



# Leaving school complete with skills for success



**Dr Janelle McKenzie,**  
Principal

“ This programme has been ideal for our students. Recently the school has embraced a wider view of what education can be. There is a new focus on cross-curricular pathways from Year 9 through senior school and onto employment. **Dr Janelle McKenzie** ”

The principal of Coastal Taranaki School, Dr Janelle McKenzie, believes that isolated academic results are a narrow measure and that “young people need to add work skills for life success”. The Employability Skills Framework provides a shared language with employers, educators and young people to understand what is needed for future employees entering the workforce.



**Warwick Foy,**  
Taranaki Futures

The Coastal Taranaki School is an Area School based in Okato, 20 minutes south of New Plymouth. Students come from a range of backgrounds from dairy farms to lifestyle choice families where parents live in Okato, but work in New Plymouth. The school has approximately 70 high school aged students so individual programmes are realistic and useful. The school motto is ‘Celebrating Success’, and they have been trialling the Youth Employability Programme (YEP) to help students to achieve the success that is right for them.

“ Taranaki Futures is advocating for improved alignment between education and employment. We are strengthening the role of education and widening skills to back academic achievement. **Warwick Foy, Taranaki Futures General Manager** ”

“ Employers continually tell us that they need young people who are work-ready. If they have the right attitude, technical skills can be taught. We find that students of all levels can achieve at school but still be unready for work. We need to do better for our young people. Warwick Foy

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**The school is a focus for the community**

The Employability Skills Framework is a tool that clearly describes the key employability skills and competencies young people need to be successful in the workplace. Employability skills such as positive attitude, resilience, team-work and problem-solving can all be taught using a combination of peer group work integrated with voluntary and work experience placements. These skills encourage self-efficacy and personal choice, making young people more responsible for their own learning processes.

Focused work experience assessments by employers assist young people to understand where their strengths are and where extra skill building work is needed. This information is really helpful for future employers as they get a detailed and authentic account of the skills young people actually have. Employers think this is a great improvement to CVs, which have become more of a marketing tool. Janelle says she can't wait for the day when students tell her what skills they have and how these can best match with their career hopes. She will then really be able to help them on their pathway to success.



**Mary Wilson,  
Engagement Facilitator**

After trialling the framework last year, Taranaki Futures has employed a fulltime facilitator, Mary Wilson. Mary's role is to connect school leaders, teachers and students with local employers in order to help young people attain employability skills in Taranaki.