WAIHĪ COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 24 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora whānau,
Spring is here, bringing longer days and a renewed sense of energy to our kura.

Last week, we welcomed the Education Review Office (ERO) to Waihi College. It was a valuable opportunity to share the rich story of our school and for ERO to meet with our students, staff, Board and wider community.

ERO has shared its initial findings with us. These findings are not yet final, as further evidence is still being considered.
ERO recognised Waihi College as a welcoming, caring and inclusive school, built on strong relationships and guided by visible school values. They acknowledged our effective pastoral and wellbeing support, along with the broad range of leadership, sporting, cultural and extracurricular opportunities available to our students. Our young people reported feeling safe, connected and well supported.

ERO also identified areas where we need to strengthen our practice, which we are currently reviewing.

Our caring and inclusive school culture is a clear strength. Our next step is to build on this so every student receives consistently effective teaching and has the opportunity to succeed. Our leadership team and Board will work through ERO's feedback and keep our community updated.

This is an opportunity to strengthen the Waihi College Way and build greater consistency across our kura. I am grateful for the professionalism, care and commitment our staff show our rangatahi each day.

There has also been plenty to celebrate. We had tremendous student support for Daffodil Day last week and raised more than $1,000 for cancer research and support. You may have seen the article published online and in our local newspaper highlighting how our young people are striving to make a positive difference for others. What a brilliant effort!

Congratulations also to our rock band, who competed at the ITM Music Festival last week and performed an original piece composed by one of our own students. We are always thrilled to find different ways for our young people to shine, and we are incredibly proud of how confidently they step forward and share their talents.

Our very best wishes go to the Waihi College Netball A team, who are away competing at UNISS this week. We know they will represent our college with pride, determination and excellent sportsmanship.

Although spring has arrived, winter bugs are still circulating and affecting both students and staff. If your young person is unwell, please keep them at home and let the college know about their absence. This helps protect the wellbeing of our whole school community.
If you would like to get in touch about any aspect of college life, please feel welcome to email me so we can arrange a time to kōrero.

Ngā mihi nui,
Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College

DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW? — THE STORY BEHIND SPIRIT DAYS

Spirit Days at Waihī College are about much more than house colours, competitions and having fun.

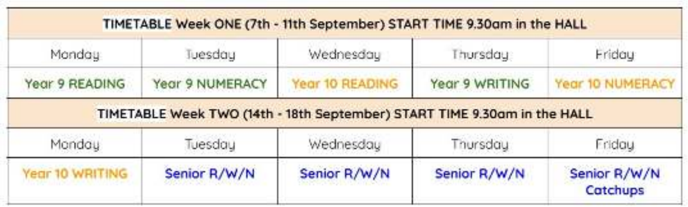
The tradition began in **1988** in memory of much-loved physics teacher **Martin Barber**, who tragically passed away in a car accident. Spirit Days were created to celebrate the things Martin valued — **fun, friendship and school spirit**. His family donated the **Martin Barber Cup**, which is still awarded to the winning house each year.

Over the years, Spirit Days have grown to become a celebration of

all those we have lost who have touched the hearts of our Waihī College whānau. It is a time to celebrate life, connection and aroha, while remembering those who have been an important part of our school community.

He taonga te whanaungatanga — relationships are a treasure.❤️ 🖤

Literacy and Numeracy Common Assessment Activities

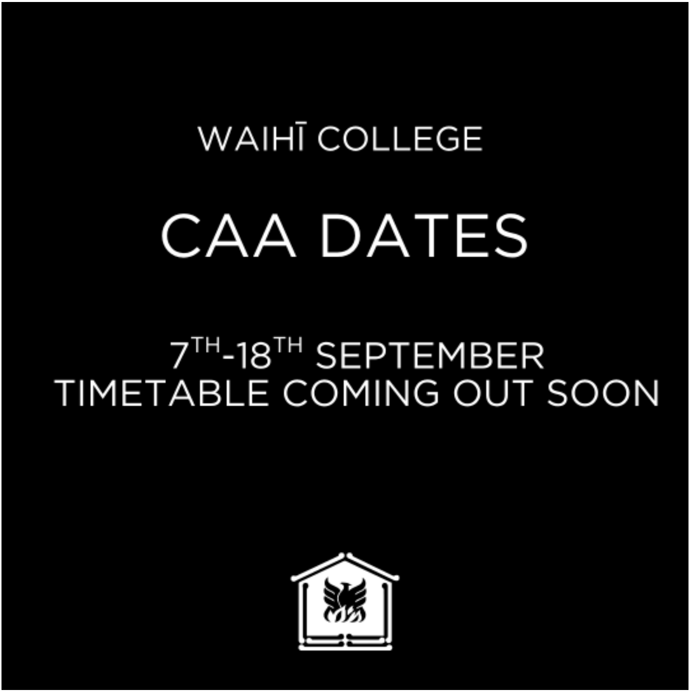


TIMETABLE Week ONE (7th - 11th September) START TIME 9.30am in the HALL				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 9 READING	Year 9 NUMERACY	Year 10 READING	Year 9 WRITING	Year 10 NUMERACY
TIMETABLE Week TWO (14th - 18th September) START TIME 9.30am in the HALL				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 10 WRITING	Senior R/W/N	Senior R/W/N	Senior R/W/N	Senior R/W/N Catchups

The second assessment window for Literacy and Numeracy will start on the 7th September through to the 18th September for students in Year 10 through to 13.

For students in Year 11-13 who do not have Literacy or Numeracy, this testing is compulsory. For students in Year 10, the testing is strongly encouraged.

There is a small group of Year 9 students who have opted in to one or more of the Reading, Writing or Numeracy assessments. Jo Howell will contact caregivers directly.



WAIHĪ COLLEGE

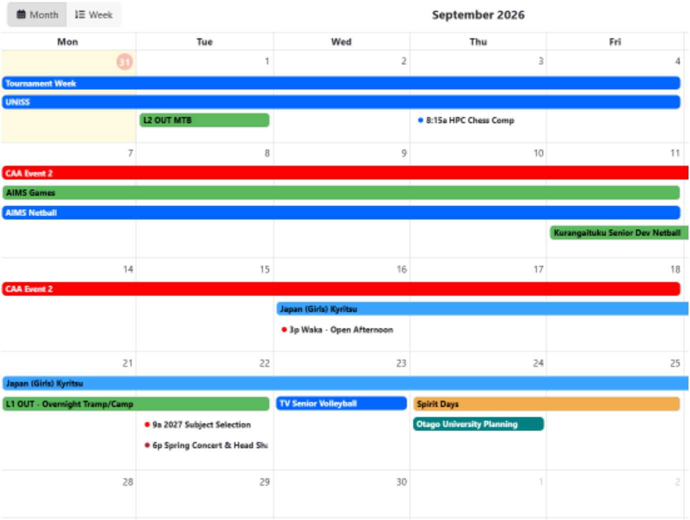
CAA DATES

7TH-18TH SEPTEMBER
TIMETABLE COMING OUT SOON

Please contact Jo Howell ASAP (joh@waihicol.school.nz) if you have any questions.

COMING UP

Here's a snapshot of our upcoming month from the SchoolBridge calendar.



September 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
31 Tournament Week UNISS	1 L2 OUT MTB	2	3 8:15a HPC Chess Comp	4
7 CAA Event 2 AIMS Games AIMS Netball	8	9	10	11 Kurangaituku Senior Dev Netball
14 CAA Event 2	15	16 Japan (Girls) Kyritsu 3p Waka - Open Afternoon	17	18
21 Japan (Girls) Kyritsu L1 OUT - Overnight Tramp/Camp	22 9a 2027 Subject Selection 6p Spring Concert & Head Sh	23 TV Senior Volleyball	24 Spirit Days Otago University Planning	25
28	29	30	1	2

With so many sports fixtures, trips, events, assessments and activities happening throughout the term, our calendar is updated regularly. This snapshot is a great guide, but SchoolBridge is always the most up-to-date place to check what's happening at Waihī College. We encourage all whānau to check the SchoolBridge calendar regularly and download the SchoolBridge app to stay informed wherever you are. You can download the SchoolBridge app easily. Check out the instructions in the Parent Corner section of this newsletter, or head to the Keeping Informed section on our website.

PRIZEGIVINGS

Our end-of-year prizegivings are always an exciting time at Waihī College! With our students shining in so many different ways, we hold a number of prizegivings to make sure their achievements, talents, service and hard work are recognised and celebrated. Here are the dates confirmed so far:

- Sports Prizegiving: Thursday 15th October
- Cultural Prizegiving & Art Exhibition: Tuesday 27th October
- Senior Service & Endeavour Prizegiving: Tuesday 3rd November
- Senior Academic Prizegiving: Thursday 5th November
- Junior Service & Endeavour Prizegiving: Monday 7th December
- Junior Academic Prizegiving: Tuesday 8th December

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

END OF

YEAR PRIZEGIVINGS

Please keep an eye on the SchoolBridge calendar for further details, including times, as they are confirmed. We look forward to celebrating our ākonga and all they have achieved throughout the year!

SHAVE FOR A CURE & SPRING CONCERT

Tuesday 22 September | 6.30pm | Waihi College Hall

Join us for a fantastic evening of bravery, music, fun and fundraising as our Shave for a Cure event comes together with our Spring Concert!

Shave for a Cure

We’re looking for brave students willing to shave, cut or colour their hair to raise funds for Blood Cancer New Zealand. You can also get behind our participants by donating and cheering them on! Signing up is easy! Head to the Waihī College Shave for a Cure page:https://www.shaveforacure.co.nz/fundraisers/WaihiCollege471 Register and create your fundraising page. Select School as your shave location and make sure you join the Waihī College team.

Spring Concert
Our Music students will take to the stage to showcase what they've been working on throughout the year. These performances form part of their music assessment requirements, so it's a wonderful opportunity for whānau and our community to come along, enjoy some great music and support our talented students.

Gold coin entry
Bring a gold coin at the door and you choose where it goes – either to our Music Department, helping support students through the purchase of new musical instruments, or to our Shave for a Cure fundraiser supporting Blood Cancer New Zealand.

Food
Food will also be available to purchase on the night, with proceeds split between the two causes. Whether you're braving the chop, taking the stage, supporting a participant or simply coming along for a great night, we'd love to see you there. One night, two great causes, plenty of music and fun – all while supporting our students and the wider community.

SHAVE FOR A CURE

& SPRING CONCERT

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER | 6.30PM | WAIHĪ COLLEGE HALL

Join us for a fantastic evening of bravery, music, fun and fundraising!

SHAVE FOR A CURE

Shave, cut or colour your hair and help raise funds for Blood Cancer New Zealand!

Signing up is easy!

Head to the Waihī College Shave for a Cure page: https://www.shaveforacure.co.nz/fundraisers/WaihiCollege471

Register and create your fundraising page. Select School as your shave location and make sure you join the Waihī College team.

Students under 18 need parent/caregiver permission.

SPRING CONCERT

Enjoy live performances from our Music students showcasing what they've been working on this year.

Come along and support our talented students!

GOLD COIN ENTRY

Bring a gold coin and choose where your donation goes:

MUSIC DEPARTMENT
helping purchase new instruments

— OR —

SHAVE FOR A CURE
supporting Blood Cancer New Zealand

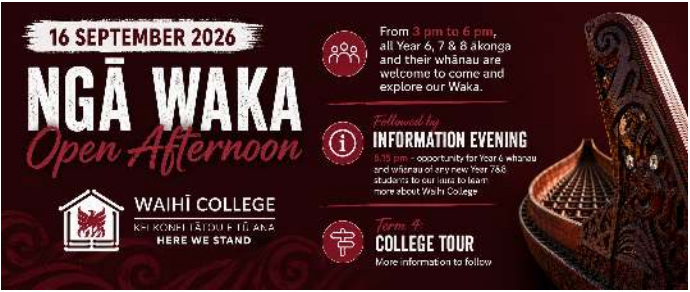
FOOD *available*

Food will be available to purchase on the night.

Proceeds will be shared between our Music Department and Shave for a Cure fundraiser.

Whether you're braving the chop, taking the stage, supporting a participant or simply coming along for a great night, we'd love to see you there.

ONE NIGHT, TWO GREAT CAUSES,
PLENTY OF MUSIC AND FUN –
ALL WHILE SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS
AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY.



16 SEPTEMBER 2026

NGĀ WAKA

Open Afternoon

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

KEI KONEI TĀTOU E TŪ ANA

HERE WE STAND

From 3 pm to 6 pm, all Year 6, 7 & 8 ākonga and their whānau are welcome to come and explore our Waka.

Followed by

INFORMATION EVENING

5.15 pm - opportunity for Year 6 whānau and whānau of any new Year 7&8 students to our kura to learn more about Waihī College

Term 4

COLLEGE TOUR

More information to follow

GOOD LUCK TO OUR TOURNAMENT STUDENTS!

Next week is a big one for many of our students as they head away to compete and represent Waihī College! A huge GOOD LUCK to everyone taking part in: College A Equestrian AIMS Games Senior Development Netball We're incredibly proud of you all and wish you the very best for your competitions.

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

GO WELL AND PLAY HARD

NEXT WEEK IS A BIG ONE FOR MANY OF OUR

STUDENTS AS THEY HEAD AWAY TO COMPETE AND REPRESENT WAIHĪ COLLEGE!

GO WELL, EVERYONE - WE'LL BE CHEERING YOU ON!

Give it your all, support your teammates, enjoy the experience and represent Waihī College with pride. Go well, everyone – we'll be cheering you on

🎶 ARE YOU READY TO ROCK? 🎸

We're starting to look ahead to **next year's school musical** and want to see who might be keen to get involved in **The Buddy Holly Story!**
This is a fantastic show packed with iconic rock 'n' roll music, energy and plenty of opportunities to perform.
We're looking to see what interest there is from students who would love to be involved, including:
🎸 **Around 15 musicians** – a great opportunity for instrumentalists to perform live
🎭 **Around 5 actors** – for key acting and character roles
💃 **Dancers** – to bring the music and era to life on stage
Whether you love playing music, acting, dancing – or just want to be part of an awesome school production – **we'd love to hear**

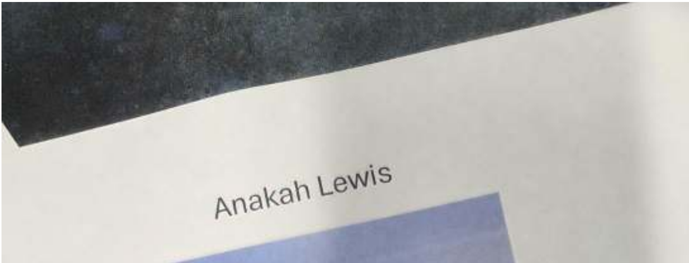
from you!

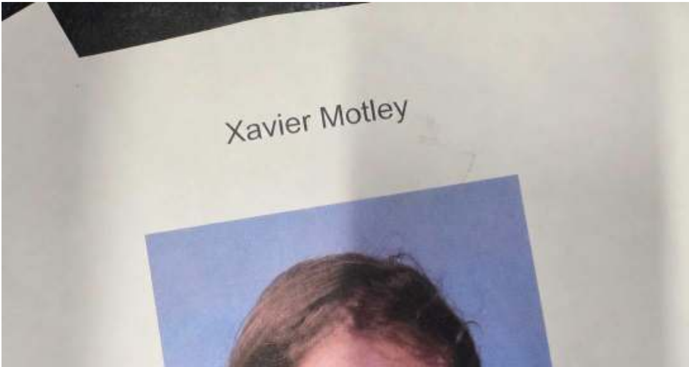
Interested? Let Mr Randell or Wendy know! 🎶🎭🎸

SCHOOL WIDE

Student Representative Nominees for 2027

Congratulations to Anakah Lewis and Xavier Motley, who have put themselves forward as our Student Representative nominees for 2027! It’s fantastic to see students willing to step up, represent their peers and have a voice in the future of Waihī College. Voting will take place on Wednesday 9 September. Over the coming days, we’ll share more about Anakah and Xavier, their ideas, priorities and what they each stand for, so students can make an informed choice when it’s time to vote. Well done Anakah and Xavier, and best of luck!





Xavier Motley

🚗 LAST DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE FOR 2026 – THAMES 🚗

Do you have your **Restricted Licence** and want to move on to your **Full Licence sooner?** The upcoming Defensive Driving Course in Thames will be the **last course for 2026**, so eligible students are encouraged to book now.

⭐ **Particularly important if you gained your Restricted Licence from August 2025 onwards** and want the opportunity to progress to your Full Licence before the end of this year.
⭐ It’s also worthwhile for students who gained their Restricted Licence from **February 2026 onwards**. Completing the course can

reduce the amount of time you need to hold your Restricted before progressing to your Full Licence.

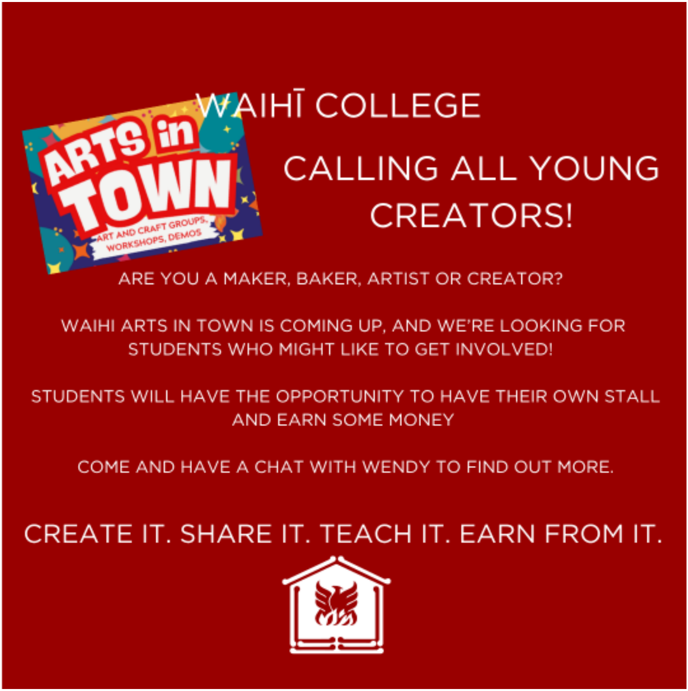
📍 **Thames High School**
🕓 **4.00pm–6.00pm**
📅 **Starts Tuesday 7 September**
The course runs over four sessions – Tuesday and Thursday, followed by Tuesday and Thursday the following week.
💰 **Cost: $245 per person**
👉 **Bookings are made directly through the AA website.** When booking, select **“THAMES”** as the location:
https://www.aa.co.nz/drivers/driving-school/defensive-driving-course/

⚠️ **Licence rule changes are coming:** The new 12-month Restricted Licence period will only apply to people who gain their Restricted Licence **after 27 January 2027**.
If getting your Full Licence sooner is important to you, **don’t miss this final 2026 course.**

CALLING ALL YOUNG CREATORS!

Are you a maker, baker, artist or creator?

Waihi Arts in Town is coming up, and we’re looking for students who might like to get involved! Maybe you make pottery, jewellery, art, crafts, baking, clothing, decorations – or something completely different. If you have a creative skill or talent you could show and teach to others, we’d love to hear from you.



ARTS in TOWN

ART AND CRAFT GROUPS, WORKSHOPS, DEMOS

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

CALLING ALL YOUNG CREATORS!

ARE YOU A MAKER, BAKER, ARTIST OR CREATOR?

WAIHI ARTS IN TOWN IS COMING UP, AND WE’RE LOOKING FOR STUDENTS WHO MIGHT LIKE TO GET INVOLVED!

STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THEIR OWN STALL AND EARN SOME MONEY

COME AND HAVE A CHAT WITH WENDY TO FIND OUT MORE.

CREATE IT. SHARE IT. TEACH IT. EARN FROM IT.

Students will have the opportunity to have their own stall at the Arts Day, showcase what they create and offer a small workshop or hands-on activity that people can sign up for - earning you money! You don’t need to have everything figured out yet – if you have an idea, or even think “I could probably teach someone how to make that!”, come and have a chat with Wendy to find out more.

Create it. Share it. Teach it. Earn from it.

WAIHĪ COLLEGE
THANK YOU
WELL DONE WAIHĪ
FOR RAISING
OVER $1000!!

🌼 **THANK YOU, WAIHĪ COLLEGE!** 🌼
A huge thank you to everyone who got involved and supported **Daffodil Day** this year!
Between the **Leos' Bake Sale**, the **Year 8 Sausage Sizzle**, and our **school-wide mufti day**, we raised **just over $1,000** for the Cancer Society! 💛
What an awesome effort from our students, staff and wider school community. Every contribution helped make a difference.

Well done, Waihī College – we should be proud! 🌼💛

IGNITE ENGINEERING CAMP – SUMMER 2027

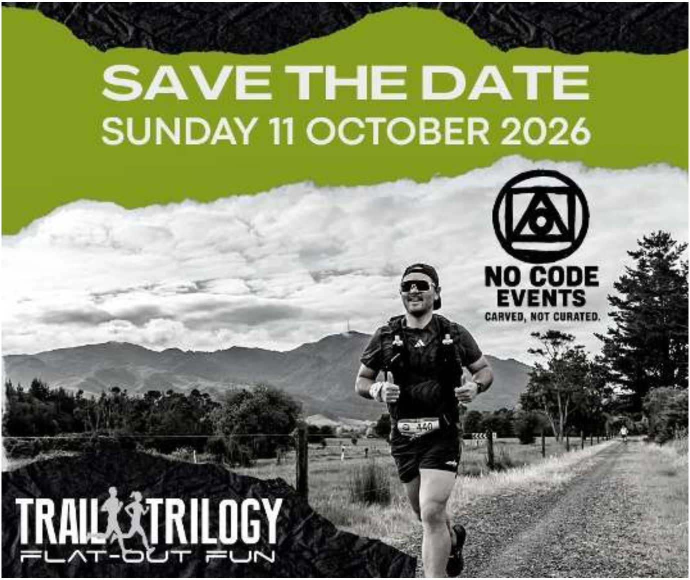
Are you in Year 11–13 and curious about engineering, STEM, or what university life could look like? Ignite Engineering Camp is a FREE five-day summer camp held in January at Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland. Run by Youth Without Borders, Ignite gives students the chance to explore the world of engineering, experience university life and discover where a future in STEM could take them.

The camp is particularly suited to students who are still figuring out what they might like to do after secondary school and want the opportunity to explore engineering, STEM and tertiary study. Five-day camp in January Fully funded – no cost to attend Open to Year 11–13 students Explore engineering and STEM pathways Experience life at the University of Auckland Applications close 25th September 2026. Find out more and access application information via the Ignite Engineering Camp Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/share/1EhKnAp5L5/
Interested or want to know more? Have a chat with Ms Clare.This is a fantastic opportunity to explore what your future could look like!

📢 STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – TRAIL TRILOGY 2026!

📅 **Sunday 11 October 2026**
The **2026 Trail Trilogy** is all systems go, and organisers are looking for **student volunteers to help as course marshals** on the day!

Marshals will be positioned at various locations from **Waihī, through the Karangahake Gorge and on to Paeroa**, helping to support participants and keep the event running smoothly.



This is a great opportunity to get involved in a fantastic local event, give back to our community and gain some volunteering experience.

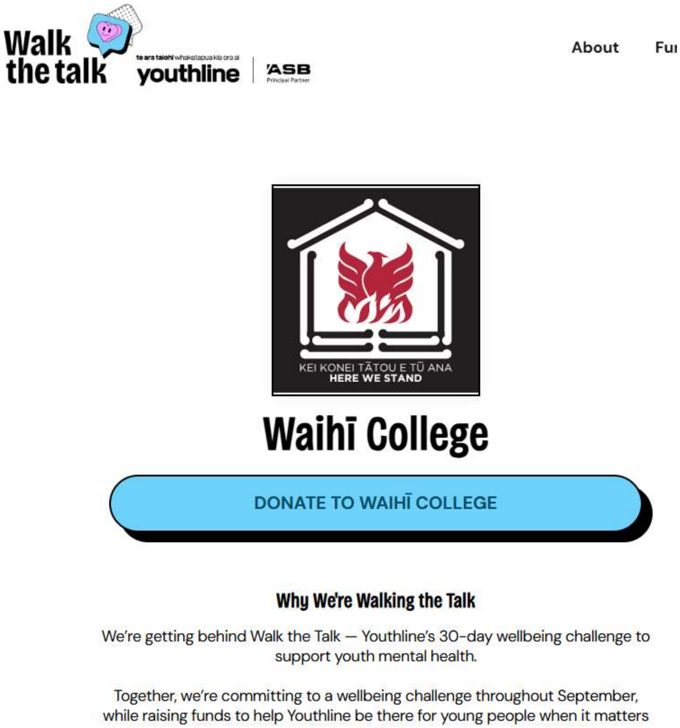
💚 The Trail Trilogy also supports our local community, with donations from the event going to **Waihī & Paeroa Lions and Sport'n'Action Waihī**.

🙋‍♀️ **Keen to be a marshal?**

Please contact **Jo** at Jo.Heath@hauraki-dc.govt.nz to put your name down or find out more. **Save the date and get involved!**

WALK THE TALK – WAIHĪ COLLEGE IS GETTING INVOLVED!

This September, Waihī College is proud to be taking part in Walk the Talk 2026, Youthline's 30-day movement and fundraising challenge supporting the wellbeing and mental health of young people across Aotearoa. The challenge is simple – get moving every day throughout September! You can walk, run, swim, bike, paddle, dance or choose whatever movement works for you. At the same time, we'll be raising funds to help keep Youthline's free 24/7 Helpline available for rangatahi who need someone to talk to.



Waihī College

Why We're Walking the Talk

We're getting behind Walk the Talk — Youthline's 30-day wellbeing challenge to support youth mental health.

Together, we're committing to a wellbeing challenge throughout September, while raising funds to help Youthline be there for young people when it matters most.

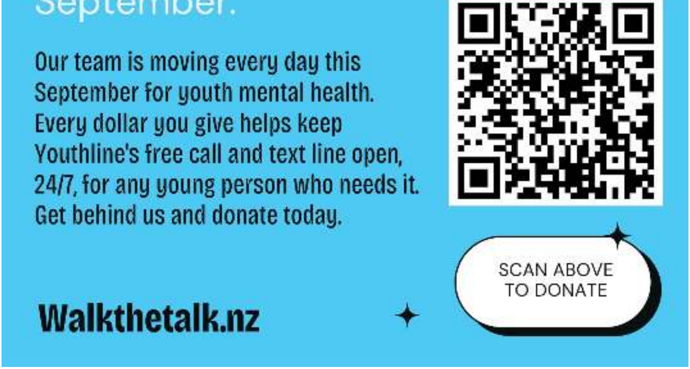
Youth mental health in Aotearoa is in serious crisis. Every dollar we raise helps keep Youthline's 24/7 Helpline running and supports the vital mental health services that make a real difference for rangatahi across the country.

JOIN WAIHĪ COLLEGE

Share OUR PAGE AND HELP US REACH OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL

https://walkthetalk.nz/waihi-college COPY LINK

Walk the talk
youthline
ASB
DONATE TODAY
Back our team to walk the talk for youth mental health this



September.

Our team is moving every day this September for youth mental health. Every dollar you give helps keep Youthline's free call and text line open, 24/7, for any young person who needs it. Get behind us and donate today.

SCAN ABOVE TO DONATE

Walkthetalk.nz

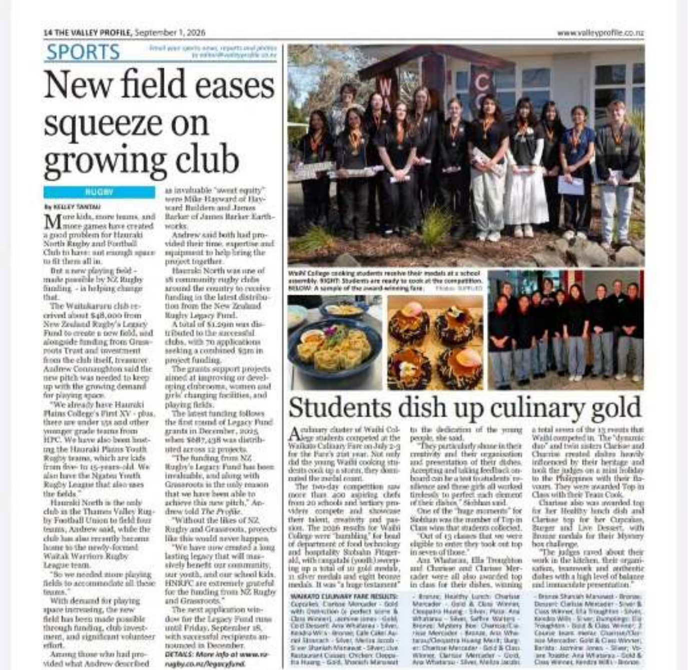
Every dollar raised through Walk the Talk goes directly towards supporting the Helpline, which is available to young people by phone, text, webchat and WhatsApp. We'd love our students, staff, whānau and wider Waihī College community to get behind us. You can join in, share our page or make a donation – every bit of support makes a difference.
Support Waihī College here: https://walkthetalk.nz/o/waihi-college
Get moving. Start conversations. Support our rangatahi.

Let's Walk the Talk, Waihī College!

Our Culinary Stars Make the News!

What a fantastic shout-out for our talented Waihi College culinary students in this week's Valley Profile! Following their incredible success at the Waikato Culinary Fare, our students have been recognised for their skill, creativity, teamwork and hard mahi –

bringing home an amazing collection of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. We’re so proud to see these awesome young wāhine celebrated out in our wider community. A huge congratulations again to all of the girls involved, and to the staff who supported them along the way.Thanks to the Valley Profile for sharing their success – and go girls!



14 THE VALLEY PROFILE, September 1, 2026

www.valleyprofile.co.nz

SPORTS

Email your sports news, reports and photos to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

New field eases squeeze on growing club

RUGBY

By KELLEY TANTAU

More kids, more teams, and more games have created a good problem for Hauraki North Rugby and Football Club to have: not enough space to fit them all in.

But a new playing field – made possible by NZ Rugby funding – is helping change that.

The Waitakaruru club received about $48,000 from New Zealand Rugby's Legacy Fund to create a new field, and alongside funding from Grassroots Trust and investment from the club itself, treasurer Andrew Connaughton said the new pitch was needed to keep up with the growing demand for playing space.

"We already have Hauraki Plains College's First XV - plus, there are under 15s and other younger grade teams from HPC. We have also been hosting the Hauraki Plains Youth Rugby teams, which are kids from five- to 15-years-old. We also have the Ngatea Youth Rugby League that also uses the fields."

Hauraki North is the only club in the Thames Valley Rugby Football Union to field four teams, Andrew said, while the club has also recently become home to the newly-formed Waitak Warriors Rugby League team.

"So we needed more playing fields to accommodate all these teams."

With demand for playing space increasing, the new field has been made possible through funding, club investment, and significant volunteer effort.

Among those who had provided what Andrew described as invaluable "sweat equity" were Mike Hayward of Hayward Builders and James Barker of James Barker Earthworks.

Andrew said both had provided their time, expertise and equipment to help bring the project together.

Hauraki North was one of 18 community rugby clubs around the country to receive funding in the latest distribution from the New Zealand Rugby Legacy Fund.

A total of $1.29m was distributed to the successful clubs, with 70 applications seeking a combined $5m in project funding.

The grants support projects aimed at improving or developing clubrooms, women and girls' changing facilities, and playing fields.

The latest funding follows the first round of Legacy Fund grants in December, 2025, when $687,438 was distributed across 12 projects.

"The funding from NZ Rugby's Legacy Fund has been invaluable, and along with Grassroots is the only reason that we have been able to achieve this new pitch," Andrew told *The Profile*.

"Without the likes of NZ Rugby and Grassroots, projects like this would never happen.

"We have now created a long lasting legacy that will massively benefit our community, our youth, and our school kids. HNRFC are extremely grateful for the funding from NZ Rugby and Grassroots."

The next application window for the Legacy Fund runs until Friday, September 18, with successful recipients announced in December.

***DETAILS:** More info at www.nzrugby.co.nz/legacyfund.*

Waihi College cooking students receive their medals at a school assembly. RIGHT: Students are ready to cook at the competition. BELOW: A sample of the award-winning fare. Photos: SUPPLIED

Students dish up culinary gold

A culinary cluster of Waihi College students competed at the Waikato Culinary Fare on July 2-3 for the Fare's 21st year. Not only did the young Waihi cooking students cook up a storm, they dominated the medal count.

The two-day competition saw more than 400 aspiring chefs from 20 schools and tertiary providers compete and showcase their talent, creativity and passion. The 2026 results for Waihi College were "humbling," for head of department of food technology and hospitality Siobhan Fitzgerald, with rangatahi (youth) sweeping up a total of 10 gold medals, 11 silver medals and eight bronze medals. It was "a huge testament" to the dedication of the young people, she said.

"They particularly shone in their creativity and their organisation and presentation of their dishes. Accepting and taking feedback on board can be a test to students' resilience and these girls all worked tirelessly to perfect each element of their dishes," Siobhan said.

One of the "huge moments" for Siobhan was the number of Top in Class wins that students collected.

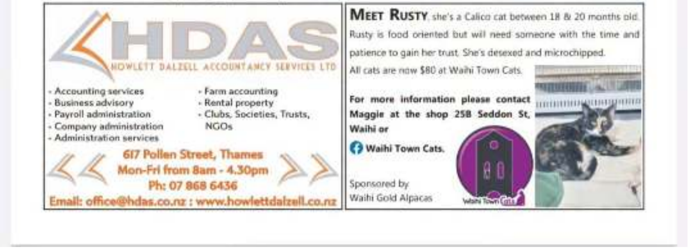
"Out of 13 classes that we were eligible to enter they took out top in seven of those."

Ana Whatarau, Ella Troughton and Charisse and Clarisse Mercader were all also awarded top in class for their dishes, winning a total seven of the 13 events that Waihi competed in. The "dynamic duo" and twin sisters Clarisse and Charisse created dishes heavily influenced by their heritage and took the judges on a mini holiday to the Philippines with their flavours. They were awarded Top in Class with their Team Cook.

Charisse also was awarded top for her Healthy lunch dish and Clarisse top for her Cupcakes, Burger and Live Dessert, with Bronze medals for their Mystery box challenge.

"The judges raved about their work in the kitchen, their organisation, teamwork and authentic dishes with a high level of balance and immaculate presentation."

WAIKATO CULINARY FARE RESULTS: Cupcakes: Clarisse Mercader - Gold with Distinction (a perfect score & Class Winner), Jazmine Jones - Gold; Cold Dessert: Ana Whatarau - Silver, Kendra Wills - Bronze; Cafe Cake: [illegible] - Silver, Melita Jacob - Silver, Shaniah Manawat - Silver; Live Restaurant Cuisine: Chicken: Cleopatra Huang - Gold, Shaniah Manawat - Bronze; Healthy Lunch: Charisse Mercader - Gold & Class Winner, Cleopatra Huang - Silver; Pizza: Ana Whatarau - Silver, Saffire Walters - Bronze; Mystery Box: Charisse/Clarisse Mercader - Bronze, Ana Whatarau/Cleopatra Huang Merit; Burger: Charisse Mercader - Gold & Class Winner, Clarisse Mercader - Gold, Ana Whatarau - Silver, Melita Jacob - Bronze, Shaniah Manawat - Bronze; Dessert: Clarisse Mercader - Silver & Class Winner, Ella Troughton - Silver, Kendra Wills - Silver; Dumplings: Ella Troughton - Gold & Class Winner; 2 Course team menu: Charisse/Clarisse Mercader: Gold & Class Winner; Barista: Jazmine Jones - Silver; Vegan Toastie: Ana Whatarau - Gold & Class Winner, Kendra Wills - Bronze.



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Mon-Fri from 8am - 4.30pm
Ph: 07 868 6436
Email: office@hdas.co.nz : www.howlettdalzell.co.nz

MEET RUSTY she's a Calico cat between 18 & 20 months old. Rusty is food oriented but will need someone with the time and patience to gain her trust. She's desexed and microchipped.

All cats are now $80 at Waihi Town Cats.

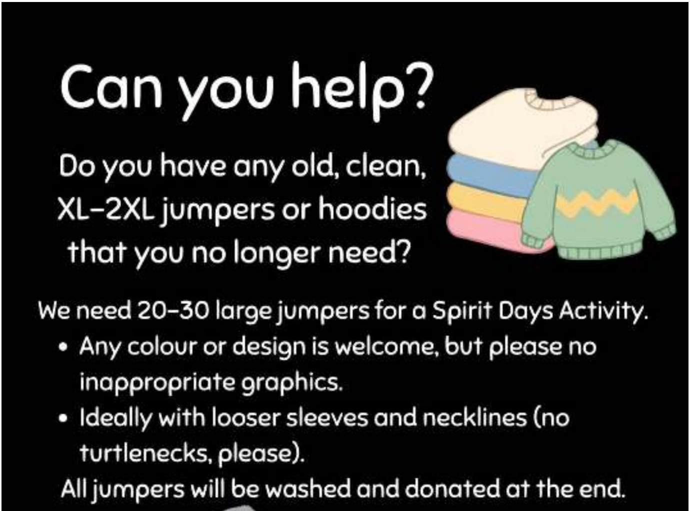
For more information please contact Maggie at the shop 258 Seddon St, Waihi or

Waihi Town Cats.

Sponsored by
Waihi Gold Alpacas

OLD JUMPERS ANYONE?

Waihi College needs your old jumpers for Spirit Days! Can you help? Please drop into the Student Centre.



Can you help?

Do you have any old, clean, XL–2XL jumpers or hoodies that you no longer need?

We need 20–30 large jumpers for a Spirit Days Activity.

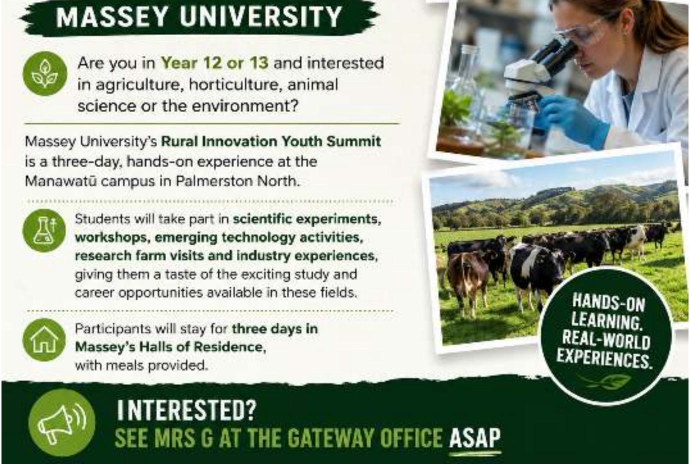
- Any colour or design is welcome, but please no inappropriate graphics.
- Ideally with looser sleeves and necklines (no turtlenecks, please).

All jumpers will be washed and donated at the end.

FUTURE PATHWAYS WITH MRS GRAVESON

WAIHĪ
CAREERS &
FUTURE
PATHWAYS

RURAL
INNOVATION
Youth Summit



MASSEY UNIVERSITY

Are you in **Year 12 or 13** and interested in agriculture, horticulture, animal science or the environment?

Massey University's **Rural Innovation Youth Summit** is a three-day, hands-on experience at the Manawatū campus in Palmerston North.

Students will take part in **scientific experiments, workshops, emerging technology activities, research farm visits and industry experiences,** giving them a taste of the exciting study and career opportunities available in these fields.

Participants will stay for **three days in Massey's Halls of Residence,** with meals provided.

HANDS-ON LEARNING. REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES.

INTERESTED?
SEE MRS G AT THE GATEWAY OFFICE ASAP

LEAVING SCHOOL MAGAZINE LINK

To check out the current issue of the Leaving School Magazine, please head to this link:
https://oliverlee.co.nz/leavingschool-issue36/

Auckland University of Technology (AUT) **Scholarships:**

- Applications for the AUT Knowledge That Works Scholarships are currently open and close on 1 September 2026.

- International Scholarship applications are expected to open later this month. Further information will be shared once confirmed.

Accommodation:

- Application dates are still being finalised. In previous years, applications have typically opened in early August and closed in late September. We’ll let you know as soon as the confirmed dates are available.

Events:

- AUT LIVE is happening on **29 August**. More details will be shared soon, but you can join the journey now, register through the AUT LIVE link to stay updated on everything AUT LIVE related like the app, the schedule, and how to plan your day: https://www.aut.ac.nz/live. We would love you to share this with your students and their whanau so they can make the most of this opportunity.

OTAGO UNIVERSITY

Chat to Mrs G if you'd like to know more about any of these:

University of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

2027
POPO Pacific Chemistry Scholarship

CHEM150 Concepts in Chemistry

Support through CHEM150 and The Chemical Basis of Biology and Human Health

VA'A O TAUTAI

About this scholarship

The POPO Pacific Chemistry Scholarship is run through the Pacific Islands Research and Student Support Unit (PIRSSU) at the University of Otago. The scholarship supports Pacific students to prepare for the CHEM191 Chemical Basis of Biology and Human Health paper, as part of Health Sciences First Year (HSFY). Designed to support Pacific students interested in a career in health, the Pacific Opportunities Programmes at Otago (POPO) CHEM150 Scholarship provides access to the CHEM150 programme, as well as continuous support through the CHEM191 paper and HSFY.

POPO Pacific CHEM150 Scholarship covers:

- Tuition fees for the University of Otago CHEM150 programme.
- Residential college accommodation for the duration of the CHEM150 course (two weeks). The initial four weeks are completed via distance learning.
- Additional resources, tutorials and academic support throughout enrolment in CHEM191.

POPO Pacific CHEM150 Scholarship staff will meet with individual recipients at key points throughout the semester to provide support where needed. Recipients are expected to engage in additional CHEM191 academic support available as part of the scholarship.

About the CHEM150 course

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the background knowledge and study skills necessary to confidently undertake the CHEM191 Chemical Basis of Biology and Human Health paper at Otago. It is designed for students whose learning in secondary school chemistry is incomplete, having not taken Year 13 (NCEA Level 3) chemistry. Students undertaking this course will still need to meet the University's admission and entrance criteria in order to proceed to full credit study.

Criteria for the POPO Pacific Scholarship

Successful applicants must:

- Have Pacific Indigeneity.
- Show a commitment to pursue Health Sciences study and a career in health.
- Have met the entry requirements for the University of Otago CHEM150 course.

Application process

Students must enrol into the CHEM150 paper at Summer School and Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) to be considered for the scholarship.

Apply to enrol at the University of Otago

Contacts

POPO Pacific CHEM150 Scholarship | POPO Team

For any queries about this application or application process, please contact the scholarship co-ordinator.

Email: popo@otago.ac.nz

CHEM150 Concepts in Chemistry

For information about the CHEM150 course, contact the course co-ordinator.

Email: davidm@chemistry.otago.ac.nz

Accommodation

Accommodation for scholarship recipients will be provided at a designated residential college for the duration of the in-person portion of the CHEM150 course. Recipients will be notified of accommodation arrangements once the selection process is complete.

POPO Pacific Chemistry Scholarship – CHEM150 application form

Deadline: Sunday the 15th of November 2026. Submit your completed application to popo@otago.ac.nz

Personal details

Name

Address

Mobile

Email

Gender

Optional: To which ethnic group(s) do you belong?

Ethnicity

What background in chemistry do you have?

Please provide details:

	Result	Year
Year 13		
Year 12		
Year 11		

Current Year 13 subjects

Please provide details:

Current school attending

Please provide details:

Do you plan to enrol for the HSFY course?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

Personal statement

Please explain your interest in a career in health (150words max)

Please explain how this scholarship will contribute to your academic goals and pursuits (150 words max)

Privacy statement

The information requested in this application form and your academic record will be used for the purposes of assessing your application for the POPO Pacific Chemistry Scholarship. Information may also be used for statistical purposes. This potential use would aggregate data and not identify individual applicants.

☐ I have read and understood the privacy statement above and agree to its conditions.

Declaration of applicant

☐ I have read and understood the entry criteria, purpose, obligations and expectations of the POPO Pacific Chemistry Scholarship. I agree to abide by these.

☐ I confirm all the information supplied in this form is true and correct.

☐ I understand POPO Pacific Chemistry Scholarship applicants must also complete and apply for the University of Otago CHEM150 paper.

☐ I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions of this application.

POPO26.

POPO JUMPSTART PHYSICS SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship valued at $2,500.

A 3 week programme to prepare students for PHSI191.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH OF NOVEMBER 2026!

POPO PATHWAY SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship valued up to $15,000.

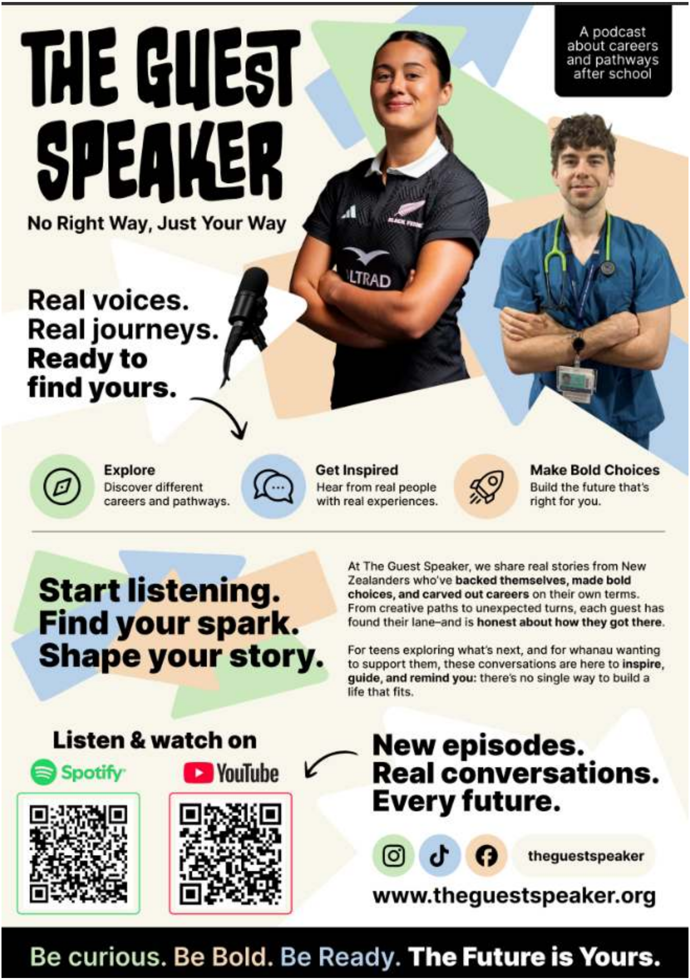
A year long certificate in Health Sciences to prepare students for Health Sciences First Year.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH OF NOVEMBER 2026!

Scholarships and their respective value are subject to change. Please email popo@otago.ac.nz for further information.

University of Otago
Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka

VA'A O TAUTAI
CENTRE FOR PACIFIC HEALTH



THE GUEST SPEAKER

No Right Way, Just Your Way

A podcast about careers and pathways after school

Real voices. Real journeys. Ready to find yours.

Explore
Discover different careers and pathways.

Get Inspired
Hear from real people with real experiences.

Make Bold Choices
Build the future that's right for you.

Start listening. Find your spark. Shape your story.

At The Guest Speaker, we share real stories from New Zealanders who've **backed themselves, made bold choices, and carved out careers** on their own terms. From creative paths to unexpected turns, each guest has found their lane–and is **honest about how they got there.**

For teens exploring what's next, and for whanau wanting to support them, these conversations are here to **inspire, guide, and remind you:** there's no single way to build a life that fits.

Listen & watch on

Spotify

YouTube

New episodes. Real conversations. Every future.

theguestspeaker

www.theguestspeaker.org

Be curious. Be Bold. Be Ready. The Future is Yours.

SIT TELFORD CAMPUS

Telford will be hosting a second Open Day for 2026 on Wednesday, 23 September, giving students another chance to experience life and study on a working commercial farm. The event is ideal for students interested in:

- Agriculture
- Livestock and Dairy Farming
- Equine Studies
- Rural Animal Health
- Machinery and Practical Farm Skills

The Open Day includes:

1. Guided campus and farm tours
2. Opportunities to meet tutors and current students
3. Information on study and career pathways
4. Insights into student life and accommodation
5. Industry-focused learning opportunities
6. Complimentary sausage sizzles

Please see Mrs G at Gateway Office or email carolyng@waihicol.school.nz

COMMUNITY NOTICES

DONATE BLOOD
in Waihi

Visit our mobile blood drive and help save three lives.

WHERE

Waihi Events Centre

WHEN

Monday 7th September
9:30am-1:30pm
Monday 21st December
10:30am-2:30pm

Appointments are preferred as spaces are limited.
Scan QR Code to book.

Book now
0800 448 325
nzblood.co.nz

GIVE BLOOD. GIVE HOPE.

NZBLOOD
Te Ratonga Toto O Aotearoa

Ayusa

Japan 2027
WINTER CAMP

2 WEEKS IN WINTER WONDERLAND!

JANUARY 7 - 19, 2027

Includes:

- Tokyo Airport Pick-up & Drop-off
- Accommodation
- Local Transportation
- Japanese lesson fees and materials
- Guided tours/ excursions
- Activities & Workshops fees
- Breakfasts
- Entrance fees to attractions
- 24-hour supervision

Featured Experiences:

- **Japanese Language Lessons**
- **Local High School Visit**
- **Tours & Sightseeing**
- **Japanese Cooking Lesson**
- **Cultural Activities & Workshops**
- **And a lot more!**

APPLICATION DEADLINE
DECEMBER 4, 2026

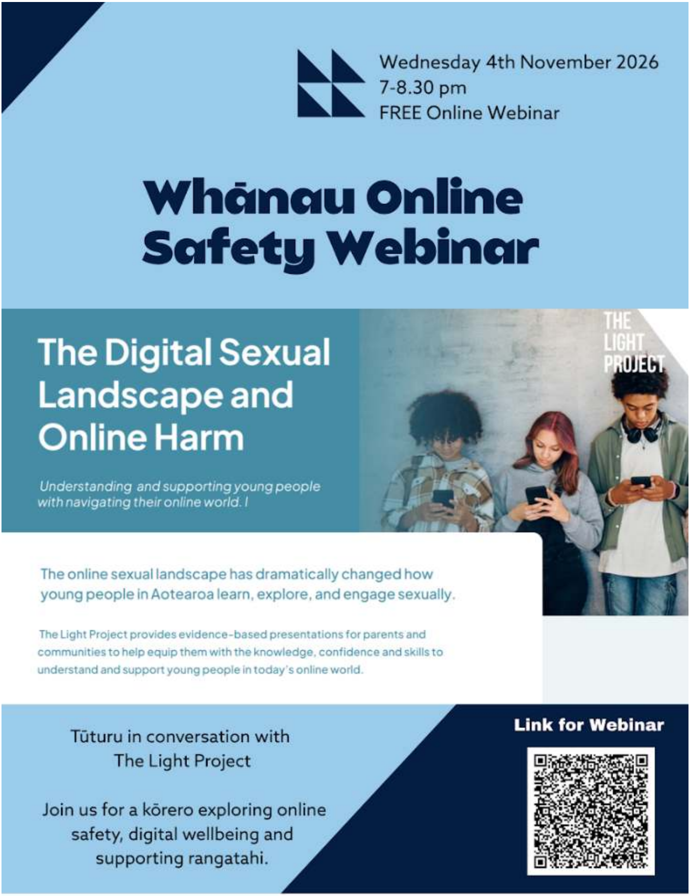
More information
https://www.intraxjp.com/ayusa/wintercamp/

For students
Ages 13 - 19 years old
No Japanese language requirement!
Program Fee: $2,700 USD

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Apply by September 30th, and get
$600 USD discount!

PARENT CORNER



Wednesday 4th November 2026
7-8.30 pm
FREE Online Webinar

Whānau Online Safety Webinar

The Digital Sexual Landscape and Online Harm

Understanding and supporting young people with navigating their online world. I

THE LIGHT PROJECT

The online sexual landscape has dramatically changed how young people in Aotearoa learn, explore, and engage sexually.

The Light Project provides evidence-based presentations for parents and communities to help equip them with the knowledge, confidence and skills to understand and support young people in today's online world.

Tūturu in conversation with
The Light Project

Join us for a kōrero exploring online
safety, digital wellbeing and
supporting rangatahi.

Link for Webinar

THE LIGHT PROJECT tūturu.

💻 FREE ONLINE SAFETY WEBINAR

Parents, caregivers and whānau are invited to tune in to a **FREE online webinar on Wednesday 4 November from 7.00–8.30pm**. **The Digital Sexual Landscape and Online Harm**, presented by Tūturu in conversation with **The Light Project**, will explore the online world our young people are navigating today.

The webinar will offer practical, evidence-based information to help whānau better understand **online safety, digital wellbeing and the challenges young people may encounter online**, as well as how we can support them with confidence.

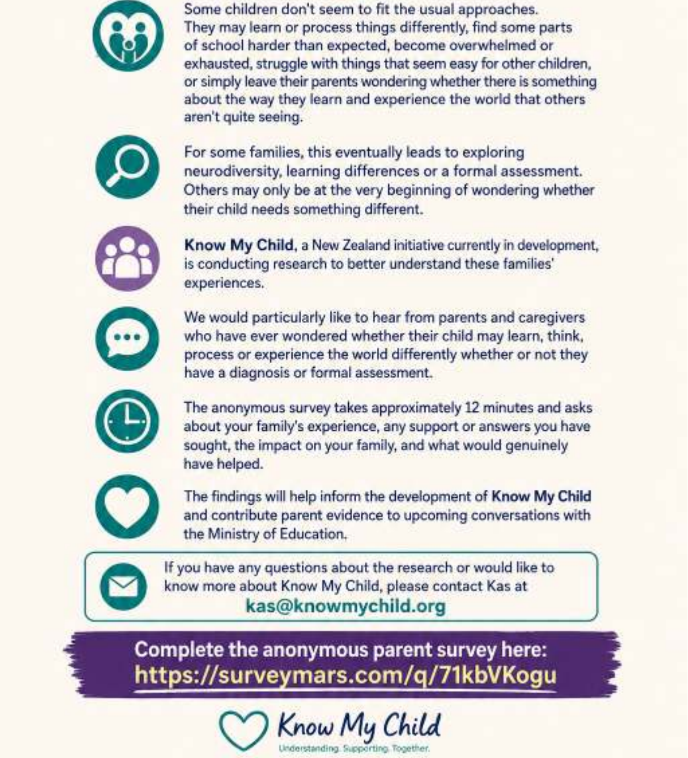
📅 **Wednesday 4 November 2026**
⏰ **7.00–8.30pm**
💻 **FREE online webinar**

We encourage parents, caregivers and whānau to take advantage of this valuable opportunity. **Grab a cuppa, tune in from home and join the kōrero!**

👉 Scan the QR code on the flyer to access the webinar.

Parent & Caregiver Research

Does Your Child Need Something Different?



Some children don't seem to fit the usual approaches. They may learn or process things differently, find some parts of school harder than expected, become overwhelmed or exhausted, struggle with things that seem easy for other children, or simply leave their parents wondering whether there is something about the way they learn and experience the world that others aren't quite seeing.

For some families, this eventually leads to exploring neurodiversity, learning differences or a formal assessment. Others may only be at the very beginning of wondering whether their child needs something different.

Know My Child, a New Zealand initiative currently in development, is conducting research to better understand these families' experiences.

We would particularly like to hear from parents and caregivers who have ever wondered whether their child may learn, think, process or experience the world differently whether or not they have a diagnosis or formal assessment.

The anonymous survey takes approximately 12 minutes and asks about your family's experience, any support or answers you have sought, the impact on your family, and what would genuinely have helped.

The findings will help inform the development of **Know My Child** and contribute parent evidence to upcoming conversations with the Ministry of Education.

If you have any questions about the research or would like to know more about Know My Child, please contact Kas at
kas@knowmychild.org

Complete the anonymous parent survey here:
https://surveymars.com/q/71kbVKogu

Know My Child
Understanding. Supporting. Together.

WE HAVE HEARD YOU

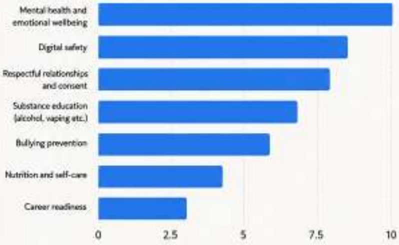
Health Education Consultation

Thank you to the parents and caregivers who shared their views on our Years 7–10 Health programme.

Overall, the feedback showed strong support for our current direction. Families value a programme that helps rangatahi develop the knowledge and skills needed to manage their wellbeing, relationships and the challenges of an increasingly complex world.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR HEALTH EDUCATION

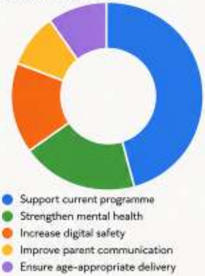
Relative emphasis of the main themes identified in consultation responses.



Scores show relative emphasis in the consultation report, not percentages.

OVERALL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

The main themes identified through the consultation.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We will continue developing a Health programme that is **aligned with the New Zealand Curriculum**, grounded in **hauora** and carefully structured for each age group.

We will strengthen learning about **mental health** and **digital safety** while continuing to teach **respectful relationships, resilience** and **safe decision-making**.

We also heard the importance of **clear communication**. Whānau will continue to receive information about programme content before sensitive units begin.

Thank you for helping us shape learning that supports the wellbeing and future success of our rangatahi.

KEI KONEI TĀTOU E TŪ ANA
HERE WE STAND

A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our Health Education Consultation. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and will help us continue shaping a programme that supports the wellbeing, learning and future success of our rangatahi.
Congratulations also to our prize draw winners — **Rachael Coll**, who won a **$50 Fuel voucher**, and **Thaleya Gainfort**, who won a

$50 New World voucher. Thank you again to everyone who shared their thoughts with us.

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

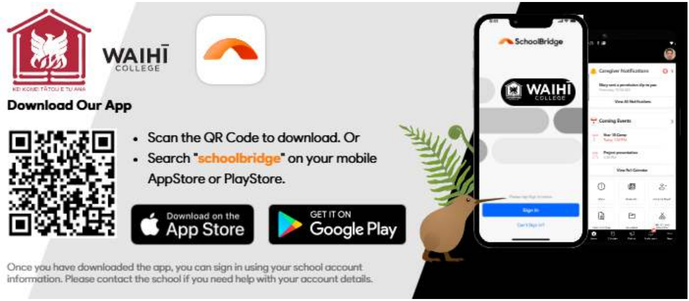
We're encouraging all students and caregivers to download the SchoolBridge app — your new first port of call for all things school-related.

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

Getting started is easy:

STEP1: 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! Head to the Latest News section of our website for handy links.



WAIHĪ COLLEGE

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

Once you have downloaded the app, you can sign in using your school account information. Please contact the school if you need help with your account details.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

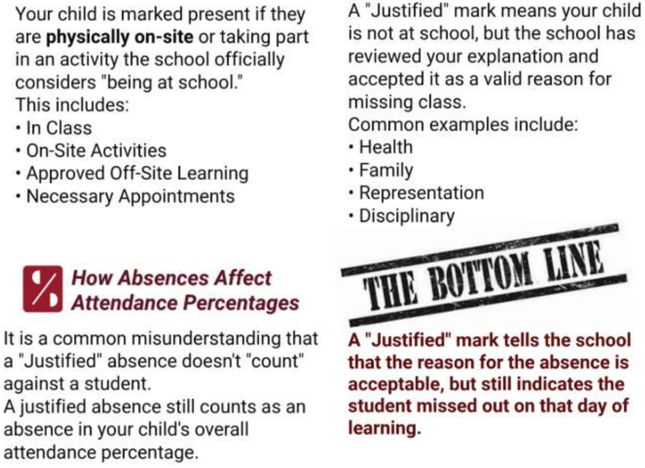
KEI KONEI TĀTOU E TŪ ANA
HERE WE STAND

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: A GUIDE FOR WHĀNAU

Navigating school attendance codes can be confusing. Here is a simple breakdown of the Ministry of Education codes that track your child's time and what those marks mean for their attendance.

Present at School

JUSTIFIED ***Justified Absence***



Your child is marked present if they are **physically on-site** or taking part in an activity the school officially considers "being at school."
This includes:

- In Class
- On-Site Activities
- Approved Off-Site Learning
- Necessary Appointments

A "Justified" mark means your child is not at school, but the school has reviewed your explanation and accepted it as a valid reason for missing class.
Common examples include:

- Health
- Family
- Representation
- Disciplinary

How Absences Affect Attendance Percentages

It is a common misunderstanding that a "Justified" absence doesn't "count" against a student.
A justified absence still counts as an absence in your child's overall attendance percentage.

THE BOTTOM LINE

A "Justified" mark tells the school that the reason for the absence is acceptable, but still indicates the student missed out on that day of learning.

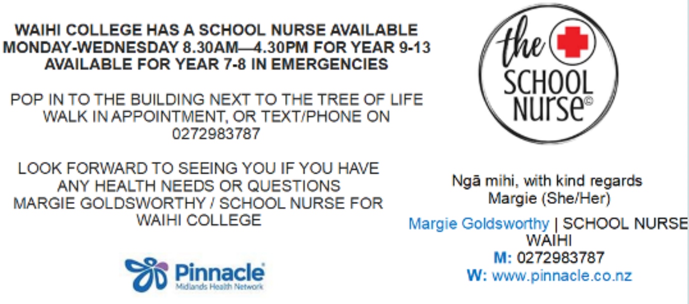
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

For more information about why attendance matters, please check out the handy PDF, recently shared by Amanda Cook, found on our website in the Latest News section.

If you have any questions about attendance, please get in touch with us. You can email Amanda at amandac@waihicol.school.nz or contact Susan in the Student Centre at susant@waihicol.school.nz.

Remember, an easy way to keep us informed about your student's attendance is via the School Bridge App (further details shown above).
Download it now and keep in touch with all things going on at

Waihī College.



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 (She/Her)

Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE
WAIHI
M: 0272983787
W: www.pinnacle.co.nz

This newsletter can also be found on our