formed the backbone of the Year 10s who have returned to Campus in the last couple of weeks of Term 4 and who will also be our Year 11 leaders in 2022.

Natasha Guiry, you are a breath of fresh air to ACES and have brought a wide depth of expertise into our marketing, design and printed material area, as well as streamlining our admin systems, bringing a strong sense of professionalism to our work. Other than Ireland beating the All blacks (which hurt lol) your Irish humour and warm manner has helped make ACES a joyous place to show up to work.

I am grateful for Hayward Bullen who has used his amazing intellect, emotional intelligence, and youth savvy to connect with students who have fallen off the radar or been in the "too hard" box. Seeing Hayward mentor students right through to employment has been a testament to his hard work. Hayward has also done a stellar job driving "Student Voice" and much of the data once collated and distilled down to actions, has led to a massive change in our teaching practices. I feel Hayward particularly has been a staunch advocate of celebrating diversity with our rangatahi and really championing some of our students who at times have been voiceless.

## STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

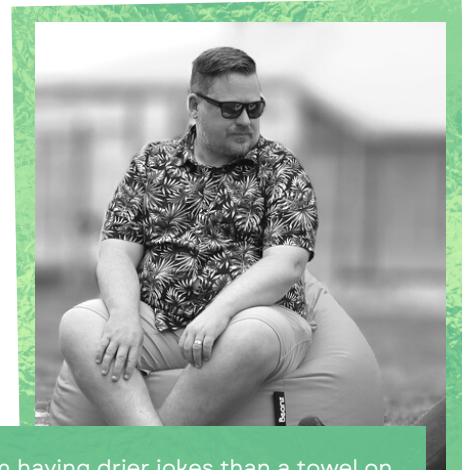
Greg Davis, Student Support, is the “old soul” of ACES who often presents wisdom at the right time in our hectic world and who also is our gifted Tech expert.

What I love about Greg is that he never gives up particularly on potentially the most challenging of students. He is always calm under pressure and has an unbeatable sense of humour which is gold when you are working through a high pressure environment like Alternative Education.



What I appreciate about Lara Fair, Tutor Teacher, is that she has brought discipline and structure to our approaches to the strategy and tactics around getting smarter with our lesson and Term planning and structure and understanding our complex needs students. In the pursuit of excellence she is unafraid to challenge ideas which

are not rock solid or achieve the very best for our students. Her beautiful Art unit work with Artist and husband, Finn Fair, and our students on the creative art pieces in the foyer are the current centrepiece of ACES student expression and another example of her many gifts (which include roller derby and Surf lifesaving no less!)



Aside from having drier jokes than a towel on a hot day, Damien Fogarty is our resident go-to wingman at ACES. As our Pedagogical Leader he leads from the front and will happily demonstrate how to implement teaching practice and lesson ideas to help us improve our teaching collectively as a group.

Damien is a sounding board for many of our wider team and is another person of our team who is passionate about the wellbeing of our staff. More importantly I believe he presents a balancing factor for the crazy ones like myself who often drive at a million miles an hour.



Buchanan Niuapu, Student Support Coordinator is the oil in the machine called ACES. His meticulous attention to detail and consistently striving for excellence in his work is fuelled by his relentless drive to see the best educational outcomes achieved for all our ACES students. Buchanan has taught me the importance of the power of encouragement and kindness.

Often his words alone have powered me through my toughest moments in ACES. Although softly spoken, when he is focused on outcomes for our precious ACES Rangatahi, I find his tenacious drive is similar to that of Kobe Bryant, Kawhi Leonard or Muhammed Ali, three of my all time sporting heroes. You are my hero Buchanan and a big reason why I strive to do my best work at ACES.



And lastly, our amazing ACES Leader, Karyl Puklowski, drives from the front and sets a high example of working hard, being meticulous in planning, having integrity and staying accountable to our strategic vision and ACES values.

Karyl often carries pressure we don't see as our leader but she enjoys nothing more than hearing the stories of our students' victories (even if sometimes fleeting). She also cares deeply for her whole team and even more so our wonderful, precious Rangatahi. No student will ever be left behind with Karyl!





## A Big Thank You to this Amazing Staff Member for his Awesome Mahi During Lockdown



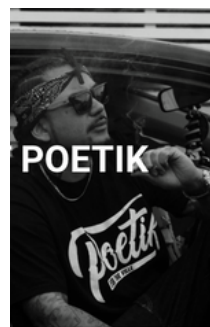
ACES would like to say a massive thank you to Bryant, our resident technology whizz. During our lockdown Bryant was the go to man for all questions and problems ACES Hub based. Our online learning programme just wouldn't have been as brilliant without his skill, time, adaptability and dedication. Throughout the year Bryant has diligently worked alongside our staff and students to deliver a high calibre online learning experience. His inclusiveness, patience and sense of humour have helped make Pathway Options and 2021 an engaging place of learning. Much appreciated Bryant.

## Student Highlights Some Memorable Moments

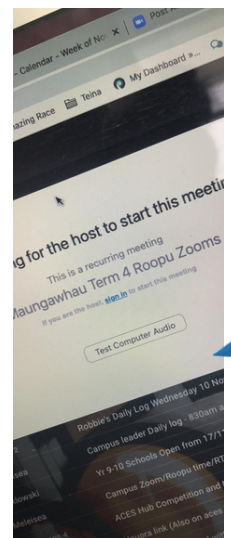
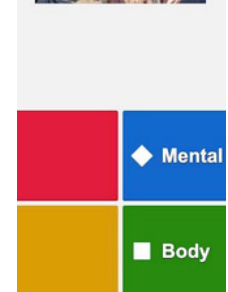
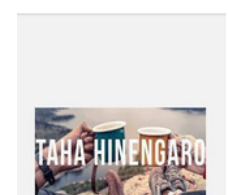
### Te Karanga During Lockdown

The Te Karanga Team led by the wonderful Wils Mark-Brown were amazing during the Term 3 lockdown, connecting our students to cool, relevant and contemporary NZ Musical artists such as Melodownz, Diggy Dupe, Just the Normz and Poetik. The weekly Friday sessions were always insightful, raw and honest but ultimately uplifting to our rangatahi. Some of our students have gone on to connect with Te Karanga Trust for one on one mentoring around music creation.

My good friend Brotha D from Dawn Raid Entertainment actually encouraged me during a feedback session on our Enterprise programme to expend as much energy into the creative arts and digital technology (Big Tech) as literacy and numeracy in the future for ACES. Food for thought.



### es Taha Hinengaro





# MAUNGAWHAU STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



## Unitec

Students Seth McClynn and Jfonzo Isaia achieved credits in Automotive Engineering.

## Gateway: Service IQ

Five students achieved up to 20 Credits.

*You got this!*

## Celebrating Our Awesome Rangatahi

1. Thor Paul and Andrew Graydon - successful transition to Lynfield College
2. Brooklyn Muaiaava - successful transition to MRGS, also working part-time and a proud ambassador of ACES
3. Sione Taufalele - working at Footlocker part-time and returning to mainstream, Manurewa High in 2022
4. Kurgan Ball - working full-time Horticultural apprenticeship
5. Sauaso Aute-Neli - NZMA full-time study
6. Kayden Stanway - Working full-time
7. Kanye Tuagalu-Cummings - Working full-time
8. Honore Culleton - NZMA











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[aces.school.nz](https://www.facebook.com/aces.school.nz)



[@aces.ae](https://www.instagram.com/aces.ae)

Thank you. to everyone for all your  
support throughout the year.  
All the best for 2022.

Have a wonderful  
Meri Kirihimete

KIA TĀEA = KIA AKORANGA = KIA ANGITŪ.  
HE WAKA EKE NOA TĀTOU.