

The Life Story Of The Oldest Tree On Earth And More!

Revered for its beauty and its longevity, the Ginkgo biloba is a living fossil, unchanged for more than 200 million years. It is an oddity in nature because it is the oldest tree on earth, a living link to the age of dinosaurs, and a single species with no known living relatives. So it is an inspiring example of how humans can help a species survive. Over centuries the Ginkgo has made its way from China, across Asia and around the world; today it is found in urban settings in many countries.

This demonstration of resilience, combined with its antiquity, has granted the tree many symbolic meanings throughout the world. For centuries, the Ginkgo tree has served as a symbol of hope and peace in its native land of China; that representation is widely demonstrated in Chinese literature and art. One of the first depictions of the tree in this capacity exists on a mural in an ancient tomb. Created late in the 5th century A.D., the image uses the Ginkgo tree to represent the end of a politically unstable period in China's history and a movement for peace.



Ginkgos are [dioecious](#) and others being **male**.

some trees being **female** →



← **Male** plants, produce small [pollen cones](#).

Female plants do not produce cones. Two [ovules](#) are formed at the end of a stalk, and after [pollination](#), one or both develop into seeds. The seed is 1.5–2cm long. Its fleshy outer layer is light yellow-brown, soft, and [fruit](#)-like. It is attractive in appearance, but contains [butyric acid](#) and smells foul when fallen. The nuts contain toxins, but when cooked they are nutritious and can be added to soups and stews.

Chinese and Japanese people have used them in folk medicine since ancient times.

The fertilization of Ginkgo seeds is similar to cycads, ferns, mosses and algae. Large mobile sperm are contained in pollen grains found in clusters attached to the branches of the tree. In the spring these clusters open up, pollen grains are blown away and land on a female ovule. The potential seed is pollinated, but actual fertilization does not occur until autumn, usually after the seed has fallen off the tree and the fleshy covering has rotted away.

My Ginkgo trees are very precious ... they have "**Provenance**".



My grandparents' home in King Street, Hastings had a large beautiful garden. It is all still there and now part of the Rudolf Steiner School. I was there for the change-over in 1950 as a boarder at Queenswood Primary School for girls. The garden was and still is, rich with Rhododendrons, Camellias, Magnolias, Maples and a huge female Ginkgo which is protected.

This lady would be the main ancestor of most of the Ginkgos in New Zealand. For many years, my grandfather used to send seed to Duncan and Davies, the well known Garden business in New Plymouth.

I vividly remember the foul smelling Ginkgo fruit and the horrible mess. It is recommended that keen gardeners plant the sterile male Ginkgo to avoid this.

The fallen fruit soon produces viable pip stones which germinate and so I was able to collect seedlings with the idea of starting a Bonsai Ginkgo collection. I gave most of my family a little tree and have four.

The big tree seen here is 40 years old, it has produced a few male pollen clusters, so we will not have "all the local males hovering over it"! I repot it with a root prune and a reshape about every 2-3 years.



SCHOOL NOTICES



He pito kōrero!

Kīwaha o te wiki – phrase of the week

He pātai tāku...
I have a question...

Hemi: Kia ora, e Rangi. He pātai tāku...can you remember what our homework was today?

Rangi: I think we had to draw a map of the route from our whare to our kura.

Hemi: Oh yeah, that's right. Thanks!

He pito kōrero is a space dedicated to celebrating and promoting Te Reo me ōna Tikanga Māori.

Waiata Mai Every Thursday, From 12:30 – 1:00 p.m

Ngā mihi maioha ki a koutou e te whānau whānui o Taikura!

Waiata mai has started again. This will be every Thursday from 12:30 –1:00 pm in the Library. If you want to learn some of the waiata that your children sing at school, nau mai, haere mai te katoa....all are welcome!

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou ngā kōpara e kō!

Nā Troy Gardiner

Logistics Fete Committee Member Needed URGENTLY

I've been part of the fete committee for approximately five years looking after logistics and am needing another person to take this role on as I'm unable to carry on. This is a very practical role alongside needing to be able to work with others.

Role Description:

- updating fete signs and organising their distribution to the community
- working alongside class 2 so they are prepped to assist the put up and pack down of the fete delegating these jobs
- outsourcing seating for the stage on fete day and hiring bins and portaloos
- working closely alongside children's activities to ensure the practicalities on the weekend of the fete are taken care of
- time needed is some prep in the weeks leading up to the fete but mostly from approximately midday the Friday before the fete, all Saturday and all Sunday (normally during the fete is relatively quiet but do need to be around and on call)
- on the weekend of the fete is; setting up the stage, putting up gazebos, moving picnic tables, setting up desks and chairs for children's activities, trestle tables for food, and making sure the school is ready for the fete. Then Sunday evening is ensuring everything goes away again ready for school to carry on Monday morning.

This role needs to be filled so please consider it if these skill sets speak to you or you know someone else who it does. I've thoroughly enjoyed making new connections in the community and learning how much it takes to make our fete as amazing as it is. A fresh set of eyes could do this role wonders so please take it and make it your own. Call Becky on 027 301 6637.

Bus Zone Signs

As of Friday 26 March there will not be any bus zone signs out. Please be mindful that this is still a bus zone during the stated times therefore please do not park in this area when dropping off and collecting your children. Do the right thing and adhere to the council bylaws.

Mark Your Calendar

March 30	8:30 am - 3:00 pm	HS Athletics Day - Mitre 10 Sports Park
March 30	6:30 pm	Health Consultation Two L2 TH - Gee Reisima
April 2- 6	All Day	Easter Break including Tuesday 6 April
April 14	7:00 pm	Nutrition Discussion - Jocelyn Freeman
April 15	11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Community Assembly - Taikura School Hall
April 15 / 16	7:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Drama Club Play - "Our Town" - School Hall

SCHOOL NOTICES

Music Department

Itinerant instrument lessons are available during the school day. **We wish a very warm welcome to our new Cello tutor Jenni Hodgson and Drum tutor Joe Atkins.** Instruments include violin, viola, cello, flute, drums, piano, guitar and ukulele if you would like further details please contact me on thomas.pearson@taikura.school.nz

Lower school orchestra and high school orchestra run weekly. If your child would like to join, please get in touch in person or through thomas.pearson@taikura.school.nz

Sports Notices

Sports/Camp Gear

The PFA are initiating a sports and camp gear sharing/swapping/donating opportunity. If you have any spare items or gear that your children have grown out of, and you are happy to donate it, please drop it in to our Sports Coordinator Janet at the school office. Then come and have a look on collection day to see if there is something there which suits your current needs! We will aim to have this gear available at a Friday Market towards the end of every term. This term the Sports Gear Collection will be showcased on Friday 9 April, so come and see if you can find items that will be of use to your whānau!

Congratulations to Menno van der Have who came 3rd in the Intermediate section of the HB Schools Orienteering Sprints. Well Done Menno!

Mouth Guard Found

A black and clear "professional" looking mouth guard with small holes in the teeth area. Safe in its clear holder. Please see Adrienne in the office to claim.

Found Items

There are still a number of watches that have been left at various times around the school along with some items of jewellery, a bike helmet and a pair of yellow and blue gumboots. If you have lost any of these please see Adrienne in the office.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Chairs for Sale

Approximately 95 hall chairs for sale. Some in need of repair and most need a clean \$5.00 each. Would look at a bulk deal. Please contact Liam property@taikura.school.nz

Communication For Connection

Hastings: Saturday 17 April and Sunday 18 April

Empowering Support For Parents

This workshop is valuable support for all parents. *There is no greater investment than investing in what nourishes and empowers your life!* You will receive new awareness, and skill to communicate more confidently and effectively, deepen connections and foster cooperation. You will also discover new ways to keep your own cup filled. Filipa has been providing this workshop for parents and educators for more than a decade. *Value for your investment is backed up with money back guarantee!*

- If you would like to hear feedback from someone at Taikura who has completed this course, contact me.
- Based on the worldwide proven principles of Nonviolent Communication, facilitator Filipa Hope (past Taikura parent).
- Numbers limited to 14 **Start Time** 9:00 am-4:30 pm both days. Investment: \$250 (incl's morning and afternoon tea's)

Registrations to Filipa: filipahope@gmail.com phone 0274 513 445