

New Year Glow up for Waihi College Homepage

By: Deva Courtney & Jake Nicholson

Jake and I had the opportunity to interview Wendy Shave, the cultural and public relations coordinator at Waihi College, about the fresh new update to the online Waihi College website that went up recently.

The old Waihi College website was a sorry sight to see, an inaccessible mess. Not only was it clogged with outdated and irrelevant information, but it was also incredibly difficult to navigate. This was one of the biggest reasons the site needed an overhaul.

Wendy made it clear that the old website had always been something they intended to change.

Since the old website was never updated, the school homepage had outdated news that wasn't relevant anymore, which meant you couldn't stay up to date on the news.

The old Waihi College homepage that was once neither informative nor current is now an easily accessible website that is updated frequently. "No one updated the old website," says Wendy, "Teachers were able to, but they're busy doing more important work." With the new website, Wendy is able to update frequently with relevant information and updates without hassle.

When asked who suggested the idea of a new and improved website, Wendy said she spoke with Mr. Cochrane, the principal of Waihi College, and they both agreed that "It was never a matter of suggesting a new website," Wendy said, but a "problem that needed to be fixed."

The new updated version of the Waihi College website has been in the works since mid last year, only recently going live at the start of this year.

To get this project underway, Mr. Cochrane reached out to his son, Mr. Cochrane Jr, one of the digital technology teachers at the college. A lot of research had been done by Mr. Cochrane Jr to find the best developers for this job, which happened to be a digital team by the name of Jade Creative. The team at Jade Creative worked on the skeleton of the layout, while Wendy was responsible for fleshing out the content. Together Wendy and the developers created the new Waihi College website that is available today.

Wendy assures us that the new layout has gotten a ton of positive feedback from others so far. "People have been saying that it's really useful," says Wendy, and that "they love that it promotes the students' activities." She is referring to the front page of the website, where students can be seen participating in various sporting and cultural events in slide-show form.

When asked what she thinks about the new website in comparison to the older version, Wendy is quick to tell us how much she loves the new site. It's amazing," Wendy says. "The one thing that I love about it is that it's current, informative, and user friendly. The old website was outdated, with old news that wasn't relevant."

The speedy updates is one of the things Wendy loves about this updated version of the Waihi College home page.

A great example of this is when Wendy got a call from the student centre from a user calling about a problem with the website. They told her they couldn't find out the staff email information, when really they were looking in the wrong place. Wendy fixed this problem in no time at all by editing the headings on the homepage for clarity with a few clicks.

“The website is really useful,” says Wendy. Not only is the website current and easy to use, but it also “helps promote the children's activities to parents.”

With this new format, Wendy hopes the new website will make the community feel more connected to the school, as well as have more opportunities presented to see what's happening currently at Waihi College.