



Creating an Easter which is meaningful to you

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 our 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 commercialisation 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 – 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 The plants and the microbial activity in the soil, which have withdrawn from the scorching heat of summer, open up, to grow in the gentler autumn sun again before the cold of winter takes hold; the grasses begin to shoot; winter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 Easter 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 accession, and finally pentecost.

Kelly Sutton

Term Two Friday Market Roster

Week 2 - 1 May - Class 5

Week 3 - 8 May - Playgroup & Class 3

Week 4 - 15 May - Class 6 & Class 10

Week 5 - 22 May - Whitsun - no market

Week 6 - 29 May - Taikura Kindergarten

Week 7 - 5 June - Class 8 & Kererū Kindergarten

Week 8 - 12 June - Class 12 & Class 9

Week 9 - 26 June - Class 1 & Class 7

Week 10 - 3 July - Class 2 & Class 4

Our Kids Online - Tip of the Week

At what age should I give my kid a phone?

It's one of the biggest parenting decisions today!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8n-ecuo07tg&t=1s>



He Pito Kōrero!

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa!

Last week, I harvested the kūmara I had planted in November. The leaves suddenly changed colour and bugs were starting to eat the leaves. I also wanted to wait for Hina – the moon, as she becomes full again, echoing the mauri of the plant life rising upwards.



Taking out the plants, I carefully dug into the soil releasing the bounty of kūmara that had grown. I have to say this was like opening a beautiful present. I am grateful for the harvest and I was able to contemplate what worked and what did not, especially the type of soil/environment that kūmara thrive in. Once harvested, during the day I have been drying the kūmara in the sun to harden the outer skin and bringing them in before evening. Having a small (manageable) maara helps me connect with the whenua that I live on, and gives me an appreciation of life's rhythms.

As we come to the end of Te āhanga tuatahi – Term 1, I wish you all well and look forward to seeing our tamariki next term!

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



Hastings Youth Council

Last Wednesday Tyler Dipper and I attended Georgie Abraham's (Class 11) endorsement as a member of the Hastings Youth Council Advisory Group. There were youth leaders from a number of local kura and it was refreshing to see so many rangatahi (young people) willing to represent their community through this space. Georgie attends three afternoon meetings a week, and is a representative on two sub committees; Disability Reference and Civic and Community Futures. It was acknowledged by the councillors how important it is to have the rangatahi voice on the council. Georgie is interested in how democratic systems operate and has also chosen to experience the workings of Parliament during Class 11 work week. It is so admirable that Georgie has sought these opportunities for herself, and through them is meeting some like minded rangatahi.

Morag Wilson



Class 6 at Camp Kaitawa



"I really liked one of the walks which was 2.2kms long and took us two hours . It was very long and hard but the view at the end made it all worth it. Another activity I liked was kayaking on Lake Wherevero and swimming."
Te Maia

"My favourite part of camp was the talent show, I really enjoyed the Trump impression. I also really like kayaking, it was my first time ever and it was great." *Jasper*

"On Wednesday we were lucky enough to go kayaking, I started in a double with Johanna but later swapped with Kobi. Mrs Mac fell in wearing her clothes and shoes!" *Ronan*

"My favourite part of camp was kayaking, I was on a kayak with Ronan and then I swapped to a single kayak. The funniest part was when Mrs Mac fell into the lake." *Johanna*

"We did a night walk and we had to hold onto a rope. We weren't allowed to our torches on. After the night walk we hid in the bushes and scared people and they screamed!" *Elijah*

"On Wednesday we went on the kayaks, we made a raft by holding the kayaks together and I had to cross to the other side, I nearly fell in." *Ender*

"On Wednesday we got the kayaks out on the lake, I went in a double with Logan and Elijah." *Vincent*

"At Camp Kaitawa we were fortunate enough to go on a night walk, I really enjoyed it but I honestly was a bit scared. Once we had completed it Maia and I were walking up and some people jumped out and gave us a 'jump scare' so we screamed back at them!" *Olive*

"I loved swimming in Lake Wherevero, jumping off the pontoon and diving to the bottom for stinky weed to throw at people was really fun." *Calypso*

"The talent show was hilarious, especially the Donald Trump one. I played the piano, I played 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' by Mozart. Some people started laughing when I started playing the fast part then the room was dead silent. I was happy when I got pudding first." *Lucas*

"My favourite part of camp was the lake because we could go swimming and kayaking. I remember when Calypso threw stinky weed at me from the bottom of the lake." *Logan*

"The best thing about camp was the kayaking because I liked jumping my kayak and seeing Mrs Mac falling off."
Kobi

'On the first night Roger got a night walk ready. It was so fun because Mike was hiding in the bushes and he tried scaring us." *Benji*

"The best thing about camp was kayaking because we had massive wars and I got to splash Francis a lot." *Fergus*

"When we got to Panekire Hill we said to each other 'There is no way we are getting up there!' But somehow we did." *Francis*

"I really enjoyed swimming in Lake Wherowhero, jumping off the pontoon and then trying to swim to the bottom in my life jacket to get the stinky lake weed." *Mayer*

"I really like swimming in Lake Wherowhero and jumping off the little raft but if we got too close my feet would touch the disgusting lake weed." *Harper*

"We did heaps of great activities but I thought the night walk was great even though I have to admit it was pretty scary when some people came out of the bushes and gave Olive and I a huge fright!" *Maia*

"One foot in front of the other. My legs were aching. We were on the Panekiri walk and I was really challenged, it was probably the hardest walk I have ever done but it was a truly spectacular view out over Lake Waikaremoana and I think it was really worth it." *Rahul*

"I loved kayaking, it was amazing and Olive and I chased people in our kayak and splashed them and were very entertained and we didn't want it to stop!" *Hazel*

"I loved kayaking, it was my first time ever doing it and I would definitely do it again. The walks were amazing too and there was lots of new scenery." *Evie*

"I liked lighting the fire in the dining room but when 32 people are relying on you it gets pretty tense, no pressure at all!" *Henry*

"My favourite part of camp was the talent show, it was so cool, sensational you could say, I really loved it" *Louis*



Community Noticeboard

Class 12 Project Kia ora koutou. My name is Sita FitzGerald and I am a class 12 student here at Taikura. As part of my class 12 project I need to source scrap metal to turn into art. If anyone has junk lying around that they want to get rid of or would like to donate please contact me. Copper pipes, copper scraps or steel and other carbon based metals would be preferable but I'll take anything! Contact me via email at si.fitzgerald@taikura.school.nz or message me at 027 415 1540 to organise pick ups or drop offs.

Looking for MTG Cards Hello everyone, my name is Johanna, and I am a Year 11 student in the High School. Recently, I have started learning how to play the card game Magic The Gathering. I am currently looking to expand my collection and was wondering if you or anyone you know has any old cards they'd be willing to part with. If so, I would be happy to discuss a reasonable price with you. Please feel free to contact me via my school email: jo.mallow@taikura.school.nz Additionally, I am also interested in finding others who would like to play a game during or after school. If this sounds like something you would enjoy, I would love to hear from you.



Steiner School Art Curriculum Adult Learning Online (Zoom)

1 to 2 year course starting April 2026. Become confident in wet-on-wet painting, drawing, form drawing and so much more. Message me for more information, I would love to hear if you're interested. Margaret-Mary Farr on 027 2484193 or email manawastudio@gmail.com

An Early English and Chaucer Evening

Tania Diedericks (school parent) is in her final year of a speech and drama training and will perform 3 early English ballads arising from oral tradition; as well as five characters (pilgrims) from "The Canterbury Tales" by Geoffrey Chaucer. There will also be early music and song contributing to a rich evening, celebrating the beginnings of English literature. 7:00-8:00pm Friday 24 April at the Rudolf Steiner Centre, Corner of Whitehead Rd and Nelson St. Koha welcome to help cover costs.

Project Prima Volta Junior is a free after-school singing academy for young people (Class 6-8 students) who are curious about their voice and want to explore singing in a supportive, encouraging group environment. Weekly training helps students build singing skills, confidence and friendships, with opportunities to perform throughout the year alongside other community groups.

For many young singers, PPV Junior is where it all begins. It offers a welcoming introduction to vocal technique, musicianship, ensemble singing and performance, and for some students becomes the first step into a longer journey with Project Prima Volta.

Auditions for 2026 will be held on Wednesday 22 April at St Paul's Church, Napier between 4.30pm - 5.30pm, with rehearsals beginning the following week.

Participation is completely free. Selection is not based on how experienced a child already is, but on the curiosity and enthusiasm they bring to their audition.

Families can find out more and register their interest here: <https://www.primavolta.nz/ppv-registration-1>



DOES YOUR CHILD LOVE TO SING?

Audition for
**Project Prima Volta
2026**



Kia ora Taikura Community.

Time for a new chapter? I'm a guide for buying and selling, especially for people after something a little unconventional.

List with me, mention this ad, and \$500 goes directly back to Taikura to support our tamariki and school projects.

Ready to talk? I'll put the jug on.

Amy Pennington

022 343 3554

amy.pennington@tremains.co.nz



Tremains
**team
up**



Hastings Choral
presents

MUSIC
FOR
THE
SOUL

Sunday 31 May 2026 @ 3.00pm
St Matthew's Church, King Street, Hastings

Tickets: Adult \$25.00 School student \$5.00

Available through choir members, hastingschoral@gmail.com or cash sales at the door

Tickets prepurchased directly from choir members **\$22.00**

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 length of 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.

