

Taikura Rudolf Steiner School

The Grapevine



Waka Ama Sprint Nationals

5 February 2026



Over the summer holidays our U19 Girls Waka Ama Team trained three times a week and competed in the Waka Ama Sprint Nationals at Lake Karapiro near Cambridge. The team consisted of Taikura students Zahara Kizito-Rees, Sahara Rarere, Avah-Jade Maoate, Zoe Rousteau, Tara Theyer-Durham. They were joined by Gwen from Hastings Girls High School.

The Waka Ama Sprint Nationals is a huge national sporting and cultural event with races going every five minutes for six days. This year there were 4700 paddlers participating. It was a real step up from the Secondary School Sprint Nationals which

the team participated in earlier in the year. They competed in the 500m sprint race and the 1km turns race, which was also a step up in distance for this team. Unlike the Secondary School Sprint Nationals, if you didn't place in the top four in your heat, teams didn't get a second chance, so I was thrilled when the rangatahi with really good form made it through to the semifinals in the 500m sprint race. They also managed a clear round in their 1km turns race which is rarely achieved by a first time team at the nationals.

Over the last few weeks, the rangatahi have had a well-earned rest and are already talking about



setting themselves new goals as they prepare for the Secondary School Nationals in March.

A huge thank you to Linda Hill-Rennie who is an ex-parent of the school and who supported me in the coaching and managed the team at the Nationals. We are very lucky to have Linda involved in coaching waka ama at the school. Linda is a multiple National and World Medal holder and has a wealth of experience behind what she does with our students.

Clayton Gibson





He Pito Kōrero!

E te tī, e te tā, ngā mihi tino mahana o Hineraumati rāua ko Tamanuiterā ki a koutou katoa! Nau mai, hoki mai ki te wāhanga tuatahi o te tau hou Pākehā! A warm welcome back to all and I hope that your holidays have been a time of rest and rejuvenation!

As we start back at kura, I am always aware that this coincides with the acknowledging of the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, one of the founding documents of our nation. Last week, as Kelly has shared, the teachers visited Hastings Civic Square and the pou, which represent tūpuna or our rohe and the different marae. In the Heretaunga area, the Treaty was signed in June, by the Waitangi Regional Park. The coined phrase associated with the signing at the time was “Kia kotahi ararau!” - United in our diversity! This phrase resonated with us, celebrating who we are, alongside a sense of unity.

I have included a link with this kōrero, which gives a very simple overview of the evolution of this taonga

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxy6cGMA0kM>

A poster of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, in both versions, with noted differences between the two, has been hung in our Papa pānui (community notice board). I have also included another link to a ‘Taringa’ podcast (that has been shared previously). This is an interview and a very in depth kōrero from Dayle Takitimu who is of Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau a Apanui and Te Aitanga a Hauiti descent. Dayle is also an indigenous rights and environmental lawyer who has presented on environment and indigenous people’s issues at forums both locally and internationally. I found her kōrero to be informative, confronting the issues of the Treaty and a very informed view about this taonga. [Taringa - Ep 225 - Special Feature - Waitangi 2022 - With Dayle Takitimu | Taringa Podcast](#)



Toitū te Tiriti!
Nā, Matua Troy

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!

Taikura School & Kindergartens Staffing 2026

Principal	<i>Pippa Caccioppoli</i>	Extra Lesson	<i>Nicole Scheidegger</i>
Deputy Principal	<i>Kelly Sutton</i>	Listening Programme	<i>Jaci Chambers</i>
Class One teacher	<i>Sue Hull</i>	Guidance Counsellor	<i>Maxine Andersen</i>
Class Two teacher	<i>Cherie Youngman</i>	Librarian & Careers	<i>Paula Rose</i>
Class Three teacher	<i>Leon Crellin</i>	Teacher Aides	<i>Angela Binns</i>
Class Four teacher	<i>Charne Cloete</i>		<i>Christiana Hatcher</i>
Class Five teacher	<i>Tanja Maioha</i>		<i>Kaz Jones</i>
Class Six teacher	<i>Fiona Mackenzie</i>		<i>Jaci Chambers</i>
Class Seven teacher	<i>Darryn Breakwell</i>		<i>Sabina Bacchus</i>
Class Eight sponsor	<i>Roger Smith</i>		<i>Heidi Nobel</i>
Class Nine sponsor	<i>Clayton Gibson</i>		
Class Ten sponsor	<i>Elspeth Ross</i>	Business Manager	<i>Selena Crouch</i>
Class Eleven sponsor	<i>Morag Wilson</i>	Executive Assistant	<i>Suzan Bart</i>
Class Twelve sponsor	<i>Ruby Mackwell</i>	Finance Assistant	<i>Karen Hamilton</i>
		Property Manager	<i>Liam Wyley</i>
Academic Dean	<i>Anne Hilton</i>	Enrolments Registrar	<i>Erika Potter</i>
High School SENCo	<i>Sanne Coulthard</i>	Sports Coordinator	<i>Janet Osborne</i>
High School Science	<i>Tish Chalmers</i>	Gardener	<i>Stephen Oliver</i>
High School Maths & Science	<i>Jasreen Kaur</i>	Science Technician	<i>Wilma van Cruysen</i>
High School Maths	<i>David Urieli</i>		
High School English	<i>Anna Jenkins</i>		
High School English & Maths	<i>Morag Wilson</i>	KG Senior Teacher	<i>Danica Hensel Ondrusova</i>
High School Social Science	<i>Ruby Mackwell</i>	KG Operations Manager	<i>Erika Potter</i>
		Taikura Head Teacher	<i>Emma Fisher</i>
Handwork	<i>Elspeth Ross</i>	Kererū Head Teacher	<i>Tash Shaw</i>
Te Reo Māori	<i>Troy Gardiner</i>	Kindergarten Teacher	<i>Bridget Berlin</i>
Eurythmy	<i>Nives Frigerio</i>	Kindergarten Teacher	<i>April Woodhead</i>
Music	<i>Thomas Pearson</i>	Kindergarten Teacher	<i>Yvonne Collins</i>
Art	<i>Clayton Gibson</i>	Kindergarten Teacher	<i>Debs Templer</i>
PE, EOTC & Health	<i>Roger Smith</i>	Kindergarten Teacher	<i>Britt Aberahama</i>
Woodwork	<i>Paul van Kampen</i>	Kindergarten Assistants	<i>Joanna Bruce</i>
Lower School Handwork	<i>Jade Powell</i>		<i>Toni Botherway</i>
Primary School SENCo	<i>Karyn Wills</i>		<i>Clarinda Jongerius</i>



Special Character Donation Reminder & Pledge Form Link

As a reminder, Taikura is supported by two governing bodies:

- **The Proprietors Trust**, who own the land and buildings and uphold our Special Character.
- **The School Board**, who oversees teaching, learning, and day-to-day operations through government funding.

To continue providing our world-leading Steiner curriculum, we rely on the commitment of our whānau. The Trust has identified that current donation levels are not sufficient to meet the true cost of delivering our Special Character education.

2026 Donation & Dues Information

- **Special Character Donation (2026): \$2,850 per student**

This reflects the investment needed to strengthen and sustain our curriculum. We kindly ask whānau to confirm their donation commitment in advance so we can plan effectively for the year ahead by following this link:

<https://taikura.apps.school.nz/sa-forms/5na7g7v>

- **Attendance Dues (2026): \$1,023.50 per student**

Tax Benefits

Both the Special Character donation and hardship donation qualify for a 33.33% tax rebate.

We also encourage families to consider **Payroll Giving**, which allows weekly donations to be deducted directly from wages, with one third immediately returned as a tax refund by IRD.

Nau te rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora ai te tamariki.

With your contribution, and our contribution, the children will thrive.

School App

If you have not already done so, **we encourage you to 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.



TAIKURA VISION STATEMENT

To help each and every student progress towards becoming free, responsible and caring individuals, able to impart purpose and direction to their own lives, and as citizens able to contribute in manifold as well as unique ways to human society.

Sports - Surf Friday

Surf Friday was established at Taikura by Clayton Gibson many years ago. This was an informal meeting of students and parents at Waimarama Beach on Fridays after school, where Clayton would take surfing lessons and the students then practised new skills on school surfboards.

Ruby Mackwell (surf instructor) with the support of Janet Osborne and Morag Wilson are going to offer 3 “Surf Fridays” this term. At this stage it will be open to High School students **ONLY**.

The dates for this term are:

- 20 February
- 6 March
- 27 March



Surf lessons will be offered at approximately 4:00pm. Students can then use the boards to practise. Sharing will be required depending on numbers. Students will need to organise their own transport to and from Waimarama Beach. All students need to be able to swim 100m confidently. \$5 each per session to cover wax and leg rope costs.

Upcoming Events

High School Athletics Day - Tuesday 3 March

Community Assembly - Thursday 5 March at 11:00am

Class 3 Whānau hui - Thursday 5 March. Time TBC

Class 7 Whānau hui - Thursday 5 March at 6:00pm

Autumn Festival - Thursday 19 March

Term One ends - Thursday 2 April at 2:45pm

Permissions

School & Kindergarten Directory

Our school & kindergarten directory of parent names, email addresses and phone numbers will be published and distributed to oldest children by the end of this term. If you would prefer your details not be included, please email suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz

Photographs for Marketing Purposes

We are in the process of updating our website and would like to include up to date images of our kura and our students. If you would prefer your child's image not be used for marketing purposes, please email suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz

Community Noticeboard

A Response to Social Needs of our Time Through Eurythmy

The opportunity to explore & experience eurythmy with an awareness of life. To hold one's centre amidst life's challenges. Join us for 7 weeks: Tuesday 17 February - Tuesday 31 March 9.15-10.15am

Corner Nelson St and Whitehead Rd. Cost \$100

Contact sue.simpson0@gmail.com



Rangimarie News

Rangimarie is a grand "old lady" in the middle of Hastings. We are a community-minded small group of enthusiastic mature friends committed to caring for and maintaining this historic building. Once upon a time it was the residence of the Mayor of Hastings. We are at 617 Heretaunga Street East.



We invite you to connect with our Rangimarie community. We have started a community garden however small!! Soon we will harvest our pumpkins and prepare for the winter crop planting. If you would like to be part of this, let me know: Corrie at 027 368 0242

There are many ideas and possibilities to make Rangimarie a Hub of meeting and working together.

Firewood - Firewood - Firewood!!!

The Bacchus Boys and Dave the Greenman have been busy cutting and splitting firewood from Rangimarie's garden. Thank you!!!! A firewood raffle is doing the rounds; a good load of firewood!!!!

Raffle tickets \$5.00 each. I really do need helpers to sell more tickets! We are aiming to have all the tickets sold in February for the firewood to go in March, in time for the colder days.

Contact Corrie to buy a ticket(s) or if you are able to sell 5 or 10 tickets, that will be great. Ph 027 368 0242.

Please note: Most of our community notices are paid advertisements. While we're happy to share them, they don't necessarily reflect our views or endorsements. If you would like your notice or advertisement included, the cost is \$5 for 2 weeks. Please email office@taikura.school.nz by noon Tuesday.

Basketball Players Needed

We're trying to enter a team into the local Adult Men's Basketball League, to be played at Centennial Hall in Napier on Friday evenings starting on 20 February. We already have a few Class 12 players and a couple of keen dads but need a few more dads/uncles/koro or ex-students to join the team to make it viable. The standard of play is pretty good, so no beginners please. The cost is \$60/player to register with Basketball Hawke's Bay (valid for the year) and then about another \$60/player to register the team for the competition. The competitions run throughout the year. It'll be great fun and a good way to meet new people.

If you're interested please email Toby at tobyb@flaxcol.co.nz

Toby Blakey



Maidens new Moon circles

For girls aged 10 to 13

The first Wednesday after the New Moon

3.00-4.30

Contribution \$20

In our monthly Maidens circle we meet in the energy of the new Moon and new beginnings. Together we create a sacred space with a candle and treasures we find or bring.

Erica and Mara will provide a safe space for the maidens to connect, be heard, express, listen, create and play.

We will weave in songs, movement, creativity and a touch of mindfulness in response to the needs and wishes that arise each month.

Where: 406 Fitzroy Ave, Hastings

Possibility to pick up the children from the Steiner School at 2.45

Dates: 17/2; 18/3; 20/5; 17/6; 12/8; 16/9; 14/10; 11/11; 9/12

For expressions of interest or inquiry:

Erica Jeffs of Healing Therapies

erica@healingtherapies.co.nz 0211334983

Mara Radice of Miss Tupitu' Puppet Company

radicemara510@gmail.com 0220947625

Join us for another fun creative term of art.
Small groups, spaces are limited.

Afterschool Childrens Art class Term 1 2026 with Amanda Sowersby



Monday 9 Feb -23rd
March 3.30pm-
4.45pm
8 week term

Wednesday 11 Feb-25th
March r
8 week term
Ages 6-14 years
Keirunga Arts Venue,
Havelock North

Follow us at @Amandasowersby
email: amanda@artandalchemy.co.nz
0211449168



THURSDAY
ART
CLASSES
FOR
ADULTS

STARTS 5th
February
2026

10:00 am-12pm
8 weeks
Small class
We begin with oil
painting.
Keirunga Cottage
amanda@artandalchemy.co.nz

For Sale

Want a lifestyle block that could almost pay for itself? This is it! It's a significant income earner. Not hundreds of dollars - but thousands. It also has many other lifestyle benefits.

In the eighties, the property was HB's first BioGro certified free-range egg production unit. With licence number 008, perhaps NZ's first?

Located less than 10 minutes from Hastings. Beautiful, park-like trees and lawn grace a spacious, open-plan, three-large-bedrooms, all-timber home [roof excluded]. It has a large office and a real, walk-in pantry! (No painted walls or wallpaper inside this house!)

Two woodlots of mature timber or firewood trees. Many apple trees provide shade for free range hens; there's also other fruit producers: feijoa, fig, peach, passionfruit, lemon, apricot, plus a row of table / eating grapes. And lots of flowers!

Quietly sequestered away from the road, surrounded by mature trees, with great infrastructure, including a large pond with flowforms. Generally well developed and set out. Even has 3-phase power and a robotic lawn mower!

https://nwtp.biz/mere_road_sale/

perry@spillerfamily.info



Artistic Therapy & Creative Healing

with Amanda Sowersby an Art Alchemist
Qualified Artistic Therapist, Holistic &
Trauma aware approach

Artistic Therapy is a gentle, non-verbal and embodied approach to healing that supports emotional expression, nervous system regulation, and reconnection to self.

Supports:

- Grief & Loss
- Trauma & PTSD
- Anxiety, Depression & Stress
- Insomnia & Nervous System Overload
- Neurodiversity & Behavioural Support
- Recovery, Integration & Skill Development

No art experience required.

Suitable for ages 5+.

In-person, small groups, families & online.

Based in Havelock North, Hawke's Bay.

email: amanda@artandalchemy.co.nz

0211449168

Book:

<https://amandasowersby.as.me/schedule/a2eada70>

**Calling all
vocalists!**



NPACS Singing Competition 2026

All Ages Easter Weekend

Get ready to hit the high notes and captivate the audience at our annual Singing Competition – the ultimate singing competition that celebrates the power of voice and musical talent. Join us for a day of celebrating the love of singing!

Competition Categories:

★ Modern

★ Musical theatre

★ Māori

★ Classical

★ Folk & Cultural

★ Sacred

Check our Website Now! www.napierpacs.org.nz



The Evolution, Development and Destiny of the Animals

Did we develop from evolving animal forms, or did the animals devolve from the emerging human?

Anthroposophy speaks of Creation as being both evolutionary and spiritual — a gradual development which was, and still is, guided and influenced by advanced spiritual beings.

March 5th, 12th, 19th (Thursdays) 7 - 8pm in the art room.

The Evolution and Development of Human Beings

Rudolf Steiner speaks of human evolution beginning on earlier planetary phases than our current Earth. We will learn something of these early beginnings and follow our slowly evolving and guided development through to the present day.

April 23rd - June 11th (Thursdays) 7 - 8pm.

Free talks at the Anthroposophical Centre
with Cleone Armon, illustrated with her own artwork.

500 Nelson St North, Hastings.
Contact Cleone at candsarmon@gmail.com