



Letter From the Principal

BY HANNAH O'BRIEN

Kia ora koutou,

Wow, week 6 already. It's hard to believe that we are now 70% through the school year for 2026.

Last week, our Pōurākau event was a real success, with all of our students taking part in a story-telling activity (or 3). A huge thank you goes to our awesome teachers for their hard work and creativity in bringing the curriculum alive in such interesting ways for our students. Last week, our staff also engaged in a Teacher Only Day focused on teaching mathematics. It was an interesting and successful session, giving our teaching team fresh strategies to support and stretch our learners in the classroom.

We are also thrilled to officially reveal our new school logo. This modern update holds true to our original logo from the early 2000s, carrying our heritage forward while weaving in the rich cultural and geographical stories of our area. The koru patterns nestled within the waves represent our students, while the larger surrounding patterns signify the strength and support of our wider school community. The hills honor our distinct landscape and our deep connection to the land and local farming area, while the presence of the ocean reflects its ongoing significance as a vital resource for local iwi, Ngāti Tahinga.

On the practical side of things, a huge thank you goes out to Jack Bregmen and Rob Horsley for their generous hard work fixing up our main school driveway as well as the school house driveway—we truly appreciate your time and efforts in keeping our grounds safe and accessible. In terms of school governance, we recently announced the support of a Limited Statutory Manager, Lex Hamill, who has been appointed by the Ministry of Education to work alongside and support our Board. You may see Lex around the school grounds from time to time, so please do give him a warm welcome if you spot him.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting and busy few weeks on the horizon. Starting this week, our senior students will be taking part in BoxFit—a fantastic three-week program designed to boost physical fitness while developing resilience and self-confidence. Please check out the notice posted on Hero for more detailed information regarding BoxFit. Next week, a group of our senior students will also be heading out to represent us at the West Waikato Catchment Group's BioBlitz event; you can find more information about this further on in the newsletter. Additionally, our parent-teacher conferences are coming up in a few weeks, which offer a wonderful opportunity to connect and celebrate your children's learning and progress. Finally, a massive well done to all of our students who gave it their absolute best in the recent cross-country events—the resilience on display was fantastic! We now turn our attention toward our upcoming speech competitions, followed closely by Pet Day, which is always a huge highlight on our school calendar. A special thank you goes to those who have already put their hands up to join our Pet Day Committee. It takes a wonderful team effort to bring this day together, so if you are interested in joining the committee and helping out, please let me know!

Ngā mihi nui,
Hannah O'Brien
Principal



Important Dates

Boxfit – year 6-8 (at school)

26 August & 2, 9 Sept. 2026

BioBlitz Catchment Group Event YR 4-8

31 August 2026

Te Akau School Speeches
3 September 2026

Cluster Speeches
10 September 2026

School Photos
14 September 2026

Parent Teacher Interviews
15 September 2026

Hockey YR 3/4
21 September 2026

Hockey YR 5/6
22 September 2026

Hockey YR 7/8
23 September 2026

Pet Day!!
25 September 2026

Year 7 & 8 Tech Dates
28th July 2026

11th August 2026

25th August 2026

8th September 2026

22nd September 2026

RESPONSIBLE
Kia mau to tikanga

RESILIENT
Kia kaha mahia te mahi

RESPECTFUL
Aroha ki te tangata

DAILY SCHOOL BELLS

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



HOT LUNCHES

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

Cluster School Crosscountry

Congratulations to all of our students who competed in the Cluster Schools Cross Country at Waikaretu School, alongside six other schools. It was a day full of mud, rain, and truly epic displays of resilience, perseverance, and encouragement.

We are incredibly proud of every one of you for giving it your all and supporting each other throughout the event.

A huge thank you as well to our wonderful parents for transporting your children each year — we couldn't do it without your ongoing support.

5 Year old Boys

1st Henley Johnston
12th Jamie van den Bemd

5 Year old Girls

7th Ovelia Pitts

6-7 Year old Boys

7th Lachie van den Bemd
18th Astro Dawson
21st Luka Bregmen

6-7 Year old Girls

3rd Macey MacDonald
5th Olivia Jackson
8th Katie Kereopa
9th Piper Lilley
13th Ruby Horne
18th Sasha Orlando-Reep

8-9 Year old Boys

21st Henry Jackson

8-9 Year old Girls

1st Sadie MacDonald
9th Lillie Crawford
10th Rhyda Johnston
11th Reagan Lilley
17th Jocelyn Chamberlain

10-11 Year old Boys

1st George Jackson
8th Blake Bregmen
12th Rory McRoberts-Maihi

10-11 Year old Girls

1st Paige van den Bemd
5th Billie van den Bemd

12+ Year old Boys

1st Noah Crawford

12+ Year old Girls

1st Jessica Horsley
3rd Angel Sheehan

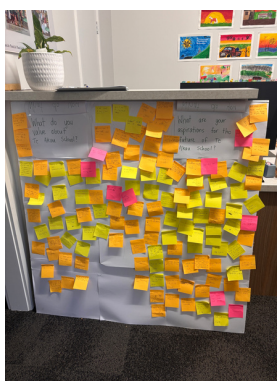
Strategic Planning - Have Your Say

We are currently in the process of shaping our new 3-year strategic plan—the key document that guides our school's direction into the future. This plan helps our Board decide where to focus our time, energy, and resources, directly influencing decisions around budgeting, teacher and Board development, school activities, and long-term goals.

We deeply value our families' perspectives and want to ensure your voice helps steer our path forward. This is a positive opportunity to share your overarching aspirations for your child during their time with us. To help us build a clear vision, we ask that you consider two simple questions:

- What do you value about Te Akau School?
- What are your aspirations for the future of Te Akau School?

Our students have already shared their creative ideas for the school's future, and now we want to hear from you! These questions have been sent out via Hero for easy online submission, or you are warmly invited to pop into the office and add your thoughts directly to our ideas board. All feedback will go directly to the Board for careful consideration as we plan our next steps together.



SCHOOL CONTACTS

School Phone

Website

Hannah O'Brien	Principal
Gabbie Bregmen	Office
Donna Palmer	Room 2
Jodie Redpath	Room 2
Hayley Smith	Room 1
Ann Reeves	CRT Release

07 825 4777

www.teakau.school.nz

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RESPONSIBLE
Kia mau to tikanga

RESILIENT
Kia kaha mahia te mahi

RESPECTFUL
Aroha ki te tangata

Bus Sponsors

Te Akau School is incredibly grateful to our sponsors for their ongoing support in helping us maintain our school-owned bus.

Your contributions make a real difference, ensuring our students have safe and reliable transport to and from school, as well as to valuable learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

Thanks to you, our school community continues to grow stronger, and our students are given more opportunities to thrive. We truly appreciate your belief in our vision and your role in supporting our journey.

A special thank you to our long-standing sponsors who continue to stand by us year after year:

Te Akau Transport
Te Akau Racing
Hinemoa Produce
Waikorea Quarry
Peter Glidden Honda

We also warmly welcome and thank our new sponsors for 2026:

Andrew Culley
C & H Johnston
James Jackson & Mich Kooij
On Road Transport – Don
AC & MA Crawford Partnership
Matt & Beccy Pitts
Waikato Building Relocators

We are always seeking additional sponsorship to support our school bus. If you're in a position to help, we would love to hear from you—please get in touch.



PET DAY Registrations

25TH SEPTEMBER 2026

LAST DAY OF TERM 3

A Pet Day Committee has been formed and we really need the registrations in to plan accordingly.

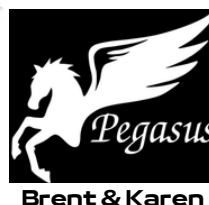
We can't wait to see you there!

Scan here to register!



STUDENTS CAN ENTER:

🐑 LAMBS 🐐 GOATS 🐄 CALVES 🐾 DOGS 🐾 INDOOR PETS



Community Notices

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



Jamie Ward
Te Akau & Raglan Livestock Buyer
021 947 321

Long time sponsor and supporter of Te Akau School

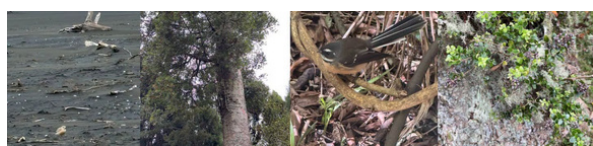


WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL
MONTHLY RECYCLING DROP-OFFS
FREE FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS



WHEN: 8:30am and 12:30pm on third Saturday of each month, starting on 16 August 2025 for two years.

WHERE: The location will be Te Akau Hall carpark (next to the school).



Native Bird & Tree Bioblitz



Learn from experts

Russell Riki: Kaitiakitanga o te ao turoa (Natural world guardianship)
Wayne Bennett: Native tree identification, recording & ecosystems
Jesse Golden: Birding skills, app training and identification basics

LEARNING DAY
10am, 31 August 2026
Nikau Cafe, Waikaretu

2-WEEK COMPETITION
September 1-14, 2026
West Waikato

Open to West Waikato families, children (9yo & up) and our community



Learn to use apps on your smart device:
Seek & iNaturalist
Merlin Bird ID & eBird

Prizes for recording a variety of naturally occurring native species across the catchment



Learn, Record, Help & Support Change

WWCC thanks our sponsors: Rural & Port Waikato Community Board, Department of Conservation, Waikato Regional Council & Hamilton Zoo

Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser

At the Te Akau Waingaro Community Complex

On Friday August 28th

Doors Open @ 6:30pm

7pm Start

Teams can be made on the night

Bar Open with Light Supper

Great Auction Items and Raffles

Help Support the PONY, TURF and RUGBY CLUBS

Please register your Team
Claire - 0212348540
claire.field@extra.co.nz
Lynda - 0274760476
tengakinga@gmail.com

Teams of 6 \$25 per person

Bring cash for Raffle

ST ALBAN'S CHURCH & CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, TE AKAU

We are now holding regular monthly church services at St Alban's Waingaro and The Church of the Good Shepherd, Te Akau.

23 August and 25 October will be at St Alban's. 27 September and 22 November will be at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Te Akau.

Fourth Sunday of the month at 10am, Shared morning tea will follow the service.

Anyone interested in baptism or confirmation are welcome to contact Rev Ruth Smart directly, or come along to a service. Many thanks

CONTACT:

REV RUTH SMART
ST STEPHEN'S PARISH
TE KOWHAI
PH 07 829 7655

We'd like to begin by extending a warm welcome to Lex Hamill, our recently appointed Limited Statutory Manager. We're looking forward to the opportunity to work collaboratively with Lex and to draw on the additional support and expertise he brings. We see this partnership as a positive step as we continue strengthening the foundations of our school and supporting the wellbeing and ongoing success of all our students.

Cross Country

What an incredible effort from every student in both the school and interschool cross country events. The grit and determination shown was truly impressive – an amazing effort all around. Thank you to the teachers and families who supported the students on the day.

Pet Day

We're excited that our newly formed Pet Day Committee is underway. Pet Day is one of the most loved events on our calendar, and we are very grateful to Gabbie, Morgan, Tom and Laura for donating their time, knowledge, and experience. We look forward to working with you to bring this fun-filled day to life.

Bus

A huge thank you to all our bus families for coming together to assist with transport to and from school while the bus has been undergoing repairs. Your patience, flexibility, and support have been truly appreciated. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Jo for her time and effort in coordinating the transport of the bus for repairs – this is truly appreciated.

Grounds and Maintenance

Thank you to Gary, who consistently keeps our grounds looking immaculate. We appreciate the pride and care taken in maintaining our school environment – it makes a noticeable difference for students, staff, and visitors.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge our teachers, Melissa and Gabbie for everything you do for our students and our school. So much of your work happens behind the scenes, and we see the care and dedication you bring each day. Thank you for making our little school a special place for our students to learn and grow.

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend ahead.

Nga mihi nui,

Chrissy Johnston, James Jackson and Dani van den Bemd

Board Of Trustees Contact Details

Christina Johnston chrissy@teakau.school.nz
James Jackson jamesjackson@teakau.school.nz
Danielle van den Bemd danielle@teakau.school.nz

Hannah O'Brien (Principal) hannah@teakau.school.nz
Hayley Smith (Staff Rep) hayley@teakau.school.nz

School Policies

All of our policies are available from the office or online on our SchoolDocs page:
teakau.schooldocs.co.nz
LOGIN: teakau
PASSWORD: lifelonglearners

Next Meeting

7th September 2026
5.00pm
Te Akau School
All Welcome!