



## Letter From the Acting Principal

BY HANNAH O'BRIEN

Kia ora koutou,

Nau mai, haere mai, welcome back to school for the start of 2025!

This term we warmly welcome Hayley Smith onto our team as the teacher in Te Whare Tuurama, Room 1. It is such a pleasure to have Hayley on board in this new role. We also welcome three new families into our kura - the O'Neill whānau, the Donaldson whānau and the Harris whānau and their respective children, George, Kahlei and Gracie.

We are straight into things here with some awesome sporting and cultural activities already underway. This week our students enjoyed a visit from Northern Districts Cricket for a fun introduction to cricket which they all seemed to enjoy. We are also swimming everyday and looking forward to our school swimming sports next Friday the 21st of February. On the 20th of February we have our new kapa haka tutor, Kahutaiki, coming to work with us and this will continue once a fortnight this term. My door is always open, so if there is anything on your mind as the term gets underway, come in for a cuppa.

Nga mihi nui,  
Hannah

### SCHOOL CONTACTS

School Phone

Hannah O'Brien

Gabbie Bregmen

Donna Palmer

Jodie Redpath

Hayley Smith

Ann Reeves

Kate Dermer

Acting Principal

Office

Room 2

Room 3

Room 1

CRT Release

Room 3 & GTT

07 825 4777

[hannah@teakau.school.nz](mailto:hannah@teakau.school.nz)

[office@teakau.school.nz](mailto:office@teakau.school.nz)

[donna@teakau.school.nz](mailto:donna@teakau.school.nz)

[jodie@teakau.school.nz](mailto:jodie@teakau.school.nz)

[hayley@teakau.school.nz](mailto:hayley@teakau.school.nz)

[ann@teakau.school.nz](mailto:ann@teakau.school.nz)

[kate@teakau.school.nz](mailto:kate@teakau.school.nz)

## Important Dates

**13 February 2025**

YR 7/8 Tech

**20 February 2025**

Hapa haka

**18 February 2025**

Constable Tom onsite 2.30-3.00pm Parent briefing regarding Keeping ourselves safe programme

**21 February 2025**

Swimming Sports

Te Akau School

All ages

**26 February 2025**

Garden to Table

**27 February 2025**

YR 7/8 Tech

**28 February 2025**

YR 4/8

Cluster Swimming Sports  
Glen Massey

**4 March 2025**

Parent Teacher  
Conferences

**6 March 2025**

Hapa haka

**10 March 2025**

CLOSED

Teacher Only Day

## DAILY SCHOOL BELLS

9am	School Starts
11am	Morning Tea
11.30am	Session Two
12.50pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Session Three
3.00pm	Home Time



## SUN SMART

Te Akau School is a sun smart school. We require our students to wear sun hats while outside during Term 1 and Term 4. Please send your child with a clearly named hat to school every day. Sunscreen is available from the staff room and the students are encouraged to use this, however it would be wise to apply a layer before coming to school.

## HOT LUNCHES

Mondays and Fridays, students can bring hot lunches wrapped in tin foil and clearly labeled to heat up in the oven.

## Staff of 2025

We are excited to introduce our wonderful 2025 staff team, who are ready to make this year a fantastic one!

- **Hannah O'Brien:** Acting Principal and teaching in Room 2 on Thursdays and Fridays.
- **Gabbie Bregmen:** Office administrator Monday to Friday.
- **Donna Palmer:** Room 2 Teacher Monday to Wednesday.
- **Jodie Redpath:** Room 3 Teacher, with **Kate Dermer** covering Jodie's Beginning Teacher release on Wednesdays afternoons. On Wednesday Mornings Kate will be providing one-on-one student support.
- **Hayley Smith:** We are excited to welcome Hayley to our team, Hayley is our Room 1 Teacher Monday to Friday.
- **Ann Reeves:** CRT Release cover on Tuesdays alternates between classrooms, CRT release is non-contact time for fulltime teachers enabling them to work on their planning and student assessments.

Additionally, **Tina** will continue to drive for Go Bus, and **Tracy** will remain our Te Akau School Bus driver and groundskeeper.

## Schedule Changes

2025 will see some changes to our usual school schedule:

- **Garden to Table:** Will change to once per fortnight.
- **Ngaruawahia Technology Year 7 and 8:** Commences on Thursday the 13th February 2025 continuing every fortnight. Last year our students attended with Waingaro School, This year your Technology day will be shared with Glen Massey School. This is just for the Year 7 & 8s.

## Bus Sponsors

Te Akau School is incredibly grateful to our sponsors for their support in helping us achieve our goal of maintaining our school-owned bus.

Your contributions have made a significant impact, ensuing our students have safe and reliable transportation getting to and from school and also to various educational activities outside our school.

Thanks to you, our school community is stronger, and our students have more opportunities to thrive. Thank you for believing in our vision and for being an essential part of our journey!





We are super excited to announce the Dental Caravan will be at Te Akau School from the 11th February 2025.

Jess and her team from Te Whatu Ora New Zealand will be seeing both our students and playcentre / younger siblings.

This service is provided free to all New Zealand residents under the age of 18.



## Keeping Ourselves Safe

This term each class will be doing the 'Keeping Ourselves Safe' unit, developed by the NZ Police. Keeping Ourselves Safe fits within the Health and PE Curriculum and focuses on helping children develop awareness and understanding in the following areas:

- to work out when their safety is at risk
- how to keep safe when they meet and mix with other people
- who and how to ask for help if they, or someone they know, is being abused
- to go on asking for help until someone does something to stop the abuse
- that it is important to make and follow personal, family and school safety rules.
- 

The program is structured appropriately for different age groups and is delivered by our teachers with the support of our Police Liaison Officer, Constable Tom.

Before we start the program, we will be holding an information session for whānau and Constable Tom will be available to answer your questions at this meeting.

Join us at School from **2:30-3pm on Tuesday the 18th of February** to learn more.



## School Pool

### School Pool Now Open!

Great news! The school pool is now open for student use. Special thanks to the Jackson Family setting our pool up. Please ensure your children bring **clearly labeled togs and a towel every day**.

Kindly note:

- The pool is **not available for public use**.
- It is only to be used during school hours under **teacher supervision**.
- For safety and security, the pool area is monitored by **security cameras**.
- If your child has any **fears or concerns around water**, please let their teacher know so we can provide the necessary support.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us make this a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone! 🌞



## House Teams Announcement

To ensure fairness and balance across our house teams, we have made some exciting changes for 2025! A huge congratulations to Angel Sheehan, Noah Crawford, and Jessica Horsley on their appointments as our new house captains. We are confident they will lead with enthusiasm, integrity, and a strong sense of team spirit. Here's to a fantastic year ahead! 🎉🌟

### KAURI

**House Captain:** Noah Crawford

**Deputy House Captains:** Aiden Chamberlain and Billie van den Bemd

**Team Mates:** Katara Williamson, Kade Copeland, Rory McRoberts-Maihi, George Jackson, Lyla Merrilees, Lillie Crawford, Lucy Glenn, Sadie MacDonald, Declan Tovey, Piper Lilley and Kahlei Donaldson.

### TOTARA

**House Captain:** Angel Sheehan

**Deputy House Captains:** Benjamin Chamberlain and Mason Lilley

**Team Mates:** Angus Glenn, Samantha Towl, Gracie Harris, Jayden Smith, Paige van den Bemd, Delilah Andrews-Wright, George O'Neill, Macie MacDonald, Luka Bregmen and Esme Foley.

### RIMU

**House Captain:** Jessica Horsley

**Deputy House Captain:** Ollie Jackson

**Team Mates:** Ariana Potter, Reagan Lilley, Blake Bregmen, Koby Smith, Lucian Williamson, Jocelyn Chamberlain, Maui McRoberts-Maihi, Rhyda Johnston, Sasha Orlando-Reep, and Lachie van den Bemd.

## HOUSE POINTS

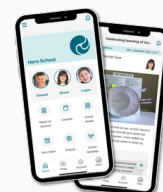
Kauri

Totara

Rimu

## HERO STUDENT MANAGEMENT APP

Download the Hero Student Management App today! Available on Apple, Android and Desktop.



## MARQUEE FOR HIRE



Te Akau School Marquee for Hire 100% of hire costs goes straight into our School.

9m x 12m - \$250

Bookings through  
Te Akau School  
Ph 8254777

office@teakau.school.nz

Kia ora Te Ākau whānau,

There has been a lot of BOT activity over the holiday period, resulting in a few changes. As Hayley is now a member of our staff, she has resigned from the Board of Trustees. The team has voted, and we are pleased to welcome Jamie Andrews to the position of Presiding Member (Chairperson). With Jamie at the helm, we are in great hands!

Our staff have also nominated and voted Hayley into the position of Staff Representative, so we're excited to continue having Hayley on the Board as we tackle our most pressing task: recruiting a new Principal.

Thank you to the parents and families who joined us for the parent meeting with Richard Clarke on Tuesday, 4th February, and to those who contributed via email. Your input is incredibly valuable. We also hope that the opportunity to meet Richard, gain insight into the process, and ask questions was helpful for you.

For those who weren't able to make it to our whānau meeting with Richard Clarke, we are pleased to be able to let you know the timeline for our Principal recruitment. Here are the highlights -

- We are currently developing the role description, completing community consultation and creating an application pack. The job advert will go live on the 3rd of March.
- The community will be informed of the appointment around the 15th of May.
- The intention is for the new Principal to start on day 1 of Term 3.

Looking ahead, we have BOT elections coming up in September. Serving on the Board is a valuable way for you to make a meaningful contribution to our school and help shape its future direction. The BOT oversees the governance of the school, including finances, personnel, health & safety, property, and policies. We rely on parent volunteers who attend monthly meetings and support the Principal with matters outside of the meetings. If you're wondering whether a role on the Board could be for you, we have a series of upcoming training sessions with Richard Clarke for current BOT members and any prospective board members. Our first session will be on the 6th of March. We encourage all parents to attend these sessions to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of the Board, which will help inform your decision about standing for election. If you're interested in attending these training sessions or would like more information about the Board or the Board elections, please let us know by emailing [principal@teakau.school.nz](mailto:principal@teakau.school.nz).

**The BOT Team**

## School Policies

All of our policies are available from the office or online on our SchoolDocs page:  
[teakau.schooldocs.co.nz](http://teakau.schooldocs.co.nz)  
LOGIN: teakau  
PASSWORD: lifelonglearners

## Next Meeting

10 February 2025  
5.30pm  
Te Akau School