

# RISING STARS

Navigating future pathways



Words by David Riley

Illustrations by  
Chad Robertson

### Acknowledgements

Malo aupito, fa'afetai lava, fakaaue lahi, meitaki maata,  
vinaka vakalevu, fakafetai lahi lele and  
thank you to all who contributed to Rising Stars

#### Pacific Profiles

Norie Ape  
Shalom Alfred Ngaro  
Monica Kershaw  
Saia Finau Latu  
Samson Rambo Jones Vaotua  
Nora Swann  
Shaun Williams  
Popo Loua  
Jo Rose Salota Kerrison  
Patrick Ikinofu  
Tekatau Tabwe Bio  
Sabrina Manū

#### Creative Team

David Riley - Author  
Chad Robertson - Illustrator  
Isoa Kavakimotu - Videographer  
Varnia Taua - Bright Sunday  
Robert Muller - Bright Sunday

#### NZQA / MoE Project Team

Alex Bidois  
Utufa'asisili Rosemary Mose  
Jay Farris  
Tevita Faleafa  
Su'esu'e Toilolo  
Tuila Waterhouse  
Reno Paotonu  
Gabby Makisi  
Blake Wong-Ling

Rising Stars: Navigating future pathways.  
Published 2022:

ISBN 978-1-877444-34-0 Rising Stars (Print)  
ISBN 978-1-877444-35-7 Rising Stars (Digital)



**Hey there,  
young Pacific achievers!  
Our world needs you.**

We need you to discover your unique talents. We need you to share the special values you've learned as you've grown up. We need you to dream big... just like your ancestors did. There's an amazing future waiting for you, so many interesting careers you can go into, and more being invented as we speak!

In this book you'll meet some inspiring Pacific people who've been where you are now, and are living their dreams. You'll learn some tips for study and career pathways that you can also share with your family.

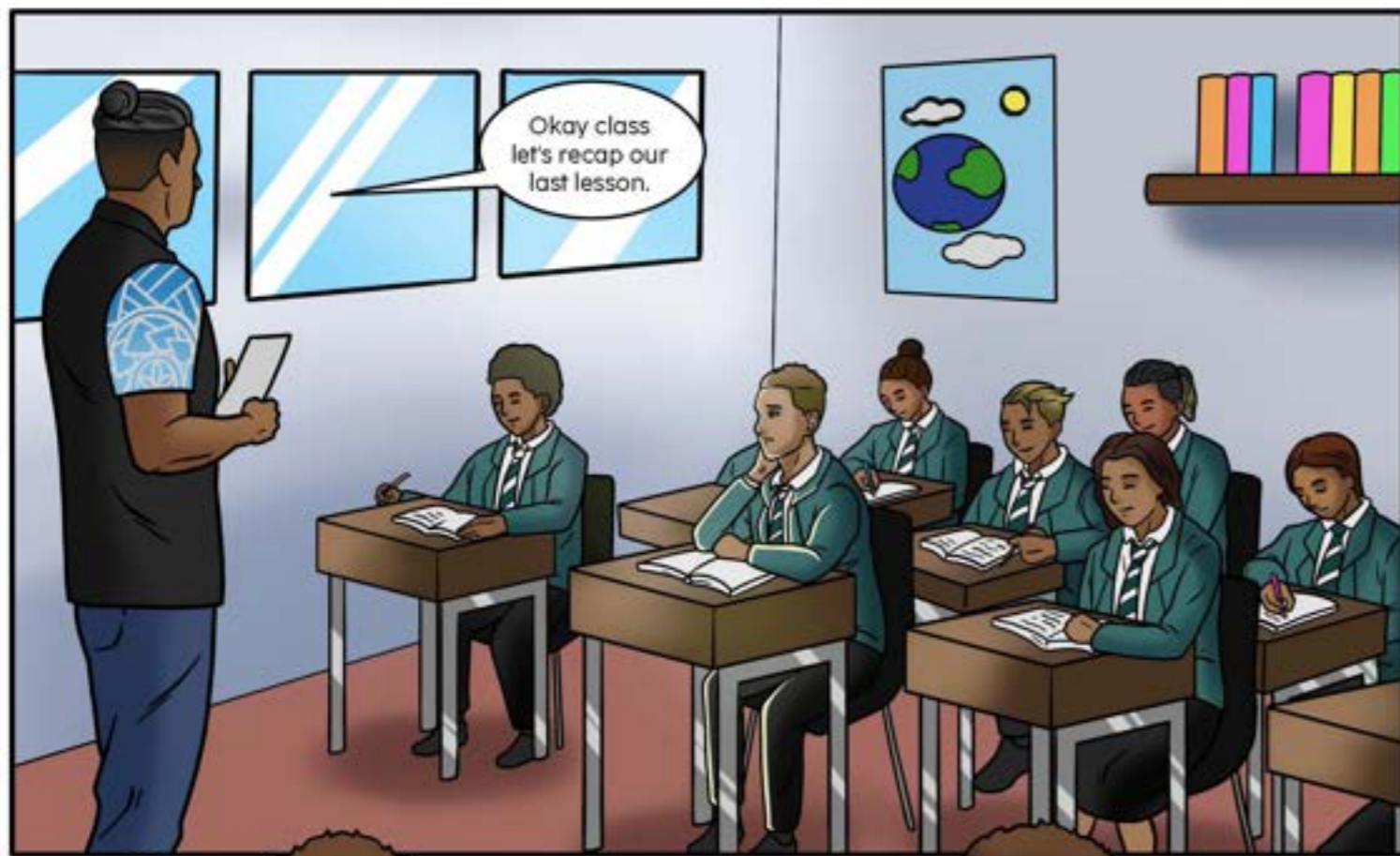
You'll discover some of the strengths and skills you already have that make you someone people would love to work with in the future.

Most of all, this book will help you to aim for the stars.

**So come on, jump in the vaka and lesssgooo!!!**







Okay class let's recap our last lesson.



ZZ



You win, Koviti. I give up!

I'm going to destroy this planet!

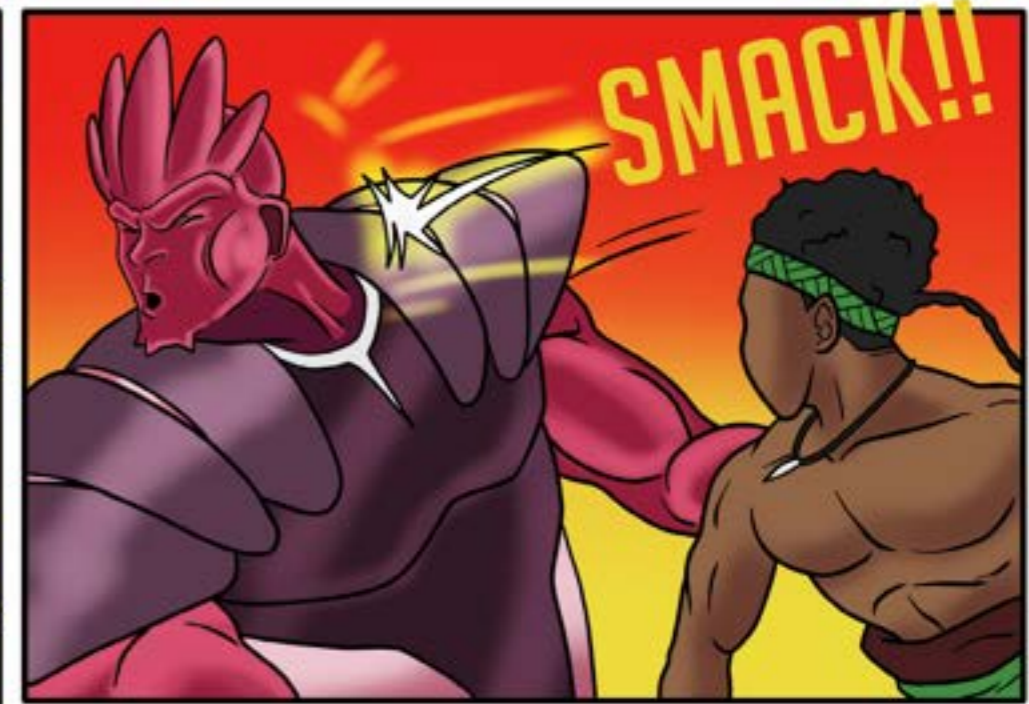
There's another fighter here.

Another loser you mean!

It's ... my son, Toa!

Hahahaha!

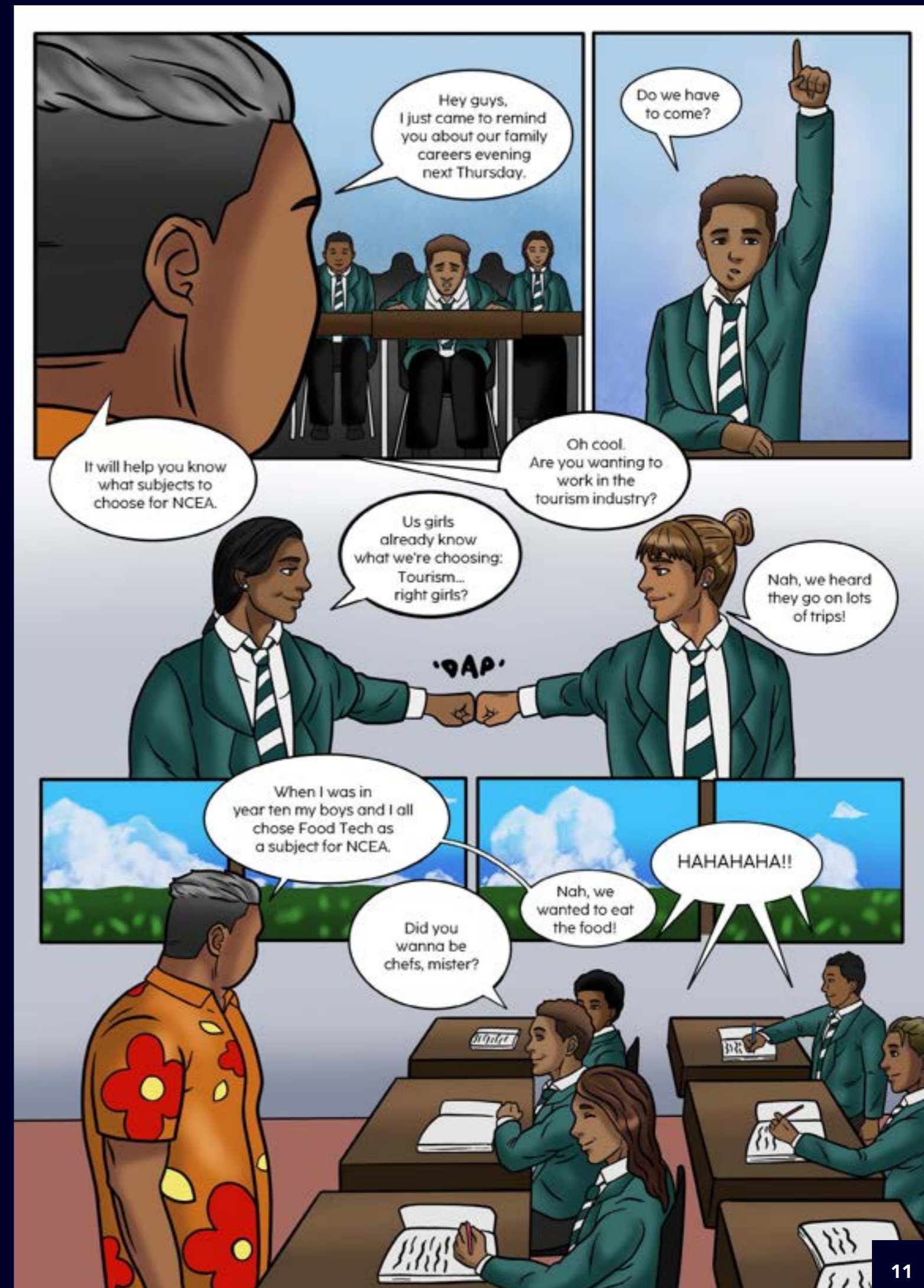














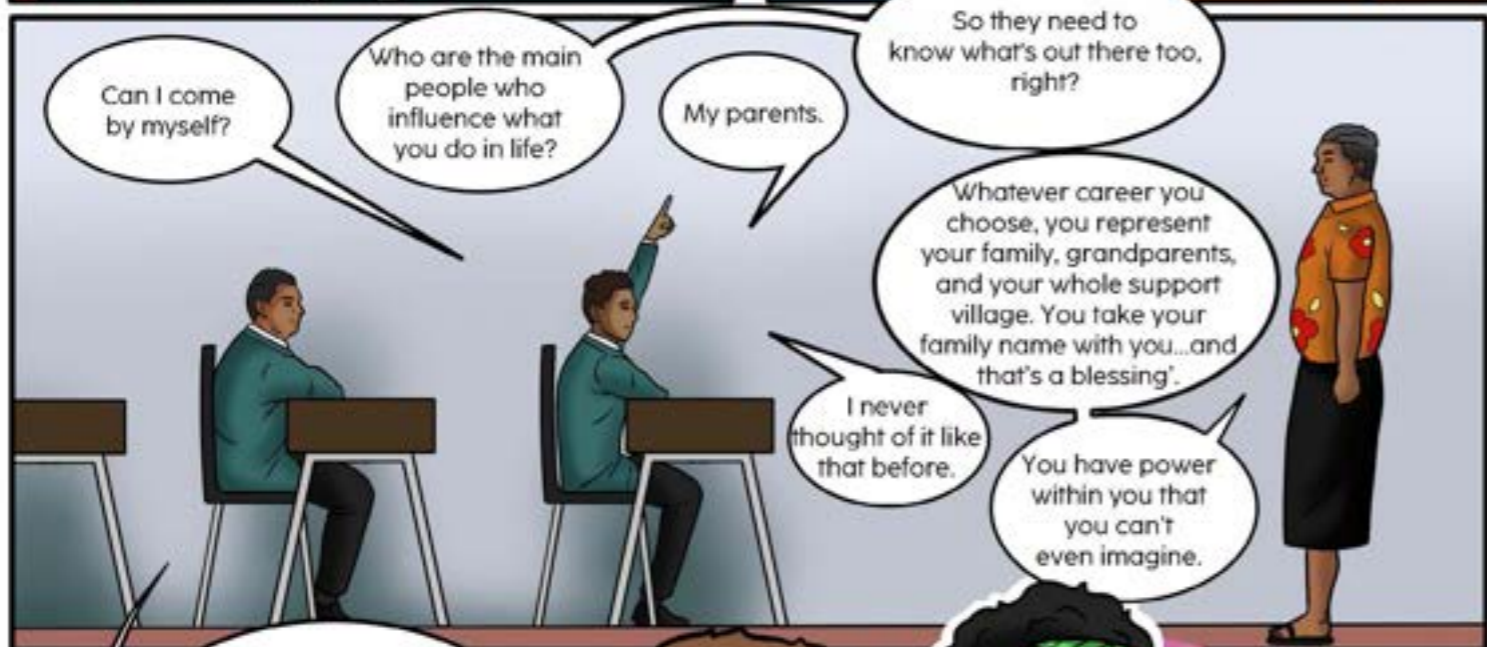






That's true! My mum lost her job cos of COVID, but she's good at hairdressing and makeup and she started her own business.

There's lots of options for you. That's why you should come and check out the careers evening.



Can I come by myself?

Who are the main people who influence what you do in life?

My parents.

So they need to know what's out there too, right?

Whatever career you choose, you represent your family, grandparents, and your whole support village. You take your family name with you...and that's a blessing.

I never thought of it like that before.

You have power within you that you can't even imagine.



Yeah, we can beat Koviti!

What?

Oh um, nothing, never mind.



The following week. Careers evening at school.



Thank you for coming families.



For centuries Pacific people have navigated the ocean using the stars...

...the winds, the currents and the birds to find new worlds.

We're here tonight to help our young people navigate paths to an awesome future.

Let me introduce you to some amazing Pacific wayfinders!

# From learning to earning

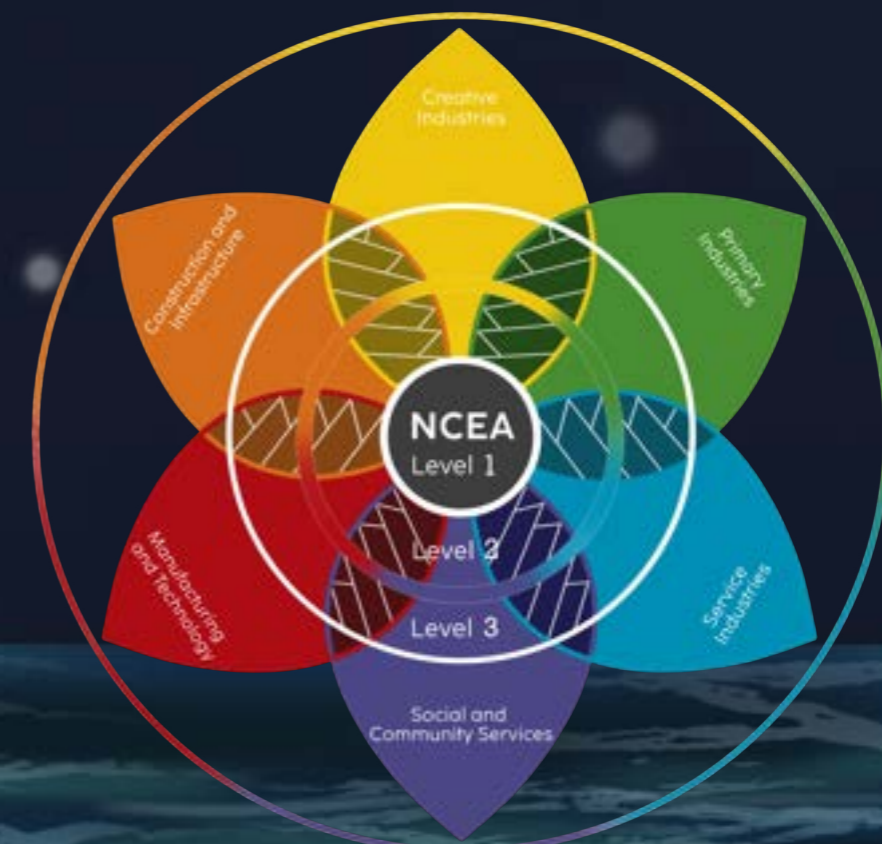
Achieve NCEA levels 1, 2 and 3 and develop a path that progresses you to further study, training and employment.

Vocational Pathways help students see how their learning is valued in the real world by aligning standards that can be achieved through NCEA with six industries. Vocational Pathways was developed to ensure students gain a better understanding of how their NCEA studies applies to the world of work, and the qualifications and skills required by industry.

**The pathways cover six industry sectors:**

Manufacturing and Technology | Construction and Infrastructure | Creative Industries | Primary Industries | Service Industries | Social and Community Services

In the next few pages, you will discover more about these pathways, careers and meet some amazing Pacific people working in these industries! Read their bio's and scan their QR codes to watch their inspiring stories!

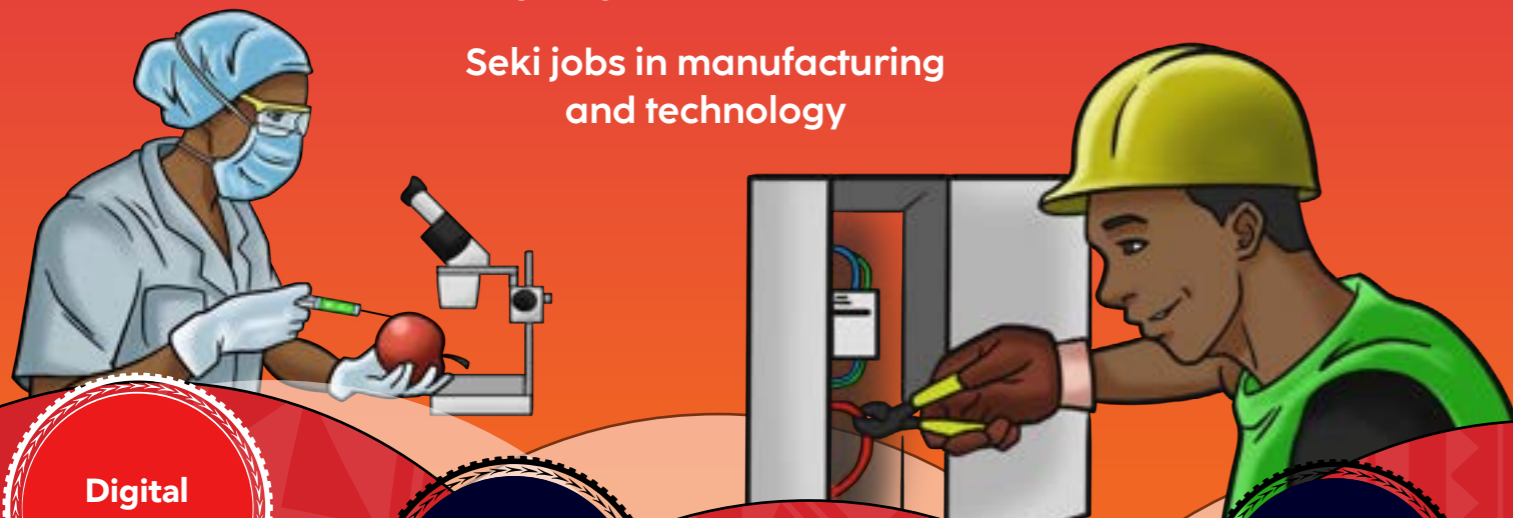




# Manufacturing and Technology

If you like designing, making and fixing things, then check these out...

Seki jobs in manufacturing and technology



Digital Designer

Food Technician

Jeweller

Electrician

Architect

Panelbeater

Engineer

Scientist

Software Developer

Automotive Technician

Printer

Technology Management

Butcher

Pacific people living their dreams in manufacturing and technology

## Norie Ape Digital Product Manager



**ETHNICITY:** Samoan

**VILLAGES:** Saleimoa, Fasito'outa

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Auckland Girls' Grammar School

**WHERE I CALL HOME?** Pōneke, Wellington

**MY FIRST JOB:** Kitchen hand

**USEFUL SUBJECTS TO STUDY:** Humanities - Social Science, Politics, Technology, Ethics

**WHERE TO NEXT?** Looking to develop into a Head of Product role and grow a pipeline of wahine in Technology, especially Māori and Pasifika.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?** Learn the value of your culture and language to empower you to succeed, regardless of what work you do.

## Shalom Alfred Ngaro Customer Experience Digital Designer



**ETHNICITY:** American Samoan, Cook Islands Māori, Jewish, Niuean

**VILLAGES:** Utulei, Aitutaki, Mangaia, Pukapuka, Mutalau

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Tāmaki College

**WHERE I CALL HOME?** Petone, Wellington

**MY FIRST JOB:** McDonald's crew member

**USEFUL SUBJECTS TO STUDY:** Graphic Design, Social Studies, Media Studies, and any I.T subjects

**WHERE TO NEXT?** I want to establish myself as a highly regarded designer and work on initiatives that will increase Pasifika representation within the tech industry.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?** Don't be afraid of the future. Be proud of your culture and heritage. Being smart is cool!



# Construction and Infrastructure

If you enjoy building and repairing things, working in a team, being physically active, then check these out...

Choice jobs in construction and infrastructure



Bricklayer

Carpenter

Roofer

Surveyor

Construction Worker

Electrician

Demolition

Floorer

Welder

Cabinet Maker

Painter

Plumber

Concreteer

Architect

Tiler

Pacific people living their dreams in construction and infrastructure

## Monica Kershaw

Senior Lecturer | Electrical Trades



**ETHNICITY:** Fijian, English

**VILLAGES:** Mua Batiki, (Lomaiviti group), Grimsby (England)

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Marist Sisters' College

**WHERE I CALL HOME?** Te Atatū South, Auckland

**MY FIRST JOB?** Factory hand

**USEFUL SUBJECTS TO STUDY:** English, Maths and Science

**WHERE TO NEXT?** I want to continue teaching, to pass on to new generations the knowledge I've acquired.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?** To be more patient and appreciate that everything happens for a reason.

## Saia Finau Latu

Managing Director | Construction



**ETHNICITY:** Tongan

**VILLAGES:** Niutoua, Tongatapu

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Māngere College

**WHERE I CALL HOME?** I grew up in South Auckland, but now call West Auckland home

**MY FIRST JOB?** Collecting trolleys and cleaning toilets at Auckland Airport

**USEFUL SUBJECTS TO STUDY:** Economics, Engineering, and any activities that allow you to tap into your identity as a Pasifika person

**WHERE TO NEXT?** Going GLOBAL! My company TROW is already established in Tonga and has been showcased in Dubai. We plan to expand into the beautiful island of Samoa and in more regions across Aotearoa.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?** If you go looking for money, you will never find it. If you go looking for solutions to problems, the money will come.

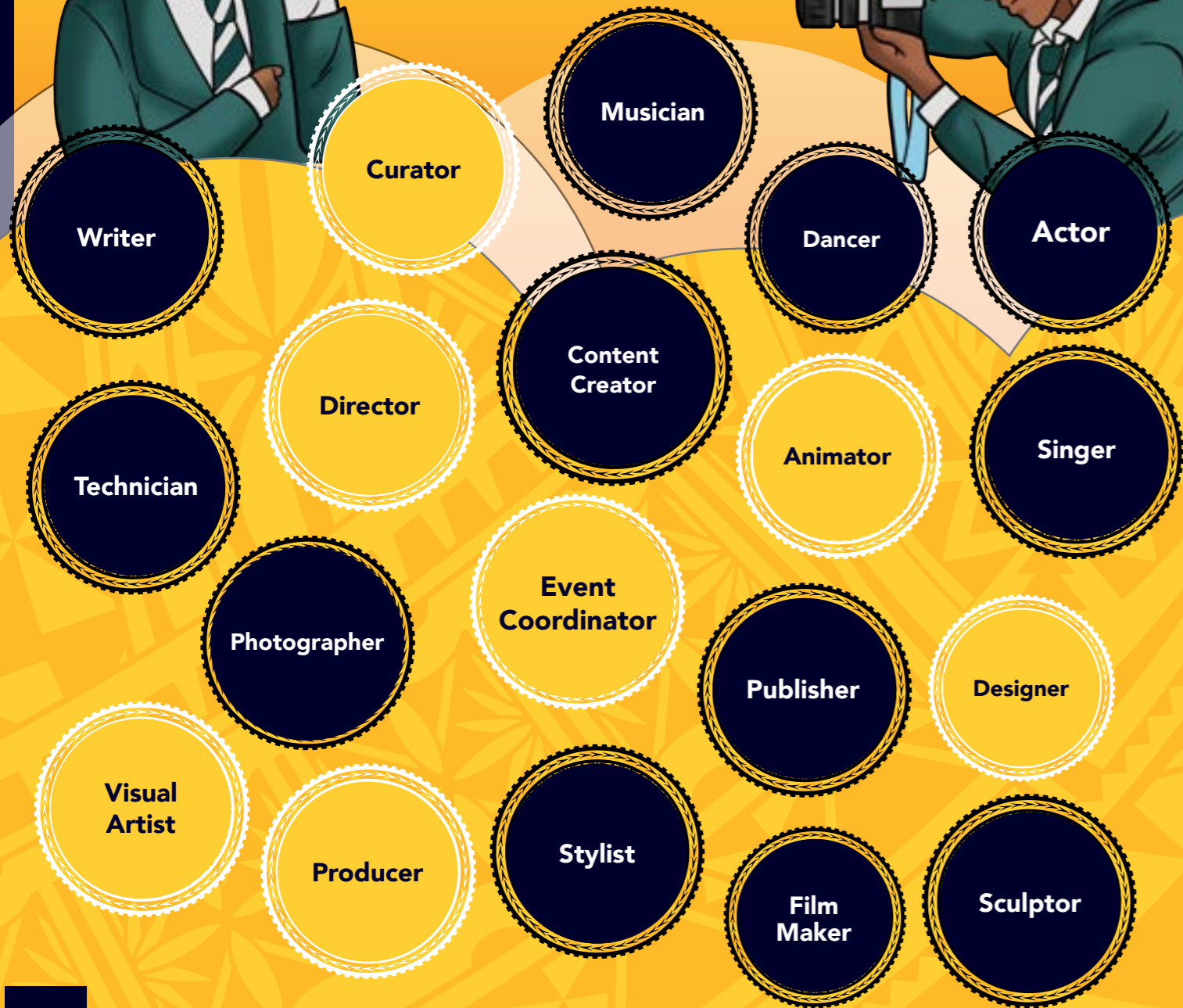




# Creative Industries

If you like using your creativity to entertain, tell stories and perform, then check these out...

## Cool jobs in creative industries



*Pacific people living their dreams in creative industries*



### Samson Rambo Jones Vaotuua Filmmaker | Director

**ETHNICITY:** Samoan

**VILLAGES:** Afega, Fagaloa

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Tangaroa College

**WHERE I CALL HOME?** Ōtara, the promised land!

**MY FIRST JOB?** Working alongside my mum at the Office Max warehouse

**USEFUL SUBJECTS TO STUDY:** Art, Media Studies, Photography, Drama, English

**WHERE TO NEXT?** To create music videos for our home-grown talent and work towards creating my next film or TV show.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?** Focus on being the best version of you. Read and practice self-discipline every day. Don't take anything personally, don't take 'no' for an answer. Never, EVER, give up!



### Nora Swann Creative Entrepreneur in Fashion

**ETHNICITY:** Samoan, Niuean

**VILLAGES:** Saleilua Falealili, Vaipuna Apia, Avatele

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Penrose High School (now One Tree Hill College)

**WHERE I CALL HOME?** Ōtara

**MY FIRST JOB?** Working at Wendy's Hamburgers

**MY JOURNEY:** I built my business from scratch on my own after winning a fashion competition. Because I didn't have any connections in this industry, I had to create my own opportunities and smash through some doors to get to where I am today (lol). If you're passionate about what you do, then it doesn't feel like work and when you're having crap days, it's the passion that carries you through.

**WHERE TO NEXT?** Continue to be disruptive, trail-blaze and do what I love!

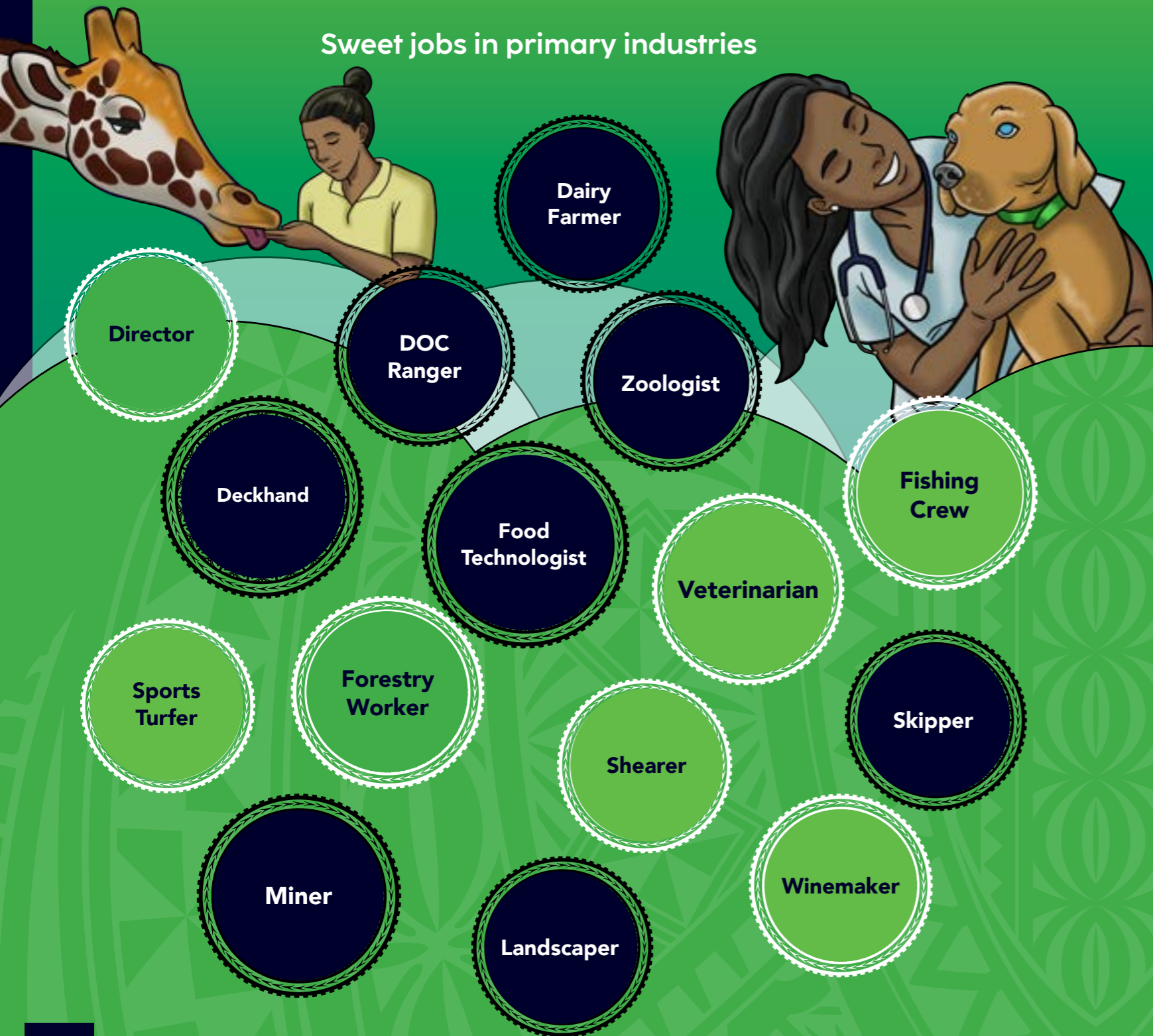
**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?** I was super shy as a child and a lot of people I went to school with can't believe I do what I do now. So, I'd say, come on girl, stop holding yourself back! Listen to your gut, follow your dreams, accomplish them, then create bigger dreams and do it all again!



# Primary Industries

If you like spending time in nature and looking after living things, then check these out...

## Sweet jobs in primary industries



*Pacific people living their dreams in primary industries*



### Shaun Williams Scientist | Group Manager

**ETHNICITY:** Samoan, Cook Island Māori, Niuean

**VILLAGES:** Salelologa, Moto'otua (Samoa); Ngake (Te Ulu o te Watu, Pukapuka), Te Nuku o Ngalewu (Nassau); Mutalau (Niue)

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Samoa College, Robert Louis Stevenson School

**WHERE I CALL HOME?** Samoa and now Ōtautahi, (Christchurch)

**MY FIRST JOB?** Scientific Officer in Climate Data & Applications at the Samoa Meteorology Division

**USEFUL SUBJECTS TO STUDY:** Earth Science, Geography, Chemistry, Physics, Development Studies, Maths

**WHERE TO NEXT?** Continue to serve in my role as a Scientist and Group Manager for Environmental Hazards at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA).

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?** Don't be shy to dream, aspire, be intuitive and think outside the box!



### Popo Louā Biosecurity Officer | Quarantine Officer

**ETHNICITY:** Samoan

**VILLAGES:** Moata'a, Letogo, Salelavalu

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Leva'ula Methodist High School, Samoa

**WHERE I CALL HOME?** Samoa is always home, New Zealand is where I live

**MY FIRST JOB?** Scriptwriter and Translator, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Samoa

**USEFUL SUBJECTS TO STUDY:** Science, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Agriculture

**WHERE TO NEXT?** Study a trade, I've always wanted to be a mechanic so I can fix vehicles and my own car.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?** Before you get to Year 11 (start of NCEA Level 1), think and pray hard for career ideas of what you want to pursue in future years.



# Service Industries

If you enjoy working in teams, helping people and love to travel, then check these out...

Ma'alahi jobs in services industries



*Pacific people living their dreams in service industries*

## Jo Rose Salota Kerrison Director | Hair Stylist



**ETHNICITY:** Samoan, Chinese

**VILLAGES:** Lepea, Tuanaimato, Papaseea

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Auckland Girls' Grammar School

**WHERE I CALL HOME?** Mt Roskill, Auckland

**MY FIRST JOB?** Selling koko beans in front of Burns Phillip (now Chan Mow building) in Samoa

**USEFUL SUBJECTS TO STUDY:** English, Maths, Art, Business Studies, Media Studies

**WHERE TO NEXT?** Sky's the limit! Opportunities are always around, but at the moment, my kids are priority.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?** Take in as much as you can while you're at school. Set goals, believe in yourself and what you want to become. Network, don't be shy. Be humble and kind. There are good people out there that will open doors to great opportunities that will help get you where you want to be!

## Patrick Ikinofu Executive Chef



**ETHNICITY:** Niuean, Māori

**VILLAGES:** Alofi, Ngāti Raukawa

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Western Springs College

**WHERE I CALL HOME?** Grey Lynn, Auckland

**MY FIRST JOB?** A dishwasher at the age of 12 years

**USEFUL SUBJECTS TO STUDY:** Food Technology, Maths, Science, Social Studies

**WHERE TO NEXT?** I plan on staying put for a bit here in Aotearoa. I have realised now in my older years, that your education is vital in opening doors for your future. I would like to see my children get a strong foundation here, before looking to the next challenge (and country) to conquer.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?** Be kind, take care of yourself mentally and physically and don't stress over the things you can't control!



# Social and Community Services

If you like looking after people, making sure they're safe and healthy, then check these out...

Tika jobs in social and community services



Pacific people living their dreams in social and community services



## Tekatau Tabwe Bio Family Lawyer

**ETHNICITY:** Kiribati

**VILLAGES:** Marakei, Tarawa, Abaiang

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Sacred Heart Girls' College (New Plymouth) and Te Kuiti High School

**WHERE I CALL HOME?** Te Kuiti

**MY FIRST JOB?** Checkout Operator at Four Square

**USEFUL SUBJECTS TO STUDY:** English, History, Social Studies and other literacy rich subjects such as Classics

**WHERE TO NEXT?** Working my way to becoming a Lawyer for Children.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?** Ask more questions!



## Sabrina Manū Campaigns Facilitator

**ETHNICITY:** Samoan, Cook Islands Māori

**VILLAGES:** Tulaele, Vailoa, Mapumai

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** Onehunga High School

**WHERE I CALL HOME?** 275 - Māngere

**MY FIRST JOB?** Waitress at the Coffee Club

**USEFUL SUBJECTS TO STUDY:** Pacific Studies, Te Reo Māori, Social Sciences, Statistics and Environmental or Political-type subjects

**WHERE TO NEXT?** Hopefully mobilising and organising young people all over the motu in person!

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF?** You do not need to prove yourself to a broken system that was built without you in mind. Your existence is a game-changer!



# Employability Checklist

Employability skills show employers what kind of person you are and how you'll add value to the workplace. Take the following test to see how your employability skills measure up and where you might need to improve!

Find out more here:

<https://www.careers.govt.nz/resources/tools-and-activities/employability-skills/>

## Communication - Feso'ota'iga | Gagana Samoa

	I struggle with this	Getting there	I smash this
I'm careful how I speak to others			
I ask questions when I'm unsure			
I know how to speak to older people			
I'm a good listener			
I share ideas respectfully			

## A positive attitude - Loto-lelei or Loto-hangamālie | Lea Faka-Tonga

	I struggle with this	Getting there	I smash this
I believe in myself			
I'm honest			
I'm respectful			
I'm friendly			
I'm a hard worker			

## Team work - 'Anga'anga tā'okota'i | Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani

	I struggle with this	Getting there	I smash this
I work well with people			
I contribute ideas to help			
I can work with others of different genders, cultures or beliefs			
I respect the authority of people over me			
I follow directions			





**Self-management - Leveki moui haohao he tagata | Vagahau Niue**

	I struggle with this	Getting there	I smash this
I work well with people			
I make sure I have appropriate clothing and equipment			
I reflect on my behaviour and how it can affect others			
I'm a committed person			
I follow instructions			
I finish tasks given to me			
I follow health and safety guidelines			

**Willingness to learn - Naunau ke ako | Te Gagana Tokelau**

	I struggle with this	Getting there	I smash this
I'm willing to learn new things			
I'm curious and interested in new things			
I want to improve and get better			
I accept advice and try to learn from it			

**Thinking skills - Vakasamataki ni kila | Vosa Vakaviti**

	I struggle with this	Getting there	I smash this
I think carefully before making decisions			
I can see when there's problems and think of ways to solve them			
I think about what might happen before I act			
I know when I need to ask for advice			

**Resilience - Teimatoa | Te Taetae ni Kiribati**

	I struggle with this	Getting there	I smash this
I can adapt when things change			
I ask for help when I need it			
I can handle challenges and don't give up			
I own up when I make a mistake			
I learn from my mistakes			



# NCEA

Which skills are you good at?

1.

2.

3.

Which skills do you need to work on?

1.

2.

3.

You don't need to be good at all of them, but the more you have, the more employers will want you! Lesssgooo!!!

NCEA stands for the National Certificate of Educational Achievement. It's the main qualification for senior secondary school students, and it's available at Levels 1, 2 and 3 on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF).

NCEA is for everyone, whether you want to do an apprenticeship, go to university, or be ready to get a job when you leave school. NCEA has three levels:

- Level 1 — usually in Year 11
- Level 2 — usually in Year 12
- Level 3 — usually in Year 13

NCEA Level 1 will provide you with a solid foundation of skills and knowledge that you can build on. NCEA Level 2 is the minimum qualification you will need for some jobs and tertiary programmes. NCEA Level 3, along with the University Entrance (UE) award, is what you will need to enter most university and tertiary programmes.

**To be awarded University Entrance (UE) you will need:**

- NCEA Level 3
- Three subjects - at Level 3, made up of:
  - 14 credits in each of three approved subjects
  - Meet University Entrance Literacy & Numeracy requirements
  - Once you have met the requirements for University Entrance it will appear on your Record of Achievement.





# Advice for families

**Have careers conversations with your children so you can understand what's important to them.**

**You could ask questions like:**

- What subjects do you enjoy most at school?
- What do you want to do when you grow up?
- What do you think you're good at?
- What do you think you're not good at?
- What could your study and career options be for the future?

**Connect with the people at your young person's school who look after subject choices and careers guidance.**

Talk to your child's Careers Advisor, Pasifika Dean or Year Level Dean. It is important to ask them how your child is doing and how their NCEA subjects are connected to their future study pathways. If your child would like to attend university for further study, then it is important that they choose subjects that enable them to get the University Entrance award and that they meet the entry requirements for their chosen programme of study. You can learn more here:

<https://school-leavers-toolkit.education.govt.nz/>

**Find out what you can about the careers your children are interested in.**

Occupation Outlook is a great place to check out because it shows you how much the study fees are for different careers as well as how much you can earn and how many opportunities there are. You could also talk to people who are in those careers. Ask them what they love about their careers and what the challenges are. You can learn more here: <https://occupationoutlook.mbie.govt.nz/>

# Advice for young people

**Know yourself**

What are you passionate about? What subjects do you enjoy at school? What don't you like? What can you imagine yourself doing in the future?

**Research**

Find out information about careers and pathways you might be interested in.

- What are the qualifications needed for your chosen career(s)?
- Where can you study this? · How much are the study fees?
- How much will you earn? · Is it easy to find work in that career?
- Check out the CareersNZ website here: <https://www.careers.govt.nz/>
- Occupation Outlook is also helpful: <https://occupationoutlook.mbie.govt.nz/>

You could also talk to people who are in different careers. Ask them what they love about their careers and what the challenges are.

**Make a plan**

Develop a plan that outlines what you need to do to work towards your chosen career pathway and set some goals. You could start with goals to work towards NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3, then move on to your tertiary and career aspirations once you have achieved these.

**Identify your support village**

One of the most important things to do is identify your support village. Who are the people that will help you along the way? It could be family members, a teacher at school, a youth leader or even a sports coach. Talk to them and let them know your dreams and how they can help you.

**Believe in yourself!**

Celebrate the wins along the way and know that there are many different pathways to success (as seen in the wonderful journeys shared by the Pasifika professionals profiled in this book). Your potential is limitless, and we look forward to seeing you become the next generation of Pasifika Rising Stars!!



# NCEA support

You can find out more about NCEA and University Entrance here:

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-ncea/>

Your school, church, sports team or community group could also request an NCEA ma le Pasifika workshop by emailing [Pasifika@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:Pasifika@nzqa.govt.nz) or by ringing NZQA on 0800 697 296.

The following resources below can be accessed here:

<https://linktr.ee/nceamalepasifika>



## NCEA ma le Pasifika Family Guide

This NCEA family guide has been developed to support Pacific learners and their families. The resource contains helpful information that assists learners and families to understand NCEA and how families can support their children to succeed. This resource is available in Pacific languages on request.



## MY NCEA Credit Trackers

Track your credits together with your family using My NCEA tracker.



## RISING STARS: Navigating future pathways

This resource helps Pacific young people and their families navigate education to employment pathways. It highlights different careers and encourages learners to find out what study and qualifications are needed for their future pathway. Learners can see how their strengths and skills could be aligned to different vocational pathways and careers. Rising Stars also contains profiles and videos of Pacific people working in different careers who share their journey and advice.



## STEM IT UP!

This resource encourages Pacific learners to choose STEM subjects and study pathways. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. In this book there are video profiles of amazing Pasifika people working in STEM careers.



## NCEA ma le Pasifika Workshops

These free workshops are designed specifically for Pacific parents, learners and their families to better understand NCEA. We know that when parents and families are engaged in their children's learning journey, they are more likely to succeed in school. Workshops are available online and in person.

If you would like to arrange a workshop for your church, community, extended family or school parents' group, please contact [Pasifika@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:Pasifika@nzqa.govt.nz)



## Talanoa Ako

## Talanoa Ako

Talanoa Ako is a Ministry of Education Pacific parent education programme that aims to equip and empower parents, families and communities with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to champion their children's education.

If you would like to know more or where to find your nearest Ako Centre please contact: [Talanoa.Ako@education.govt.nz](mailto:Talanoa.Ako@education.govt.nz)

[Talanoa.Ako@education.govt.nz](mailto:Talanoa.Ako@education.govt.nz)



## Facebook

[@NCEAmalePasifika](https://www.facebook.com/NCEAmalePasifika)



## Instagram

[@NCEAmalePasifika](https://www.instagram.com/NCEAmalePasifika)



In this book you'll meet some inspiring Pacific people who've been where you are now and are living their dreams! You'll learn from these Pacific navigators some tips regarding study and career pathways that you can also share with your family. You'll discover some of the strengths and skills you already have that make you someone people would love to work with in the future. Most of all, this book will help you to aim for the stars!

