

WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 | 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau o Waihi College, E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā karangatanga maha, tēnā koutou katoa. It has been a truly special week for our kura. We were absolutely thrilled to welcome Sir Wayne Smith



and Sir John Kirwan to our assembly. To have two leaders of such calibre spend time with our rangatahi was a privilege we do not take lightly. What made the occasion even more powerful was the panel of our own students who had the opportunity to ask thoughtful, courageous questions about leadership, setbacks, resilience and purpose. Watching our young people stand confidently, engage deeply, and listen with respect reflected the very best of Waihi College.

Both of our guests shared stories that went far beyond sport. They spoke about:

- The importance of humility — staying grounded, regardless of success
- The value of hard work in the quiet moments
- The strength that comes from working together
- The courage it takes to reset and grow
- And importantly, that reaching out for help is not weakness — it is wisdom

Sir Wayne's quiet strength and belief in collective excellence reminded us that high standards and strong relationships go hand in hand. Sir John's honesty about his own wellbeing journey reinforced the importance of hauora and looking after one another.

We are deeply grateful for the time they gave us, for the authenticity of their stories, and for the way they connected so genuinely with our rangatahi.

Kotahitanga — Standing as One

This week's message connects strongly to kotahitanga. Kotahitanga is more than unity. It is shared purpose. It is recognising that every ākonga, every whānau member, every kaiako contributes to the strength of this kura.

Kotahitanga means:

- We celebrate success together.
- We take collective responsibility for our culture.
- We protect and uplift the mana of others.
- We value differences while working toward common goals.
- We stand beside one another in both challenge and triumph.

When we practice kotahitanga, we create an environment where everyone can flourish — academically, culturally, socially and spiritually.

Leadership is not reserved for a select few. It lives in our classrooms, on the sports field, in kapa haka, in service, and in the everyday choices our young people make.

Supporting Our Young People on the Field

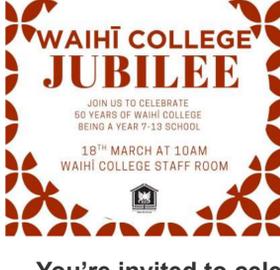
Speaking of collective pride, I warmly invite our whānau and community to join us tomorrow on the field for our Athletics Day. Come along, bring your encouragement, and cheer on our rangatahi as they challenge themselves and support one another.



Next week, we look forward to our School Swimming Sports — another wonderful opportunity to celebrate participation, perseverance and house spirit. When our community stands on the sidelines, our young people feel it. Your presence matters. Your encouragement strengthens their confidence. That is kotahitanga in action. As always, thank you for the ongoing support you give to Waihi College. Together, we continue to build a kura grounded in manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, kotahitanga and kaiitakitanga.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Briar Principal | Tumuaiki Waihi College



You're invited to celebrate 50 years of Waihi College as a year 7-13 school: 18th March

This year marks 50 years since Waihi College welcomed Form 1 and 2 students — now our Year 7 and 8 ākonga — becoming the full college our community knows and loves today. We warmly invite past staff, former students, whānau and community members to join us for a Jubilee Morning Tea: **18th March, 10am in the Waihi College staffroom**

Come and reconnect and share stories over a cuppa. It's a chance to celebrate the people, the memories, and the generations who have shaped our kura over the past 50 years.

We would love to see you there.

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

OLD COLLEGE PHOTOS??

WE ARE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR HISTORIC WAIHI COLLEGE PHOTOS

GET IN TOUCH WITH US AT [WENDYS@WAIHICOL.SCHOOL.NZ](mailto:wendys@waihicol.school.nz)

DIGITIZED ARCHIVING

Waihi College is currently working on a very special project — building our digitised archives through the [library link](#) on our website. In 2023/2024, our hall underwent a significant upgrade. The project included a full repaint, the installation of a beautiful Matarki constellation feature, refreshed values posters, and new electronic blinds.

As part of this upgrade, the historic photographs that once lined the hall were carefully removed. Many were beginning to fade, and we had reached capacity for displaying new additions quite some time ago. These targeted images are now being thoughtfully archived by our librarian, Mrs Sutton. Digital archiving is a detailed and time-intensive process, and it will take some time to complete, however, we're proud to be undertaking this step so we can honour the stories, faces and milestones that have shaped our kura over the years.

How can you help? We would love to hear from anyone in our community who may have historical Waihi College photos they'd be willing to loan us. We will digitise them and return the originals to you, with the goal of making our archives as rich and comprehensive as possible. We're also hoping to fill a small gap in our records: we are seeking the names of our Head Students for 1974 and 1975. We have 1973 (A. Williams and J. Bleutt) and 1976 (J. Griffioen and V. Niukapu) but no record of who led our school for those few years in between. If you can help us fill in the missing pieces, please get in touch with Wendy at wendys@waihicol.school.nz

Together, we can preserve and celebrate the history of Waihi College for generations to come.

SCHOOL WIDE

SCHOOL BRIDGE APP: Stay connected. Stay informed. Keep it simple

We're encouraging all students and caregivers to download the SchoolBridge app — your new first port of call for all things school-related.

- Mark absences in seconds
- Check notices and updates
- Stay in the loop wherever you are

Getting started is easy:

- STEP 1:** download the SchoolBridge App
Either scan the QR code or download via App Store or Google Play
- STEP 2:** Sign in with your school registered email

For caregivers, this is the email address you used when enrolling your student and for students, it is your school email address. *If you are unsure, use the 'Request a Magic Sign-in Code' option*

It's quick, convenient, and we'll be adding even more features as we go. Jump on board today and make school communication smoother for everyone!

Download Our App

- Scan the QR Code to download. Or
- Search "schoolbridge" on your mobile AppStore or PlayStore.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

CHOIR SIGN UPS

RUN BY ALICE AND MR RANDELL

SONGS THAT WILL SUIT TEENAGERS

VOCAL TRAINING

Welcome to the Waihi College Kura

SENCO Attendance **Astrid Langeveld**
Larissa Barnes

MANAAKITANGA
 Manaakitanga is about encouraging a warm and supportive environment, and showing each other that you care for each other.

KOTAHITANGA
 Kotahitanga refers to the responsibility to care and protect the land, water, and other resources for future generations.

2026 New Staff
www.waihicol.school.nz

Year 7 Camp: Bowentown Campground

Thursday 19th - Friday 20th March. Please check your emails and fill in the google form as soon as possible so we can start organising things from our end!

If you have any questions or did not receive this form email nikkij@waihicol.school.nz



WAIHĪ COLLEGE

CHANGE OF BANK DETAILS

ACCOUNT: WAIHI COLLEGE BOARD
NUMBER: 12-3171-0263271-00

CHANGE OF BANK DETAILS

Please check that you've updated our kura bank account details.

Should you have any questions, please contact the office on 07 863 8349 to discuss payment options.

PARENT CORNER

WAIHI COLLEGE HAS A SCHOOL NURSE AVAILABLE
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 8.30AM—4.30PM FOR YEAR 9-13
AVAILABLE FOR YEAR 7-8 IN EMERGENCIES

POP IN TO THE BUILDING NEXT TO THE TREE OF LIFE
 WALK IN APPOINTMENT, OR TEXT/PHONE ON
 0272983787

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IF YOU HAVE ANY HEALTH NEEDS OR QUESTIONS
MARGIE GOLDSWORTHY / SCHOOL NURSE FOR WAIHI COLLEGE

Ngā mihi, with kind regards
Margie Goldsworthy (She/Her)
Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE
 WAIHI
 M: 0272983787
 W: www.pinnacle.co.nz

This newsletter can also be found on our website: www.waihicol.school.nz