



Creating A Meaningful Easter



For whānau with a strong Christian orientation Easter will already have a significant place in your family's wheel of the year. For many Easter has become a secular celebration often seen as an opportunity to get away for a few days - a break from work. Despite our individual perspectives on life or spiritual orientation in the world - Easter provides a lovely opportunity to build a meaningful celebration around the universal values it contains.

The original significance of the Easter story and many of the Easter symbols has been lost in the commercialization of Easter. Easter in the broadest, most universal sense, is the celebration of new life, of resurrection, of the archetypal loving deed done on behalf of others. It is about seeking for the best part of ourselves, our spirit. For children under the age of Class 6 ideally it is about the joy of Easter Sunday, of the risen Christ in the Easter event, not the darkness of the

crucifixion of Easter Friday; for sensitive young children can understand simple death, and burial, but not the torment and agony of the crucifixion picture on Good Friday.

The date of each Easter is set at the first Sunday after the first full moon, after the Autumn equinox, a powerful time for the forces of growth in the earth in the northern hemisphere. Many of the symbols of Easter – in the egg, the chicken and the hare, (which has transformed into the rabbit)— are ancient symbols of spring, of the coming of new life after the hard winter. These are northern hemisphere traditions.

In the southern hemisphere, it is of course autumn at Easter, a very different time when the hens may even stop laying eggs! Nevertheless we can also observe a renewal of life in nature. For with the first autumn rains, the earth really sings, the plants and the insect world come alive again. The plants and the microbial activity in the soil, which have withdrawn from the scorching heat of summer, open up, to grow in the gentler autumn sun again before the cold of winter takes hold; the grasses begin to shoot; winter vegetables are planted, along with the bulbs and seedlings which will flower later in the spring.

Much can be done to make a meaningful beautiful Easter within the sacred religious traditions of course. But we can also bring more meaning to what has become secular, the eggs, the chicks, rabbits, Easter hunt and hot cross buns. Completing your own research about the symbols and traditions will help determine if the symbol or activity feels right for your whānau. Working with the concepts of new life, service to others, and the seeking in the Easter egg hunt. Whatever traditions and activities we seek to embed into our family life - will work if we have a relationship to it and it resonates for us the parent who will be carrying the experience for the children.

Traditions like finding a hill to watch the sun go down on Easter Friday in a quiet contemplative mood, and coming up on Easter Sunday, with the experience of the renewal of life in all the joy of increasing light and life and bird song, can provide special moments in the festival. I know many families in our community who go to a local beach and watch the sun rise on Easter Sunday, thermos and warm Easter bread in hand.

Planting something for the future, into the earth on Easter Friday can be a wonderful thing to do with children— bulbs for later flowering, trees for the good of the earth, flowering plants for the native birds to feed in. Such activities can bring a continuity of awareness from Easter to Easter as the children watch their gifts to the earth grow. In such activities children can experience the joy of the traditional Easter event, of renewal, of unconditional love, of the re-enlivening of the earth and humanity. Easter can be a festival of life and hope in a world which can be depressing at times as we listen daily to stories of violence, poverty, war and environmental degradation.

In many homes the excitement and delight in the seeking of eggs in the garden on Sunday morning is legendary. The bounty gathered placed on the breakfast table for sharing, eating and hanging on the previously bare Easter Tree. If having an Easter egg hunt, it is good if we can encourage the motivation to be as much in the seeking, like the enthusiasm for the living of life, seeking for meaning, for inner riches — rather than just in the munching and eating of chocolate. A collection basket, where all the found eggs are placed for sharing out more equally later, makes it less competitive and also encourages a gesture of giving and sharing.

The possibilities are endless for you to create your own Easter festival, into which you can bring your values, love and appreciation — making it meaningful and relevant for your own family. Ideally here we make our primary motivation to bring meaning and human values to what we do, not just adding more ‘decorations’ or ‘activities’ to our festival.

Easter, depending on which or all of its aspects of the Eaters festival and its associated elements are celebrated, covers some weeks. In some cultures and countries the season of Easter can last over seven plus weeks. From the start of lent, or holy week until ascension, and finally Pentecost.

The Festival Committee

The Easter Tree - Symbolism And Traditions:

Good Friday - the Easter tree is bare and stark - empty, the crucifixion picture.



Easter Sunday - the tree has eggs, symbols of new life and of resurrection and transformation.



Some families add an egg daily for 40 days - the time Christ stayed on earth after the resurrection.

On Ascension Christ leaves the earth and returns to the heavens. The eggs are removed from the tree. Some families leave the tree bare in their home always, other traditions remove the tree until the next year.

In New Zealand if you use bare willow branches - these for the Southern hemisphere, create a wonderful picture of what is happening under our feet. The industrious work of the elementals, the in-breath of the earth, as she gathers her energies for the new year..

The young child observes this in the growing roots of the willow branch over the 40 days of Easter. Nothing needs to be said - simply the growing roots in the vase on the dining room table may tell the story.



Whitsun - The Holy Spirit returns to earth.

The bare branch from Easter can be used to hang your child's Whitsun Doves on.





He pito kōrero!

Te maimai aroha o mātou ki ngā pou o te ao Māori. Over the last few weeks there has been a great loss around the motu of those Tōtara, who helped pave the way for the future generations of people in Aotearoa. Here in Te matau-a-Māui, the tangihanga of Tākuta (Dr) Te Moana Nui a Kiwa Jackson was held at Matahiwi marae, where whānau within our community attended to pay their respects. The following is a kōrero shared by Whaea Jaci and Whaea Kura.

***Aue, taukiri e! Kua hinga e rua ngā Tōtara nui i te Wao-nui-a-Tāne.
Two Mighty Tōtara have fallen in the great forest of Tāne!***

Dame Temurunga June Batley–Jackson, and Tākuta Te Moana Nui a Kiwa Jackson both staunch advocates who worked selflessly for a fair and just Aotearoa have left us to return to their ancestors in the Spirit world. Haere, haere, haere atu rā kōrua. Hoki atu ki ōu tūpuna kua whetūrangitia.

A man who delivers such absolute strength, passion and determination with such a calm, warm, presence is indeed an incredible human. He Rangatira, he Ariki ia. The kupu, the words, we heard at Tākuta Moana Jackson's tangi were imbued with grief, incredible love, gratitude, laughter, resounding passion and determined strength. History was made as wāhine who stood beside Tā Moana during his life time also stood with tāne on the Marae-ātea at Matahiwi marae, to kōrero, to mihi, to challenge, to waiata, to recite poetry, to honour this beloved and revered Rangatira. An absolute leader.

Of Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou and Rongomaiwahine descent, Tā Moana Jackson completely and totally dedicated his life's work to his people, to the honouring of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, to Aotearoa being a fair, just place for his mokopuna, for Te Iwi Maori, and therefore, for us all. This was deeply felt by all who were present to farewell Tākuta Moana Jackson under the blue skies at Matahiwi marae this weekend.

I left the marae with a sense of clarity, that Moana Jackson's life work continues. He has planted seeds into the hearts and minds of many of us. He has left behind a huge chasm, and therefore a challenge for us all. To take stock, to look around with eyes wide open and to decide, what will each and every one of us do to contribute to a fair and just Aotearoa! Tākuta Te Moana Nui a Kiwa Jackson...moe mai, moe mai, moe mai rā e te Rangatira.

Nā, Whaea Jaci

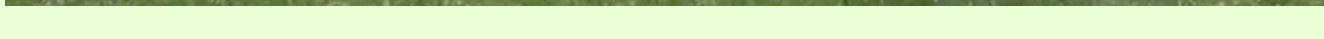
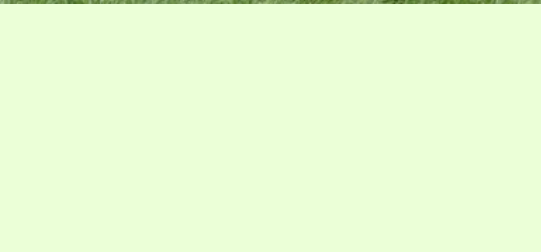
It was a privilege to sit under the trees at Matahiwi on a beautiful Hawke's Bay day for the tangi of prominent Māori lawyer and advocate Moana Jackson; to feel the warmth and manaaki of Matahiwi, and to hear the kōrero and karakia of so many of our country's iwi leaders, thought leaders, activists and Moana's whānau and friends; the kōrero reflecting the depth and reach of his work and reminding us that while his education was in law, his influence crossed so many spheres.

Dr Moana Jackson spoke on a panel with Dr Mason Durie and Dr Rose Pere at a nursing hui I went to when I was 20. He spoke so gently, almost lyrically, about huge kaupapa, and with the grace of a poet, his kōrero went straight to the heart, painting a hopeful picture of ways each one of us could contribute to a fairer, kinder health system. More recently, I have witnessed his huge influence in the library sphere around freedom of expression in Aotearoa New Zealand. Tā Moana offered up a picture of human rights that centred manaakitanga, the collective responsibilities that live alongside individual rights, and a reminder that we should never forget the power of words to uplift, but also to diminish and to cause pain and damage.

All the stories at his tangi reminded us all that he was someone who unwaveringly used the power of words to uplift and to inspire change. Our world is all the better for his example, and all of us will continue to benefit from his words and his visionary, tireless mahi across so many domains of our society for many, many years to come. He will be deeply missed.

Nā, Whaea Kura

Autumn Festival Highlights





Taikura Canteen Reopens

The school canteen will open its roller shutter again and we would like to treat your children, staff and the school community to yummy food. We are Silke, Mathias, Mika (Class 9), Lewis (Class 7), Justus (Class 5) and Johanna (Class 2). We came to New Zealand two years ago from Germany, where our Steiner journey began in 2007 when Mika started Kindergarten. Ever since Mika started school we wished for a school canteen with tasty but healthy organic food to support children in their growth and learning journey. In our opinion it is really important for kids to have morning teas and lunches that enable them to concentrate and learn.

When we heard about the Taikura School canteen being vacant we decided to throw it all in and make a sustainable school canteen with yummy organic food a reality. We believe that it is possible to serve high quality organic products at an affordable price.

Right now we are in the process of setting up the canteen and are looking into low cost sourcing of high quality ingredients and sustainable kitchen equipment so that we will be ready for a first **“test-run”** on the last day of this term - **Thursday, April 14 2022**.

To make it more cost efficient and sustainable we have decided to use “boomerang” bowls, cups and spoons and would like to ask you to have a look into the back of your kitchen cupboard, if there might be some long abandoned bowls or cups you could spare and donate. Every child that brings one (or more) **bowl(s) and spoon(s) to donate** next week will get it filled with some yummy Easter Porridge for **Morning Tea for free**.

Our next step will be to open the canteen **three days a week** in **Term 2**. To make it easier for everybody and to avoid long waiting in line we will offer a **pre-order/pre-pay system**. We have set up a website (www.sproutling.nz) and an Instagram account (@[sproutling.taikura](https://www.instagram.com/sproutling.taikura)) to share details with you during term break.

We are very much looking forward to bringing the canteen to life again. We understand it was beautifully run for many years and we hope for your understanding - it might be a little different and we will probably need some time to run smoothly. We are looking forward to meeting and getting to know all the children at our “window” - thank you in advance for your trust and support. Please be curious and find out what will be on our “test-run” menu next week (we’ll post it online on Monday)

Silke and Mathias Moenchmeier



Curriculum Corner

In handwork this term, Class Three have been working enthusiastically and with great care and love on their pencil cases.

This involves lots of colour matching, thread pulling, and some very precise parallel stitching. Before the cases are completed the children will incorporate the skills of chain stitch and crochet. It is a long term project that culminates in a highly treasured and unique item.



Planning For The Future

The Strategic Planning Process For Taikura

One of the main responsibilities of the School Board is setting long term goals for Taikura school and kindergartens through a Strategic Plan. The current Strategic Plan was drafted in 2017 through extensive engagement with the school community, including staff and the Proprietors Trust, and continues to guide the school and its community on priority areas of work. It can be found here:

<https://taikura.school.nz/about-us/> or at the school office.

The plan covers a five-year period, which is due to expire this year. The School Board is starting the process to review the current plan and develop a new one, which under current requirements will only be for three years.

In the coming months the School Board will communicate its progress as it works through reviewing the current plan, and will provide opportunities for the community to engage with the process of developing a new one.

You may remember towards the end of last year a survey was sent out regarding creating a 'Success and Excellence' statement for Taikura, which was an action under the current Strategic Plan. Thank you for all the feedback we received from the community, staff and governance. From this a statement was drafted. The draft still needs to be confirmed by school governance and re-drafted in Te Reo.

Draft Success and Excellence statement

Success for students at Taikura is a confident, kind, curious, well rounded, resilient learner who is able to have agency over their unique pathway, and is able to serve self and community

Excellence for students at Taikura is confident learners who show empathy, respect for self and others, have ability and perseverance as they grow and develop.

When Success and Excellence are combined, we are working towards our vision:

That every student progresses towards becoming a free, responsible and caring individual able to impart purpose and direction in their life, and contribute in manifold as well as unique ways to society.

Melissa Brignall-Theyer and Aimee Hawke on behalf of the School Board and Proprietors Trusts

School App

If you have not already done so, please download our **School App** into your smart phone. You will find school contacts, newsletters, a link to our website, term dates, absentee notifications and our calendar which is filled with upcoming events, meetings, camps and trips. Subscribe to class alert groups and you will receive notifications such as class camp school arrival times and meeting reminders straight to your phone. So much useful information!

1. Go to the **App Store** or **Google Play Store** on your mobile device
2. Search **SchoolAppsNZ**
3. Download the **App**
4. Open the **App**
5. When it asks to send notifications – click allow.
6. When it asks to search your **School** – type your **School Name** in the search bar
7. Lastly, subscribe to the Alert Groups you would like to receive alerts for.



Parents Wanted

Parents are invited to participate in a survey for Records of Learning, Ministry of Education Scoping - For each parent who participates in the zoom presentation and survey a \$40.00 Cornucopia gift voucher is received.

Taikura is participating in the Ministry of Education scoping exercise. Records of Learning.

The scoping exercise is being run by a private provider AATEA Solutions Limited

It is the intention of the MOE for there to be a standardised record of learning attached to each student in Aotearoa. This record of learning is co-constructed between kura, student and whānau. It records the student learning journey from Year 1 to Year 13. This project is in the inception phase. We have been asked to participate because we are an Area school and have a special character.

Parent input is a zoom presentation while simultaneously being guided through a survey monkey.

Zoom presentation times are

- **Monday 11 April at 7:30 pm**
- **Tuesday 12 April at 10:00 am**

Please email kelly.sutton@taikura.school.nz to to be registered. Please state which zoom presentation you would like to do. Please register interest before Monday morning 9:00 am.

Zoom links will be sent out on the day.

Introducing Our School Cat - Clary

Clary is at times the perfect companion for a child who requires a quiet friend or a companion as they take some much needed space from the milieu of school life.

Clary enjoys his tucker and at times our supplies become low. If anyone would like to donate some cat food we would be very grateful. Please deliver to the school office and pop in the basket labeled - Kai for Clary.



Community Notices

Finding A Way Through Omicron

Angela Hair has been working as a natural health practitioner, specialising in homeopathy, at the Steiner Centre since October 2020. During this time she has made a homeopathic remedy called Spoke 12/4 that over 650 families around New Zealand have taken daily or weekly to assist recovery from adverse reactions from Pfizer vaccine. The remedy is well tolerated and has been helpful. Angela is now researching whether Spoke 12/4 will support prevention and assist recovery in people who are exposed to Omicron. If you would like to take part in this important research, please contact Angela Hair 0274436737 angela@concordia.co.nz