

Te Kura Tuarua o Ruawai College

Kimihia ngā maunga teitei | Seek the highest peak



TERM 2 WRAP UP NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2026

Principal's remark

Kia ora e te whānau,

As Term 2 comes to a close, I want to acknowledge the hard work, energy and commitment shown across our kura. This has been a busy and productive term, with students engaged in learning both inside and beyond the classroom.

A real highlight has been seeing our students continue to grow in confidence, leadership and connection. Whether through classroom learning, sport, cultural activities, EOTC opportunities, or preparation for upcoming experiences such as our Japan trip, our rangatahi continue to show what is possible when they are supported, challenged and encouraged.

Thank you to our staff for their ongoing mahi throughout the term. The work that happens every day, often quietly and behind the scenes, makes a real difference for our students. I also want to thank our whānau and community for continuing to support attendance, learning and positive engagement with school.

As we head into the term break, I encourage students to take time to rest, recharge and reflect on what they have achieved so far this year. Term 3 will bring new opportunities, new challenges and an important chance to keep building momentum.

Ngā mihi nui,

Aidyn Rasmussen
Tumuaki



STAFF ONLY DAY

JULY 3RD

LAST DAY OF TERM 2
IS THURSDAY
JULY 2ND



Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education



Te Kura Tuarua o
Ruawai
College

2185

TOTARA

2136

RIMU

1844

KAURI

HOUSE POINTS
END OF TERM 2





Pink Shirt Day!

*Pink Shirt Day is the day Aotearoa comes together to take a stand against bullying. The Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand (MHFNZ) has run the campaign since 2012, inspiring tangata to **Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora – Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying!***

Celebrated annually around the globe, Pink Shirt Day began in Canada in 2007 when two students took a stand against homophobic bullying after a new student was harassed for wearing pink.

At Ruawai College we celebrated with a pink-themed mufti day, raising money to donate back to MHFNZ. So great to see so many students enthusiastically celebrating this amazing cause!



Support Staff Week



Ngā Whātui Support Staff Week 2026 ran from May 11-16, celebrating the crucial work of school support staff in New Zealand. Acknowledging the incredible support staff who help make our kura such a special place to learn, work, and belong. From our Learning Assistants, Kaiāwhina, Kaiārahi, Administration Staff, and Librarians, our support staff do so much behind the scenes and alongside our taura every day. Their care, organisation, encouragement, humour, and hard mahi make a real difference across our kura.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY (MUNA)



On the 22nd and 23rd of May, three students represented RC at the Model United Nations Assembly at Rosmini College in Auckland.

Konrad Philips, Molly Dawson and Maxwell Oud acted as the delegation of Zambia, debating the topics of shipping in international waters and the introduction of a mandatory refugee quota into UN countries based on GDP.

This was a valuable opportunity for our students to develop their public speaking, diplomacy and critical thinking skills while engaging with complex global issues alongside students from across the region.

YR 11 HOME ECONOMICS TASTY TREATS

June 16th saw the YR 11 Home Economics class prepare a shared kai for the teachers and staff members of Ruawai College. The meals prepared consisted of kumara and other yummy ingredients. With a warm and welcoming atmosphere, students and staff members sat down together and shared a beautiful lunch.

Charity Day



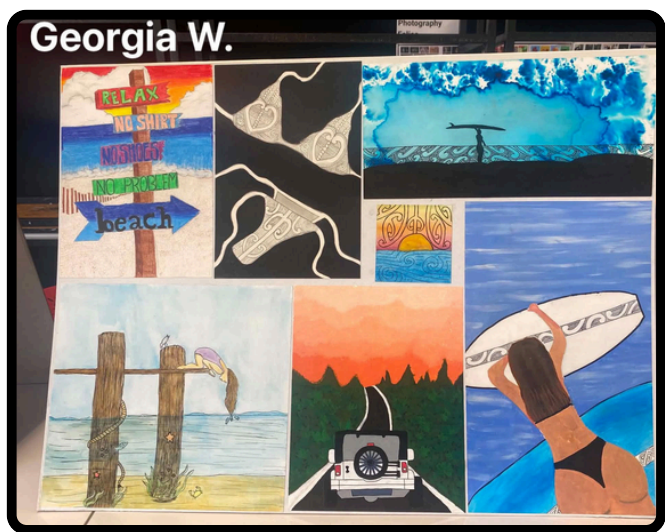
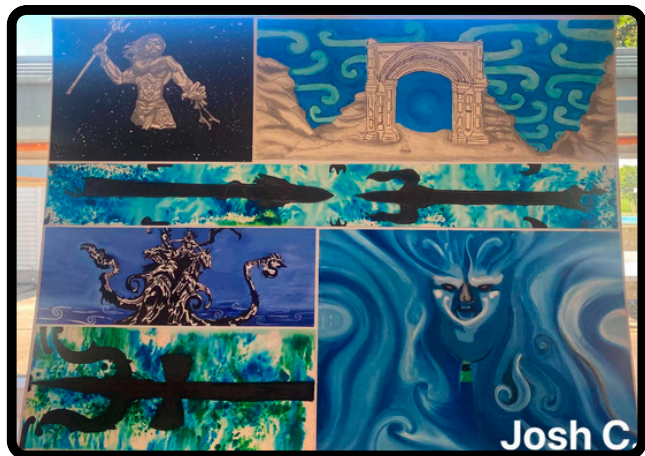


LEVEL 1 ART FOLIOS

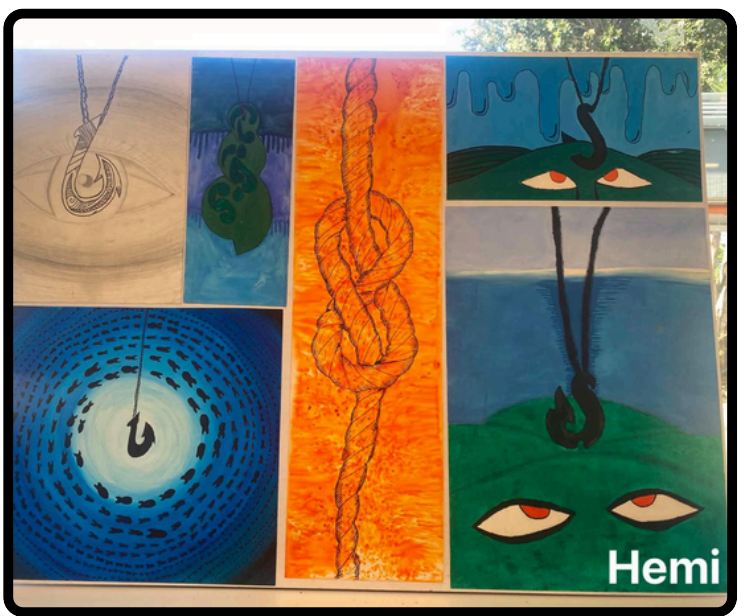
Kia Ora from the Art Department of Ruawai College!

Our Year 11 students have been challenged this year to complete their folios earlier in the term, helping to reduce pressure as the year continues. The boards shown here are from students who rose to that challenge.

Natalie Bradley focused on her love of horses, particularly the historic Kaimanawa horses, while also incorporating Māori art influences. Joshua Cantonjos explored the idea of what might happen if a Māori atua and a Greek god were combined. His work imagines Tangaroa and Poseidon fused together to create one powerful god of the sea. Georgia Welding expressed her love of the beach and summertime, with subtle hints of Māori design woven through her work.



Charity Day focused on her connection to home and Māori arts showcasing her love for Tinopai and the cultural designs she has grown up with. Hemi Harris thought about a Māori myth he liked the story of how Māui caught the North Island from his waka the South Island. This is his interpretation of this story through his art you can see the clear connection to Māori arts and the story come more to life. I am very proud of these students and the mahi that they completed so far this year. I hope that they will continue to achieve at such a high level as the year continues.



MATAKOHE MUSEUM

Our students celebrated Matariki with a special visit to the museum, exploring mātauranga Māori, the significance of the whetū, and the values of remembrance, gratitude and hope. It was a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and look ahead to the future.



Start saving your RC Mana Points!

A Rainbow's End trip is up for grabs for students who reach 155 active points and choose to redeem them for this trip. This is a big reward, so keep earning points by showing our school values, getting involved, and making positive choices around the school.

Keep checking your points and aim high. You could be going to Rainbow's End

Parents/Caregivers: You can ask your child to log into their SchoolBridge account to show you their RC Mana Point balance.

**SAVE YOUR RC MANA POINTS
AND JUMP ON THE**

**RAINBOWS END
TRIP**

155 POINTS

CHECK YOUR TOTAL
ACTIVE
POINTS ON THE
SCHOOLBRIDGE PORTAL

 SchoolBridge

RAINBOW'S END

U15 BOYS RUGBY TEAM CONTINUES STRONG FORM

The Ruawai U15 Boys Rugby Team continued their strong form with a hard-fought 22-19 win over Eastern United in the mud at Ruawai.

The boys should be proud of the way they dug deep, supported each other and represented Ruawai with pride. A fantastic effort from the whole team.



RC CROSS COUNTRY 2026

Our Cross Country day was full of energy, colour and school spirit, with students giving it their all across the course. Thankfully, the weather held off, allowing everyone to enjoy the day. It was awesome to see students running hard, supporting their house and cheering on friends. The muddy legs, face paint and big smiles showed what makes these events special. Well done to all students who participated and represented their houses with pride.



RC CROSS COUNTRY 2026



WE CAUGHT UP WITH JORDAN, HEAD BOY 2014

We recently caught up with Jordan, our former Head Boy and Llewellyn Memorial trophy recipient in 2014, to see where his life has taken him since graduating from RC – and we found him on the front lines!

After a busy start working locally in Ruawai, Jordan made the move to Porirua to train at The Royal New Zealand Police College in 2018

Jordan credits the Police force for his personal growth. This journey began on the Public Safety Team in Dargaville and has led him to his current roles as a Sergeant for the Auckland City Custody Unit and a part-time Public Order Operator. Along the way, he's even had the chance to see the world, with Scotland topping his list of favourite destinations!



RC ALUMNI

Jordan Hammon
Police Sergeant
Auckland City Custody
Unit and Public Order
Operator.
- Class of 2014 -



alumnly

QUINT PREFECTS HUI LATEST MEETING HELD AT BREM BAY COLLEGE

Ruawai College is proud to be involved in the Quint Schools network, working alongside other local secondary schools to strengthen opportunities for our learners and staff. Through Quint, we are able to collaborate, share practice, build relationships, and support wider educational pathways across our region. This partnership reflects our commitment to working collectively so that our students can access rich learning, leadership, sporting, cultural, and co-curricular experiences beyond our own kura.





We are proud to share our curriculum takeaway from our recent ERO review.

ERO noted that curriculum and teaching at Ruawai College are becoming more responsive to student needs, interests, and aspirations. This is an important acknowledgement of the work happening across our school to ensure learning is relevant, engaging, and future-focused.

So what does this mean in practice?

📖 Learning that reflects our students' needs and aspirations. Our programmes continue to grow to better match the interests, strengths, and future pathways of our learners. This includes offering a balanced range of subjects and opportunities shaped by student voice and community connections. This includes our usual curriculum classes (we have increased our senior options substantially since 2024), establishing of the Services Academy, EOTC trips such as Queenstown and Japan.

🤝 Strong relationships in classrooms

ERO recognised that our teachers know their students well and are increasingly tailoring teaching to individual needs. Positive relationships and clear routines help create calm, inclusive learning spaces where students can thrive.

📈 A focus on achievement and progress

Leaders and teachers are working together to strengthen curriculum planning and assessment so students can succeed in literacy, numeracy, and national qualifications. This is reflected in our high academic results, especially compared to other schools in the region.

💖 Thank you to our students, staff, whānau, and wider community for the role you all play in supporting learning at Ruawai College. This progress is something we achieve together.

Together, we continue to seek our highest peak. Kimihia ngā maunga teitei 💖💛



CONGRATS TO MISS IHAKA!

Huge congratulations to Miss Adelaide Ihaka, who graduated this week with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Māori Studies from the University of Otago. This is a wonderful achievement and one that reflects her dedication, passion and perseverance. Miss Ihaka is a fantastic role model for our students, showing the value of lifelong learning, following your passions and continuing to strive towards your goals.

Ka rawe, Miss Ihaka! We are so proud of you.



CELEBRATING STAFF SUCCESS

KA RAWE DR. T!

We are proud to celebrate our Assistant Principal, Angelo Tedoldi, who has co-authored a published academic article in the New Zealand Journal of Educational Studies.

The paper, *Fine Lines: Mātauranga Māori and Science Classrooms*, explores the important and complex relationship between mātauranga Māori and science education in Aotearoa New Zealand. Angelo's contribution reflects deeply on his own journey as a science educator, including the challenges, responsibilities, and ongoing learning involved in approaching mātauranga Māori with care, humility, and respect.

This is a significant professional achievement and a wonderful example of the thoughtful, reflective educational leadership we value at Ruawai College. Congratulations, Angelo.



TEAMWORK ON THE COURT!

Basketball is more than scoring points; it is about teamwork, communication and trust. Every player has an important role, whether defending, passing, rebounding or encouraging others. By working together, students learn resilience, sportsmanship and the value of supporting their teammates, both on and off the court.



WELL DONE AVA-JADE!

Congratulations to Ava-Jade, who represented herself beautifully at the Northland Ballet and Dance Competition, competing against dancers from across the region. Ava-Jade placed 2nd in her Classical Barefoot Solo Under 12 and also performed with her troupe, who placed 1st in Lyrical and 2nd in Musical Theatre.



PLAY IT STRANGE

We were pleased to welcome award-winning singer-songwriter Paige, who visited on behalf of Play It Strange, a non-profit organisation supporting young Kiwis through songwriting, performance, and self-expression. Paige spoke with our music students about the Peace Project songwriting competition and generously presented them with a free guitar. Ngā mihi Paige, for sharing your wisdom, talent, and aroha for music.



“Leadership is strategic and strongly focused on improving learner outcomes”

- Leadership provides clear direction for school improvement through strategic and annual planning and maintains a focus on these priorities through ongoing monitoring and evaluation
- Leadership ensures expectations for effective teaching and learning are clear, shared with staff, and closely monitored
- Leadership ensures staff professional learning aligns with school improvement goals, fostering the professional growth of teachers
- Leaders are strengthening the ways they and teachers gather, analyse and use data and evidence to inform strategic and teaching decisions that improve outcomes



OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Brenda Polwart (Business Manager), Tyla O’Sullivan (Senior Leader), Aidyn Rasmussen (Principal), Deb Ward (Associate Principal), Angelo Tedoldi (Assistant Principal)

SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHY VISIT MOTAT

Our senior photography students enjoyed a creative visit to MOTAT, where they explored the museum's unique spaces, historic objects and changing visual environments through the lens of a camera. The trip gave students the chance to experiment with composition, lighting, texture and perspective in a real-world setting. It was great to see them thinking like photographers, finding beauty in unexpected places, and using the day to build ideas for their own creative work.



M O T A T



NSSSA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

Our runners showed outstanding commitment at the NSSSA Cross Country Championship in Whangārei, with many backing up their efforts at the Northern Wairoa event in Te Kopuru the following day. A special congratulations to Prefect Matthew Watkins, who won the Senior Boys 6km race in 23:20, repeating the success of his impressive 2025 performance. Solid job Matthew!



Who we are (prefect team 2025)

TokaToka is our maunga. It is referenced in our school waiata and haka.

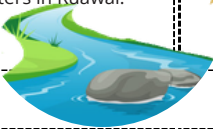


The Kaipara Harbour is the "second" water in Ruawai. It flows out to the Tasman. Many of our communities sit on the Kaipara.



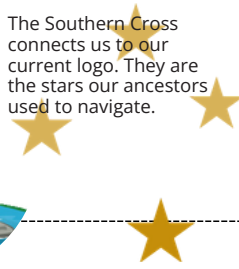
AWA

The Northern Wairoa River is one of our main Awa. It runs from the North down West Kaipara to the Kaipara Harbour. This is "one" of the waters in Ruawai.



NGĀ WHETŪ

The Southern Cross connects us to our current logo. They are the stars our ancestors used to navigate.



AKO

We are a place of learning and this may be reflected in our new crest with complementing symbols.



The pattern of the two waters connecting is displayed in our school hall.



THE FUTURE OF OUR SCHOOL CREST

As announced last year, we have recently adopted a new school motto, Kimihia Ngā Maunga Teitei, which is about seeking our personal best and striving for the highest peaks.

Our student leaders and SLT are now working on the next phase of strengthening our school identity. This includes a student-led project to explore the adoption of a new school crest that reflects who we are today and who we are becoming.

The Prefect Team of 2025 began this mahi by researching the symbols, stories and places that connect us as Ruawai College. Their work highlighted key elements such as TokaToka, our awa, the Kaipara Harbour, Ngā Whetū, ako and the two waters of Ruawai. These are more than images. They are symbols of place, learning, navigation, belonging and connection.

A refreshed crest can bring these ideas together in one shared symbol that represents our diverse students, our local identity, our values and our future aspirations. Most importantly, it can unite students, staff, whānau and the wider community under a symbol of pride, belonging and unity.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Keep an eye out on our linktree on Social Media and our school website to access our Google Form to share your opinion. This will be out soon!

Planning is underway for our Japan trip in November 2026, with just over 100 days to go! Students are beginning to explore Japan's culture, language, history and everyday life, while learning about the experiences ahead. We are excited to see their curiosity grow as preparations continue for this memorable international learning opportunity beyond the classroom for our Ruawai College students.

YEAR 13 JAPAN TRIP

Blast from the past

We have been digging through the archives, and in each newsletter we are aiming to share some old newsletter highlights. Here is our first look back, this time to 2019 and 2014!

Northland Secondary Schools Cross Country

On Tuesday 11 June, 8 students and myself attended the Annual Cross Country in Whangarei.

The cross country course records were in reach for all the students that participated. The weather was very impressive and the effort put in from our students Carla Fraser, Ben Watkins, Hunter Haslam, Hunter Shaw, Jodie Wellwood, Baylin Connett and Emma Philips was outstanding. Our best results of the day came from Ben, who crossed the finish line in 5th place with a 3km run time of 12.12 minutes. The next was Jodie, who crossed the finish line in 8th place with a 3km run time of 13.24 minutes. All of our students placed within the top 20. I personally would like to thank all the Sport Northland staff, volunteers and marshalls who were there on the day that had a hand in running and preparing the event

- Raymonde Huriwaka (Sports co-ordinator)



Turangawaewae company directors presenting their kumara top pies to the panel



Apioca company directors explaining the finer points of their Boba coffee

Year 12 Business Pitch - Whangarei

On the morning of 6th June, a group of Year 12s hesitantly put on their Number 1 blue blazers, learned how to tie a tie and prepared for their trip in the school van to Kamo High School. The purpose of this was to present to a panel of judges, their business ideas that they had been working on in their Business Studies class, under the guidance of their teacher.

Because, being typical teenagers, they were underprepared, a great deal of rehearsal was done in the back of the van so that they co-ordinated their presentation to be within the five-minute time frame. At the venue, they ensured they and their sample products were ready. During their presentations, they were aware of the video cameras recording them and this only added to their tension. Some found their hands were shaking.

"The groups performed well and looked very business-like" said the YES roaming teacher afterwards. Later, the students themselves confirmed that they did indeed find it nerve-wracking. They also found the experience a positive one, developing their confidence in public speaking and learning that being well prepared and well-presented are essential in a competitive business world. It was a good opportunity to see how they measured up when compared to the other schools' also participating. Their next step on their Young Enterprise journey now is to launch their product into the market.

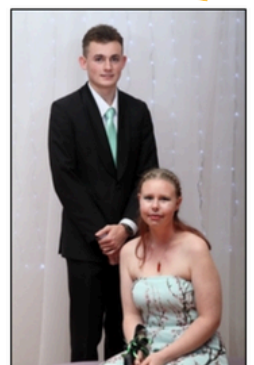
- Mrs L Von-Lyn 12 Business Studies



The Ruawai College Miami Nights Ball

Our much anticipated annual school Ball was held on Friday, 31 May in the College Hall. After many weeks of planning, the night came together wonderfully with a record number of attendees. The hall was transformed into a neon lit Miami night club with tropical flowers and palm tree accents.

- Catherine Davis



Alex Rope and Tyana Fenney were crowned King and Queen of the Ball. Blake Hassall and Tegan Marychurch were crowned Prince and Princess along with Caleb Chapman and Phoebe Wood who were awarded Beau and Belle of the Ball. The award for best/most Skukz couple went to Timothy Bickers and Kookua Eshun.

Ruawai's Got Talent:

We certainly do! A wonderful time was had celebrating our students and their talents at Ruawai's Got Talent this year. We had a range of entries in the competition part of the afternoon: bands, duos, drum solos, dance - all performances were of a very high standard this year and were well received by the supportive crowd. The winners this year were the crowd favorite 'Kaipara Souljahz', a reggae band made up of Jayden Hammon (guitar), Makana Rawaho (drums) and Reo Keeti-Curtis (bass), assisted by Mr Raymonde Huriwaka on the keys. The Silver Award went to Aaron Phillips for his guitar solo medley and the other groups were awarded with special awards such as 'Heart and Soul' and 'Originality'.

- Deborah Steele



2014

Blast from the past

LEVEL 3 GEO TRIP TO ROTORUA

On the 25 August the Level 3 Geography class traveled to Rotorua as part of their study on the process of tourism development. This is an annual trip organised by the Social Sciences department and one that is eagerly anticipated by students. Nine students took the opportunity this year to experience the process of tourism development in action in one of New Zealand's premier tourist destinations.



We visited a range of natural and cultural attractions such as the beautiful Wai O Tapu Thermal Wonderland, Paradise Valley Springs and the lions, Te Puia, Rotorua Museum, Agrodome and the awesome Tamaki Maori Village.



Students also had the chance to test their nerve on a number of adventure based activities such as the Skyswing, Luge, Agrojet, Swoop ride, Bungy,

Sweeb and the Zorb. We were able to undertake a range of geographic field-work activities and a number of industry speakers provided our students with valuable, up-to-date information on tourism in the region. The students will be utilizing this knowledge in the external exam.

Once again our senior students represented the college extremely well over the four day trip and enjoyed a valuable learning experience.

C. Davis



BOWLS QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT



Samantha & Amanda Riddle, Cole Paniora and Dylan Thompson traveled to Whangarei during the holidays to play in the qualifying tournament against students from all of Northland, North Harbour and Auckland, each of them managing to finish 3rd in their groups. Undaunted by the fact that Samantha and Amanda's opponents had already been selected to represent NZ next year, they

gave their opponents a real scare, only losing by the last bowl of the match, and were so impressive the opposing team coaches and supporters were cheering them on. Dylan and Cole also put on a



fine performance playing well enough to be noticed by the national selector who took the trouble to ask me their names and note these in his notebook for future reference.

M. Joynt

LIFE'S A BEACH! PHOTOS FROM OUR SCHOOL SOCIAL IN TERM 3

