

Meet our School of Education's Manukau team

This team teaches on the following programmes:

- National Diploma Teaching (Early Childhood Education, Pasifika) - NDTchg (ECE, Pasifika)
- Master of Education - (MEd)
- Bachelor of Education, Pasifika - (BEd, Pasifika)
- Bachelor of Education, Early Childhood Education - (BEd, ECE)
- Bachelor of Education Primary - (BEd, Primary)
- Master of Educational Leadership - (MEdL)



Desma Cornhill

BEd Auck.UT, DipTchg(ECE),
DipTchg (Prim).

Lecturer - BEd (ECE), NDTchg (ECE Pasifika)

Te whakapapa i te taha ō tōku whaea, ko Tainui te waka, ko Ngāti Te Ata te iwi, ko Te Uri o Tawhaki te hapū, ko Puketapu te maunga, ko Manukau te awa. Te whakapapa i te taha ō tōku matua, ko Airihimana ia.

I am a Māori lecturer with over 20 years teaching experience in both the primary and early childhood sector of education. Currently I am studying towards a Master of Arts in Māori Development.

Teaching at Manukau allows opportunities for my work to be a part of the mounting body of knowledge in teaching and learning with communities of Pacific Island Nations Peoples. As tangata whenua, I have a vested interest in building relationships with people who choose to make Aotearoa their home. In all my work I find it invigorating to stand on the histories of our ancestors in understanding pathways that lay before us. It is a pleasure and privilege to work with Pacific learners who choose education as a part of their life journey.



Fa'atamali'i Kesi

BEd (ECE) Auck.UT, DipTchg
(ECE), PIECCA Dip.

Lecturer - NDTchg (ECE, Pasifika)

I was born in Apia Western Samoa and raised by my grandparents on my father's side. I arrived in New Zealand in 1980 with the notion of a better education and a better life. I worked in both Pasifika and mainstream early childhood settings for 10 years from various teaching position to management level, where I experienced working with Pasifika families and communities to enhance their children's learning. During my years in early childhood settings, I conducted small but vital research projects with the teaching team for the betterment of teaching resources, curriculum areas and centre programme. I like teaching here at AUT because it recognises all cultures. Pasifika Education is special because it maintains who we are and the values we hold as people. The Manukau Campus is exciting it will bring opportunities opening up to our communities, families and fanua (children).



**Leasiosiofa'asisina
Max Galu**

M.Ed, Adv. Dip.Tchg, TTC

Lecturer - MEd, BEd (Pasifika, ECE & Primary), NDTchg (ECE, Pasifika)

I was born in Western Samoa and migrated to New Zealand in the mid 1950's as a youngster with my family for the opportunities that Aotearoa afforded. My mother was from the village of Salani and my father hailed from the village of Lepa from which I hold an alii matai title.

Although relatively new to AUT and tertiary lecturing I bring many years of curriculum leadership and principalship in the primary school sector. Curriculum leadership included literacy and numeracy with special focus on intermediate/middle school practices, student pastoral management and the gifted and talented. I am relishing the involvement with Pasifika, ECE, National Diploma, Primary and the Pasifika Bed specialty and look forward to future developments of Pasifika Education.



Dr. Linitā Manu'atu

BSc Auck., MA (Hons) Waik.,
EdD Auck., Dip TESOL, DipTchg

Senior Lecturer – MEd, MEdL, BEd ECE, NDTchg (ECE, Pasifika)

As a Tongan and Pacific academic and researcher, I view the AUT University, Manukau Campus, as a place for educating and training people living in Tāmaki Makau Rau, and a symbol for new and complex knowledge that is locally seeded. The diverse Niue, Kuki Airani, Tokelau, Fijian, Samoan, Tongan, Tuvalu, Solomon, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and Kiribati peoples living in the city of Manukau strengthen the international reputation of this new campus. By establishing Pasifika Education as an area of academic study, Tongan, Samoan, Fijian, and Kuki Airini, academics are becoming leaders in educating Pasifika peoples and researching Pasifika knowledge. The social, cultural, and political struggles faced by Pasifika peoples in wider society in Aotearoa, New Zealand make for exciting and curious education programmes and research for and by Pasifika peoples.



Mele Moea

BBus (MIT), Cert in Tertiary
Teaching (MIT)

Receptionist and Programme Administrator for the National Diploma in Teaching ECE, Pasifika Programme

My role involves answering queries from prospective students and other members of the public, co-ordinating and processing student applications and enrolments. I also organise consultations with Pasifika communities. I enjoy community involvement and teach a Tongan language course at MIT in the evenings.



**Salā Fa'asaulala
Tagoilelagi-Leota**

BA (Education) Auck., MA
Hons (Education) Auck.

Programme Leader and Lecturer - NDTchg (ECE, Pasifika), MEd

I hail from Vatia in American Samoa, Leauvaa, Moataa, Vaiala and Sapunaoa in Western Samoa. I am the current President of SAASIA (Sosaiete Aoga Amata Samoa I Aotearoa, an organisation which has operated for over 20 years. I am currently undertaking a doctoral thesis which focuses on the special journey children experience as they leave Aoga Amata for primary schooling. I have reviewed papers for books and journals and have marked Master of Education theses from universities within Aotearoa. In the community I was one of the judges at the Samoan stage for the ASB Polyfest and a regular guest on Radio Samoa and Triangle TV for education issues. I like teaching here at AUT because it's responsive to Pasifika and is innovative in taking it's learners into the 21st century. Pasifika Education is special because Pasifika knowledge is the core of our business. The Manukau campus is exciting -its academia presence is innovating a dynamic pedagogical DNA for Manukau.



**Yvonne Marie
Rongo Culbreath**

BEd Auck., MA (Education)
Auck., DipTchg (ECE).

Lecturer - MEd, BEd, Certificate in Introduction to ECE – Child Development

I am New Zealand born. I am of Cook Island descent from Aitutaki and Manahiki on my father's side and Samoan descent from Lepea in Upolu and Savaii on my mother's side. The opportunity to share knowledge with others has enabled me to respect the place of tangata whenua. To reflect on pedagogy that is inclusive and respects diversity and difference. To find ways that connects the subject knowledge to my student's world views so they are empowered in their study. Being here is one of service to our communities. Pasifika education is special because we celebrate who and what we are. Our past connects us to the present, preparing us for the future. AUT gives us an opportunity to excel, to be, to remember. Our ancestral links remain alive. To teach here is to celebrate the many facets that make us who we are Cook Island, Samoan, and the many island nations groups. I learn from my students, they are the real teachers.

For all enquiries contact the AUT Course Information Centre:

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Email: courseinfo@aut.ac.nz