

# Taikura Rudolf Steiner School

The  
Grapevine



## Carol Evening

11 December 2025



You are warmly invited to this year's Carol Evening next Wednesday 17 December, beginning at 6:00pm. This is a special evening where we welcome our incoming Class One students for 2026 and bid farewell to our Class 12 graduates of 2025. This is a special occasion and we ask everyone to dress as such.

There is limited seating so you may wish to bring a cushion to sit on. Entry is through the main gymnasium door and due to our new gym carpet there is no longer a requirement for shoes to be removed.

Lower School students need to please arrive at 5:45pm and go directly to their classrooms. We kindly ask that you do not arrive earlier than this time.

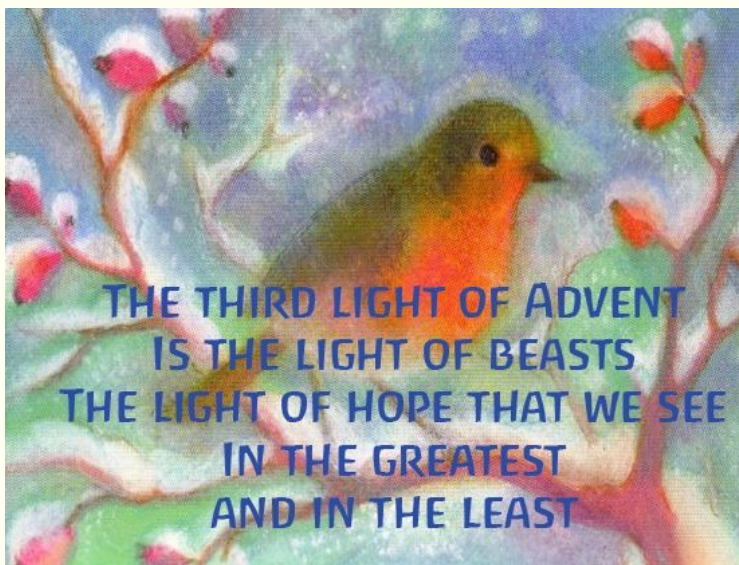
High School students need to head straight to the gym upon arrival. The orchestra and Class 12 have already received their specific instructions from Mr. Pearson, and from their sponsor teacher. The kindergartens have also received instructions specific to them via their teachers.

At the end of the evening students from classes 1 - 4 will return to their classrooms with their teachers. Parents, please collect your child directly from their classroom immediately after the event.

Please respect our request for NO photos or videos to be taken.

We look forward to seeing you, and warmly wish everyone a wonderful end of year and rejuvenating summer.

*Kelly Sutton*



## Community Carols

### O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore Him x3  
Christ the Lord.  
Oh Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Oh, come, oh come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him  
Born the King of Angels  
O come, let us adore Him x3  
Christ the Lord

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing.  
O come, let us adore Him x3  
Christ the Lord

### Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing,  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

### Joy To The World

Joy to the world, the Lord has come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart, prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and  
nature sing  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of, His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love!

### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
Glory to the new-born king  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born king

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Risen with healing in His wings

Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born king"

**Carol Evening Wednesday 17 December  
at 6:00pm in the gymnasium**

## The Shepherd's Play - A Christmas Tradition

One of the most beautiful and meaningful celebrations of the Christmas festival is the study, practice and performance of one or more of the Oberufer Plays.

In medieval times three plays were performed on Oberufer, an island in the Austrian Danube. Characters were played by members of the community who kept the same roles from year to year. Karl Julius Schroer published this play along with others in 1858. Sometime later, his student, Rudolf Steiner, edited the plays and set the language in the regional dialect, retaining much folk humour and liveliness. Around 1940, A.C. Harwood translated the plays into English, a challenge, given the obscure language, which is of course nothing like a true dialect. But it was a good solution to a difficult problem, and has become much beloved over the years. Steiner worked with an Anthroposophical musician named Leopold van der Pals for the music we use today.

The Shepherd's Play is one of these three plays that have been passed down to us. The Paradise Play, acting as a preface, presents the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise, but with the promise of future salvation through Christ. The Shepherds Play portrays the birth of Jesus in a stable, where he is sought out by a group of shepherds. The Kings Play depicts the visit of three wise kings to the birth-place of the King of Humanity, as well as the murderous attempts by Herod to thwart Jesus' mission.



**Community Performance this Sunday 14 December at 7:00pm in the hall**

At Taikura all three plays have been performed, but it is the the Shepherds Play that has survived the test of time. It has been performed by teachers for over 60 years. In the fourth term, volunteers are called for from the teaching staff, and rehearsals (sometimes less than a handful) take place, the teachers relying on collective memory and words learned in previous years, or in some cases learned by osmosis from watching the play as children. The result is that the play is not always perfect, but always enjoyable.

Despite the lack of time, the importance of the play in our school calendar is not underestimated. The play is a gift for our children and to our school community and for many it sets the mood for the Christmas festival.

*Clayton Gibson*

### Upcoming Events

**Last day for Class 8 - Friday 12 December**

**Shepherd's Play Community Performance - Sunday 14 December at 7:00pm**

**Last day of term - Wednesday 17 December - 12:30pm finish**

**Carol Evening - Wednesday 17 December at 6:00pm**

**Pōwhiri and first day of school 2026 - Monday 2 February**



## He Pito Kōrero

Ngā mihi o Hineraumati ki a koutou katoa!

I thought for the last *He pito kōrero*, that a few ideas of handy te reo might be great to have and possibly utilise on the day or the time leading up to it. I wish you all the best and hope the holidays are a good time for you and the whānau, a time to rejuvenate, and spend time swimming at the tatahi or awa! Kia pai, kia haumarū ngā hararei mā koutou katoa!

Ngā oha ki a koutou, nā Matua Troy.

Christmas day	Te Rā Kirihimete
Wake up!	E oho!
Hurry up please	Kia tere mai
Let's unwrap the presents	Kia hura tātou i ngā taonga
Open it carefully	Āta huraina
Aren't you lucky!	Tō waimarie hoki!
What did you get?	He aha tāu i whiwhi ai?
Say thank you	Mihi atu
Thank you for this present	Tēnā koe i tēnei taonga
Merry Christmas to you and your whānau	Meri Kirihimete ki a koutou ko te whānau
When are we eating?	Āhea tātou kai ai?
What should we do today?	Me aha tātou i tēnei rā?
Merry Christmas	Meri Kirihimete
Santa Claus	Hana Kōkō
Hospitality, kindness, generosity, support	Manaakitanga



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



### Employment Opportunities

Teacher Aides - Lower School & High School

We are seeking applicants for Teacher Aide positions available across the school.

For further information please email [suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz](mailto:suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz)



## Fete Donation to Taikura

The Fete committee are delighted to announce that after everything has been tidied up and all of the bills have been paid, the donation amount to the school is **\$30,000!!** We once again thank the school and parent community for coming together, everyone that volunteered, signed up early, the amazing logistics over the weekend and the wonderful support from Kindergarten and Playgroup whānau.



The money raised is gifted unconditionally to the school by the Fete Committee on behalf of all the parents. This allows the school to choose the projects that most needs support, and which directly benefit students. You will notice many projects around the school which the fete has funded over the years such as the hockey turf, shade sails, Lower School and High School playgrounds. There have also been less visible donations which support our students, for example to the H3 fund. This year we have also invested some funds into fete resources by purchasing waffle makers and a popcorn machine, which will be available for use by classes for fundraising throughout the year.

We are already looking forward to planning the 2026 fete and would love to welcome further members and associate members to our team, please get in touch with us at [taikurafete@gmail.com](mailto:taikurafete@gmail.com), or flag your interest to Suzan in the office.

## Property Update from the Proprietors Trust - A Unified Kindergarten Site

Our kindergartens—Taikura and Kererū—currently operate from two separate locations, each with its own licensing agreement. Following discussions in 2021, we have been working towards greater cohesion, fluidity, and connection to our kindergarten and nursery group offerings by bringing both kindergartens onto one site.

This arrangement would enhance opportunities for staff collaboration, resource sharing, and continuity for children. It would also ensure long-term sustainability and future-proof our early childhood education offerings.

We approached the idea of one-site by looking into expanding provision on each of our existing sites, and by looking at purchasing adjoining properties, each of these options proved unfeasible. Fortunately, adjacent to our Kererū Kindergarten site is the school's less-used hardcourt area. A plan has been developed to expand the kindergartens into this space; this would allow us to develop a purpose-built facility that would house all our kindergarten and our nursery group provision on one site. It would also enhance health and safety by removing the need for parents to cross the road between school and Taikura kindergarten.

What that means for the hardcourt recreation provision and the existing Taikura Kindergarten site has not yet been decided.



The proposed new kindergarten building would serve as the main entrance for both Kererū and Taikura Kindergartens, accessed via the Taikura House carpark. The centralised entry point offers several benefits: it moves access away from a busy road, provides designated parking for parents, and creates a unified hub for all families. In addition to dedicated nursery and kindergarten rooms, the new building would include staff offices, a parent space, and a library. All tamariki would enter through a shared foyer, where sign-in/sign-out will occur and notices will be displayed. From there, children would transition into their respective spaces. Taikura tamariki would access their rooms via a deck to the left of the building, while Kererū tamariki will follow a landscaped path to their existing space. Access to our kura would remain via the main school entrance on Nelson Street North.



Bringing both kindergartens together on one site has many benefits. Our kindergarten teachers are supportive of this proposal and have been included in the conversation since its inception. This project will be developed independently of kindergarten fees.

Ngā mihi nui for your continued support and engagement. As we approach the end of the year, we acknowledge the busy season and hope you all enjoy a restful and refreshing break with whānau and friends. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email us at [proprietors.trust@taikura.school.nz](mailto:proprietors.trust@taikura.school.nz)

With best wishes,  
Michelle Vette  
Proprietors Trust Chair



## School Policy - External and Private Tutors

Taikura Rudolf Steiner School may allow external or private tutors to work within our school environment to support students and extend their learning. The board is responsible for overseeing and managing any external and private tutors who work at our school.

In keeping with our primary duty of care and related health, safety, and welfare obligations, we ensure the safety of students and other workers. As visitors to our school, external or private tutors have a responsibility to take reasonable care for their own and others' health and safety when using school facilities. They must sign in and sign out at the school office each time they are on site.

### Tutoring requests

We may allow students to be released from class to attend approved tutoring sessions. Requests for students to receive external or private tutoring on or off site should be directed to the principal in the first instance.

Requests from external or private tutors to provide services at Taikura Rudolf Steiner School should be sent to the principal in writing.

In processing such requests, we consider:

- individual student needs
- health and safety requirements, especially any police vetting and safety checking requirements
- how tutoring will impact our school curriculum and timetable
- any resources, facilities, or additional staff supervision that would be required.

### Tutor requirements

Any external or private tutors working on site at Taikura Rudolf Steiner School must meet the relevant safety checking and police vetting requirements for children's workers as required by the Children's Act. We safety check external and private tutors that are engaged or employed by the school. If tutors are engaged directly by parents and the school allows the tutor to meet with students on school property, the school confirms with the parent the tutor has been safety checked, and may also safety check them as good practice.

We assess tutors for suitability as necessary, including qualifications, experience, and personal accreditations/memberships. Tutors are expected to follow our community conduct expectations. All tutoring arrangements are reviewed annually (or earlier, if circumstances change), following consultation with parents/guardians of the student.

The school seeks written consent from parents/guardians before any tutoring takes place. Parents/Guardians or caregivers are responsible for the costs of all external or private tutoring.

You will find this policy, and all our other policies at [www.schooldocs.co.nz](http://www.schooldocs.co.nz)

- Search for Taikura
- Username: taikurasteiner

Password: heartwood

## Lost Property

A reminder to please check the lost property cupboard under the external hall stairs before the end of term.

Any items not collected will be donated to charity during the school holidays.





## Friday Market

Seeking Friday Market Coordinator(s)

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to take on the role of Friday Market Coordinator. This important role involves:

- Liaising with individual classes to ensure the smooth running of the market
- Passing on relevant information and updates
- Supporting classes with planning and setup

A huge thank you to Amaali Shaw for her incredible dedication to this role over the past two years!

To keep the energy and momentum going, we'd love to hear from anyone interested. The role could be shared between 2–3 people, and we welcome fresh ideas. Creating guidelines and suggestions for future markets is encouraged, and we're open to feedback to make this even better.



## Keep Up To Date!

**With our School app!**  
Download today to keep up to date with school information. School Alert Groups, Cancellations, Direct Absentees, Contacts, School Events, Daily Notices. Plus Much More!

**Simple free download**  
Scan the QR code or in Google play & App Store search 'SchoolAppsNZ' & choose our school once installed.

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Please remember to change your class subscription according to the class your child is in, for example if they were in Class 3 this year, you will need to ensure you are subscribed to Class 4 for next years' alert notices!

Some of the bone carving pieces from Class 9 craft week. Thank you to tutor Francisca Obers.





### Steiner inspired home-based childcare in Napier

Kia ora whanau! From next school year I will start a home-based ECE at my home in Napier South. I'm a European (Dutch) trained early childhood teacher, specialised in Steiner education. I will have space for up to four children under the age of 6. If you would like some more information, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can call me on: 020 439 2576 or email me at: [clarindajongerius@hotmail.com](mailto:clarindajongerius@hotmail.com)

Have a great summer holiday! Clarinda

### Creative Speech and Summer Festival

Norbert Mulholland, an actor, anthroposophical speech teacher, therapist, past Taikura parent, past director of Taruna and more is visiting from Wellington and giving a talk on 20 December as part of the anthroposophical summer festival - see the anthroposophical newsletter for details:

[https://www.anthrohb.nz/blog/2243415?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=job63081](https://www.anthrohb.nz/blog/2243415?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=job63081)

He will teaching in the Spirit of the Word School Monday - Friday mornings 15 - 19 December. Anyone who would be interested in joining the morning chorus and perhaps some poetry/drama sessions is welcome to join for a small contribution of \$15 per session or \$60 for the week. For further details contact Astrid 021 215 4019 or John Jackson 022 122 8002

### Steiner School Art - Curriculum Adult Learning

#### 2 Year Course (via Zoom)

Starting January/February 2026. Working with the colours through wet on wet painting, Goethe's colour theory, pencil drawing, form drawing and much more.

Love to hear if you're interested. Message Margaret-Mary Farr on 027 248 4193 or email

### Art Display at the Steiner Centre

The month of December is Jill Norman (Beadbugs - local artist) - Creations from Wire & Beads - Bugs, Trees, Hearts, Dragonflies, Grape, Garden & Fish Wall hangings - get something unique for Christmas.

### Home for Rent

Three bedroom, two bathrooms. Renovated character home. Across from Cornwall Park, and close to Taikura. Contact Liz [eritchie@outlook.co.nz](mailto:eritchie@outlook.co.nz)

“This was, without a doubt, one of the most transformative, impactful experiences of my life.”

— Tracks Youth Participant —

# rites of passage FOR TEENAGERS



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5 DAYS FULL IMMERSION

January & April 2026



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*Tides and Tracks are two contemporary rites of passage programs:*

- **Tides** for girls aged 14–17 and their mothers/caregiver
- **Tracks** for boys aged 14–17 and their fathers/caregiver

*Each 5-day journey follows the arc of a rite of passage: separation, transformation, and return, supporting young people to mark a significant life transition and be witnessed as they step into young adulthood.*



## MORE INFORMATION



Rites of Passage Foundation



ritesofpassagefoundation



www.ropf.org.nz



info@tracks.net.nz



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