



# SCHOOL TALK

July 2015

## DUFFY THEATRE

Ahititi and Uruti Schools joined Mokau to enjoy a wonderful production of 'Duffy and the Library Adventure' from the live Duffy Theatre trio of Maile Finau, T.J. Misa and Antonia Stehlin.

This very talented crew enthralled students with a tale of a young underachiever Sienna who, when she wasn't attending detentions at school, spent most of her time watching T.V. & movies.

Dodging a downpour on the way home from school Sienna ducks into a library and is introduced to Duffy and the wacky librarian Mrs Mundy.

With an ever changing backdrop and costume changes the clever cast took on multiple roles to interweave reality with stories of a range of fiction and non-fictional book characters including ancient Egypt's Cleopatra, fantasy character Harry Potter, dinosaurs with diverse diets & legendary Maui – showing that a trip to the library can create an out of this world adventure and that your passport to the universe is your library card.

The clear message to students was to turn off electronic entertainment and enliven their imagination by making their own 'pictures' from the books they read. And that reading would help generate great writing ideas and lead to other academic successes.

## MAGICAL MANIAROA MARAE

The sound of *te kura o Mokau* rang out to the coast as children from Mokau School welcomed students from Ahititi and Whareorino Schools and new community members to Maniaroa Marae. The other schools joined with Mokau for their annual Marae sleepover experience.

Led by whaea Merepaea Rauputu, the chilly Thursday morning was warmed with a powhiri of swinging pio pio and young voices performing their waiata in the Whareniui.

What followed was a wonderful two days of community interaction including workshops, games and a scrumptious Hangi to celebrate Matariki.



The Whareniui was a perfect place to remember Maniaroa ancestry and to tell stories of those who have passed, as well as look to the future with the Matariki New Year.

Day one featured three workshops which saw students making fried bread, exploring Maori heroes & legends and sketching ancestral carvings in the whareniui, interdispersed with periods of chasing a giant football, playing string games and experimenting with the rhythm of rakau.



Following a vigorous scavenger hunt the Hangi was unearthed in the early evening and the air filled with a wonderful aroma of smoky meats with steamed vegetables and teamed with the fried bread a lavish feast was enjoyed by the community. Dessert was Auntie Rae's legendary steamed pudding enjoyed with custard and ice cream. Yum!

Many sleepy eyed students enjoyed left overs the next morning before venturing out to view the waka anchor stone and explore the full Marae site atop the steep surrounding hills.

As the weather closed in, windswept students returned to base to create a purerehua (bull roarer) instrument – a smooth wooden blade which is swung on a long cord to produce an eerie deep whirling sound. Students designed their own pictorial story which they then transferred to their sanded wooden template and completed with a plaited cord.



After lunch the students concluded with a poroporoake, a sharing and reflection of their Marae experience. Thanks was given to the many community members who contributed to the wonderful experience in particular parent helpers, community members, the men who put down the hangi and whaea Merepaea for her infinite wisdom and guidance.

## TECHNOLOGY ROADSHOW

Student experienced virtual reality, robotics, computer puzzles and computer aided art when the Noel Lemming Technology Roadshow visited Mokau School recently.

Robots proved harder to control than their operators as students were riveted by an array of new technological experiences.