



**Ruawai**  
COLLEGE

## Ruawai College Senior Ball

# GOLDEN GALA

RUAWAI COLLEGE SENIOR BALL 2025

This year's Ruawai College Ball, Golden Gala, was a night to remember! Students arrived at the beautifully decorated hall dressed to impress, and the evening was filled with dancing, laughter, and unforgettable moments.

A huge thank you to the organisers, staff, and student helpers who made the night such a success.

Congratulations to the following students:

**King & Queen:** Danen McKelvie & Finiki Lolohea

**Prince & Princess:** Tuhoe Nikora & Sapphire Harris

**Beau & Belle:** Jahrome Kiro & Madison Kelson



Our uniform store has been restocked with trousers for the winter months. Plenty of KidsCan navy blue jackets and black shoes available through the Deans!

## Representative Sport Success

Congratulations to Year 12 student Jorjah Thompson and Year 10 student Reuben McClaren for their recent representative selections in their chosen sporting codes.

Jorjah has been named in the Under 16 girls Northland Rugby Union squad after an impressive season playing for the Otamatea Hawks. Jorjah is no stranger to representative rugby in both the Kaipara and Auckland regions, having played for many years.

Much like Jorjah, Reuben is no rookie in his sport of basketball. Reuben has been selected to play for the First Nations Polynesian Basketball Under 15 squad in Los Angeles and Las Vegas this December.

As part of the USA Exposure events for sophomore age players, Reuben joins other Māori and Pasifika youth in a 2-week-long tournament.

Fantastic efforts from both students, keep an eye out on our social media pages for updates on fixtures throughout their season.



## A word from the Principal

Kia ora koutou,

It's been a term of celebration, achievement, and remembrance. One of the term's highlights was the school ball, where students dressed up and made lasting memories.

We celebrate the outstanding representative sporting achievements of Jorjah Thompson and Reuben McClaren in their respective sports, and our Senior Boys Grizzlies Basketball team who are competing in the Basketball New Zealand Northern Cup in Auckland this week. Best of luck to the team.

Students have been deeply engaged in cultural and learning experiences, including Cook Islands Māori and Tonga Language Weeks, the Gateway workplace programme, and Services Academy Bush Craft and Advanced Leaders Camp, which all reinforced our school values of respect, responsibility, and resilience.

We acknowledge with sadness the passing of our former principal, Mr Stephen Fordyce. His leadership and contributions to Ruawai College will not be forgotten, and we extend our aroha to his whānau.

Finally, I thank our staff, students, and community for your continued support. With new initiatives such as attendance competitions, Academies, and scholarships opening doors for our future learners, Ruawai College continues to grow stronger together.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Aidyn Rasmussen, Tumuaki



## Triennial Board Elections

Triennial board elections for parent representatives are almost at a close.

Parent candidates include:

- Anthony Blundell
- Jo Forsythe
- Luke Oud
- Seini Vea Tahitua
- Tahiroa Bishop
- Taulama Tahitua

Postal votes for parent representatives will be accepted until **Monday, September 15, 2025**.

Congratulations to Jenny Dallison, the successful staff candidate (non-voting election), and Zach Sterling, our successful student representative.

## Phones Away For The Day

With a focus on learning, we remind students of our phone policy - '**Phones away for the day**'.



## RC Entrance Scholarships 2026

Enrolments for 2026 are **open**. Students enrolling in Years 7 or 9 may be eligible to apply for our Entrance Scholarship for 2026, if joining us from a feeder school. A limited number of scholarships are also available for new enrolments at other Year levels. Check out our school website for more details.

FREE  
UNIFORM



# MOE MAI RĀ, MR STEPHEN FORDYCE



Our school community is saddened by the passing of our former principal, Mr. Stephen Fordyce, who led our school from 2001 to 2014. It was an honour to travel to Te Aroha with a delegation of Ruawai College representatives on Thursday, 21 August 2025 to farewell him alongside his whānau, friends, and colleagues.

Stephen's connection to Ruawai College began much earlier, as he taught here in the mid-to-late 1970s before returning as principal. He is remembered by former students and colleagues as an intelligent and fair man with a great sense of humour, and a particular talent for croquet. He was dedicated to improving students' lives through education, especially his endeavours in literary and artistic pursuits.

We send our heartfelt condolences to Stephen's whānau.

Moe mai rā, Stephen.



*Pictured, bottom left through to top right: Stephen and Year 13 DUX 2012, Callum Riddle, Stephen and Head Prefects 2013, Tyla O'Sullivan and Brad James, Stephen and Head Prefects 2010, Marie Gibson and Jason Rasmey, Stephen and Brook Hamerton, 2012, and Stephen and Head Prefects 2012, Ameria Retimana and Michael Bickers*

*"As we mourn the loss of our former principal, Stephen, his colleagues and students have been sharing fond memories of his 13-year tenure. We consistently remember him as a firm but fair leader with sound judgment and a deep knowledge of the Northern Wairoa region, often calling him a "walking history book."*

*Stephen will be remembered at Ruawai College for his distinctive mannerisms - rubbing his temple when in deep thought, his serious demeanor during croquet games, and his love for literature and the arts. We also recall his signature blue fountain pen and his impeccably matched socks and ties. Above all, we remember Stephen for his unwavering passion for student success. He taught us that our rural community was not a barrier and that with hard work and dedication, we could all go on to achieve great things."*

*Kua hinga te tōtara i te wao nui a Tāne - The tōtara tree has fallen in the forest of Tāne."*

*Tyla O'Sullivan, Student 2007 - 2013*



## Cook Island Māori and Tonga Language Weeks

*‘Ātui‘tui‘ia au ki te raurau a tōku matakeinanga”  
"Connect me to the offerings of my people"*

To celebrate Cook Islands Māori Language Week from Monday, 4 to Friday, 8 August 2025, students created colourful ei katu (flower garlands), shared kai (minus - Cook Island pink potato salad), and came together for a dance performance on Friday. It was a vibrant week of culture, connection, and celebration!



*“Ko 'etau lea, ko e fe'unu mahu'inga ia ki he mo'ui 'a e Tonga”  
"Our language is a vital strand of our Tongan culture"*

Following on from a successful Cook Island Māori Language Week, we celebrated Tonga Language Week during Week 7. LA classes designed kiekie - garlands for around the waist for semi-formal occasions, once again shared delicious kai, and had our talented group of performers bring us some Tongan flare during several traditional dances. Ruawai College feels honoured to have a diverse range of students at our kura who get great pleasure in sharing their beautiful culture with us.



## Advanced Leaders Services Academy Opportunity

Year 12 Services Academy student Aedyn Deadman attended an advanced leaders course at the Royal NZ Airforce Base in Whenuapai, Auckland this August. Aedyn was selected by NZDF staff as one of the 50 students nationwide to attend this course thanks to his display of leadership skills, capabilities, and positive attitude at previous camps such as induction and bushcraft.

During this course, students are given scenarios to lead their team in achieving the objective. These scenarios consist of real NZDF situations aimed to test students abilities to perform and achieve desired outcomes. This course also teaches students the NZDF ethics and qualities they install in their personnel, enabling them to be future leaders for the NZDF and within society.



## Basketball New Zealand Northern Cup - Thank You Sponsors!

A huge thank you to the sponsors who made it possible for our Senior Boys' Basketball Grizzlies team to compete at the Basketball New Zealand Northern Cup this in Week 7 of this term. Please consider supporting these local businesses!



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## Gateway at Ruawai College

Gateway is an initiative from the Ministry of Education that enables schools to provide senior students with structured workplace learning opportunities and support them in career choices for their futures. Students in the Senior school had the opportunity to complete a Gateway placement this year and were placed in a variety of Vocational pathways. Education was taken outside the classroom and our three core school values, respect, responsibility, and resilience, were put to the test.

*Ruawai College would like to thank the following businesses for their generosity and willingness to accommodate students from Ruawai College for Gateway this year:*

*Colour and Cutz Hair Design, Dargaville ITM, Dargaville Medical Centre, Goodies Galore, Gumdiggers Cafe, H & M Electrical, House of Lash and Brows, Ignite Your Fitness, Integrity Community Media, Laser Electrical Dargaville, LiC, LJC Builders Limited, Morfett Autos, Neville Joass, Oud Agri Limited, Peter Maw, Piako Tractors Northland, Ringrose Construction, Roy Joass, Ruawai Primary School, Selwyn Park Primary School, Sport Northland, Te Uri o Hau, The Kauri Museum, The Vet Centre, Ruawai Unichem Orrs Pharmacy, Dargaville Whakarewarewa*



## Barista Course

The Barista course was held in Week 2 of Term 3, and students in Years 12 and 13 learnt everything from the Coffee Bean to making Barista Coffees.



## Visit From Calculators Monaco Corporation



This term we were fortunate to have a visit from Grant Gothard, Casio Product Manager from the Calculators Monaco Corporation. Since 2021, Monaco and Casio have assisted 10x schools per year an opportunity to purchase a class set of 30x Casio FX9860GIII graphic calculators, valued at \$5,800, for a heavily subsidised cost. Thanks to Monaco and Casio, our application was selected from a random draw! Thank you Grant and the team at Monaco and Casio for this generous donation

## Future Trades Day

NorthTec offered the opportunity for students to experience a day in the life of a student at either their Raumanga or Future Trades Campus. A selection of Year 12 students attended and all had a great experience and learnt a variety of things.

- I Learnt about how to fix the plumbing for a house - Manase
- It was good to learn about all the different licences you need for heavy machinery - Bronson
- I enjoyed doing the circuit in the Electrical Engineering Course - Antonio
- I enjoyed both my trades - construction, we made a chopping board, and heavy vehicles, we were driving forklifts and diggers - Christian
- I enjoyed meeting new people who had similar interests (beauty) and getting to know NorthTec better. - Skyla
- I enjoyed doing construction because we got to use lots of new tools and found out what we need for a qualification in building - Tuho
- I found this trip useful because it helped me know what pathways there are in civil engineering and the options NorthTec has to offer - Sapphire
- I learnt about the opportunities they have in the Automotive Academy I can apply for, for next year. - Danon



## Book Week at Ruawai Primary School

Late last month, a group of volunteer senior boys visited Ruawai Primary School to read to students, as part of the school's book week. For many of our taura, RPS is their old stomping ground, so today was a great way to reconnect. Thanks for having us RPS, and thank you for the powerful haka tautoko!



## Snapshot of whats coming up at school

### TERM 3, 2025

#### Week 9

- 8 Sept Services Academy Camp
- 9 Sept Services Academy Camp
- 10 Sept Services Academy Camp
- 11 Sept Services Academy Camp, Kiwi Tag, Senior Boys South Mangawhai Basketball
- 12 Sept Services Academy Camp

#### Week 10 possible rolling strikes by PPTA this week, please keep an eye out on notices

- 15 Sept Year 13 Japan Trip
- 16 Sept Year 13 Japan Trip
- 17 Sept Year 13 Japan Trip
- 18 Sept Year 13 Japan Trip, South Mangawhai Basketball
- 19 Sept **No School Today - Teacher Only Day**

### TERM 4, 2025

#### Week 1

- 6 October First day of Term 4
- 7 October
- 8 October
- 9 October
- 10 October

#### Week 2

- 13 October
- 14 October Badminton Novice Whangārei
- 15 October
- 16 October Badminton Novice Whangārei
- 17 October Top Form

#### Week 3

- 20 October
- 21 October Badminton Novice Whangārei
- 22 October
- 23 October Volley-Fest Whangārei RPS Calf Club Day
- 24 October

#### Week 4

- 27 October Labour Day - School Closed
- 28 October
- 29 October Softball - Year 7-10
- 30 October Fast Five Netball Whangārei
- 31 October Senior Prize Giving

#### Week 5

- 3 November
- 4 November NCEA Exams start today Volley-Cup Whangārei
- 5 November Volley-Cup Whangārei
- 6 November
- 7 November Junior Touch Kaikohe

#### Week 6

- 10 November
- 11 November Jnr Volley-Fest Whangārei
- 12 November
- 13 November Jnr Badminton Whangārei
- 14 November

#### Week 7

- 17 November
- 18 November
- 19 November
- 20 November
- 21 November

#### Week 8

- 24 November
- 25 November
- 26 November
- 27 November
- 28 November Beach Volleyball Whangārei

#### Week 9

- 1 December
- 2 December
- 3 December
- 4 December
- 5 December Junior Prize Giving - Last day for Year 7 - Year 10

#### Week 10

- 8 December
- 9 December School closed from this date

