Te Kura Tuarua o Ruawai College

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TERM 3 WRAP UP NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2026

Principal's Remark

As we come to the end of term at Ruawai College, I want to acknowledge the mahi across our kura.

This term has provided opportunities for students to challenge themselves, represent our school and experience success. From sporting achievements and AIMS Games, to Gateway experiences, leadership opportunities and classroom learning, it has been fantastic to see our rangatahi continuing to seek their highest peak.
We have continued work to strengthen teaching and learning. Our whole-school Literacy Plan and Effective Teacher Profile continue to develop, alongside our focus on attendance, engagement and supporting every learner to achieve their personal best. We have begun looking ahead to our strategic direction for 2027 and beyond.

Thank you to our staff for the care and commitment they bring each day, and to our whānau and community for your support. Congratulations to our students for the way you have represented yourselves and Ruawai College. There is much to be proud of as we reflect on another positive and productive term together.

I hope everyone has a safe and well-earned break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final term of 2026 and finishing the year strongly.

Aidyn Rasmussen
Tumuaki



2027 START DATES

- **28 and 29 JANUARY:**
  - Course Confirmation and timetable fixes as well as Services Academy Uniform Fittings
- **3 FEBRUARY:**
  - Peer Support, Year 13s, Year 7s and all new students and Prefects Powhiri at 845am
- **4 FEBRUARY:**
  - All students in from today, start at 8:45am finish at 3pm
- **5 FEBRUARY:**
  - Normal school day

HOUSE POINTS END OF TERM 3

4164	TOTARA
4096	RIMU
4071	KAURI

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SERVICES ACADEMY - BUSHCRAFT





On Monday, 15 June 2026, four other students and I from the Ruawai College Services Academy attended a week-long camp at the Kaipara Air Weapons Range - a restricted, military and ordnance testing zone managed by the New Zealand Defence Force.

Throughout the camp, we were given the opportunity to learn a range of new outdoor and practical skills. These included navigation through the bush, tracking, fire starting, and working together in different team-based challenges. Each activity pushed us to step outside our comfort zones and encouraged us to think carefully, communicate clearly, and support one another.

The camp was challenging at times, especially with the cold weather and rough outdoor conditions, but it was also a really enjoyable experience. We had to show resilience, teamwork, and confidence throughout the week, and each day helped us grow stronger as a group.

One of the best parts of the camp was making new friends and building stronger connections with the people around us. We learned useful life skills that we can carry with us beyond school and created memories that we will always remember. Overall, the Services Academy camp was an awesome experience and something I am grateful to have been part of.

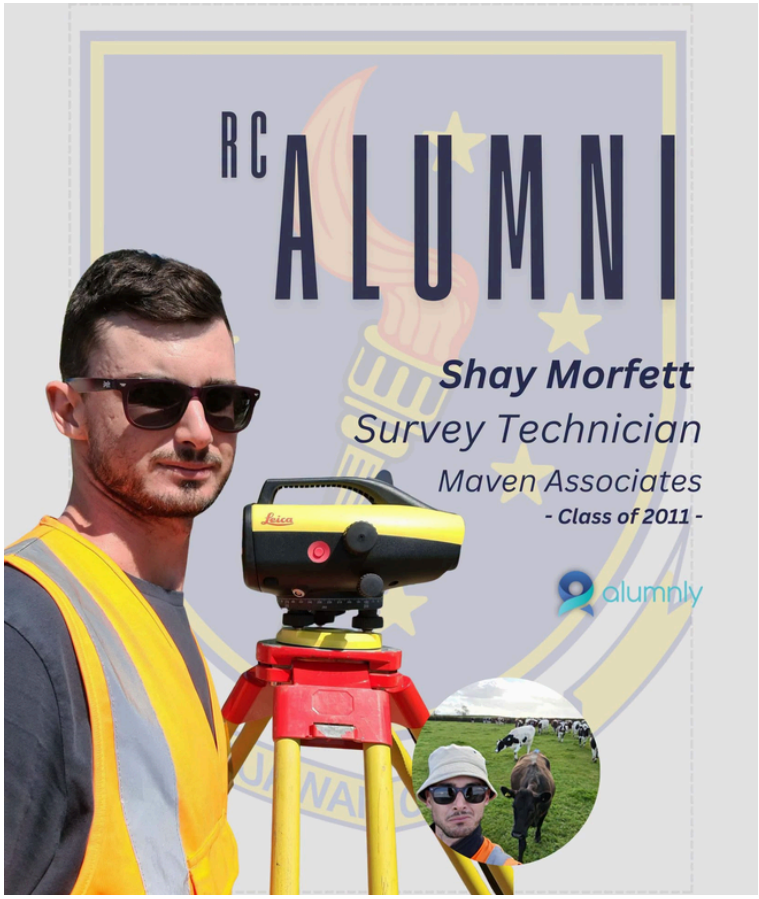
KORBAN JOHNSON





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WE CAUGHT UP WITH 2011 HEAD BOY AND DUX - SHAY MORFETT



We caught up with Shay, Ruawai College's 2011 Head Boy and DUX, to see where life has taken him since graduation. After leaving Ruawai College, Shay completed a Diploma of Civil Engineering at Unitec before beginning work in land development. He is now based in Tāmaki Makaurau and works as a Survey Technician for Maven Associates, a role that sees him mapping, surveying and supporting development projects across Aotearoa.

Shay says one of the best parts of his job is travelling the motu and enjoying the beautiful landscapes New Zealand has to offer. Looking back, he has fond memories of Ruawai College staff, especially Mr Malcolm Joynt. His advice to current RC students is to get out, explore and embrace new experiences.

Services Academy Leader Courses

Through out the year I had the opportunity to attend NZDF Youth Development unit basic and advanced leader courses, where I learnt some new forms of leadership and how to lead a group efficiently and quickly to get the task done.
During the leadership course's I took part in a leadership assessment called 'Leadless task'. I had to lead my team to the task which was around the base and locate the task.
Once we located the task we then had to complete it in under a 20 minute time frame with hidden obstacles and mental challenges that we had to overcome.
Overall I really enjoyed all of the Services Camps and encourage you to give them a go next year.

Jahrome Kiro

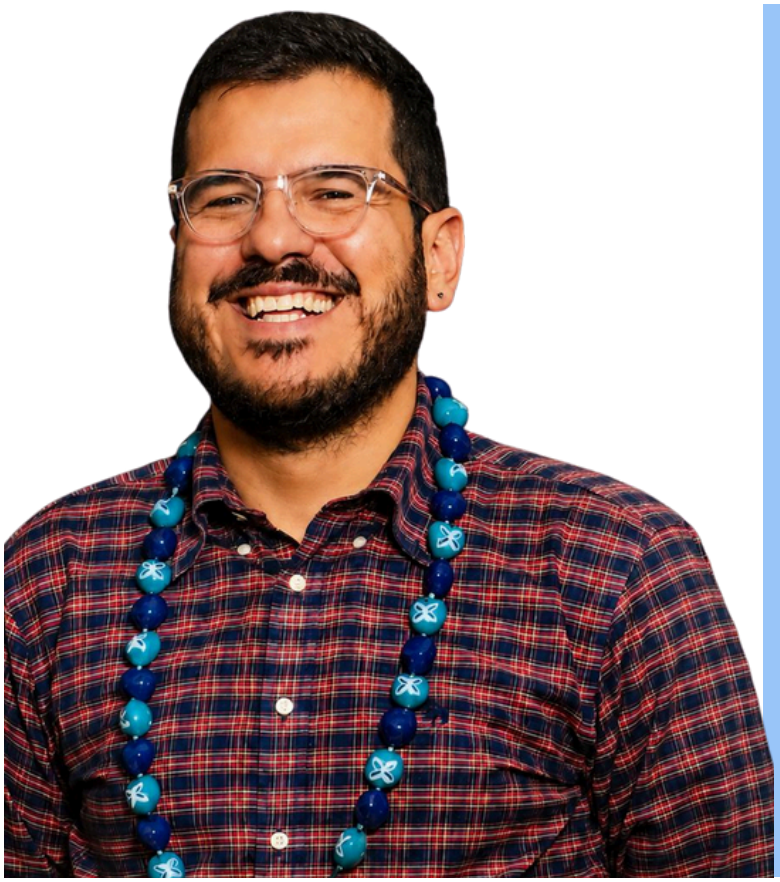




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Deputy Principals Remark



Kia ora koutou e te whānau o Ruawai College, 2026 has been an exciting and fulfilling year for me at Ruawai College. Since moving to the area at the beginning of the year, I have felt warmly welcomed by our school and wider community.

Term 3 has provided many opportunities to support our rangatahi in their wellbeing and learning. I am proud of the care and dedication our pastoral team brings to helping students feel connected, supported, and ready to learn.

Looking ahead to Term 4, our senior students will begin the term with derived grade exams, providing an important opportunity to practise their exam skills and identify areas for further revision before their final exams.
Have a wonderful break.

Sports! Sports! Sports!

This term has been action packed with sports of all sorts!
From the Quint tournament to The Beast Run, and more!!
Heres a small glimpse of what they took on













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The Beast Run











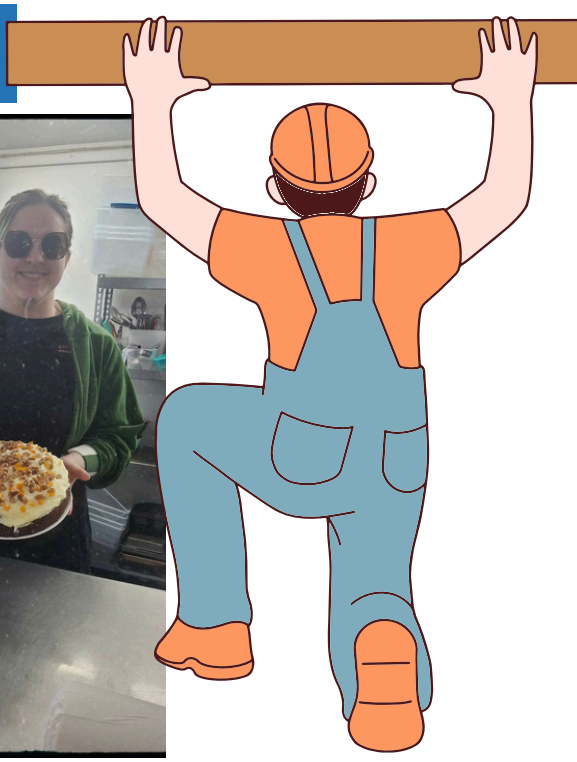



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GATEWAY





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.

Senior school students had the opportunity to complete a Gateway placement this year and Education was taken outside the classroom with 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:

- Gumdiggers Cafe
- Ignite Your Fitness
- Ruawai Primary School
- Sport Northland
- Farming - Grant Mccallum
- Gents Farms
- Whangarei Airport
- Red Hill Farms
- Douglas Sawmill
- Advance Dairy & Pump
- Halo Hair
- Seddon Park Funeral Home.
- Tinopai Primary.
- Family Link Dargaville.
- Two Waters Cafe.
- Rusa Engineering.
- C&C Electrical.
- The Workshop Dargaville.
- D Town Dargaville.
- Kaipara.Basketball Association.
- Kauri Coast Rest Home.
- Kaipara Lifestyler.

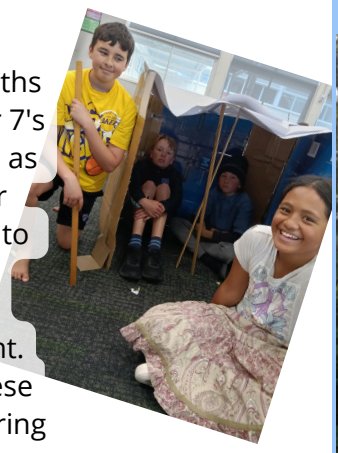
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Maths Week

We had a fantastic Maths Week filled with fun, challenges and teamwork. Students problem-solved to find hidden ducks, competed in Mathex, estimated how many lollies were in the jar, and solved the tricky problem involving a duck, a fox, a man and some groceries.
We also held a Maths Challenge afternoon, which included building a group pyramid using string and a rubber band, blowing bubbles using maths-inspired shapes. Bluey even joined in with a game of Keepy Uppy! It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying maths in a creative way.





Outside of Maths week, the year 7's had some fun as part of their exploration into visualising volume for Measurement. Designing these forts helped bring that knowledge to practical use

Biology Class Auckland Zoo Trip

A highlight in Science was our Biology trip to Auckland Zoo, where students explored evolution in a real-world setting. Connecting classroom learning with experiences beyond school sparks curiosity and helps students develop a deeper understanding of the world around them. It has been rewarding to see our rangatahi make these connections and grow as learners throughout the term.



Language week

Tongan Language week

Week 5 this term brought the spot light to Tonga.
It was awesome to see our tauira proudly celebrating Tongan language, culture and identity and sharing this with our whole school community.
Mālō ‘aupito! 🇹🇴👏



Mālō 'aupito to Kiah-Grace, Anthony, Makineti and Siulolovao for performing at todays full school assembly

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Assistant Principal's Remark

In my first term as Assistant Principal, I've been heartened by the care and unseen mahi happening behind the scenes with our Senior Leadership Team, Student Leadership, and Student Council. The independence and maturity shown by these particular student leaders is genuinely unique — families should be proud of the leaders and work ethic taking shape here. I've also valued working alongside staff who are authentic, committed practitioners, genuinely invested in students and our wider community.
It was a privilege to meet so many families at our Parent Student Teacher Conferences — powerful conversations checking in on progress and resetting goals to finish the year strong.

Talking with long-serving members of our school community, there's clearly a lot to look forward to — and just as much still to do, since none of it happens without action. I look forward to contributing to that legacy



Mr. Ras joins the board of Education Outdoors NZ



We are pleased to share that our Principal, Aidyn Rasmussen, has joined the Board of Education Outdoors New Zealand (EONZ).

This national role will help strengthen Ruawai College's connections, bring new ideas and expertise back to our kura, and support our ongoing commitment to high-quality learning beyond the classroom.

It also provides an opportunity for Ruawai College to contribute to the future direction of outdoor education across Aotearoa.

EDUCATION OUTDOORS NEW ZEALAND

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Service Academy Adventure Challenge



At Adventure, my team and I were doing heaps of challenges, one of the events we did was push, pull, lift and carry, we paired up with Tikipunga High School and challenged St Pauls College. During the activity we had to move a tyre, 6 ammo boxes, 3 x 20L water cans and a sled.

The aim was to carry all the items to each check point & each check point was 100 metres from one another. There were 3 check points ahead and then we had to come back and that counted as one point, my team collected 2 and half points and we managed to beat St Pauls by one point.

On this camp I really enjoyed meeting people from the other schools. A big thanks to Tikipunga High school for supporting us the whole week while there was only a small number of us.

Nate Watkins

Te Wiki o Te Reo Maori

He wiki whakahirahira kei mua i a tātou! This week we celebrate Te Wiki o te Reo Māori with a range of activities, challenges and opportunities for our tauira to use and strengthen their reo across the kura.

From tiki challenges and mahi a ringa, to learning a mihi, practising our school haka and preparing our waiata, there is plenty happening throughout the week.

Kia kaha te reo Māori!
For resources and more information, visit
www.reomaori.co.nz







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A snapshot of RC Senior School Ball 2026





A massive Thank you to the Staff and Student Ball Committee for all the back ground organizing!



And the wonderful staff members of RC pulling the vision together! Transforming a school hall into a glamorous Night out in New Orleans !





Many hands make light work!



Belle Georgia Welding	**Queen** Sapphire Harris	**Princess** Amanda Reis
Beau Korban Johnson	**King** Antonio Tong	**Prince** Jahrome Kiro

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KAIPARA LIFESTYLER

September 15 2026

Kaipara's only regional newspaper | Kaipara owned and operated

11,510 Copies DELIVERED FREE throughout the Kaipara

Fourth in the basket



AIMS - Tauranga

Our Ruawai College AIMS basketball team has made the front page of the Kaipara Lifestyler after an awesome week at the national tournament!

To recap, our 3x3 team won their pool and went on to finish an outstanding 4th overall. A fantastic achievement on the national stage!

A huge congratulations to all of our players, including Anthony and Niko, who were named MVPs for their teams.

A massive thank you to all of our parents and whānau for your support. Opportunities like this simply wouldn't be possible without you.

And a very special thank you to Karina and Jahrome for coaching our teams and putting in so much time and effort. All that hard work certainly paid off!















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Special Announcements





IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 4, 2026

Fri, 25th Sep:	Staff only day
Mon, 12th Oct:	Start of Term 4, 2026
Tues, 13th Oct:	Start of DGEs
Sat, 17th Oct:	Service Academy graduation
Mon, 26th Oct:	Labour Day - school closed
Tues, 27th Oct:	School board meeting
Mon, 2nd Nov:	Interhouse Top Form
Fri, 6th Nov:	Senior Prizegiving
Tues, 10th Nov:	Start of NCEA examinations
Tues, 24th Nov:	BOT Meeting - Last of year
Fri, 4th Dec:	Rainbows End Trip
Wed, 9th Dec:	Junior Prizegiving and last day of term

Senior derived grade exams

(DGEs)

This is an important opportunity to practise for your end-of-year NCEA exams and show what you have learned.

Tuesday 13th October - Tuesday 20th October

(Check Notices on schoolbridge for more details)

NCEA Exams

NCEA exams start on the *10th of November to the 4th of December*.

Follow this link for the timetable.

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Update from the School Board on the College Crest Refresh

Last year, as part of our work within the ERO School Improvement Framework, we undertook a review of our school identity and what it means to be part of Ruawai College.

This mahi included focus groups, staff meetings, student working groups, a community survey, and conversations at the Ruawai Festival 2025.

Our school values remained unchanged, but our motto was updated from Lumine Ducar (Be Guided by the Light) to Kimihia Ngā Maunga Teitei | Seek the Highest Peak. One of the strongest themes from this kōrero was the importance of always striving to do your personal best, giving all that you can in whatever space you are in, and continuing to grow. This is the essence of our new motto. The school crest was initially outside the scope of the review. However, feedback came through strongly that it was also time to consider whether our crest still reflected who Ruawai College is today and where we are heading.

This year, the School Board continued that conversation through community meetings, student working groups and a more in-depth crest consultation survey, asking what should be protected, what should evolve, and what best represents Ruawai College and our place within the Kaipara.

Here is what our community told us:

Those who took part in this year's kōrero / conversation:

- 52% Students
- 12% Staff
- 12% Whānau / Family
- 24% Wider Community / Other

84% of respondents supported some form of change to the current crest. A clear message from our community was the desire for a crest that feels more connected to who we are as Ruawai College today, reflects the people and place we belong to, and looks ahead to where we are going together.

92% of student respondents indicated they wanted a crest that better represented them

As custodians of the school, the Board recognises that our current crest holds an important place in the history and story of Ruawai College. Whatever the outcome of this process, that history will continue to be acknowledged and preserved At the same time, we acknowledge that change is a constant. We also have a responsibility to listen to the aspirations of our students and community, and to consider how our identity reflects Ruawai College now and into the future.

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Update from the School Board on the College Crest Refresh



TOKATOKA

One of the strongest themes to emerge was Tokatoka

- A central image
- A symbol of aspiration and Ruawai



OUR WATERS

Another very strong theme was the specific mention of our waters

- Northern Wairoa River
- Kaipara Harbour
- The two waters



NAVIGATION

Navigation, guidance and looking to the future emerged as strong themes



OUR BIRDS

A theme emerged around our local birds symbolising movement, aspiration and soaring to new heights. The blue heron and shag were among the birds most commonly mentioned



KŪMARA

Our history with kūmara emerged as a strong theme, reflecting an important part of Ruawai and the wider Kaipara story

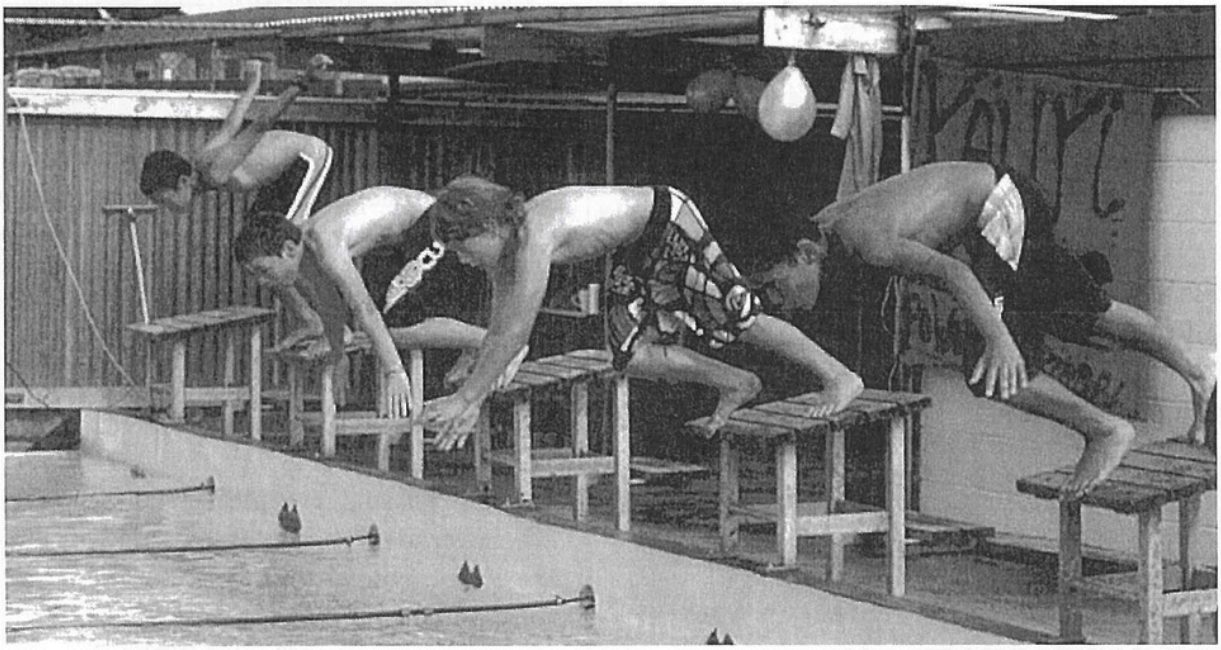
Blast from the Past

We have been digging through the archives, and in each newsletter we are aiming to share some old newsletter highlights - Here's 2012!

Principal's Comments **No. 3 Thursday 23 February 2012**

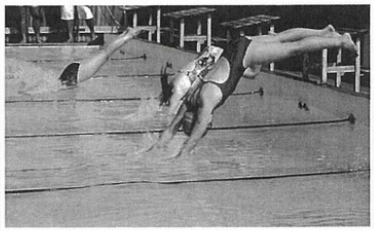
A thank you:

SUCCESSFUL SWIMMING SPORTS



L to R- Luke McKinley, Jimmy Panoho, Ross Wallace and Suave Llewell-Huriwaka in an Junior Boys' Freestyle race.







Swimming Sports Snapshots













2012

A successful swimming carnival was held on Tuesday at the College pool. Apart from the outstanding performances of the top swimmers, there was a very high level of participation and House leaders did an excellent job in encouraging their students to take part. House banners and throngs of people added to the colour and exuberance of the day. It has to be noted that the staff team won the final relay in impressive style (innovatively, the team chose not to employ any flotation devices or flippers this year).

Once again, it was pleasing to see so many parents attend, both as supporters and as officials. Thanks to all those who contributed to this successful event. Ms Kay Smith and Ms Maree Chapman are to be applauded for the organisation of the day.

RDHS Blast from the past

"TRUE TO OUR TRUST"

RUAWAI D R H S

Above: Our schools first crest and motto

Long before the name Ruawai College appeared at the entrance to our school, generations of young people from across the Ruawai district came together under another name: Ruawai District High School (RDHS).

The history of education in our area stretches back more than 130 years. Naumai School was established in 1893 with around 20 students, followed several years later by a new school on what is now the Ruawai Primary School site. In the late 1920s, several smaller local schools were brought together as part of a significant consolidation of education on the Ruawai Plains.

In June 1929, Ruawai District High School was officially opened, bringing students together from Ruawai and surrounding communities including Awarua, Naumai and Whenuarua.
For a small rural community, this was an important development. Instead of young people having to leave the district or travel considerable distances to continue their education, secondary schooling was available here in Ruawai.

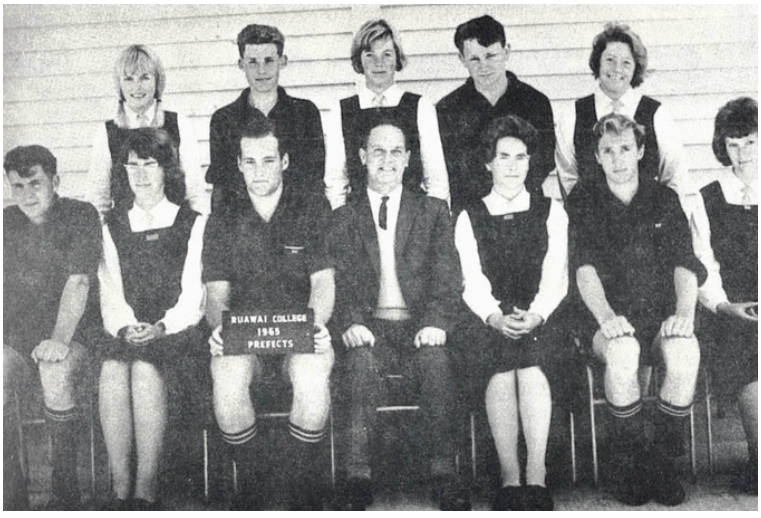


Above: Senior Students at RDHS, 1939



Above: RDHS Staff, 1952

For the next 35 years, Ruawai District High School served children and young people across a wide range of ages. It became part of the fabric of the community, educating generations of local families and establishing many of the traditions and connections that remain important to us today.



Above: RDHS Prefects, 1965

Then, in 1964, another significant chapter began. Ruawai District High School was divided into separate primary and secondary schools, with Ruawai College becoming the senior school. The College has remained on its present site since that time.