



## Attendance Pānui

We are now three weeks into our new school year, and we are all finding our new daily and weekly rhythm. During the first few weeks of the term a significant focus has been on attendance, reminding staff and students of not only our, but the Ministry of Education's requirements around recording daily attendance.

Our expectation is that students attend 90% of each term which means students do not miss more than one day of school every fortnight. At the end of last year only 49% of our students were meeting attendance for optimum learning outcomes. If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of school by the age of 16.

The government has set a target of 80% of students attending school more than 90% of the term by 2030. To achieve this, schools need to aspire to reach an average daily attendance rate above 94%.

Students with inconsistent attendance may find it challenging to settle into classroom learning and are missing out on experiences offered as part of our Steiner Waldorf curriculum. Our curriculum is unique in that it is not only skills based but the content is progressional as it works to meet the soul needs of each student at each age. Our staff put a great deal of effort into the planning, and it is significant when there are multiple absences throughout the course of a Main Lesson.

Last year we shared that we were aware that in our kura there is a culture of rest days and home days and that there had been discussion at a governance level on this in relation to our Special Character. The outcome was that there was no Special Character rationale for home days or rest days.

In partnership with Taikura, as a parent, guardian, caregiver, you play a key role in building a healthy rhythm of regular attendance for your child. Part of this partnership is that parents must let the school know if their child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or medical procedure. At the start of this year the Ministry of Education have updated their attendance guidelines providing further explanation around what they consider a justified or unjustified absence:

A student is present if they;

- are physically present in class,
- are physically present in alternative provision,
  - are engaged in onsite exams or study,
  - are temporarily out of class either at school,
- or are engaged in Board approved learning offsite.

A student is unjustifiably absent if;

- the reason for the absence is not yet known,
- they are absent without parent/caregiver permission,
  - they are taking a holiday during term time,
- their absence is explained but not approved by the Principal.

A student is justifiably absent if they;

- are ill/unwell,
- or at a medical/dental appointment,
- or the school principal has approved their absence.

Patterns of lateness are emerging again after a good start to the year. For students to make the most of their learning opportunities it is essential for them to be at school in good time. The morning routine sets the tone for the student's school day. At the start of each day a picture of what to expect is given to the class. This initial gathering in the morning creates an opportunity for students to anticipate their learning and helps them to prepare for the day.

This preparation time is important for your child and when missed, or even partially missed, it can prove unsettling, and may cause anxiety for students.

Moving forward into 2025 we would like to see an improvement in punctuality. If there are any issues which the school is not aware of that contribute to a pattern of lateness, please let us know.

We greatly appreciate all of our families who openly communicate with us when there are challenges around their children attending regularly. Our class teachers and sponsors are always open to supporting parents and students with attendance where helpful.

At the heart of our Special Character is a commitment to honour the process of a child unfolding at their own pace. Each year is time rich for the student, they are given the time they need to arrive at and achieve each milestone. Each year group of students is on the same path, travelling towards a shared and individual destination and being present at school is a significant ingredient to making this possible.

*Pippa Caccioppoli*

*Tumuaki/Principal*

## Upcoming Events

**Class 2 parent hui - TONIGHT at 6:30pm**

**Classes 10, 11 & 12 parent hui - Monday 24 February at 6:00pm**

**Class 5 parent hui - Wednesday 26 February at 6:00pm**

**Class 1 parent hui - Wednesday 26 February at 6:00pm**

**Class 6 parent hui - Thursday 6 March at 6:00pm**

**Kōwhai Room parent afternoon - Monday 10 March at 2:00pm**

**High School hockey trials - Monday 10 March at 3:30pm**

**School Tour - Monday 10 March at 3:30pm**

**High School Athletics Day - Tuesday 11 March**

**Pounamu Room parent afternoon - Tuesday 11 March at 2:00pm**

**Taikura Kindergarten parent hui - Wednesday 12 March at 6:00pm**

**Autumn Festival - Thursday 20 March - details to follow**



## **He Pito Kōrero**

### **Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga!**

E te tī, e te tā, ka ruiuia mai ngā maunga huri noa i te motu, kua tae te tini me te mano mō Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga!

Te Matatini is nearly upon us all here in Aotearoa, and worldwide! When Te Matatini was held here in Te matau-a-Māui, 2017, I took our Class 10 to watch a morning of performances of groups competing at the time. This was a very different experience for our ākonga, however it gave them a huge insight and appreciation of what it takes to be a member of a top kapa haka competing at this level!

There is an official 'Te Matatini' App that can be downloaded that gives you in-depth information about the teams, awards, and judges. It's well worth using to get your haka on to support this event! Below is a brief kōrero about Te Matatini this year.

From Tuesday 25 February to Saturday 1 March 2025, 55 groups will perform on stage at Pukekura/Bowl of Brooklands in New Plymouth to an audience of approximately 70,000, and an expected 2.5 million viewers on TV or online.

The Te Matatini biennial Festival is the largest celebration of traditional Māori performing arts excellence in the world. It encapsulates the power and beauty of kapa haka at the most elite level as groups from Aotearoa and Ahitereiria compete for the coveted title of National Champion.

The competition began in 1972, originally as the New Zealand Polynesian Festival involving 17 groups performing in front of 5,000 spectators.

We strive to enable all audiences from kohanga to kaumatua to have authentic kapa haka experiences as it contributes positively to the overall health and social wellbeing of whānau, as well as playing a key role in revitalising te reo Māori <https://www.tematatini.co.nz/the-festival/te-matatini-o-te-kahui-maunga>

#### **Kīwaha o te wiki**

Karawhiua! (Car dah few ah)

Give it everything! Sock it to them! Go for it! Give it heaps!

Ahikā: Kare, are you ready for your performance?  
Miriamā: Sort of, I just have to breathe when I'm on stage.  
Ahikā: Āe rā e hoa, karawhiua!

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



#### **Waiata Mai** Every Thursday 12:25 - 12:55pm!

Ngā mihi hīkaka ki a koutou ngā manu tioriori o Taikura!  
Every Thursday in our whare, Te Manukura, you can learn some of the many waiata that your tamariki sing at kura! Nau mai, haere mai te katoa...all are welcome!

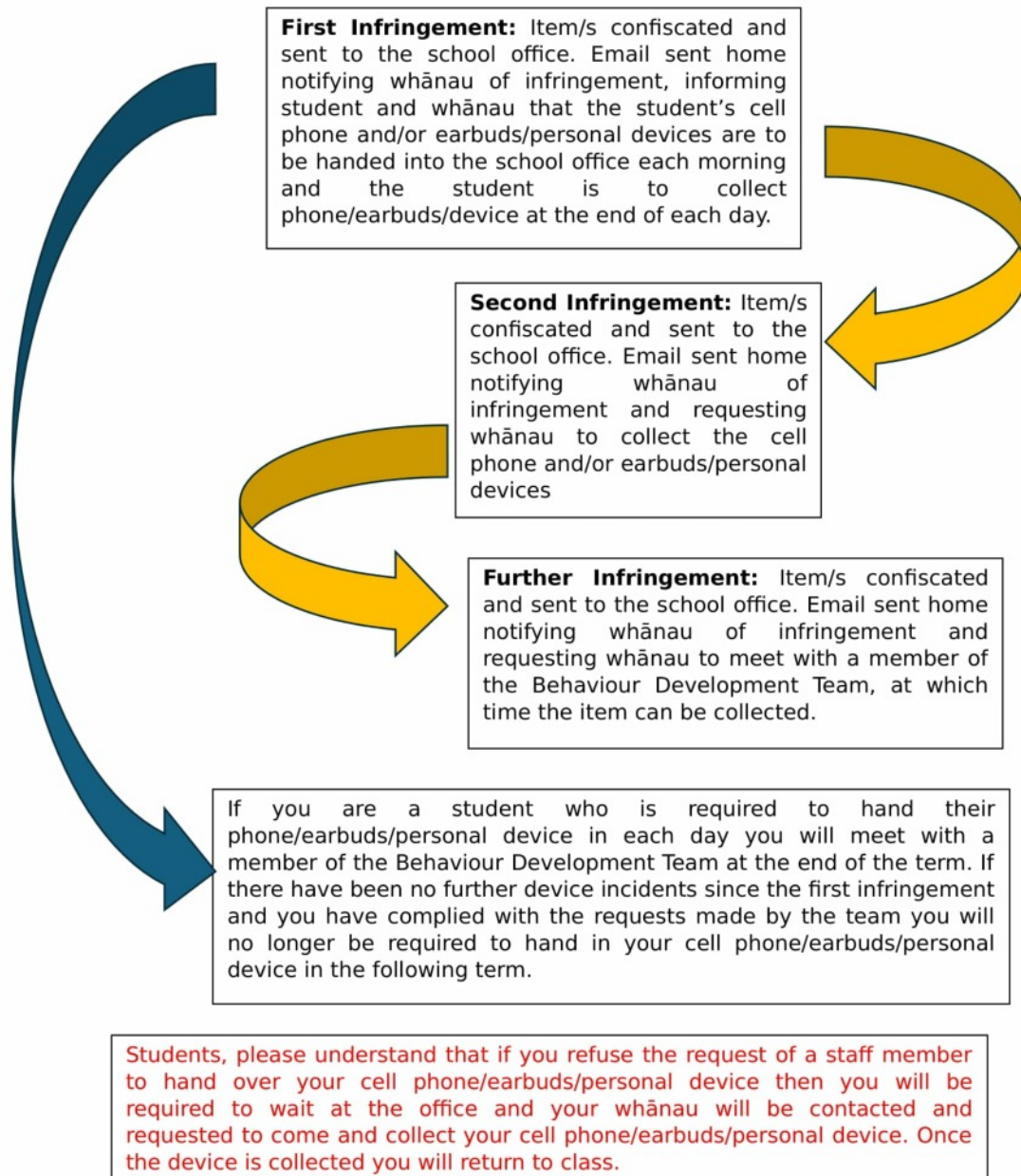
Ngā mihi ki a koutou ngā kōpara e kō!  
Nā Troy Gardiner

## Updated Cell-Phone Procedure

Here at Taikura we have always worked hard to combat the more negative influences of technology on the social landscape of our students. Long before the government implemented its no-cell phones at school rule we were working to mitigate the effects of cell-phones on student learning. To ensure we are meeting the mandate of no cell phones at school, and to avoid more costly solutions of student lock pouches for phones, it is imperative our students respect our rule of no cell-phones out, or seen, on school grounds. Pre law change when students were observed to have their phones out, we gave students 2 chances per term before there was a consequence. At the end of 2024 our response and process to the use of cell-phones while at school was reviewed, and updated over the holiday period. Please see below for the updated process. Students have been made aware of all changes and students in classes 6 to 12 will be given a copy of the below chart.

### Cell Phones, Earbuds & Personal Devices are not to be used at school under any circumstances

#### Flow Chart for Students - *within the space of a Term*



## 2025 School Staffing - useful contacts

Leon Crellin is our bus controller: [bus@taikura.school.nz](mailto:bus@taikura.school.nz) or [leon.crellin@taikura.school.nz](mailto:leon.crellin@taikura.school.nz)

Janet Osborne is our sports coordinator: [sports@taikura.school.nz](mailto:sports@taikura.school.nz)

Thomas Pearson organises musical instrument hire and music lessons: [thomas.pearson@taikura.school.nz](mailto:thomas.pearson@taikura.school.nz)

Jaci Chambers is our Listening Programme coordinator: [jaci.chambers@taikura.school.nz](mailto:jaci.chambers@taikura.school.nz)

Nicole Scheidegger is our Extra Lesson practitioner: [nicole.scheidegger@taikura.school.nz](mailto:nicole.scheidegger@taikura.school.nz)

Maxine Andersen is our guidance counsellor: [maxine.andersen@taikura.school.nz](mailto:maxine.andersen@taikura.school.nz)

Paula Rose is our careers advisor: [careers@taikura.school.nz](mailto:careers@taikura.school.nz)

Selena Crouch is our business manager: [selena.crouch@taikura.scool.nz](mailto:selena.crouch@taikura.scool.nz)

Karen Hamilton is our finance assistant: [accounts@taikura.school.nz](mailto:accounts@taikura.school.nz)

Liam Wyley is our property manager: [property@taikura.school.nz](mailto:property@taikura.school.nz)

For school photo information, Grapevine enquiries, police vetting and all other queries: [office@taikura.school.nz](mailto:office@taikura.school.nz)

### Swimming Lessons

To assist whānau in planning for extra curricular swimming lessons for students it may be helpful to know that swimming lessons for Classes 2 to 7 will be had in Term 4 of this year. Parents will receive information closer to the time, typically the students will receive 8 lessons over 8 weeks. Students are transported to and from the Mitre 10 Sports Park by bus with their class teacher, and support staff.

*Kelly Sutton*

### EOTC Survey

Currently, camps are paid for by parents on an as needed basis through individual payments often subsidised by the class fundraising activities and a class bank account. The camp fee is paid to the School Board who in turn pay for the food, accommodation and activities. Camps start in Class 3 and fees are minimal but as the children move through the school, the overall costs increase. The amount will vary depending on where camps are and the providers that are required.

The average camp fee per child ranges between \$30 and \$1,200 over the years from class 3 to class 12.

To reduce the fundraising and financial management pressures on parents, an option being considered is to have the class camp costs paid as an EOTC donation to the Proprietors at the start of the year alongside the annual special character donation. This would reduce the need for parent groups to fundraise and manage class bank accounts as the children progress through the school.

Moving from the current practice to an EOTC donation could be achieved in a few different ways, but it would require commitment from all parents. Given the information provided, we would like to survey families: [URL: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KBPHMYR](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KBPHMYR) around their thoughts on changing the current camp fee structure to an EOTC donation.

Thank you to those who have already completed the survey, we encourage all to have a say so will continue gathering feedback for another two weeks.

*Sue Simpson*

## School Photos

Parents have been emailed their child's unique Key Code to go online to view and purchase recently taken 2025 School Photos. Please keep an eye on your spam/trash folders for the email from Photolife. Please get in touch with us at [office@taikura.school.nz](mailto:office@taikura.school.nz) if you need assistance. Please note that free delivery expires at midnight on Sunday 2 March.

## Medical Updates

If there are changes to your child's medical situation, please complete a Medical Safety Action Plan via the school office and return it to [karyn.wills@taikura.school.nz](mailto:karyn.wills@taikura.school.nz) for Lower School students, or to [sanne.coulthard@taikura.school.nz](mailto:sanne.coulthard@taikura.school.nz) for High School students. If staff need to administer medication to your child or young person, please also complete the medical authority form. If there are no changes to your child's medical situation, and you have already filled in these forms, no action is required.

Ngā mihi, nā,

Karyn Wills & Sanne Coulthard, Taikura SENCos (Special Education Needs Coordinators)

## Road Safety

Thank you to our new Class 6 as they take up the service role of being our traffic wardens for the year. Thank you to Mr Crellin too, who manages and supports this mahi.

The start of the year is a busy time for the new Road Wardens as they settle into the routine and become accustomed to the added responsibility.

The school crossing and our road patrols are there to support students' safe entry and exit from school.

Unfortunately there are a small number of parents who aren't supporting the mahi of our road patrollers and crossing where it suits and not using the crossing. Please set a safe example for our students and cross on the crossing.

## Kolisko Conference Billeting

There will be visitors from across the motu and overseas attending the Kolisko conference which is taking place at Taikura in April. If you are able to billet/host conference attendees at your home, please contact Suzan Bart [suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz](mailto:suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz)

## Music at Taikura

We have tuition available on-site for guitar, ukulele, bass, banjo, piano, flute, violin and cello. Lessons are available from class 3 to class 12. They are a wonderful opportunity to impart resilience, perseverance, and creativity. It is strongly preferred that these lessons occur outside of main lessons and need to be arranged in close consultation with teachers whose lessons are affected. Lessons are available throughout the year, however, spaces are limited.

Taikura Lower School Orchestra and High School Orchestra

The music department is keen to have students in class 4-7 and 8-12 join our Lower School and High School Orchestras. The lower school orchestra meet on Wednesdays during the day and High school orchestra on Monday mornings. We are looking forward to our Carol evening in December and have spaces for new members.

If your child is interested in joining the orchestra or to undertake music lessons, please do get in contact with me via my email: [thomas.pearson@taikura.school.nz](mailto:thomas.pearson@taikura.school.nz)



## Community Canteen Update

As most are aware, the community canteen was borne of a need felt by the whole Taikura community to 'do something' following the upending of lives that was Cyclone Gabrielle. For the next six school terms a significant number of parents and whānau contributed their time, efforts and finances to make this a reality. We did it!

As a community we should acknowledge the spirit of connection, selflessness and commitment to a greater vision that made this a reality. For this much credit and thanks must be made to Silke Moenchmeier! Thank you Silke and all of the whānau who have diligently supported the mahi along the way. Change now, again, offers anew, an opportunity for evolution.

It has been decided that the resource created by the community canteen (one which now has become a recurring meal feature in the minds of many of our kids!) will be the foundation and resource to offer further practical opportunities of learning for our students, all while serving delicious and nutritious meals.

Over the coming months we will see the Community Canteen transition into a student operated and ultimately student-managed canteen. Again, Silke will be supporting this transition with the management of materials and supplies along with the training of some students.

The learning opportunities this space has the potential to provide are multifaceted and many. Opportunities for maths, project organization, food preparation and service skills to name but a few abound. This space established through community led mahi is a wonderful gift for our kura.



Moving forward the vision of growing, preparing, cooking and delivery of meals from the canteen will be worked towards by a mix of staff, students and interested community. The long-term vision is that rangatahi both manage and operate the canteen themselves. But one step at a time...due to less time teaching in classrooms this year Kelly Sutton will be hands-on in the canteen guiding and shaping the process as it unfolds.

We would like to take this opportunity to ask any parents or whānau who would like to be involved in this potentially enriching experience to please contact Kelly directly [kelly.sutton@taikura.school.nz](mailto:kelly.sutton@taikura.school.nz)

The potential roles required are the following:

**Fruit preserving/processing** – one-off working times - to be arranged to work around your own schedule.

**Canteen Support** - gifting time in the canteen supporting the students. This could be as regular as once a fortnight, month or term from either 9.30am to 11.30am or 12.20pm to 1.20pm. Volunteering for this level of canteen support needs to be indicated well in advance to enable planning and scheduling.

**Supplies** - sourcing free or vastly reduced ingredients and food supplies.

Any donations are gratefully accepted and can be dropped off directly to the canteen:

- Fresh fruit / vegetables
- Cream
- Plant milk
- Rapunzel veggie salt or bouillon cubes
- Canned beans

*Clayton Hairs  
on behalf of the Community Canteen initiative*

# Community Notices

## Taruna Courses

Taruna College is delighted to be offering The Art of Morning Circle and the Supportive Therapies Workshops

Supportive Therapies Workshop commences 7 - 9 March and is ideal for nurses, therapists, caregivers and parents. The days focus on an understanding of care and strategies to help in times of anxiety and stress, and includes a range of healing plants and external treatments within an anthroposophical framework.

For more information go to Taruna's website <https://www.taruna.ac.nz/courses-and-workshops/therapies-for-care-and-recovery/>

The Art of Morning Circle commences 27 - 29 March and is ideal for teachers, teacher aides, playgroup facilitators and homeschoolers. This workshop looks at how the morning circle complements the main lesson; creating structure of the circle for rhythm and healthy breathing; exploring techniques for holding social space; creating ritual and reverence; and practical activities including: speech; music; singing; games and other activities.

For more information go to Taruna's website <https://www.taruna.ac.nz/the-art-of-morning-circle/>

## Sika's Sound Journey

Sunday 23 February from 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Koromiko Hall @Taruna College, 33 Te Mata Peak Rd, Havelock North

Details on Facebook and Tickets at [www.eventfinda.co.nz](http://www.eventfinda.co.nz)

## Grief on Various Degrees

Grief and adversity, while incredibly painful, can be catalysts for personal growth. These experiences challenge our resilience, forcing us to confront our limitations and develop coping mechanisms. They can lead to a deeper understanding of ourselves, our values, and our relationships. In the midst of darkness, there are often silver linings: newfound strengths, a renewed appreciation for life, and a deeper connection to others who share similar experiences. While the pain may never fully disappear, it can transform us into stronger, more compassionate individuals

Tune into "grief on various degrees " this chat is with Paul - who's a local counsellor at the hospice.

[https://open.spotify.com/episode/4b9I9BNJNjFSKSzf8gTqOv?si=M653mDszRRusEyuy90\\_T2g](https://open.spotify.com/episode/4b9I9BNJNjFSKSzf8gTqOv?si=M653mDszRRusEyuy90_T2g)

*Alysha Macaulay*

## Raffle Tickets

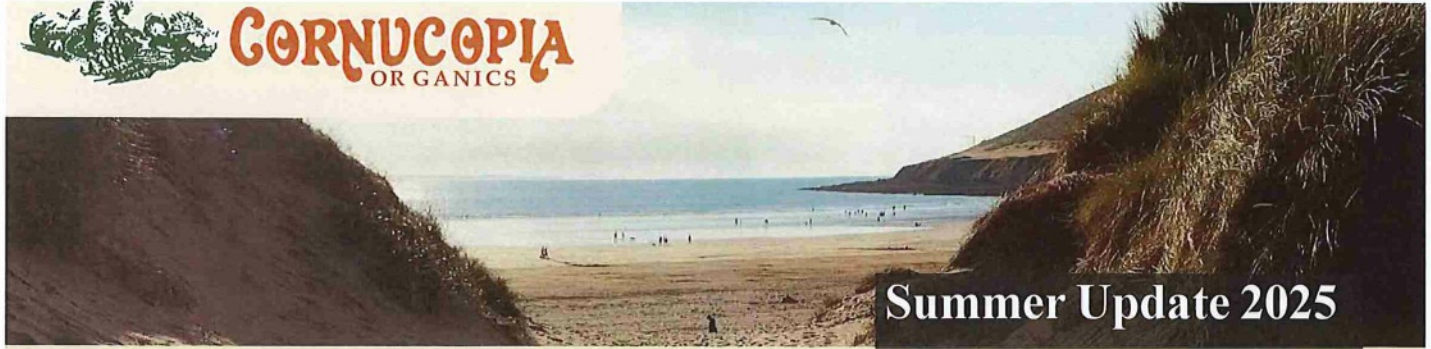
To raise funds to bring 2 Fijian Kindergarten Teachers to the Kolisko Conference. \$5 for 3 tickets, see the amazing prizes on display in the office foyer! Tickets are for sale at the Friday Market for the duration of Term One. Drawn Friday 11 April, winner takes all! Prizes donated by Weleda, Taruna, Humanity Books & Fine Art Supplies, Clayton Hairs, Wardini Books, The Yoga Space, Sonya Lethbridge, Troy Gardiner, Rochelle Hairs and more.

Contact Rochelle on 027 333 0995 for more information.





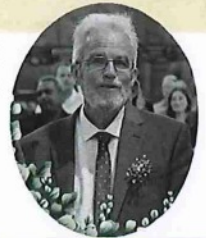
**CORNUCOPIA**  
ORGANICS



## Summer Update 2025

Welcome to our summer update. Our goal is to keep you informed about what is happening, what new products and specials are available, and provide you with health and wellbeing tips for your family. Read and subscribe to our newsletter (online and instore) for lots of great tips, recipes and hacks to help you elevate your daily lunch making routine and support your gut health in 2025.

2024 was a tough year. The death of our beloved co-founder Alan Keats has been a huge loss to our family and business. Having the privilege of knowing such a wise, humble and gentle soul, we now move into 2025 with love and gratitude. He always put others first and always made us laugh with his sharp sense of humour. He will be forever in our hearts and his legacy lives on in his children and grandchildren. His family will endeavour to make him proud by keeping the wonderful business he created alive and aligned with his core business values for Cornucopia - organic, local, sustainable and affordable.



### Sustainability spotlight for a better world in 2025

At Cornucopia, we love supporting local sustainable companies and believe in the power of small, everyday habits that build up over time to create real change. Therefore, we will be profiling some of our favorite local sustainable suppliers throughout 2025. Our goal is to highlight how small steps can make real change. During January, we have been promoting Nil, with an awesome giveaway. Leah Marshall was the lucky winner of the stylish compost bucket containing Stainless Steel pegs, Premium NZ Wool Dryer Balls and Eco laundry detergent sheets from Nil.

Nil is all about Nil harm and Nil waste, creating a better, kinder, nil harm world with sustainable products, everything from household essentials, to back to school basics, mother and baby and more. Pop in to check out their products! Let's step into 2025 making positive changes together!



### Back to School with eco-friendly lunchboxes

Build sustainable habits from a young age by introducing litter less lunchboxes to your little ones. These eliminate the need for packaging with glad wrap, plastic or foil wrappers as have layered compartments that keep food fresh.

We sell a range of lunchbox and drinkware options from Meals in Steel, Nil, Honeywrap, Ecotanka and more. These bento style lunchboxes are a great way to elevate your lunch prep for school and work as they simplify

daily life and reduce waste (plastic free). As do our beeswax food wraps, cloth sandwich food bags, cotton string bags, stainless steel straws and cutlery. So, kick start 2025 with positive, sustainable, healthy living habits that not only simplify your daily life, but also help reduce waste and protect the planet. Make every meal a conscious and impactful choice and join us on our mission of introducing small sustainable habits that make a real difference.



### Extended opening hours

Monday to Friday: .8.00am - 6.00pm

Saturday:.....8.30am - 3.30pm

Sunday:.....Closed

### Some of our New Products

- *Bullet coffee cup, assorted colours, 8oz \$36.50 and 12oz, \$39.50*
- *Alpha Domus, sparkling rose, 250 ml \$9.00 or 4-pack for \$32.00*
- *Burts Bees 100% natural lip balms, assorted flavours, \$9.95 each*



### Some of our Monthly Specials (while stocks last)

- *Milton Wine Special, 15% off*
- *Henna Hair treatment and colourless shampoo and conditioner, \$24.90 - \$34.90*
- *Free Antipodes gift with purchase, when you spend \$49 or more (while stocks last)*
- *Free Living Nature Charcoal Clay Mask when you spend \$49 or more*



Your One-Stop Organic Shop



# DO YOU LOVE TO SING?

# EASTER SINGING COMPETITION

Friday 18th April 2025  
9am-1pm  
Asher Hall, Napier

Open to singers under 16years old  
All Music Genres Welcome!

Entries open Jan 30th & close March 6th 2025

VISIT [JuniorVocal|NPACS](http://JuniorVocal|NPACS) ([napierpacs.org.nz](http://napierpacs.org.nz))



NAPIER PERFORMING ARTS COMPETITIONS SOCIETY INC.

## **Community Workshop:** Simplifying Family Life

Inspired by Simplicity Parenting by Kim Payne

**Discover practical ways to bring more ease  
and connection into your home.**

Join us for an insightful session on creating a  
calmer, more intentional family life!

For more information contact:  
britaberahama@gmail.com  
No bookings required



## **Community Workshop:** Simplifying Family Life With Britt Aberahama

**Simplify to Thrive:**  
Creating Space for Calm and  
Connection

Date: Saturday 22nd February

Time: 10:00-11:00am

Location: Rudolf Steiner Centre  
500 Nelson Street

\$20.00 Koha





# The Pathway from Overwhelm to Connection



## Offered by Peace Talks

Jorinde Rapsey & Sally Prebble PhD

## Join Our Supportive, Interactive Programme Designed For Parents!

### Learn with support and guidance:

- The vital role of connection in your child's wellbeing
- Why parenting today can feel especially tough
- Effective communication techniques for more meaningful relationships
- Simple, practical steps to nurture a deeper bond with your child
- Tools to create more peace and harmony in your home



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Reconnecting People



Feeling overwhelmed by  
the daily challenges of  
parenting?

Do you find yourself acting  
in ways that don't align with  
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Looking for practical ways  
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### Visit us online:

[www.peacetalks.nz](http://www.peacetalks.nz)

Peace Talks was born from a shared love of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) and a desire to share it widely to inspire transformation in individuals, families, and communities. We envision a peaceful world where people speak truth with love, reshape systems to meet human needs, and care for each other with compassion.



Join me for an evening of deep vibrational sound - relaxing and nourishing. Fill your cup for the new moon cycle to come and sow some seeds - new moon journaling optional - all materials taken care of - just come, relaxe, let go and listen!

Sunday, 23.02.25

6.30-8.00pm

The Yoga Space

Hastings

[www.theyogaspacelhastings.com](http://www.theyogaspacelhastings.com)



\$ 20  
INVESTMENT  
(\$15 students/unwaged  
\$25 when living in  
abundance)

new moon

SOUNDBATH

