



**Rotorua Primary School**  
*Pukeroa Oruawhata*

# School leads the way in 21st century learning

Enabling a technology-rich learning environment

**“I wanted to take the school in a different direction and be the first decile 3 school to become an Apple Distinguished School by 2021.”** - Fred Whata, Principal, Rotorua Primary



## About Rotorua Primary School

- Pukeroa Oruawhata
- Established in 1886
- Principal, Fred Whata
- Roll 245

### Enabling a technology-rich learning environment

When Fred Whata was appointed principal at Rotorua Primary in October 2018, he arrived with a vision to embrace technology and utilise partnerships to bring 21st century learning to the school. At the time, the school had limited and ageing technology, which meant teachers were apprehensive about using the devices in classrooms.

“The reality was that our school hadn’t successfully implemented technology and teachers weren’t highly skilled with it so they didn’t see the value in using technology to support learning. The infrastructure was chaotic, and connectivity to the Wi-Fi was poor. Teachers had slowly withdrawn from using the technology and as a result our school was seeing huge photocopying spend of over \$24,000 a year.”

As Adam Ellis, Head of Technology at NPew explains “In a school, trust in technology is reflected by the number of visits to the photocopier. We knew, from our experience that with the right technology, the money the school spends on printing can be reinvested in technology that will encourage greater collaboration and benefit the wider school community.”



### **Change needs strong leadership and partnerships**

**“It’s a pleasure to work with Fred, someone who is forward-thinking, has a strong vision and is not afraid of taking a stand for his community”**

- Dan Pereira, Commercial Business Manager,  
Noel Leeming Group

Fred, a highly respected educator within Rotorua, had come from Rotorua Boys High School where he had been involved in the successful implementation of a BYOD programme, partnering with Noel Leeming, NPeW and Apple. He was a fan of ‘Apple’, as he’d seen first-hand the benefits the technology brings in a learning environment. “And the fact that Apple offers further teacher development through their certified Professional Learning Development (PLD) programme, means our teachers are supported in their ongoing PLD.”

### **Success requires a multi stream programme**

Together with help from Noel Leeming and NPeW, the school devised a strategic plan to replace traditional text-books and devices with new Apple technology to inspire their students in creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

“We engaged our community early, starting with a survey to all students.” The survey focused on each student’s learning capability and their current use of tech at home or in the classroom. This informed the school’s approach to implementing BYOD.

Armed with the information Noel Leeming and NPeW provided an exclusive school deal on BYOD and were closely involved in the implementation and engagement with the community, including meetings with staff & parents, providing information to help inform the school community and having local store staff attend BYOD school events.

“Over the Christmas period, through their Device as a Service (DaaS) offering, Noel Leeming delivered and set up all the tech in the school, so from day one, we were all set and ready. Before the term started, a tech educator from Noel Leeming came into the school and ran teacher learning days, which was essential, as many of our teachers were resistant to using technology in class.” - Fred Whata, Principal, Rotorua Primary.



## About Apple Distinguished Schools (ADS)

- Apple Distinguished Schools have a shared vision of technology-rich environments that support learning goals.
- The current 470 schools collaborate with Apple teams to host onsite educator visits where school leaders demonstrate their vision for learning with Apple technology, and educators showcase best practice use of devices, apps and other digital materials to create powerful learning experiences.
- Only invited schools who meet the criteria can become an ADS.
- The team at Noel Leeming are available to help advise and support your school to become an Apple Distinguished School

### Delivering a technology-rich learning environment

#### **“Right now, Rotorua Primary is the most advanced primary school in Rotorua”**

- Dan Pereira, Commercial Business Manager, Noel Leeming Group

As part of Fred's vision to become an Apple Distinguished School by 2021, together with Noel Leeming and NPeW, they worked on getting the right technology not only into classrooms, but also other learning spaces within the school. This included the library, school hall and boardroom.

One of the biggest changes for the school, was the removal of their library. “We've introduced a ‘Centre of Technical Excellence’ so our Library no longer contains books, instead students have access to robotic and collaborative learning technology. “We have 10 Apple TVs, playstations, robotic equipment, BOSE sound systems and projectors. It's crucial the technology is about learning and the school is seeing evidence of this with students collaborating more in this environment. “We're seeing students watch each other on the Playstations and Robotics equipment. They are learning through interacting with the technology and observing their peers.”

“Our students are learning electronics, coding and programming. With 21st century skills being learnt in a co-operative space, we're preparing them for jobs in the future - and we know our students are more engaged with their learning, with our attendance rates up by 20%,”



### **Working alongside schools**

Being more than just the technology provider is an important part of the way Noel Leeming works with schools.

“It goes beyond selling a device and getting them set up, we’re helping them get the most out of their technology. It’s a huge investment to buy and cover ongoing technology costs, so supporting the school through PLD means teachers are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to integrate technology into their teaching.” - Dan Pereria, Commercial Business Manager, Noel Leeming Group

“Recently our teachers attended their first Apple PLD event organised through Noel Leeming. It was a huge success and it was important for me to show our staff how advanced we are. As one teacher said to me “ it was the best professional learning day they’ve been on.” - Fred Whata, Principal of Rotorua Primary School.

For more information contact Noel Leeming Commercial on

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