

White Ribbon Day

By Mere Tavai and Leon Tunoho

On the 23rd and 24th of November – Mere worked with Maraeroa Health Clinic offering Mirimiri to the “Super Maori Fellas”, aka The Patriots. The group is mainly made up of members of the New Zealand Defence Force who all have a love for bikes. They have been riding around New Zealand raising awareness in regards to White Ribbon Day – **Domestic Violence – “It’s not okay”**. They ended their New Zealand Tour at Maraeroa Marae Porirua.

The organisations hosting the “Super Maori Fellas” were Porirua Living Without Violence, Women’s Refuge and Whanau Commission and Maraeroa Health Clinic.



On Wednesday the 25th of November there was a community event in Porirua where all the community could paint their hands and put them on a banner – to pledge their hands will never be used in violence. It was a great turnout and a demonstration of the passion and commitment of the Porirua Community.

Te Whare Puna Waiora took this opportunity to support the Kaupapa and to network with other organisations and promote Wellink Services within the Porirua community.

It was very interesting to meet other organisations within our community during this event. In particular PAFT, Parents as First Teachers, in conversation we had with a teenage parent whom had to raise her 2 children on her own, and how she had experienced depression. We felt proud to be promoting the Wellink Services to her and the many people we met up with on the day. Big thanks to Jenn at Willis St who kindly got the Vibrant Wellink Jandal Stickers printed for us at short notice. Everyone from the Police to little babies were wearing them at the event.

We were even approached by the photographer of the Porirua News as we were putting our hands on the “our hands will not be used for violence banner” and wouldn’t you know it – we ended up on the front page and page 3 of the Porirua News, thankfully they spelt Wellink Trust correctly, they didn’t do so well in spelling all our surnames correctly.

What really touched people’s hearts was the testimonies some of the “Super Maori Fellas” were sharing, and also the Poroporoake (farewell) that was given to them as they departed the Porirua Canopies. They loved being part of White Ribbon Day in Porirua and have advised they will return next year.

It was an awesome experience to be involved in the community event for all staff that participated – “fully inclusive and vibrant communities” was definitely alive on the day within the Porirua Community.

