

Shirley Peterson – introduction to all stakeholders. 18th July 2014

Kia Ora. I am a Londoner that has made my permanent home in Whangarei with my Kiwi husband and two young boys. We chose our native forest block in an area of outstanding



natural beauty as it offers the opportunity to be self-sufficient with power, to grow a food forest, to enjoy the wildlife in the bush and at the beach whilst creating a minimal ecological footprint. This is a wonderful area for a young family to grow up in and our boys are already reaping the benefits of kayaking, tramping and good local schools.

My professional background as a social worker and educator has spanned more than twenty years, predominantly working with young people from pre-school to university ages. Although most of my professional practice has been in the East End of London I did some family based practice in New York early in my career.

I am very happy to join the team at Kiwi North as LEOTC Educator. I have experienced the NZ curriculum at pre-school, primary, secondary

and tertiary levels in the short time that we have lived here and am very excited about being able to offer enrichment opportunities, vocational experiences and to excite young people about life, learning and the natural environment.

The LEOTC contract requires relationships with at least 45 primary schools and 4 secondary schools. I am planning to engage home schoolers, Correspondence School, Youth Services and young people that are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) to ensure full community engagement.

Through schools I should be engaging at least 3,300 young people each year from years 1 - 11+ but there is plenty of scope to offer weekend and school holiday programmes as well as special programmes with Careers NZ and tertiary providers.

Our LEOTC learning areas are technology, science, mathematics and statistics. The international STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) networks are growing in number and diversity as the need for skilled young people that will develop our global technology for a sustainable future, grows. Kiwi North has an exciting part to play in that vision for Northland, New Zealand and our international visitors.