

## Auckland

### DECEMBER 2016 UPDATE

**300** families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015  
**101** families (34%) graduated.  
 Broadband internet connections provided to **78** families (77%).

In January 2015, the delivery partner for the Pasifika Power Up programme in South Auckland contacted *Computers in Homes* seeking to collaborate in the delivery of digital literacy programmes for Pacific families in their community.



Auckland Councillor Arthur Anae with the family of graduate Mr. Sione Aatui.

### SUCCESS STORY

South Auckland is wonderfully abundant in Pasifika community; it is also wonderfully abundant in Pasifika churches. This is a significant issue in delivering programmes to Pasifika families, as many are reluctant to engage with their children's schools because of shyness or communication barriers, whereas the churches provide a much more comfortable environment for learning.

The original approach came from Teulia and Talia Solomon at the Martin Hautus Institute in Onehunga. Teulia explained that Pasifika Power Up for NCEA is a programme funded by the Ministry of Education that aims to connect Pacific parents, families and communities with their children's learning. This involves workshops throughout the year, often based in community libraries and local churches. This seemed a good fit with *Computers in Homes* objectives and as a result we agreed to collaborate and see whether the objectives for both projects could be met.

Fanau from churches in Panmure, Otara, Manurewa and Otahuhu with students currently attending high schools and colleges became our first 'collaboration' intake. The first 20 families completed their *Computers in Homes* training and graduated on 22 October 2015. Auckland Councillors Arthur Anae and Christine O'Brien were in attendance.

Pasifika Power Up is one of a few education initiatives working in South Auckland that has approached *Computers in Homes* with an interest in collaboration. We welcome these approaches and will be working with pilot projects in Mangere East that intersect with some of the same groups in churches and colleges. Facilitator Romana Fetu (BEST Learning Institute Community Development Manager) has sung the praises of *Computers in Homes* to many of our schools as the first 'collaboration graduates' have shared their learning journeys with her.

We are delighted that future collaborations for Pasifika fanau will also share access to mentoring and mentors from universities and the business community. In the past these mentors have been available to school students, but parents have not been able to engage with them. We believe this collaboration will help parents understand that they have not reached "the end of their own learning time" and that like their children, they too can engage in a personal learning journey.

## Christchurch

### DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**100** families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015  
**55** families (55%) graduated.  
 Broadband internet connections provided to **53** families (96%).

Falaiga Tumoli and Julie Ausage graduated the *Computers in Homes* course in June 2015. Both are mothers with children at Rowley School in South Christchurch and together they run a play group at the school.



### SUCCESS STORY

Both Falaiga and Julie grew up using typewriters and no internet. They were aware of the world of computers through their children and were aware they were missing out.

Falaiga, who has five children aged six to fifteen says: "My kids know more than me and I'm just old school. I wanted to further my computing skills. I never knew the basics of how. I only learnt because of my kids. I wanted to learn, so I've been watching my kids to see what they're doing. When this course came up, I went 'oh bingo'. ...It was good because we didn't know a lot of them but during the class we all became close. I got a laptop so I can carry it round, and everyone can see that I know how to use a computer. Being on this course has helped me a lot."

Falaiga and Julie also run a play group together at Rowley School. The course has helped them with emails and promoting events or answering messages for the group on Facebook.

Falaiga and Julie were taught as part of a new partnership between *Computers in Homes*, Pasifika PowerUP and Rowley School. PowerUP is an education programme that actively supports Pasifika parents and families to champion their children's learning. So adding *Computers in Homes* into the programme was a good fit!

Above Falaiga Tumoli and Julie Ausage graduated from *Computers in Homes* in Christchurch – June 2015.  
 Photo: Fairfax Media NZ / The Press

# Dunedin

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**100** families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015 **51** families (51%) graduated. Broadband internet connections provided to **39** families (76%).

When Halfway Bush mum Irene Hollard signed up for the *Computers in Homes* programme at her children's school, she wanted to be pro-active as an awesome role model for her children as well as hoping to upskill herself with the view of returning to the workforce after taking time to "be a mum".



## SUCCESS STORY

Little did she know when she graduated on 3rd July 2013 that *Computers in Homes* would just be the start of a 2-year learning journey. After graduating, Irene joined up for Stepping UP and

then went to be one of the first in the country to complete the KiwiSkills programme for jobseekers and earn an ICDL Certificate.

We put some questions to Irene about her learning journey:

### 1) How did you find out about Stepping UP and the KiwiSkills Jobseeker programme?

*I found out about them both when I joined the Computers in Homes project at Halfway Bush School.*

### 2) What interested you about the programmes?

*Gaining some formal recognised qualifications.*

*I particularly wanted to upgrade my skills in Spreadsheets, MS Word, online applications including using the cloud and email, computer security and online research to help my daughter with her homework.*

### 3) Did you have a job/career in mind that you thought these programmes might help you get?

*I'm a qualified teacher but due to getting married and having a family I have never actually taught. I'm also a qualified administrator and I have worked part-time for over 14 years. I needed to upskill to get a family friendly job in either teaching or administration.*

### 4) What have you gained from the programmes?

*It's been a real confidence booster for me to try new things on the computer. I feel I have upped my game and increased focus and communication online.*

### 5) What would you say to other people considering doing the programmes?

*It's really good for you and your kids, especially intermediate age and higher as so many of their assignments are computer-based. It's always good to try things. It's not what you know, but it's what you don't know at work that gets you into trouble and this can be very frustrating.*

### 6) What areas of your life are you applying your computer skills to?

*Helping my Year 9 daughter with her homework assignments, as I now have more to offer her technically. It's good for all of my children to see that I am studying and encouraging them to do their own home study. They are starting to come to me as an IT resource or when they get stuck. My 13 year old daughter is starting to listen to me regarding computers as before she didn't think I knew what I was talking about. I have helped improve her presentation for school assignments greatly.*

*Searching and applying for jobs online, improving my CV and cover letters and becoming more work-ready. I'm also better at researching a variety of online job sites.*

# Eastern Bay of Plenty

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**50** families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015 **6** families (12%) graduated. Broadband internet connections provided to **4** families (67%).

Te Wariki Te Ruki (Chick) and his wife came and settled in the Bay of Plenty in 1971. He has five children who were all schooled in Kawerau. He is originally from the Waikato region and is of Ngati Manipoto, Ngati Uru and Ngati Kahu. Te Wariki was part of the second *Computers in Homes* group at Te Kura o Te Whata Tau o Putauaki in Kawerau in 2014.



2016 – Te Wariki Te Ruki has moved on to being Acting Secretary for the local Marae (Rautahi) in Kawerau, a position that requires some computer skills.

## SUCCESS STORY

Before starting the *Computers in Homes* programme Te Wariki's digital learning was very limited. He was very interested in *Computers in Homes* when it first came to the Kura and wanted to be in the first group that was held at Heartlands in Kawerau. He was very pleased to be selected for the second programme.

When he first came to classes, Te Wariki just wanted to learn and listen but he came with a goal. He was a very focused man and asked many questions during the programme. He was quietly worried about his learning ability because he was the oldest in the group. His participation and involvement with the group was acknowledged and he became, for some who attended the programme, an incentive. "If he can do it so can I."

Two years later Te Wariki says: "I remember I was very nervous when I first started with the *Computers in Homes* classes. With a helpful and patient tutor and others who were in the programme, eventually that nervousness went away. Today I have learnt even more skills than my first *Computers in Homes* classes. My mokopuna facebook me all the time and I am confident that I can reply to their messages and send photos. It took me a while to gain confidence to have the internet at home. I have now completed a Master's degree in Māori Development and now for the very first time I am able to make applications online as I am the chairman of the local Marae (Rautahi) in Kawerau and acting Secretary which requires some computer skills. The *Computers in Homes* programme was the very beginning for me in using the computer confidently by myself. Today I use my computer every day to keep in contact with my whānau, children and use it for my mahi. I am glad this wonderful opportunity came around. Thankyou".

## Far North

### DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**100 families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015**  
**100 families (100%) graduated.**  
**Broadband internet connections provided to 81 families (81%).**

**Sharlah Motu is 39 years old, married, and has two beautiful girls – Stella 19 and Unaiki 5. Sharlah completed the Computers in Homes programme in 2012 at Ahipara School. Emma Tracey was the tutor at that time.**

### SUCCESS STORY

*“Computers in Homes has taught me a lot; I thought I was a really confident user of the computer and that I basically knew everything. But I didn’t.”*

Sharlah says the programme showed her how they could use the computer in a safe and controlled environment especially for the children when they are using the internet.

*“I loved how us as parents we can monitor how long our children can stay on the computer for and where they can go on the internet for research for school.”*

*“I also loved using the spreadsheets to make a budget for my teenage daughter. We started out pretending she had a job and she had moved out of home and was flatting with friends. We set up her income, outgoings and savings; she was given a wage on a certain day every week and then she was to pay bills etc. Stella learnt really quickly how to do this spreadsheet. She still does it now and she has a job at Liquor King.”*



Sharlah and Unaiki learning as a team!

Sharlah’s youngest daughter Unaiki who has just turned five, uses the internet a lot to do Reading Eggs and play games – both educational and for pleasure. It has given her the head start she needs starting school this year. Unaiki has also learnt to Skype her aunts in Australia and Norway.

As for Sharlah, “this programme has made me so much better. I understand how to use everything on the keyboard and they are not just put there for decorations as I thought they were. I am still with Snap (2degrees,) the internet provider that *Computers in Homes* set up for me back in 2012. How did I go without the internet for that long before I did *Computers in Homes*? What was I thinking? I’ll just die without the internet and so will the kids!” Sharlah also completed a course at Northtec last year for a certificate in Mental Health and Addictions which was all online and is going to go on to complete a bachelor of Applied Social Work later in the year. She says that without the computer in her home this would have been impossible.

*“I recommend this programme to everybody young and old. I had a Nanny and 4 friends that have completed Computers In Homes programme in 2015 and they feel as grateful as I do for the experience and the ongoing support.”*

## Gisborne/East Coast

### DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**50 families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015**  
**38 families (76%) graduated.**  
**Broadband internet connections provided to 34 families (89%).**

**Caroline made the decision to participate in the Computers in Homes programme due to an unforeseen change in her life. She needed to move forward as a new solo mother of three school-aged children.**

### SUCCESS STORY

Completing the *Computers in Homes* programme gave Caroline the confidence to tackle learning about computers from where she was, as a beginner. She wanted to be able to learn new skills and then progress on her own. It surprised her how much she could achieve after having doubts on being able to pick up new computer skills. Her original idea was to help the kids and teach herself, which was a neat confidence boost. “They are usually telling me how its done and it was nice to show them what I had learnt at the course”, said Caroline.

Caroline and her children have used the computer and the internet for many different purposes. For Caroline it allowed her to have the opportunity and knowledge to do a CV, to job search online and to be able to get onto the children’s school websites to follow their progress and to access the school notices. “I missed all the school notices as they only sent them via the internet”.

The kids used it for recreation and fun but what Caroline liked was the idea that they could access their schoolwork online and show her at home what they had been doing at school. “It was fantastic for the kids homework, using the internet for research and to be able to keep up with current affairs. We do not have TV and its important for school daily

activities to keep up with current affairs”.

School projects and extra learning programmes such as study ladder, which the school expects students to do every day, were also a big bonus for the children.

One of Caroline’s children has learning difficulties and she finds the benefits of the computer are outstanding for his learning needs. “The different applications and programmes available are amazing and have boosted not only his confidence but also his self-esteem”.

“It’s helped my life in many ways, as being a stay at home mum moving back into the work force it was a great start to get back out there, doing the course gave me the courage I needed when applying for jobs. It gave me the ability to be creative and structure my CV, letters and emails in a more professional way”.

“I would recommend this programme to anyone on so many different levels, as in my case where an unforeseen event occurred and I was left with no computer or internet and three children all at school needing to do their homework on a computer and I was without work. But since the course a lot has changed; I am now working and having had that head-start opportunity through *Computers in Homes* has helped in more ways than I realised. So I thank you *Computers in Homes*; your programme really did help my children and I out and we are still reaping the benefits”.



Caroline accepts her CiH certificate and computer package from Tairawhiti Technology Trust member Maurice Alford.

# Manawatu/Horowhenua

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**50 families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015 40 families (80%) graduated. Broadband internet connections provided to 36 families (90%).**

**It's been nearly two years since Charmaine came along to the parent presentation at Taitoko School in Levin to find out more about the Computers in Homes Programme. Charmaine identified the need for a computer in her home and access the internet for her son's continued learning and for herself.**



Charmaine happy to have been selected to be part of the Computers in Homes programme 2013-14.

## SUCCESS STORY

*"At the time of the programme we had recently moved to Levin and my son and I did not know anyone at the school so this was a good way to meet the teachers and some of the parents and to also be able to have a computer in our home where Manawa can do his homework and where I can work from."*

Throughout the ten week programme Charmaine was able to gain access to the school website, connect with teachers as well as being able to continue on her learning journey.

Coming up to the two year mark we caught up with Charmaine to touch base and see how she has been progressing.

*"Wow, what can I say, I am so grateful. I use the computer for everything. I check my emails every day, Skype family (especially my mokopuna), YouTube to learn new skills and new recipes and I particularly like the fact that I can have all my photos handy. But the biggest bonus for me is I can seek employment opportunities from home."*

Not sure of how she was going to be able to afford a computer let alone an internet connection Charmaine said "it was perfect timing for us". Moving to a new town and her son starting a new school was big enough; this opportunity came as a blessing for them both.

We wish Charmanie and her whānau the best for the future.

# Nelson/Marlborough

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**50 families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015 20 families (40%) graduated. Broadband internet connections provided to 19 families (95%).**

**Adriana joined Computers in Homes training at Stoke School in Nelson, along with 26 other families. Coming into her group of nine was difficult for her, as she has agoraphobia, but her commitment to her two children aged 7 and 14, helped her to overcome her fears. This is her story.**

## SUCCESS STORY

*My children were my total motivation for signing up for Computers in Homes Training. I was very nervous at the start and it probably took 2–3 weeks to feel comfortable in the group. Being held at our local school made it very easy – no bus or petrol costs and I was already dropping off the children anyway. I couldn't have guaranteed I would have made every session if it was further away. During coffee breaks the kids would ask "What are you doing today?" They wanted to come in and see what we were doing, they were intrigued. It's good for the kids to see all of us parents learning, doing something good for them, it's really good. By the end a lot of friendships had been made between us and also between our kids.*

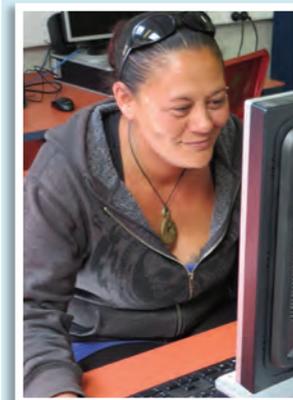
*My children were excited to take the computer home after graduation and we had to set it up straight away. My son is curious and asks so many questions that I don't have answers to. Now when he asks something I say "Actually I don't know but we will go and google it and find out". It's good and my son is thriving a lot more, learning to make a lot of different things from YouTube – not stupid stuff, actually looking at how to make boats, for example. He has to sound words out*

*when he is googling things. At school the kids have their own website with their own password and we can see what the school has put up there of what he has done. They have had the website for two years and I haven't been able to access it until now. My son is really excited to show me what he does, and we can add comments and stuff and the teacher will look at it.*

*My daughter is busy showing me things she did at school each day. All her reports are shared by email and in the past, were sent to one of my mates who would show me. Now I can receive them myself and I can also make bookings for parent teacher interviews. You can't ring up and make bookings because it has to be done on the internet and I had missed out on two interviews.*

*After the Computers in Homes course, I decided to carry on with Stepping UP – that was just great to have the opportunity.*

*Having a computer and the internet at home is going to help me because with my agoraphobia, I can now do courses online. I want to be an early childhood teacher or teacher aide but no course will accept me with absolutely no qualifications. I need to go back and get my English and Maths from High School first. So while I am getting help with my agoraphobia I can do the courses I need to so they are under my belt for when I am ready to start childhood teacher training in a few years.*



Adriana Weepu overcomes her fears and joins the Computers in Homes training group for the benefit of her children.

# Northland

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**100** families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015  
**18** families (18%) graduated.  
 Broadband internet connections provided to **15** families (83%).



Mum Bobby-Jo and son Waimauku sit at their computer that they've had in their home since 2013.

children have confidence to share their work, Bobby-Jo says "overall I have seen a huge improvement in my children's homework and they enjoy their projects more when they bring them home from school. My Mum is now using the computer which has been a huge change for my whānau to stay in touch with her".

Not only does *Computers in Homes* empower mums and dads with digital knowledge, it also promotes internet security and safety. "I have the computer in the lounge so I can keep track of what my children are viewing on the computer, but if they find a game to play which they are enjoying and laughing together, I let them have their fun".

Bobby-Jo appreciates that digital literacy is never going to be any less important than it is now, and was keenly aware of the need to provide a digital resource for her school aged children. "I believe having a computer at home is a huge benefit to any whānau, especially with the information you can gather and share. It has been great and one of the best things I have done for my whānau as I would never have just gone out and bought a computer."

Keen to find part or full-time work, Bobby-Jo uses her computer to search for jobs online. "I have been able to search for work more often, upload my CV and send off applications. It's been awesome to keep my finger on the pulse and I know there's the right job out there for me somewhere!".

**"To understand their world we must be willing to immerse ourselves in that world. We must embrace the new digital reality. If we can't relate, if we don't get it, we won't be able to make schools relevant to the current and future needs of the digital generation."**

*Educator and author, Ian Jukes, talking about the importance of digital literacy in schools*

## SUCCESS STORY

Ian Jukes' comment above pretty much sums up what the *Computers in Homes* programme is all about.

Bobby-Jo Ellis has three children, and participated in *Computers in Homes* in 2013.

Being involved in the programme meant Bobby-Jo could immerse herself in the digital world and embrace the new digital reality. Not only did she take the opportunity to up-skill but she had the foresight to see how important having a computer and internet connection in her home would be for her children's education.

"I have noticed my younger child's confidence grow using the computer and he has shown me a few things which is really cool. It's been a real eye opener for me. My daughter is very computer savvy and makes slide shows. My big son is doing really well at school and I see him going places", she says.

Also emphasising how *Computers in Homes* encourages parent engagement and how her

# Porirua

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**100** families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015  
**25** families (25%) graduated.  
 Broadband internet connections provided to **24** families (96%).

**Computers in Homes students in Porirua are invited to write a "Learning Story" before they graduate from their training. These stories inevitably talk about the transformative effect of the programme on the student and their families.**

## SUCCESS STORY

We caught up with two graduates from recent years to ask them about changes in their lives since the time of their *Computers in Homes* training.



**Luana Ngatai** was a 35 year old, solo mother of two children when she did the *Computers in Homes* course in 2013. She graduated in July 2013 and in her "Learning Story" Luana wrote:

*"From being on this course I have decided to carry on studying and I have started a National Certificate in Computer Studies level 2 in Information Technology at Whitireia polytech, which wouldn't have happened if I didn't come here (Computers in Homes) first."*

Luana completed her Level 2 course and then did the level 5 IT diploma course. She is currently halfway through her second year of a Bachelor of IT degree at Whitireia.

Above: Luana at her graduation.

**Cheryl Browne** graduated in July 2014 and wrote in her "Learning Story"

*"I am a 59 year old mother of two girls and have three grandchildren who also live in Titahi Bay. When I was asked by my WINZ case worker if there was something I felt I needed to help me in my search for work I told her I would love to do a computer course. I had noted that a majority of positions requested a certain level of computer literacy which I did not have. When the case worker told me about the 'Computers in Homes' course I was excited but had a 'that sounds too good to be true' feeling.*

*I have a ten year old special needs daughter, Kasadi who I adopted from birth. Kasadi has severe learning difficulties and the ability to read and write is something she will probably never master."*

Seven months after graduation Cheryl sent a follow-up email:

*"I thought I would just update you on what has happened since I completed your course.*

*I have a job!!! I have worked four months in Mental health and Addiction Support. The job of my dreams!! I didn't think I would ever get a job like this!*

*I applied online, did four assessment tests online and now in my workplace my computer learning has been a necessity for the amount of documenting we undertake.*

*Kasadi is going forward with her reading skills and can now read books to a level we thought would not happen at all! This has been helped enormously by her being able to access online learning."*



Cheryl Browne receives her certificate at graduation from Jordan Carter CE Internet NZ

## Southland

### DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**50 families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015 16 families (32%) graduated. Broadband internet connections provided to 14 families (88%).**

**Our first meeting with Shana was when she enrolled for the *Computers in Homes* programme; she was a solo mum with two children – one attended the local primary school and the other preschool aged.**



During 2015 Shana worked through Te Kura to complete NCEA credits towards Level 1 and 2.

### SUCCESS STORY

Shana worked part time for a home-based childcare organisation. Shana started the course alongside other young mums and Southern REAP provided a crèche for their preschool children to enable them to attend.

Shana started the *Computers in Homes* with limited knowledge of the computer. She was a tireless learner and she worked hard to build up her skills. For a variety of reasons her self-esteem was very low and through the course we saw her start to lift her head and participate in discussions.

On graduation from *Computers in Homes*, Shana enrolled in some Stepping UP classes to further her training.

It was during this time that Shana was also approached to be part of a young mums NCEA programme based in Winton. This programme involves students working with Te Kura to complete NCEA units. Weekly sessions are held with a tutor and the rest of the work is expected to be completed by the students at home. It involves a high level of commitment and dedication to successfully gain credits.

Towards the end of 2015 Shana had completed NCEA Level One and Two and was waiting on results for Level Three. She has applied to the Southland Institute of Technology for Nursing and is awaiting acceptance.

On reflection Shana acknowledges the *Computers in Homes* programme and the inclusion of a computer at home has made a big difference to her life. She realises that there was a lot of “stuff” that she couldn’t do and through training she now can. Alongside that, the re-engagement into learning has built Shana’s self-esteem up to a level that she has been able to set herself career goals for the future. The computer has been instrumental in enabling her to have the tools to complete her courses and hopefully fulfil her dream of becoming a nurse.

## Taranaki/Central Nth Island

### DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**50 families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015 25 families (50%) graduated. Broadband internet connections provided to 22 families (88%).**

**The most remarkable thing you notice about the Corrigan family is how they help and support each other. There are ten children in the family; Ben the eldest is 25, right down to 4 year old Nicholas.**

### SUCCESS STORY

A few months before Fiona signed up for *Computers in Homes*, her husband died after a long illness.

Duncan was the family mainstay, managing three farms, including the family farm. He had big plans, but died before he could realise them. Fiona says she was overwhelmed with grief, and responsibility for the farm and her ten children weighed on her heavily.

Luckily, 22 year old Josh stepped up to run the farm, and it was Josh who built the cowshed with its state of the art In-Shed feeding system, just the way his father had planned.

Her main reason for joining *Computers in Homes*, Fiona says, was to learn how to do internet banking so that she could contribute to running the farm. She says she didn’t take as much advantage of the computer training as she should have, although she was very grateful for the chance. It was too soon after losing Duncan and she couldn’t concentrate well. The main thing she gained from the *Computers in Homes* course was confidence. She felt it was the beginning of a turning point, helping her realise that she could cope with it all.

What’s the main difference the computer has made for the family? 13 year old Rachael says it’s helped

Mum more than anyone else. They already knew how to use a computer, and they had to help Mum quite a bit at first. She’s now doing things on her own, like looking for a new car on Trademe, or buying the children’s clothes online.

Michael, 16, helped his mother a lot at first, and said it was a bit of a pain having to show her over and over again. But when Fiona tells it, she is very proud of how Michael was so patient and willing to teach her. Michael is the family watchdog, ever vigilant in ensuring that the family doesn’t exceed their 45 GB data limit. They have a Farmside connection, and extra data charges are very expensive. The whole family assists in keeping costs down, even in small things like asking Michael if they have enough data left for them to watch a YouTube video. The worst thing, Michael says, is getting near the end of the month and the data runs out. It’s a nuisance having no internet and watching the calendar for a new month to start again.

Michael says the computer is helpful for schoolwork, and he accesses the school portal frequently to check his timetable, or to see if he’s passed a standard, “because you can get the results on the portal.” He keeps in touch with his friends on Facebook, uses Google to look up things, and enjoys watching the Discovery Channel on YouTube.

Nicholas starts school in June, and Fiona says she’ll be able to help out at school more then.



Fiona with her ten children, a couple of in-laws and a couple of grandkids.

# Tauranga

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**50 families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015**  
**28 families (56%) graduated.**  
**Broadband internet connections provided to 12 families (43%).**

**Leanne Johnstone heard about the wonderful training opportunities that the Brookfield Community Centre was offering and decided to enrol in one of their *Computers in Homes* programmes.**

## SUCCESS STORY

"I started out my computer journey with the intention of learning a powerful tool that would help my kids and me for years to come. We all wanted to upskill with technology", said Leanne. Like many Mums, Leanne knew the kids were getting their ICT learning at school but could not carry that over at home. As well, she wanted to be able to keep up with what they were learning and better her own skills.

The whole whānau was so grateful after graduation when they took their computer package home. Leanne remarked how they were all so excited that words could not describe the happiness they all felt.

Once the computer package was set up at home and the internet was all connected, Leanne pulled out the resources that were given out to her from the *Computers in Homes* tutor. The workbook helped her setup the computer and was useful for reflecting on what she had been taught during the training. From there Leanne was able to enhance her basic computer skills and become more confident when using her computer.

Leanne now has access to job seeker sites Trademe, Seek and Indeed, which have old and new listings on a daily basis. Leanne says, "they are very helpful

in making the steps that are needed to get into the work force. I am also able to update my C.V. for future use when needed for job applications."

Connection to whānau was also a great plus after participating in *Computers in Homes*; she is now in contact with siblings and extended whānau through the help of Social Media, which she thoroughly enjoys.

Her tamariki use the computer to help with their school homework and other educational purposes such as the Māori dictionary, translation games and social media. "This journey has captured me and my kids in such a positive way. We continue to achieve well in our learning and as a whānau we would like to thank *Computers In Homes* for giving us this opportunity to open new doors to the future", says Leanne.

Leanne recommends the *Computers in Homes* programme to anyone that is willing to learn the basic skills. The step-by-step training with a helpful and positive tutor was beneficial to her and also others in the group. "I honestly believe doing this course would help anyone understand how to use a computer. For us it has been life changing and I'm sure anyone who needs help with learning computers would also be happy they participated."



Leanne & whānau use their CiH computer to "open new doors to the future".

# Waikato

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**100 families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015**  
**45 families (45%) graduated.**  
**Broadband internet connections provided to 34 families (76%).**

**Kia ora koutou katoa,**

**Ko Horouta te waka**

**Ko Waipaoa te awa**

**Ko Maunga Haumi te maunga**

**Ko Rongopai te marae**

**Ko Te Aitanga-a-Mahaki, Whanau-a-Kai,**

**Ngati Porou me Ngai Tuhoe nga iwi**

**Ko Diane Smiler toku ingoa**

## SUCCESS STORY

*I am a single mother of four children, three that have grown and living independently and my 12 year old still at home. I have four mokopuna (grandchildren). I have just reached my mid forties.*

*In 2015, I graduated from WINTEC Hamilton, with a BA degree in Māori/Mauri counselling with the Te whiuwhiu o te hau Māori counselling programme. This three year programme led me to placement at Waikato Link House in Hamilton, an agency service for mainly single parents and the wider community. I completed my practicum there over two years as a Māori Counsellor.*

*During this time, I signed up to the Computers in Home programme that the service ran. This was mostly because I had two young children at school and no access to the internet or a computer at home, which meant when I needed to complete assignments for my degree, I had to drag my kids up to WINTEC at nights so I could use the computers and internet. This was on-going for the first two years of study, the late nights at the Tech with my children were not nice, but it was important and my children loved it. I completed the computer course as well as tutored it after my manager*

*at Link House offered me the position. It was the best thing I could of ever done. The fact that we got a computer at home and internet access was life changing for me and my kids ... NO MORE late nights, and I mean up to 3am, children were able to access their school websites and complete homework online and I got my studies done from home. Contact with whānau in other cities at the flick of a switch and push of a button was priceless, as we don't come from Hamilton but moved here for study and work. Internet access was at a subsidised rate for a year and this was another reason I didn't have internet previously. The cost to have this technology in your home is no where near our budget as a one parent whānau.*

*I have now tutored about five programmes for Computers in Homes, each one running two groups on a daily basis. I enjoy the interaction with the students and watching them graduate with a computer is both emotional and heartwarming, as I know just how much it really means to some whānau.*

*Today, after having completed my degree, I have continued with my studies at Masters level. I have completed and passed my four papers in the 'Indigenous Studies Masters program' at Te whare Wananga o Awanuiaarangi, Whakatane, and this year I have a thesis to complete. I still use the computer I graduated with for all my mahi :-)*

*Thank you Computers in Homes, for creating opportunity for parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles in moving forward in a world of technology. Nga mihi."*



Diane graduates with her BA degree in 2015.

# Wairarapa

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**50 families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015**  
**10 families (20%) graduated.**  
**Broadband internet connections provided to 3 families (30%).**

**Paula Puhara joined *Computers in Homes* because she wanted her moko to be with everyone else, and make sure he wasn't left behind.**

## SUCCESS STORY



Paula said it had helped her to connect better with her moko's school, Lakeview, 'in a big way', especially after school. He was finding maths difficult, and Paula couldn't understand it either. She used to write to

the school that he couldn't do his maths homework and she couldn't help him.

Now with having being trained to use the computer, Paula puts it on, and connects on the internet to Maths Buddy, and because it shows what to do, she feels confident to help him. He used to have 'one on one' support with his reading but now is doing well.

Paula says his teachers tell her that his maths has improved and they both feel more confident. She even does some of the exercises herself because "they've got hard work". Paula keeps up with what is happening around the world, and as she has one moko at Kohanga reo, sometimes 'plugs in' words she doesn't know to help with her Māori vocabulary.

Paula enjoys having the internet for her and her moko and has plenty of data left over at the end of each month. Her school-age moko has helped her to find her way around the internet and she uses Facebook all the time, and is learning new things all of the time.

**Above: Paula uses her CiH computer to help her moko with maths, and increase her own Māori vocabulary.**

# Wairoa

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**50 families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015**  
**9 families (18%) graduated.**  
**Broadband internet connections provided to 9 families (100%).**

**With very little experience using a computer, it was through encouragement from the wider community at the local school gala that gave Tawhai Johnson the confidence and opportunity to register with *Computers in Homes* to support his mokopuna. Little did Tawhai know that having a computer in his home would bring about significant changes for his whānau and him.**

## SUCCESS STORY

From day one, Tawhai's number one priority was about keeping his mokopuna safe when using the computer. "There is so much temptation and influence when using a computer and the thought of having a computer behind closed doors is not an option here and that is why our computer is in the open living area, so everyone can see. You have to be cautious nowadays and you don't really know what the mokopuna could be looking at. Having it in an open room is our way of being safe and responsible," said Tawhai.

Some of the significant technology changes he identifies in their household have been with his mokopuna and himself. Cleveland attends Y11 at Te Aute College and Raheera attends Y10 at St Joseph's Māori Girl's High School. Both of his mokopuna are happy that they have a computer and the internet in their home, helping them with their school work and to keep in touch with whānau and friends. Cleveland uses Skype regularly to communicate with

his parents in Australia and Raheera is always on hand to support and teach her Koro how to confidently use the computer. "The computer is good for Koro to learn because it's a digital age. He does get frustrated but soldiers on until he gets it. I think Facebook is good to use because it has family things that Koro will want to look at and then he learns from there. It's about have patience when you are learning" said Raheera.

Learning how to use a computer is an eye opener for Tawhai and he has challenged that old saying that 'you can't teach an old dog new tricks', which is now a thing of the past for him having learnt new and exciting ways of communication. Having an email address alone has a lot of meaning for Tawhai. He was surprised and amazed when he received his first Hawkes Bay Regional Council's Environment meeting minutes. Since then he has registered online for Iwi/Hapu/Marae memberships and has received information from various other community groups that he is involved with. He has also discovered the joys of trading online with Trade Me by buying and selling products. "The computer is always teaching you and there's always something new to learn" says Tawhai. "I'm ready now for more training such as being shown how to file all my emails and information properly so I can have access to them whenever I like. At the moment I'm going through lots of emails in my inbox just to find the right one". He then turns to Raheera and tells her that he has to learn more about email attachments.



**Raheera is always on hand to support and teach Tawhai how to confidently use the computer.**

# Wellington/Hutt

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**50** families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015  
**38** families (76%) graduated.  
 Broadband internet connections provided to **33** families (87%).



Ben Tangata graduating at Pukeatua School September 2015 with Margaret Willard (Hutt City Councillor).

### Ben Tangata – Staying Connected

*I chose to be a part of this programme for my children. Being able to access the internet for their homework, or to be connected with their friends online is the way the world is heading. No one picks up a phone to communicate much anymore; no one goes to the library much either. It's all done through the internet.*

*Four months after graduating, my kids have picked up in their typing. They use the computer to research sales on clothes and shoes and they stay in touch with their old school friends. I have currently moved away from Wellington and the computer still remains with my son. He is currently schooling at St Patrick's College. Having access to the computer means that we can communicate frequently via Skype or Facebook. It also means he can use the internet for research for his school work.*

*If I hadn't have taken up the challenge to be a part of this programme, I'm not sure how often I would be able to speak to my son. The tutor Patrick Harlow was the best, as he made my learning much easier and fun.*

**“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”**

Dr Martin Luther King

This report from Wellington/Hutt is dedicated to the men of *Computers in Homes*. Over the years, the majority of Wellington/Hutt programme participants have been women, but some of our Tama-toa have taken the learning challenge.

## SUCCESS STORIES

### Dallas Olsen – It's Never too Late

*I did this course for my moko. He goes to the kura here. One day he came home with this computer thing and was asking me all these questions and if I can help him. But I couldn't. I come from an era where we did everything with our hands. Give me a job to do using my hands and I can do it, or I will find a way to do it the most efficient way. But when my moko asked me to help him with his homework on this tablet thing, it broke my heart because I couldn't help him. I came into the class knowing nothing and unsure if I could learn. But I did it! I know stuff now and that is what makes this programme a great thing to be a part of. Now when he asks me if I can help him, I can!*

Dallas with CiH trainer Briar Kopa, at graduation.



# West Coast

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**50** families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015  
**13** families (26%) graduated.  
 Broadband internet connections provided to **3** families (0%).

The highlight on the Coast for the last 6 months has been DORA, the 2020 Trust's mobile digital classroom. DORA allowed WestREAP, our *Computers in Homes* partner on the West Coast, to support learners that they had never been as able to connect with before.



## SUCCESS STORY

WestREAP delivered programmes on DORA that enabled them to engage with a wide cross-section of their community – schools, parents,

whānau, local business and local authorities – demonstrating how technology could be used in learning, community planning and in understanding the technology capability that exists on the West Coast.

In 2015, DORA:

- Participated in the West Coast IT Kidz Biennial Conference
- Travelled to remote locations West Coast locations - Haast in the South and Awahono in the North working with families and local businesses; running workshops, courses, teaching technology based practice for community groups
- Supported information technology (IT) education for parents and children in schools

- Helped communities 'problem solve' and address IT infrastructure issues
- Worked with communities to develop plans for eliminating communication barriers
- Supported Early Childhood and school-based IT professional development for teachers and parents
- Motivated members of the community to engage with digital learning; many people just came on-board out of curiosity, but ended up signing up for courses
- Supported local business/industry to deliver professional development training to remotely based staff
- Supported local organisations in delivering community events; DORA became a mobile 'office, communications centre, and health and safety unit'.

Having access to a resource like DORA was like giving education in our communities a new lease on life! DORA was attractive, fun and above all – non-threatening. People enjoyed coming on-board and sitting in comfort talking about their experiences with IT, what they knew, what they wished they knew and how they could improve their lives, work and education with computers.



The class at Whataroa School – children watching a YouTube video onboard DORA.

# Whanganui

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**125 families to be supported (2015–16); as at 31 December 2015 40 families (32%) graduated. Broadband internet connections provided to 37 families (93%).**

**Kathleen is a mother of two. She joined *Computers in Homes* in 2006 because she was working as a volunteer at the time and couldn't afford technology or the internet. Being able to get a computer and have subsidised internet made a world of difference to their family.**

## SUCCESS STORY

Since then she also participated in the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) trial in 2014 and purchased a Chromebook. This year she completed her KiwiSkills Jobseeker qualification with results in the high 90% and one paper 100%.

What she loves about *Computers in Homes* is that it's a really supportive and positive environment. Everyone is in it together and supports one another so everyone can finish. It also meant that they could get the internet. "It was really helpful to make weekly affordable payment on the internet. Without that we wouldn't have it".

Since completing *Computers in Homes* she moved into part-time paid work.

Since Kiwiskills I now know how to do a poster in Word, convert it to a PDF for email and then a jpeg so I can maintain the Facebook pages for Tawhero School, Restorative Justice and Te Ora Hou Whanganui. I would never have been able to do that before.

I hated school. I am dyslexic, so school was a struggle. I had a reader for School Certificate. I went on to Polytechnic but at the time the technology wasn't available to help with learning. KiwiSkills has shown me

*how technology does enable me to learn. I loved that I could listen to music in the background and watch and do and repeat. It really helped me learn easily!"*

*Having the BYOD device meant the kids have got really confident on the computer. Because we have two devices now we didn't have to make it so tapu. They can play and experiment with the technology. Having "kids" insurance on the device made it so much more sustainable. My son has allergies and is often off school unwell. BYOD means he doesn't miss out on school. The teacher emails him his work, he does it online and the teacher reviews it and sends the next assignment. It's amazing.*

*On a personal note, technology has kept our family close and together. We have family in Australia and the UK. We live from week to week and can't afford travel but now, with technology, we never miss any major events. We are there, on Skype, for all the significant moments. We can see and talk to each other; it means we don't lose touch.*

*We don't have Sky or Freeview; we live-stream on the internet and that way we can really monitor what our children watch. We are enormously grateful for the opportunities technology offers us as a family and the difference it makes for our children's knowledge."*



**Kathleen Parnell has graduated from *Computers in Homes*, participated in the BYOD pilot and completed KiwiSkills Jobseeker.**

# Refugee programme

## DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

**210 families to be supported over two years (2014–16); as at 31 December 2015 178 families (85%) graduated.**

**When Lal Cinzah graduated with Honours from Canterbury University recently he was sure of being the first Civil Engineering graduate from New Zealand's Chin community.**



**Lal Cinzah with his proud parents. Photo: Fairfax Media NZ / Nelson Mail.**



**Mr Bual Cung 2nd from right represents his Cinzah family at the first *Computers in Homes* graduation held in Nelson in 2007.**

## SUCCESS STORY

The first Nelson Refugee *Computers in Homes* ran in 2006-07 and included the Cinzah family from the Chin Hakha state of Burma Myanmar. Lal Cinzah was just beginning secondary school when his family arrived in Nelson from the Chin state, where his parents had been teachers.

The *Computers in Homes* programme had been extended to newly-arrived refugee families in 2004, with preference given to families with teenage children as these needed to be embraced into New Zealand education as soon as possible before they reached leaving age. It had been found that if effective education was not grasped by teens in this short window of time that they were leaving school with few employment prospects and little hope of a tertiary education.

Lal's parents participated in that first intake and welcomed the opportunity to learn about the New Zealand education system and to be involved in Lal's and his three siblings' learning. Lal worked hard at school gaining many awards, and although he was already fluent in Chin and Burmese languages, he said his challenge was getting his English to a level that would take him to University.

He found the New Zealand education system very different from in Burma where the teachers would hand out material to memorise rather than help students to understand. He preferred now being able to solve problems and became interested in Engineering after excelling in science and maths.

Since graduating from *Computers in Homes*, Lal's Dad, Bual Cung has helped with secondary maths for several years and Mum Sui Ting was a primary teacher but has worked with the Burmese communities for refugee services for many years. They are very proud of Lal and say the whole community celebrates his success too. Lal now works for Fulton Hogan in Nelson and helps with the Chin youth group as he is keen to give encouragement to those younger than himself to succeed as he has done.