



Paua Celebrates 5th Birthday!



On November 17, 2003 the Wanganui office of the Ministry of Education approved the charter for PAUA Early Childhood Homebased Care Service which means that now PAUA is 5 years old!

Raewyn Overton-Stuart (PAUA Director) is delighted that her 'baby' is growing up! "Much has happened in the last five years, but I still vividly remember the place where God inspired the name PAUA - Preschoolers At-home Uniquely Achieving - and it continues to be our prayer that we provide quality early childhood education for the preschoolers in our service."

From small beginnings in Wanganui, PAUA now has spread throughout the Central North Island with 330 children; 135 Home-based Educators; 12 Visiting Teachers; and four involved in Administration, including Raewyn's husband - Tony Stuart - who after being involved in the administration from the start (working around his other job) joined the service full-time in July 2006.

PAUA is now working with children from Tauranga to Waikanae; Waitotara

to Hastings; Taumarunui and Featherston and all points in between! Visiting Teachers are found in Tauranga (Melody Nightingale); Taupo (Lynelle Laws and Sarah Infield); Turangi (Donna Waipouri and Rangi Wikaira); Taihape (Pauline Barnett); Woodville (Mary Morris); Pahiatua (Brenda Cooper and Laura Infield); Palmerston North (Paulette Moana and Tina Larsen); and Wanganui (Sandra Watson). Nicki Paul is currently on Maternity leave in the Manawatu District, and PAUA is looking to appoint new Visiting Teachers in Wanganui; Kapiti Coast and Tararua in the near future.

PAUA's mission is to 'Educate your children according to their life requirements, when they're old they won't be lost' with the vision that children are our Treasures for tomorrow - "Ā tātou taonga mo āpopo."

They promote an individual learning programme for each enrolled child and a photographic profile folder records the child's growth and development. PAUA Visiting Teachers, who are trained Early Childhood Teachers, visit regularly to offer support and resources (like books, puzzles,

painting and craft materials) to enhance the activities that home-based Educators are doing with the children, and also run playgroups and community outings. Twenty free ECE hours and WINZ subsidies are available for those who are eligible.

What has been important to PAUA's success and growth? "Relationships... it's all about reciprocal relationships", Raewyn says. "The relationships that our PAUA Educators have with the children and whanau that they look after. The relationships that our Visiting Teachers have with their Educators, and the ones that we have with all those involved."

Other relationships have also been important in PAUA's growth - great support from the Ministry of Education as well as local businesses. "In particular Meteor Printers have provided us with great service, and awesome print jobs; John at First Mobile has 'kept us talking' as we've grown from a couple of phones to nearly 20. Westpac were there when we had a huge growth spurt, and helped us with the cars - great wee Suzuki vehicles from David Jones Suzuki with awesome signwriting



PAUA staff members.

by Display Associates!"

A more recent but incredibly valuable partnership, has been with Training for You who are now delivering the National Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care - Level 3 to PAUA Educators in Wanganui, Pahiatua and Turangi. "We look forward to providing the training to Educators in other areas in 2009 as the Educators currently on the course have found it really

valuable", Raewyn says, "Training for You has been great to work with and totally deserve the supreme award they won at the Wanganui Business Awards." The growth in PAUA's child numbers has resulted in major workload challenges in the administration area. Jayne Caldwell, Katrina Edwardson and Carrissa Marino have provided Raewyn and Tony with invaluable support during this time of growth. "We are always looking to

improve our systems and practices," says Tony. "Whoever thought of the concept of the 'paperless office' had never heard of Early Childhood Education!" When asked where is PAUA headed in the next five years, Raewyn replied "There is a baby boom happening at the moment! So we are looking for more Home-based Educators who can train with us to provide care. We will also keep our focus on

providing support and resources for whanau caregivers who meet the Homebased legislation. We plan to spread further from our current locations, especially focusing on rural areas. We are aware rural families have more difficulty in accessing childcare which works around the special character of their work and I'm passionate about giving children the opportunity to receive quality education in these areas."

PHILOSOPHY

PAUA Early Childhood Home Based Care Service

A PAUA shell's brilliant colours are layers formed through the process of environment and time. PAUA Early Childhood Home Based Care Service seeks, through a holistic approach, to enhance the environment which affect the 'colour' of each individual linked with our service.

PRE-SCHOOLERS - We believe children are valuable treasures, uniquely created. Children can guide their own learning processes through their interests and strengths, thereby creating their own individual design of layers and colours.

AT-HOME - We believe Parents/Caregivers and Whanau provide the foundation for their child's development as they understand their child best!

Reciprocal relationships between whanau and PAUA are valued as vital to the ongoing well-being of children in our service.

UNIQUELY - We believe Educators and the environment they provide make a valued contribution to the 'layers' of the child. Educators are valued, respected and supported as a vital part of the PAUA team.

ACHIEVING - We believe that the threads of relationship between Children, Parents/ Caregivers, Whanau, Educators and Visiting Teachers bring out the vibrant colours within the child that will release each child to discover their learning potential.

It is through the transformation from relationships and environment that each child's PAUA colours will truly shine. Then we truly will have children who are "Ā tātou taonga mo āpopo - our Treasures for Tomorrow".



PAUA directors Tony and Raewyn Overton-Stuart

Do you have someone caring for your pre-schooler while you are working or studying?

Are you caring for someone else's pre-schooler at home?

You could be entitled to support (including resources) from PAUA

For more information or to see if you qualify please phone RAEWYN 344 7282 or 0800 728 277

Do you need childcare?

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