



Kaitiāia College Pānui

August
2025
7th Edition



TUMUAKI TAUTOKO
PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Me maumahara he tino toa i ia tangata. Rapua te toa nei, me whāngaia, ka tupu, ka puāwai.

There is a champion in everyone. Search for the champion, nurture them and they will grow and flourish.

Kia ora whānau.
Ngā mihi mahana kia koutou, warm greetings to you all.

Last week we heard the Minister of Education announcement on proposed changes for NCEA. Please refer to the information below and have your say on the changes by answering the survey via the QR code or survey link before 15 September, 2025.

Get the full picture
You can get a complete understanding of all the proposed changes in the full discussion document here:
<https://www.education.govt.nz/consultation-ncea>



Have your say
As parents and caregivers, it's important for us to hear what you think about the changes. We're also looking for feedback from your children, their teachers, and their future employers.

Use the QR code or the link below to have your say before consultation closes 15 September!
<https://www.education.govt.nz/consultation-ncea>



SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NCEA CHANGES:

- Work with industry to integrate clear, consistent Vocational Education and Training (VET) learning, making sure it is of value to students, employers, and industry.
- Introduce: a new Foundational Award in Year 11 that documents achievement in literacy and numeracy or te reo matatini and pāngarau and remove a high stakes Year 11 assessment program.
- New qualifications for Year 12 and Year 13's are called the New Zealand Certificate of Education and the New Zealand Advanced Certificate of Education.

- Establish a structured and subject approach to qualifications and introduce required curriculum subjects at Year 11.
- Strengthen the achievement requirements. The proposed changes mean trading in some of the flexibility that NCEA was designed to provide, to address the credibility issues. For example, there will be required subjects that students need to participate in at Year 11, and so schools will need to make sure students are doing these subjects. Students will also generally be required to take at least five subjects.

CURRICULUM CHANGES

Alongside proposed NCEA change, there are also changes to our guiding NZC New Zealand Curriculum Document. This will be reported on in our next newsletter.

Louise Ānaru. Principal.
(Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi)



Taha Hinengaro Curriculum



HILLARY OUTDOORS:

In the early hours (6.00am) of 19 July, the Level 2 Outdoor Education class embarked on a 12 hour bus drive to the Hillary Outdoors Education Centre at Tongariro where we stayed for five days completing various activities. We were accompanied by two teachers, Mr Pene and Whaea Justice, and were split into two groups, with each groups having their own instructors, Julian and Sebastian. Hillary Outdoors is an educational outdoors centre focusing on topics such as leadership and connecting with the outdoors. It is a trust formed from legends Sir Edmond Hillary and Sir Graeme Dingle in 1972, and years later, has formed into a centre used by schools, tertiary students and groups of people looking to embrace the outdoors.

For the majority of us, this experience were unforgettable, as most of us have never experienced these types of activities before. Luckily for us the skies were painted blue, with no clouds in sight. In our short five day span we crammed in all of our set activities; High Rope Obstacles, Caving, Hiking up Mt Ruapehu and an overnight expedition in the bush.

One of the activities that stood out for me was the Ropes course. Low ropes was all about gaining trust with our peers and having fun while doing so. The high ropes however were a fun challenge for us. The flying trapeze was the first activity we did. We had to climb a tall skinny pole that had foot and hand holds on the side. Once you got to the top, you then had to try to jump off and reach the trapeze bar. If you missed and fell, your peers would be there to catch you. The big swing, you climbed up a rock wall, then up onto the platform, where you were harnessed up, then being suspended in mid air for a while, eventually getting lowered down from a pole where one of your group members had to slow you down.

The second activity was the Mountain Day. We drove to Mt Ruapehu early in the morning, where we started our trek up the mountain. For myself and some of my group, we hadn't touched the snow before, so this experience was very special for us. We encountered a majority of different types of snow on our trek, soft, hard, and powdery. On arriving at our destination, we had found a slope for us to slide on, make igloos and have a fun time bonding together. Thankfully, there were no major injuries sustained on our trip to the mountain.

The last of the activities was the most important, - the overnight expedition. We started on Wednesday morning preparing for the four hour hike. We all met up at the resource centre, making sure we had all the equipment needed for this adventure, chucked our gear into the vans and headed out. Walking through water streams and down our first lot of stairs we reached our major challenge for the trip, called the "mother of Jenny Craig", a steep hill with too many steps to count. After that challenge, all that awaited us was flat roads. We arrived at our campsite, that was surrounded with bush, and not too far from the Okupata Caves. At the campsite we all looked for warmth from the cold weather, as we were experiencing negative degree weather conditions. Our fingers were freezing through our gloves. We all bonded over the fire, had dinner and hopped into our tents for the cold night ahead, where, unfortunately no one had a good nights sleep. In the morning everyone was shivering through their clothes. We got ready for our visit to the limestone caves and after exploring the caves, we headed back to the campsite.

My personal experience at Hillary Outdoors will be one I will never forget, especially how it has impacted me afterwards. With this experience I feel that I have gotten closer with my peers. We all were friends beforehand but with us spending the week together, I feel that our class, as a whole, has improved their relationship with one another, giving our class a closer feeling. It also showed us that we can live without our phones. It helped improve our relationship with each other, as all we did was talk, laugh and just had a good time. It also helped us connect with nature again, being a kid again. We were blessed. With the stunning weather, it made the environment stand out more and made us appreciate the beauty of the area. It's a different view than the north and I think all of us there took it in when we could. To have this opportunity and experience what we did, I believe this week will stick with us for the rest of our lives.

By Taisyn Bradford.



KUPE - NAVIGATOR



TE TARO O TE ORA - SUSTENANCE, WELLBEING
AND THE NURTURING OF LIFE



KURA MAROTINI - WIFE OF KUPE



MAREIKURA - FEMALE LINE



Taha Wairua Cultural



KUPE ME TE TARO O TE ORA

On the 17th of July, during Week 1 of this term, we celebrated a significant milestone in our kura's journey with the unveiling of the whakairo in M Block. This moment marked the realisation of a dream that has been carried by the college for over 40 years.

We are proud to announce that M1 is now named *Kupe*, in honour of the great Māori navigator, and M5 has been named *Te Taro o te Ora*, symbolising sustenance, wellbeing, and the nurturing of life. These names reflect our commitment to identity, whakapapa, and the values that guide our learning community.

From its beginnings three years ago, this project has been driven by whanaungatanga, kotahitanga, and shared purpose. We acknowledge Matua Tangira and Matua Ānaru-Tangira (MJ) for their incredible mahi toi and commitment; the many staff and students who contributed throughout the journey; and Steve Marsden and Dennis for their tireless support—giving up weekends, evenings, and holidays to help see the project through to completion. Remarkably, this was all achieved without external funding,



demonstrating the true power of community and determination.

"Mā pango, mā whero, ka oti te mahi."

With black and with red, the work will be done.

This whakataukī speaks to the power of collaboration, different roles, united efforts, one kaupapa.

A particularly special and humbling moment was having Whaea Pare Nathan present at the unveiling. As one of the original visionaries behind this kaupapa, her presence reminded us all of the legacy and perseverance that have carried this dream through the decades.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the ringawera and organisers who brought this event to life: Alexandra Kīngi, Pāpā Hone rāua ko Whaea Mareea Paitai, Mama D, Lee Gamble, Lydia Kerr, and the wider team who supported and documented the occasion with such care.

This was a truly empowering moment for all the students and staff in attendance. It was a powerful reminder that with dedication, unity, and belief in a kaupapa, dreams can come true.

"Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini."
My strength is not that of a single warrior, but that of many.

NĀ TE PUNA O TE MĀTAURANGA



Taha Tinana Sports

CORBAN WINS 2025 WINTERAIM COMPOUND BOW COMPETITION

Year 12 Student Corban Thorpe proved again how dedicated he is to his chosen sport when he came away with First place for the 2025 WinterAim compound Bow competition recently held in Auckland. Up early every morning, shooting 100+ arrows a day put him in good stead for the competition.

With over 120 competitors, broken into three sections, Corban came out top of the Individual Section with a score of 710 points, 37 points ahead of his nearest rival. The Winter Aim was a great opportunity to shoot alongside other Auckland college archers and the perfect lead-up to the upcoming Youth Trans-Tasman Challenge in Christchurch, where he'll be representing New Zealand against Australia. Corban loved being able to represent Kaitiaki College, wearing his colours with pride.



BAY OF ISLANDS BEAST

With a new farm location in Ohaeawai and after much rain the weeks leading up to the event, a dedicated team of Year 9-10 students travelled to participate at the Bay of Islands Beast. The weather on the day was stunning and the mud plentiful. No placings this year or times but lots of muddy fun was had by all.

Left to right: Maz Nattrass, Lochlan Lilley-Cosner, Ashton Wiessing, Vana Jobe, Eli White, Larell Ashby-Tawa, Max Wigley. Insert: JJ Neary and Tehana Neary



A small and dedicated team braved the early morning start to travel to Whangarei to compete at the NSSSA Badminton Festival. Festival events give our students an opportunity to play a new code.

Levi Ashwell, Larell Ashby-Tawa, Fenix Clark, representing Kaitiaki College with pride.

3X3 BASKETBALL

Two senior teams travelled to Whangarei to compete at the NSSSA 3x3 Basketball Championships recently. Our Senior A Team won all their pool games, cross overs and semi finals games making it through to the finals against Huanui College. With a player down to injury the team came away with a respectable second place.

Our junior team also travelled to participate in the NSSSA Junior 3x3 Cup and Festival. While they did not place in the top three placings, our team was competitive and enthusiastic. Thanks Coach Darwin and Referees Te Manawa Chapman and Oscar Parlour for an outstanding day and assisting with refereeing games and doing score bench duties.



McKay Stadium





Taha Whānau Social

SUBJECT EXPO AND YEAR 8 INFORMATION EVENING 2025

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Subject Expo and Year 8 Information Evening!

It was an awesome turnout from existing students, whānau, and future students—a great chance to explore the learning pathways and opportunities at Kaitiaki College.

Departments brought learning to life with hands-on displays, student work, and expert advice from both teachers and senior students.

We're excited to welcome our new Year 9 students in 2026 and look forward to seeing the pathways our current students choose as they move forward!



LEVEL 3 HEALTH

Last Friday, Whetū Marama, a Rongoā Māori practitioner, visited our Level 3 Health class. She shared philosophies around hauora and the historical context of Rongoa Maori pre-colonisation, and how these belief systems sustain cultural traditions today. Her kōrero about rongoā rākau, mirimiri, and romiromi helped our students understand that medicine extends far beyond physical health and disease, and rather enters the spiritual realm to address imbalances in one's wairua. She performed a physical adjustment on a volunteer student using her hands and a rākau to release energy blockages. Inspiring others, her knowledge and experience in traditional methods of healing remind us that health is not only subject to the absence of illness.



Rangatahi Round-up



TE PUNA AROHA

A very wet start to our third term with both staff and students falling prey to coughs and colds.

We are working hard to increase the opportunities for our young people to be involved in more activities outside the unit, including having one who participated in the Secondary Schools Regional Kapa Haka recently, the performance was stunning.

Another moment of note is that our Special Olympics swimmers all qualified last term to take part in the end of year National Summer Special Olympics in Christchurch so we look forward to getting medals, mates and memories.

We are excited to welcome Parafed Northland, Angie Rumsey, into our unit every Monday. We have the opportunity to learn new skills in Sports.

Our focus this term is all about The Community and Me, with all students creating personal profiles which will be on display in our foyer at the end of the term.

Keep warm, well and safe from Te Puna Aroha.



2025 HEAD GIRL COMMENTS

Kia ora koutou katoa and welcome to Term 3. I would like to start by welcoming our new students and their whānau to Kaitiaki College. I hope that you enjoy your time at KC.

This term will be a very busy term. There are our sports teams and individuals who, for the first two terms have put in a lot of mahi to be selected to represent our school in upcoming national tournaments. The Services Academy will have the Advanced Leadership Course and Adventure Challenge, students will be applying for scholarships and teachers will be preparing you for the Derived Grade Examinations in Week 10.

Also amongst all this, on the 30th of August we have our Senior Cabaret, where we will celebrate the senior students' past years at school, wishing them all the best before they leave for the big bad world.

Recently a group of students and staff departed for our "Kaitiaki College Tour of Japan". During this we visited Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Osaka to name a few. For all involved this once in a lifetime opportunity, that would not have happened if not for the support from our hard working staff, students, and their whānau. For me, this was an opportunity to immerse myself in a rich culture which was a very thrilling experience. There were so many things to do and see, from trying to fit into packed subway cars in Tokyo, to visiting the museums, beautiful shrines and the golden castle of Osaka. However the one bonus of Japan was the food, it was simply amazing, the Japanese pride themselves on their hospitality. This mixed with the traditional bright-lights of the food markets made this not only an experience of a lifetime but an experience of my lifetime. One point to note about Japan is how clean it was. We rarely saw any rubbish on the streets.

Through school, I have had the opportunity to be part of such rewarding experiences. I highly recommend my peers push to make things happen for themselves, be proactive in learning and the decisions we make. We have great teachers and peers around who can support us during these times.

I would like to finish by reminding my peers that Term 3 is the business-end of the year. I wish them all the best in their studies and assessments, and encourage them to push themselves to go beyond their expectations. Like Neil Strauss said "Great things never come from comfort zones". So do your best and see what you can do if you fully commit yourself to something.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge the students of the construction academy. Who I see constantly working and not only building houses but building their future.

Ngā mihi and best wishes for Term 3
Geraldene Leefe





Celebrating community



It takes a village to raise a child

Spotlight on Supporters

KC Supporters Wall

TŪRANGA KĀINGA DUNE LAKES RESTORATION PROJECT 2025

We are now into our fourth year of the Tūranga Kāinga taitamariki being a part of the Dune Lakes Restoration project.

Over the past three years our students have participated in this Kaupapa heading out each fortnight to support the project and learn about what is happening to protect and restore our whenua. We gain a new understanding of the local waterways, the uniqueness of the Dune Lakes and what can be done to preserve and/or revive these delicate ecosystems. Students get work experience through this but more importantly they get to be the kaitiaki of these significant places. One day they will be the ones looking after these spaces and it is inspiring to see our taitamariki being given the opportunity to learn about and willingly give their energy to this cause.

OUR PARTNERS OVER THIS PROJECT:

We work alongside the Ngāi Takoto Ropu, the Bushland's trust and Summit Forest with mahi that they undertake in this collective project. We have done amazing work together and our students have gotten so much out of it.

Ngā mihi nui to the amazing people who have partnered with us.

THE BUSHLAND TRUST

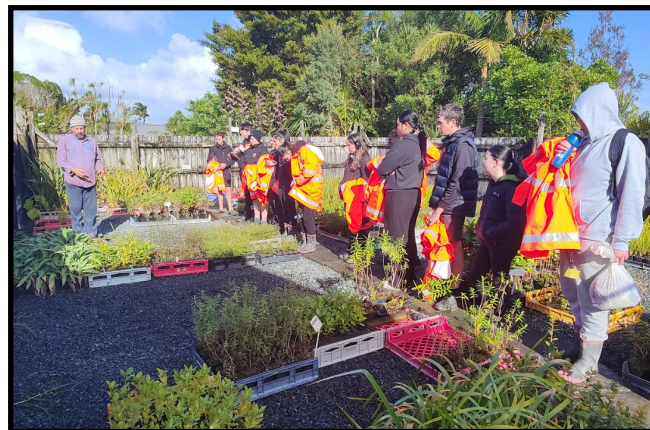
We have been blessed to work with the extremely knowledgeable Steven Yureitch from the Bushland's Trust. He works with us at the Bushland Trust Nursery and by a number of lakes. Steven is an amazing teacher and has decades of experience around eco-sourcing, seeding, growing and planting our native plants in Te Hiku. Steven is flexible and humble and goes to great lengths to ensure we always have something to do.



From the outset we have worked with the amazing Karen Lucich from Summit Forests. She provides a safe and engaging space for our students to get involved in some kaitiaki-tanga mahi. Karen is amazing with our young people and she facilitates a huge variety of activities that the students love. This is freehold land that Summit Forests spends around \$10 000 every year to maintain and enhance for public use, like hiking and mountain biking. Our students get onboard with establishing and marking a bike track around the lake, fence stile building, planting and habitat restoration by little lake Gem.



Of course we have also worked with Ngāi Takoto for four years. As the manawhenua of the Dune Lakes it has been beautiful to work alongside them with the mahi they have been carrying out with the habitat restoration. We go to their Nursery and have been honoured to be kaitiaki with their rōpū planting out some local Dune Lakes for the first time ever. They have shared knowledge of the water ways systems and how everything is connected, shown us sites not seen before of early Gumdiggers. Explained career pathways and given awhi and encouragement to our learners.





Kaitiāia College

Our whānau in action

