

# Restoring respect

PPTA has been engaged for some time now in a restorative practices (RP) working group.

**R**estorative practice is a relationships-based approach to school life grounded in mutual respect. The group has been developing resources and helping shape the expansion of this way of working.

So far three 'kete' (baskets) have been produced which take schools through everything RP from circles work to restorative conferences.

A team from Otaki, Andy Foster and Janice Brown, have been working at the Positive Behaviour for Learning School Wide (PB4L SW) and the Teacher Refresher Course Committee (TRCC) wellbeing conferences with advanced classes and workshops to introduce schools to ways of working that relate to restorative practices.

Up to 200 secondary schools have had some involvement with restorative practices and the University of Waikato has won the contract to train schools in this work.

The aim of PB4L restorative practices is that both adults and students in

the school will develop skills that enable them intentionally to build respectful relationships.

The University of Waikato through the Institute of Professional Learning (IPL) has appointed regional coordinators who will be the primary contact for the schools in each cluster. They will support the schools to develop their own plans and ensure their training and support requirements are met. IPL is developing a website on the Virtual Learning Network which they hope will become a resource, not only for the schools in PB4L RP, but for all educators who are interested in developing a common understanding of these practices. Go to [vln.school.nz](http://vln.school.nz) and search for PB4L RP. You will need to join the network before you can join the group.

Co-director Wendy Drewery says the initiative can be traced back to judges in the Youth Court, who noticed that 80% of the young people coming before the court were school drop outs. The judiciary are still very interested in how PB4L RP will

work out, she said. The PB4L RP team has strong relationships with the ministries of justice and social development, she said.

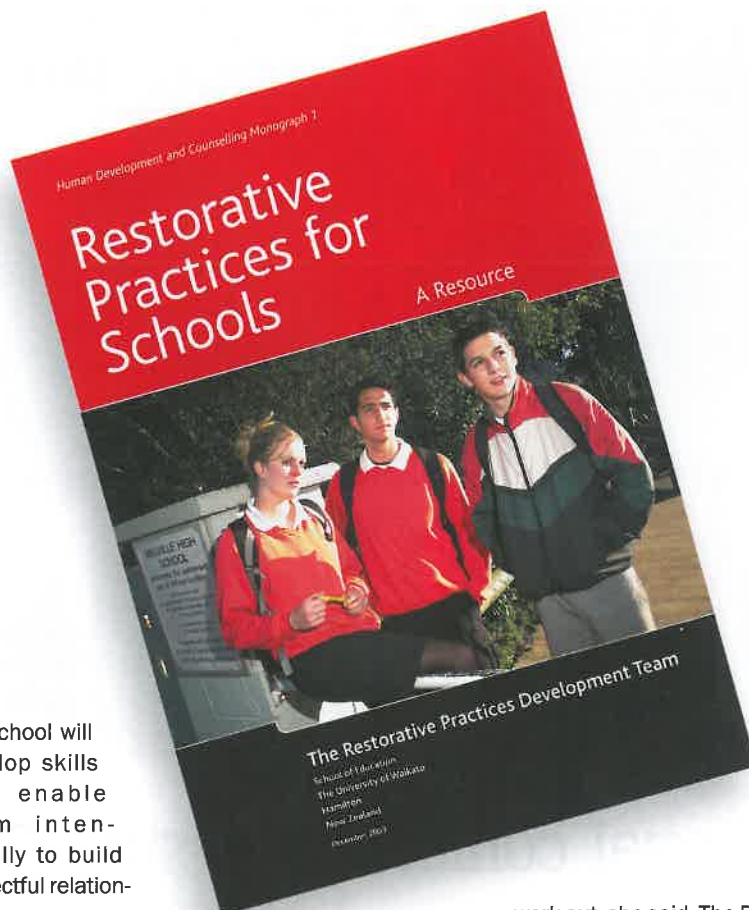
"There will be a lot of interest in how it all goes."

Since the formal handover in September, the PB4L RP team at Waikato has been working in partnership with the Ministry of Education to ensure that the aspirations of restorative practitioners will continue to be met – and hopefully, exceeded.

"We are both pleased and excited to join with the ministry and school communities in this work," Wendy said.

"We are starting a bit later than hoped, but we have made plans with all the schools that have already been contracted to PB4L RP by the ministry, and will hold tailored trainings with many before the end of the year."

2016 will see a new round of school recruitment, and it is anticipated that over the next three years the practices will be embedded in at least another 150 schools.



## Getting on board

**The Ministry of Education is in the process of selecting schools for Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) restorative practices for 2016 and 2017.**

**The ministry will be using a range of selection criteria to consider schools suitable to be part of PB4L Restorative Practices but because of the synergies between the two initiatives, priority is being given to School Wide schools.**

**To be considered for selection or any queries contact either your regional school wide practitioner or the PB4L manager (regional). Further information can be found at <http://pb4l.tki.org.nz/PB4L-Restorative-Practice>**