



Environmentalist

Sam The Taikura Man



Sam Gibson graduated from Taikura in 2008. Also known as “Sam The Trap Man”, Sam has established quite a media presence for a Steiner boy: You may have seen him on TV on Wild Kai Legends, heard him on numerous podcasts, or seen him on Instagram or Facebook. Since finishing Class 12, he has established himself as one of the country’s leading environmentalists and has earned himself a nomination as New Zealand’s Environmentalist of the Year 2022. Sam has a hand in lots of environmental pots. With his work with NZ Landcare Trust, he helps educate farmers and land users to operate in a more sustainable model as kaitiaki of the land they work on. Also with the Eastern Whio Link project, Sam is helping return 25,000 hectares of public conservation lands to examples of natural biodiversity and bring back the whio to the area through a combination of matauranga Māori and Western ecological practice. Sam’s environmental work has also taken him to DOC, Cape Kidnappers Sanctuary, and Goodnature to name a few, but as well as working to protect

the whenua, Sam also works as a mentor for children who could benefit from spending time in the bush.

To support children for whom the traditional classroom is not the best place to learn, Sam takes the tamariki on immersive bush experiences. He believes that the bush is a place where we can process our thoughts and find a balance within ourselves, something he thinks that urban children find increasingly difficult to do. The bush experiences are a step in helping these children become well-rounded and grounded, which is something he sees as a reflection on Steiner education.

Sam remembers his time at Taikura fondly. He particularly remembers and appreciates those teachers who gave him the space to follow his passion for the bush and bushcraft. The skills he learned in handwork and woodwork have served him well in his line of work enabling him to stitch up camping gear and fix up many a hut during his time out in the ngahere. It was not just these classes that have served him well, Sam’s Class 12 project was the construction and management of a fifty hectare predator free strip of land in Waimarama. This was fundamental for Sam as it proved to him what he was capable of and that his desire to work in the bush was the right choice for him and something that he could succeed at.

Talking to Sam, he was quick to downplay his own achievements and acknowledge the work that his whānau, particularly his partner Roimata, has played in enabling him to follow this path. This work Sam is doing is inspiring and it is wonderful to see a graduate of Taikura doing such rewarding, meaningful mahi.

Toby Blakey Class 5 Teacher

Mark Your Calendar

February 28
March 1

Mid Morning TBC
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Class 8 Photos Catch Up
Class 3 Parent Evening - Hall

SCHOOL NOTICES



He pito kōrero!

Ngā Tamatoa...

Tēnei te mihi maioha e kau ana ki a koutou katoa!

During our summer break, a reunion was held to celebrate and acknowledge the founding members of Ngā Tamatoa. I feel indebted for the mahi, courage and foresight that this group had to fight for the recognition of te reo Māori and other kaupapa that as Leilani Ohia (one of the organisers of the reunion) states in the following kōrero, we are reaping the benefits of today.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korihi/459472/original-nga-tamatoa-members-to-reunite-50-years-after-movement-s-founding>

The following link is an in-depth look at the history of Ngā Tamatoa and issues they were facing
<https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/nga-tamatoa-2012>

Mauri ora! Nā, Matua Troy.

Kīwaha o te wiki – Kīwaha of the week

Māti ana (Mar tee ar nah)

To celebrate the kai that you have finally been waiting to eat!

Hemi: Kia ora e hoa! Have you been diving for kaimoana (seafood)?

Rangi: Āe rā! These kina are sweet as...Māti ana e hoa!

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



Introducing - Noel Bryant - IRTL B

Kia ora koutou,



My name is Noel Bryant and I am an Itinerant Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour. Heretaunga was my place of growing up and now I am settled here after spending a few decades in Auckland.

I am part of a team who work across sixty four schools in the Hastings and Central Hawkes Bay Districts. My role is to support schools to develop systems that address Learning and Behaviour needs. This involves working with teachers, students, whanau and other agencies to implement appropriate educational interventions within an inclusive learning environment. Schools can access this service through a referral system that requests specific support.

In recent times I have been working in Taikura on restorative practices, classroom behaviour management, school community relationships and also with individuals and groups.

The current global situation challenges us even more to help each other with our needs and I am very much enjoying working with such a dedicated team of teachers.

Ngā mihi nui.
Nā, Noel.

SCHOOL NOTICES

Waimarama Beach Camp

The Class 8 surf camp was held at Waimarama Beach last week, we stayed at the holiday park which allowed easy access to the surf. The week was full of sun, sand, surf, laughs and good times. It was great to see the two classes join together which allowed new friendships and good conversations with people they usually wouldn't talk to. Some of the feedback I received from this experience included: "I enjoyed the challenge of attempting and then finally succeeding with a new skill" "Surfing, particularly with Sea Sisters because it was way easier to stand up. All the surfing was really fun though". "Surfing, making sand sculptures and cooking was the best" "Seeing the full moon rise up each night and playing the trench spot light game was cool" "Sunburn, cooking and sand sculptures".

I would like to thank Ben and Ruby for supporting the camp as well as Clem, Jess, Rachel, Jonathan, John, Chris and Mike, without you these camps would not be able to happen.

I specifically enjoyed watching this class of 'non surfers' and 'sand hating people' actually enjoy themselves in the water, persevering with a new skill and standing up and riding waves almost every time by the Friday surf session. I loved hearing the laughter and watching the more confident surfers surf out back, or sitting on their boards waiting for the ideal wave to come through. The students threw themselves into moon lit trench spotlight on the Thursday night and I have never seen anything quite like that before, it was very entertaining. The energy of this class was amazing and I am grateful that they were all respectful and fun to be around.

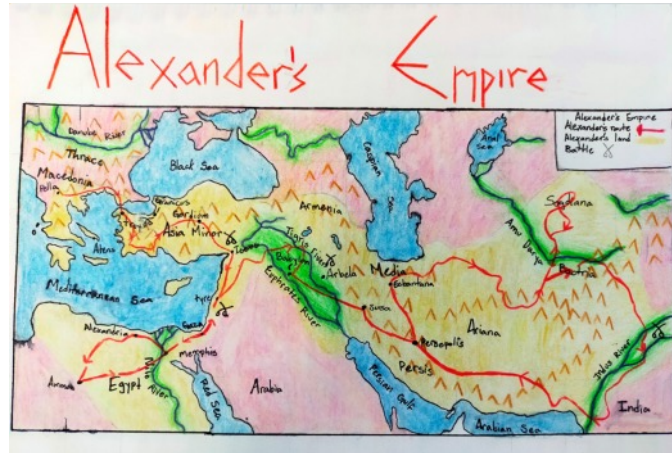
Gee Reisima Class 8 Sponsor



SCHOOL NOTICES

Curriculum Corner

Class Six are currently learning about Alexander the Great. The Macedonian leader who conquered much of the ancient world. At the height of his influence his empire encompassed Greece, Macedonia, Asia Minor (Turkey), Mesopotamia (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel), Egypt, Armenia and Assyria (Iraq), Persia, Ariana and Bactria (Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan). Alexander is a fascinating subject to study. The events of his time form a bridge between the mythical stories of Ancient Greece, studied in Class 5, and recorded history. This prepares the class for the Study of Ancient Rome later in the year.



Please Help

Scannells Garden Working Bee - Saturday 26 February

We are holding a working bee in Scannells Garden on **Saturday 26 February from 9:00 am to 12 noon**. Your help would be greatly appreciated, including if you can't come for the whole three hours. Tools and morning tea provided. Due to Covid requirements, we have to have a maximum of twenty five people. If you intend to bringing any tamariki with you, then they must be Class 8 age (13 years or older). Please RSVP to sarah.millington@taikura.school.nz if you are willing and able to come (include any dietary requirements please).

Ngā mihi, nā Sarah Millington - Humanities Teacher

Resilience Is A key Quality Needed For A Successful Life

Whatever our measure of success is, resilience is a key quality needed for a successful life. This is the beginning of a series of snippets about resilience: what it is and how it is displayed - or not - within students at school.

Resilience is, at its core, the courage to persevere and to do what needs to be done despite difficulty or delay in success, and despite feeling uncomfortable. It is also about knowing when to stop and accept that we were wrong, and to take that knowing deep into ourselves as wisdom for another day. An example of resilience is physical courage: when we keep going even when our bodies are uncomfortable, tired or sore - to achieve a goal whether that be large, such as with the athletes at the Winter Olympics or with students on their daily run around the school, in eurythmy or gymnastics - especially if these are difficult subjects for them - or when climbing higher than ever in a tree or swimming a distance never previously managed. Equally important, if not more important, and the part that is only now receiving accolades in the general population, is knowing where our boundaries are, knowing when to stop and accept reality. Naomi Osaka speaking out against the pressures of public life is a recent example of this. The courage to pause, if you will, and face a reality that is unpleasant or opposite to what we wish or believe. The biological reaction of our brains and bodies in this situation causes actual physical pain as our brains undergo rewiring in order to incorporate the new information. With physical courage, age teaches us this, quite dramatically at times, and the degree to which we can accept the new paradigm, and the pace we do this, is a key indicator of how resilient we truly are.

Karyn Wills - Literacy Support and Lower School SENCO

SCHOOL NOTICES

Staffing Pānui

As a result of the Vaccination Mandate, we had a number of Taikura staff who have not returned this year.

Lesley Cox had worked at the school for 20 years, first as our sports coordinator before moving into our High School where she held the position of Careers and administration. During her time at Taikura Lesley demonstrated absolute commitment to our students, supporting them in their vocational journeys and growing a robust careers department which provided a range of opportunities tailored to the needs of both individuals and groups of students.

Brendan Hamilton- Gibbs wore many hats during the eighteen years he worked at our school. He began his time at Taikura as our Physical Education teacher before becoming a class teacher. Over the eighteen years he was also been heavily involved in supporting sporting activities, not just in working alongside our sports coordinating, overseeing the options and nominating and handing out prizes at our High School prize giving but also leading by example in coaching and mentoring students across a range of sporting disciplines. In recent years, alongside his class teacher role he was also the bus controller and LS KAMAR Manager.

As well as being a past student of Taikura, Erica Jeffs was a Kindergarten teacher for nine years at Taikura Kindergarten. She has been a reassuring and calming presence in the Taikura Kindergarten, supporting our young children and their whānau who are just starting out on their journey with Steiner education.

At Taikura we are blessed with beautiful gardens and Jenny Speedy was responsible for looking after these for the past eight years. Jenny brought a great deal of biodynamic experience and knowledge to her role at Taikura and she willingly shared this with both staff and students. Our younger students were given the wonderful experience of working alongside Jenny in our gardens and with biodynamic preparations and for high school students and staff Jenny regularly shared beautiful pictures of the changing nature of the natural world as part of our seasonal festival celebrations.

Another past student who was an integral part of our staff at Taikura was Te Kaahurangi Maioha who for the last seven years was a teacher aide and significant kaupapa Māori support. Te Kaahurangi was a part of the instrumental group responsible for the development and initial implementation of our He Reo Ora strategy. Melody Appleton Ferguson worked at Taikura Kindergarten for three years, first as a relief teacher and then as a permanent Kindergarten teacher. Melody was a positive addition to the Taikura Kindergarten staff with an openness to developing her relationships and experience.

We also farewelled a number of our teacher aides, all of whom had worked in various classrooms across our school over the last two or three years, supporting individuals and groups of students by enabling them to access the curriculum and the daily school experiences: Tai-Maree Rees, Angela Binns, Zodi Woods and Sonja Lethbridge. Willow Sharp was also a teacher aide over the last couple of years and alongside her work in our school classrooms she was also a Kindergarten assistant and a greatly appreciated library volunteer.

All of these staff have shown incredible commitment to Taikura, some over many years and across a range of roles. All are either current or past parents who alongside their professional responsibilities have also been involved in all aspects of our community and their loss has been felt by colleagues, students and our parent community.

At the end of last year, we also received and acknowledged the following resignations:

- o Judith Grellman, our High School biology and science teacher
- o Anna Follett, our High School geography and history teacher and Class 12 Sponsor
- o Sanne Coulthard, our Physical Education/Gym teacher – this was due to Sanne being appointed as our High School SENCO, starting in 2022.
- o HS Lab Technician – Tanya Francis

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SCHOOL NOTICES

We have been incredibly fortunate to be able to fill all of the positions which we advertised between the end of last year and the beginning of this year and our new staff have brought with them a positivity and freshness which is invigorating for all:

- o HS Biology and Science – Patricia Chalmers
- o HS Geography and History – Ruby Mackwell
- o Physical Education/Gym – Ben Throp
- o Class 7 Teacher for 2022 – Tanja Maioha
- o High School Handwork – Elspeth Ross - covering refreshment leave for 2022
- o Class 1 Teacher for 2022 – Thomas McArdle – internal transfer
- o Kindergarten teacher – Taikura – April Woodhead
- o HS Careers Administrator – Paula Rose
- o HS Lab Technician – Wilma van Cruysen
- o Gardener – Bride Lang

Some of these new staff have already been introduced to our community in our Grapevine so far this year and we will continue to do this over the coming weeks.

Pippa Caccioppoli
Principal

Sanne Coulthard - High School Senco

Sanne Coultard has been our school gym and Bothmer teacher for the past twelve years. She was looking for a new adventure and has become our new High School SENCO. Sanne is looking forward to supporting the students in a more targeted way and the challenges of learning a new role. She works closely with Karyn, our lower school SENCO, the High School teachers and lots of outside agencies.



Karyn Wills - Lower School Senco

Tanja Maioha - Class 7 Teacher

Tanja's earliest memory of Taikura was her first day at school (then it was still called Queenswood), she arrived in Class 2 after moving here from Auckland, her place of birth. Tanja refers to her Class Two teacher, Brian Butler, as a veritable giant of a man with a commanding presence and an ocular twinkle.

Her memories of those early years at Taikura are many and varied and mostly full of joy with a love for the school and her teachers. Tanja's favourite Main Lesson was (and possibly still is) "The King of Ireland's Son." Running rampant through the old boarding house at night, looking for the legendary 'Lavender Lady,' also holds a special place in her heart.



Both Tanja's parents were teachers and she supposes that she was drawn towards teaching by being around them as they prepared for their classes. Sometimes Tanja would attend her mother's classes when a babysitter was unavailable prior to her being of school age. When her father taught here at Taikura he lived in the big, old villa on the school property where the library, handwork, and music rooms are now. She would often watch him do meticulous blackboard drawings and prepare songs and his main lessons.

Tanja is looking forward to guiding Class 7 through their main lessons creatively and enjoying Main Lesson's such as Astronomy, Explorers, The Renaissance, Wish, Wonder, and Surprise to name a few.

Tanja experiences her return to Taikura as a healing process, for she considers in many ways Taikura as her *turangawaewae*. She adds: "As many people who have worked here, it's a bit like 'Hotel California' in that; *you can come here "but never [really] leave."*

Darryn Breakwell Class 3 Teacher

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Eurythmy For Adults

Thursday 3 March 2022 two courses of eurythmy will commence.

All are welcome no matter how much exposure or experience you've had with the art of eurythmy. This is an opportunity to explore movement in a way that refreshes and gives vitality.



Thursday 3 March at 9:00-10:00 am
and

Thursday 3 March at 7:00- 8:00 pm

Steiner Centre corner Nelson Street and Whitehead Road

Each course will run for seven weeks. Please contact Sue Simpson sue.simpson0@gmail.com

Looking For A Home To Rent

Hello community friends!

We're a local family of four (2 adults, 2 children, no pets) looking for a home to rent for twelve months or possibly longer. Would love to hear from you... Call Sharon on 021 1729904

Individual Art Therapy For Adults, Teenagers And Children

Accessing your creativity, art therapy is an effective way to address and overcome grief, depression, anxiety, life crises and trauma and to discover a new relationship to one's biography. No previous experience in or aptitude for art necessary. For more information contact: Eva Steinmetz-Urieli AThR, Registered Art Therapist and ACC registered for adults :<evaurieli@gmail.com> mob 021 0277 1201

After School Art Classes For Children

Thursdays 3:00 pm - 4:10 pm, starting term one 2022. A small after school art class to explore new art techniques, look at interesting images and listen to a story. \$19.00 per session, commitment for a term. At the Steiner Centre 500 Nelson Street North, Hastings. Contact Eva Steinmetz-Urieli <evaurieli@gmail.com> text 02102771201

Biography Work / Life Story Course

Review your own journey in life from an anthroposophical perspective. Explore the seven year phases and soul development. Guided by Jocelyn Freeman, long-time anthroposophic nurse, biography consultant (trained under Karl-Heinz Finke) and grandmother of twelve.

Friday 18 February – Friday 1 April: Friday mornings 9:00 am-12 midday, in the art room at the Steiner Centre (across from Taikura). Attend as a one-off morning course or come to all seven sessions.

\$35.00 per session (negotiable), includes art materials and refreshments. Bring your own journal if you prefer.

Contact Joce: 021 1734 152, jociefree@gmail.com

School Canteen

We are looking for a canteen operator. If you are interested in leasing our space and providing nutritious kai to our students, plus at times some additional catering for staff, please contact suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz