

Wairoa’s new Whānau Āwhina Plunket nurse ready to “create breath”

There’s no-one who knows Wairoa better than the district’s newest Whānau Āwhina Plunket nurse Nina Dougherty.

“This community, I know warts and all. There’s not much that gets past my nose,” laughs the mother of seven and grandmother to three.

“That’s the relationship I have with my community. It’s about trust and ownership, and that takes many, many, many years to build. I think I’ve got a lot of community collateral.”

Last week, Wairoa’s local Plunket team welcomed Nina with a mihi whakatau, ushering in a new era for the district.

With an impressive nursing and community advocacy background, and a heart that firmly belongs to Wairoa, there’s no-one more suited to the job than Nina.

“I’ve been nursing since 2006. I have a background in clinical management, as well as practice, district and acute-ward nursing, and Tamariki Ora.

“I voluntarily ran a Ministry of Education-funded playgroup for 10 years. I’ve sat on the vulnerable children board, I’ve designed early education programmes, and breastfeeding and eczema programmes.

“I know the housing space, the council space, the parliament space – and I’m not afraid to say: ‘What about Wairoa?’ I’ve always listened to the voice of the community and I’m not afraid to put it out there.

“If you do work that creates traction and carries on without you, it has value. Those programmes are my legacy.”

Nina is determined to increase Whānau Āwhina Plunket’s profile in the community and to help Wairoa whānau understand what the organisation has to offer.

“I’m looking forward to showing Wairoa what Plunket is; showing them the potential and the growth; and showing them the resources they have.

“I want Plunket to have a heartbeat in our community. I know I have the ability to create breath and to create a heart. I have a lot of community networks – I have those relationships.

“My community means a lot to me and anything that enhances the wellbeing of the community is important to me.

“Our babies mean so much. I’m really excited to see and grow Plunket’s vision – for Wairoa, by Wairoa, the way it’s always been.”

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