

## **Richard Katipa: Distance Learning Experience**

In 1993-94 I was seconded for a year, to managed the Audio–Graphic Pilot Project based at Ngata College. This was early video visual conferencing, distance learning. The project including managing sites in many of the schools throughout the Tairāwhiti Region. The emphasis for this project was to provide access to a broader range of courses and expertise in our rural isolated communities using this new technology. Things have come a long way since those days.

Between 2001 and 2005 I was Education Manager for Te Runanga o te Whanau (a Apanui). We established the Cyberwaka Cisco Academy, which incidentally was the first indigenous Cisco academy in the world. We were also set up with a remote access set of routers for Cisco students to practice setting up computer networks. Our Clients also included Auckland University who ran the Cisco academy programme but didn't have the router bank we had.

We also developed a Cyberwaka IT support arm to service many of the schools as well as other educational and iwi organisations in the Eastern Bay of Plenty and Tairāwhiti. This included designing networks and cabling schools.

During this time, we also became the NZ distributor of Netg IT training programmes. These packages were essentially distance learning technology. While the range of IT related courses was huge the most popular sale for us was the Computer Drivers Licence which essentially covered the basic use of the MS Office Suite of programmes.

On returning to the classroom in 2008 I started looking for new online learning resources and came across the Mathletics programme to support my junior maths classes. This was great despite the poor bandwidth issues prior to the rollout of fibre optics in our school in about 2013.

In 2016 we managed to establishing the Mindlab Post graduate course in Ruatoria. This was a huge commitment from most of the staff at Te Waha o Rerekohu, Kawakawa mai Tawhiti, Te Waiu o Ngati Porou and Ngata College. This was a 4hour commitment every Wednesday 3pm -7pm for term3 and 4. We worked through lunchtime on these days and send the students home early so that we could depart Te Araroa at 2pm to travel to Ruatoria for the 3pm start at Te Waiu. However much of course required the participants to work online including research as well as the submission and marking of course work.

In 2017 I joined the Ministry of Education as Chief Adviser (Iwi and Maori Education Relationships). This required designing a system that allowed iwi to report back to the Ministry with achievement data that was succinct, accurate and meaningful. We designed a simple but effective reporting template that was easy to use for iwi and allowed us to pull the data into a MOE database with a dashboard that summarised the data.

I have returned to teaching part-time this year, teaching pangarau(maths) at Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Kawakawa mai Tawhiti. I have been using google docs/and google drive with these classes and have started migrating my classes to Google classroom, because of school closure due to the Covid 19 pandemic.